

Advocate

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

CUNY No RNC Organizes Large CUNY Contingent at UFPJ March



CUNY Kay

JAMES TRIMARCO

If one follows the argument that protesters should show their solidarity by dressing in uniform, then the GC-based group CUNY No RNC appears to be ahead of the game. The group culminated several months of organizing on Sunday, April 29 when it mobilized over 100 students and faculty from the Graduate Center to march together in the permitted United for Peace and Justice march against the Bush agenda in midtown Manhattan. The group had printed 75 t-shirts with the design shown below, which organizers handed out to contingent members for free. The cost of printing the shirts was covered by a cultural affairs grant from the Doctoral Students Council.

The group met sporadically throughout last spring to discuss strategies for bringing a strong CUNY group to the RNC protests. Those meetings were covered in

see *GC No RNC*, page 16

Life After Capitalism

RNC Stories Hot & Cold

Anti-Americanism Grows Among Iraqi Intellectuals

Did the Right Steal American Music?

Queer Events from the Holy Land

Above: GC students for the abolition of the Republican regime; Below: the GC gets a much-needed makeover.

The Doctoral Students' Council Welcomes You

PAUL MCBREEN

The Doctoral Students Council (DSC) extends a hearty welcome to students new to the Graduate Center, and best wishes for a productive academic year to all. All academic programs except five have elected representatives to the DSC and our first plenary took place Friday, September 10.

The DSC is a body of students elected from each department which represents students at the Graduate Center and is responsible for allocating money collected through the student activities fee that you paid along with your tuition. This year is going to be an important one when it comes to political advocacy for CUNY students, so please read on to find out what the DSC can offer you this year.

Continuing Activities

We look forward to serving students at the Graduate Center in many ways this year. Our traditional activities include coffee hours, discounted movie tickets, and parties. The coffee hours are held in the DSC Social Lounge and feature free pastries and coffee all afternoon as well as a great opportunity to socialize and network with people outside of your department.

Discounted movie tickets are \$5.50 each, good for admission at Loews theaters only, and must be paid for by check. You can buy them in the DSC Steering Committee Office in Room 5495. The parties are, well . . . parties! . . . complete with a keg of beer, a DJ and all-night booty shaking.

Health Services at the GC Threatened

In addition to these usual services, we have on our plates a major undertaking: determining the future of health services at the Graduate Center. We have created a standing committee of the DSC (Chair: Ceila Braxton) with two subcommittees (Chairs: David Golland and Eric Doviak) who will be enlisting DSC reps to help collect data and research this problem.

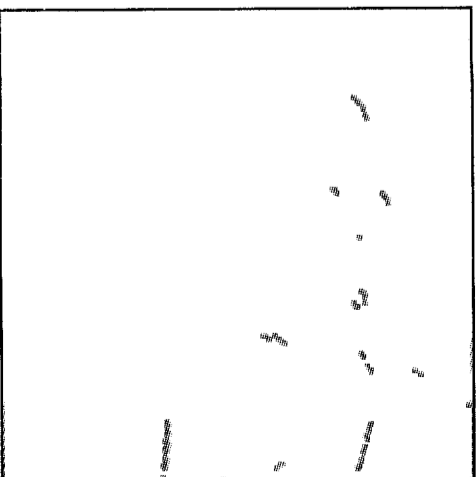
Health service at the GC is a thorny issue. Currently the DSC shares the cost of the salary of the nurse practitioner, Mary Clancy, with the administration's Office of Student Affairs. The DSC also subsidizes the costs of medical tests, thereby offering uninsured and under-insured students a viable option for basic health services. The current nurse is associated with Mt. Sinai, as was the Graduate Center as an institution through a bio-medical program for-

see *DSC Welcomes You*, page 15

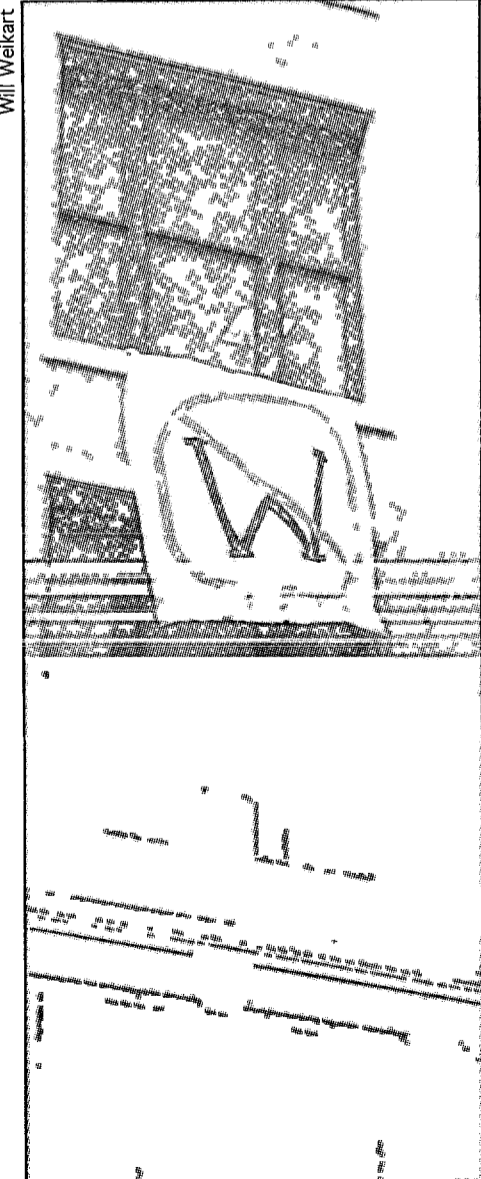
Haggard Leaving

James Haggard, VP for Information Resources (IR) at the GC, has informed sources close to the *Advocate* that he will leave his position this year and transfer to CUNY headquarters at 80th St. Together with the resignation of President Frances Degen Horowitz, Haggard's departure will mark a significant turnover in high-level GC administration.

Many students saw Haggard as problematic because IR has often provided interrupted or irksome computer services. Two years ago the Doctoral Students Council launched a petition against IR in response to what they considered less than professional service. In response to student pressure service did improve, but some students continue to find IR the most troublesome sector of the school.



Above: James Haggard



Will Weikart

LAC Conference a Success Despite Pitfalls

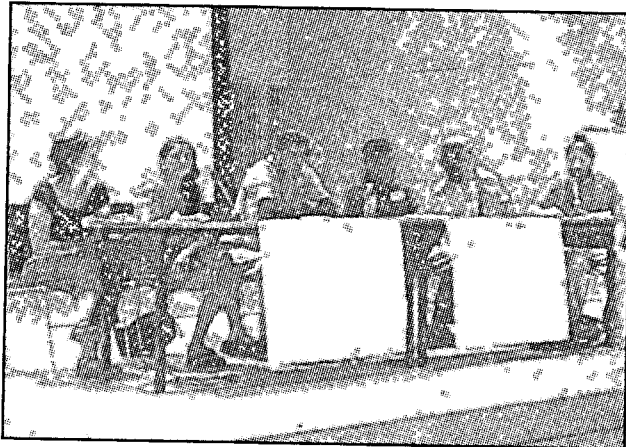
WILL WEIKART

The recent "Life After Capitalism" conference, held August 20-22 at Hunter College and the Graduate Center, was billed as "a space for activists—in the run up to the intense mobilization period of the RNC protests—to reflect on the importance of long term vision, strategy, and face-to-face relationship building." It was also intended "to bring together and give voice to the (non-sectarian) anti-capitalist left in the United States."

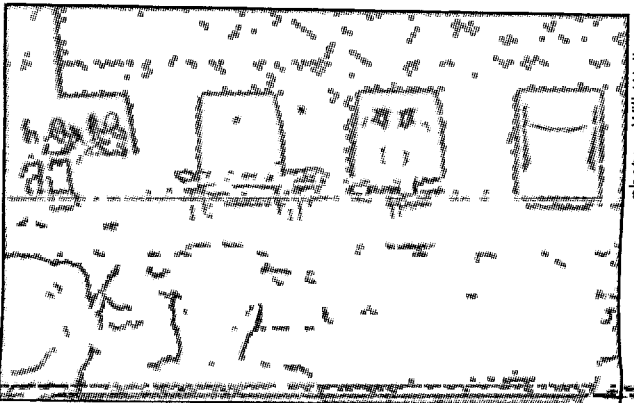
Panelists and attendees came from across the continental US and beyond. The opening night event at Hunter College, titled *Beyond Bush: An Evening of Visionary Resistance*, was held at the Great Hall and brought in an audience of about 1,300. The Saturday and Sunday events at the Graduate Center featured several concurrent panels and workshops each day, and attracted about 900 registered participants. Sessions were broken down into four themes: Analysis of Contemporary Capitalism; Perspectives on Power; Visions of Post-Capitalism; and Organizing Strategies.

Friday night's event was threatened with last-minute cancellation when Hunter College mandated that LAC obtain insurance protecting against three million dollars worth of damage and injury. This development came just after *The New York Post* ran an article critical of the event, alleging that the conference was a "war council" and insinuating that dangerous anarchists would be in attendance. The *Post* article contained several factual errors that could have easily been avoided by a cursory reading of the LAC website. Apparently it was this negative publicity—as well as various external political pressures—that prompted Hunter to require the optional insurance, which cost organizers several thousands of dollars in unexpected expenses.

To make difficult matters worse, \$2,000 in cash donations to the conference were stolen from an office at the



Above: The 'Reimagining the Labor Movement' panel (L to R) Kristin Warner, Saru Jayaraman, Gerardo Reyes, Lucas Benitez, Naomi Klein, Sonny Suchdev; Below: Tiokasin Ghost Horse's closing words.



Graduate Center soon after the closing events on Sunday. LAC organizers cite this and the insurance costs as major factors in the \$10,000 dollar debt that they now face. Planners had hoped that the conference would be self-sus-

taining, and so they had secured no outside contributions. Registration raised \$18,000, which failed to cover expenses totaling about \$28,000 and which largely came from the cost of renting the space and airline costs for panelists from Argentina, Canada and the US West Coast.

Several groups have also charged that the conference was plagued by censorship. The lobby area of the conference level at the GC was designated an area for merchandise and information tables from various collectives and publishers who were represented by conference panelists. Nonetheless, a handful of groups that had not registered tables showed up on Saturday and Sunday, and proceeded to set up tables for their literature. Security was notified, but the groups were ultimately allowed to stay. LAC organizers justified their attempted exclusion of the groups on the basis that sectarian and/or vanguardist groups were not ideologically aligned with the greater foci of the conference, i.e., anti-authoritarian groups/individuals and those with various novel campaigns and projects "on the ground." They also claimed that limitations of time and space necessitated some degree of content management. Detractors maintain that they were unfairly and hypocritically excluded, and the controversy has ignited a flurry of ongoing online debates.

The LAC organizing collective consists of a small group of anti-capitalist activists and thinkers in the NYC area. The conference was the product of over a year of planning.

Please check the website www.lifeaftercapitalism.org for more information on the content of the conference and for subsequent updates and documentation, as well as for ways you can donate.

Will Weikart is a GC student in Sociology and part of the LAC organizing collective.

Beginning of the Semester



Coming Alive DSC Party

Friday, October 1st

7-11 pm

GC, Room 5414

Free Food and Drinks

Live DJ

Sponsored by
The Doctoral Students' Council

