

# Advocate

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

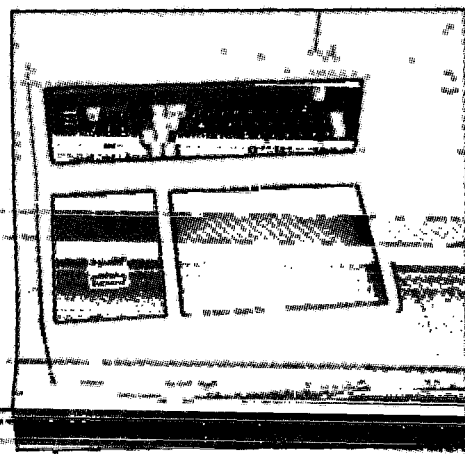
## The Case for Restructuring Information Resources

ANNALIES KAMRAN

A show of hands, please. Who here is fed up with the lousy computer service at the Graduate Center? In the past two months, we have suffered through a catastrophic collapse of our email and the failure of the network drives on which our data is stored. The reputation of any university depends on the research conducted by its student programs and research institutes. Ours has suffered damage from these crashes, the result of missed deadlines for outside funding, unanswered email, and lost data. It is from this vantage point that the Graduate Center approaches the hiring of a new Assistant Vice President for Information Resources.

According to Associate Provost Stephen Brier's message regarding the recent e-mail outage, we are using a seven-year-old mail server, Microsoft Exchange 5.5. Not only is this antiquated, but it has been forced to handle approximately six times

the database activity it was designed for. That database has been growing exponentially for at least the past three years, yet steps were never taken to upgrade the server, provide a backup server in case of failure, or to curb the increase in the database. There is still no policy on what to do with old messages. While Information Resources scrambles in great haste to



implement a new system, the worries are that a short-term fix will be chosen, locking us more permanently into a sub-optimal system.

Much attention has been paid to the secondary departments of The Graduate Center—registrar, bursar, and so on. The Banner system now allows students to register and pay for class online, and will soon allow applicants to apply online. These bells and whistles are all very nice; but the fact remains that no one, student or faculty, will come to this institution if they cannot communicate with colleagues on the outside, and cannot be sure that they will have access to their research data. Even Web File Services/XYthos and Citrix, both projects that will hopefully enhance the graduate student experience, are not as important as basic communications and file storage.

Before the GC gets locked into a system that we will be stuck with for years, stu-

see *Show of Hands*, page 4

Interactive Tech  
Certificate Program

Adjunct Druggery

Central Park Goes  
Saffron with "The Gates"

Blow a Load on  
Museum on Sex

Remembering Hunter S.  
Thompson in Amsterdam

Advocate Interviews  
NPP's Terry Gross

## When a Tsunami Raises Coffee Prices: What do Students Think about the Dining Options at the Graduate Center?

ANTONIA LEVY & DAN SKINNER

It's been a long winter. But upon coming in from the cold for another semester, Graduate Center students were faced with the second price increase in six months of their favorite legal drug: coffee (details see sidebar). Last fall, GC food provider Restaurant Associates' Regional Manager, Mark Romano, told the *Advocate* that RA's pricing decisions were governed by market forces. According to Mr. Romano students could simply go elsewhere in the neighborhood for food if they were unhappy with RA's services or prices. Mr. Romano reminded the *Advocate* that although RA is sensitive to the fact that the GC is a public educational institution, RA is a business that needs to remain competitive. Hence, the price of coffee at the GC is the same as the price of coffee in another location where RA provides, the financial giant Goldman Sachs.

Given this unfortunate fact and the *Advocate's* continuous interest in the dining options and policies at the GC (see articles in the December edition of the *Advocate*), we decided to find out what members of the GC community think about the food at the GC.

### On Quality

When asked about the quality of the food

at the GC, the majority of students we interviewed rated it as either 'excellent' or 'good'. Criticisms focused mainly on the absence of organic food and the composition of the student lunch.

"The quality of the food is quite above average." (Luana Ferreira, Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Languages and Literatures)

"It's top notch. The vegetarian options are usually very good." (Jamie McCallum, Art History)

"I think it's great. Especially the salad bar and the cookies." (Ji Young Ryu, English)

"I think it is pretty good. There are a variety of selections, the food is fresh and well-prepared, and is taken from a variety of cultures. This is the first school I've been at where professors don't apologize for taking out-of-town colleagues to the cafeteria for lunch!" (Annelies Kamran, Political Science)

"Remarkably good, especially the entrees and salad bar, though the sandwiches in

the 'Express Café' are always absolutely flavorless." (Dominic Wetzel, Sociology)

"Occasionally, the food does taste very good, but that is rare. The selection is very poor, there are no organic choices, and student lunch seems to be designed with high school students in mind, not for discerning adults. A sandwich and a bag of chips? Chips by Lays, to be exact—the company that I know most of my fellow grad students despise." (Mariya Gluzman, Philosophy)

"Well, the student menu looks like a joke most the times. I think that for \$4.50 they should offer a 'real' plate." (A. Alonso, Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Languages and Literatures)

### On Pricing

Most students we interviewed think that prices are too high for food services at a

public educational institution. Also as expected—the significant increase in coffee prices over the last months annoyed many students. Our interviews about price included one RA employee, who asked that they remain anonymous.

"The quality is fine; the prices are outrageous for a college cafeteria." (Patricia Ruiz-Navarro, Psychology)

"It's pricey, particularly coffee—1.35\$ for a small cup is ridiculous! Generally prices of beverages are high. ... Back to cheaper coffee!" (Jasmine, Theatre)

"Slightly expensive—for example, I saw another retailer a block away from the GC selling 'Tea's Tea' at a price 50 cents lower than here." (Ji Young Ryu, English)

"I can get food cheaper around the corner or at Duane Reade." (Patrick Inglis, Sociology)

"The markup on gum and candy is outrageous. \$1.25 for a cup of tea only because I don't have to go outside to buy it? I can use the same argument for why the prices should be lower than they are outside." (Mariya Gluzman, Philosophy)

see *Coffee Price*, page 5

## A New \$12 Fee for Wellness Center is Good Deal for CUNY

Most students at the Graduate Center probably know that our in-house Wellness Center and nurse practitioner are currently in jeopardy. Some students seem to be feel that the end of these institutions is immediate and inevitable. While this is not the case, the problems with the system are real and only one solution will allow us to keep the Wellness Center while avoiding a massive cut in other DSC budgetary items such as student travel and research grants. That solution is a separate student activities fee that would cover only the Wellness Center. Such a fee would be modest, probably around \$12 for each student, per year. Let's take a look at the funding situation as it currently stands. The Wellness Center's cost of roughly \$125,000 a year has traditionally been split by the DSC and the administration. But the problems facing this system are numerous. First of all, the DSC failed to pay its usual share this year, and the administration had to step in to bail out the system. This is not a one-time problem, but one that is sure to happen again. Just consider the \$40,000 budget gap the DSC is looking at for the 2005 budget (see page 11 in this issue).

The administration, for its part, has spo-

ken with eloquent silence about its plans for future funding of the Wellness Center.

In various writings and meetings where the topic of the administration's plans toward funding the Center have come up, VP for Student Affairs Matt Schoengood has said only that "there have not been any decisions made yet." Does this mean that they are planning to cut funds on their side? Are they just looking over the numbers to see what is possible? No one knows.

In addition to the problem of the solvency of this panhandle duo, there are other issues and expenses related to the current nurse practitioner, Mary Clancy. Ms. Clancy has a close relationship with Mount Sinai Medical Center that dates back to the days when the Graduate Center had a biomedical program (that program, believe it or not, revolted against CUNY and became part of NYU). If and when Ms. Clancy eventually retires from her post, the Wellness Center will lose the benefit of this relationship and the cost of the service will increase again.

Anyway you look at it, this jumble of numbers is in the red. This leaves a number of options. One would be to decrease services to decrease costs. But that leaves the sizable minority of Graduate Center students who do not have health insurance without a net. Then, again, it's better than completely closing the Wellness Center, which would endanger the learning atmosphere at CUNY by leaving some students completely for the wolves.

The third and best option is to separate funding for the DSC and the Wellness Center. As the largest item on the DSC's budget, the Wellness Center has been draining money from other important services such as the Student Travel & Research grants, which ran out before the winter break this year. As a previous article in *The Advocate* indicated, a one-time yearly fee of about \$12 would nip this problem in the bud by paying about half of the full cost of the Center—although it's important to state that such a move should not imply that the administration is no longer expected to help support it.

\$12 is a modest fee. In the Hobbesian world of private health care it barely pays for a tap with the reflex hammer. To pay such a fee for a full year of free, on-site health services, while helping to keep the DSC strong, is a good deal for the Graduate Center. It will create a more stable and healthy future for all GC students.

### Corrections

Regarding "BMCC Puts 'Homeland Security' Program on Hold," February 2005:

\* The program was sponsored by the Business Management Department, not the Business Management Program.

\* Abram Negrete is a member of the Hunter Internationalist Club, not its president.

\* Colonel John Perrone is not on the BMCC Program's Advisory Board; he is the head of the Homeland Security Management Institute.

\* Leo Gleser was connected to death squads in Honduras, but not in Chile as the article said.

## Short Takes

Monday, March 21

Resist the War Abroad & the War at Home! Ruth Benn, Amy Goodman & Steve Theberge with a Performance by The Raging Grannies & Their Daughters

March 20 marks the second anniversary of the invasion of Iraq. We are honored to have Ruth Benn, coordinator, National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee, Democracy Now host and executive producer, Amy Goodman, and Steve Theberge, Youth and Counter-Militarism National Organizer on staff of the War Resisters League, as speakers for the evening. Amy will address the effects of the war at home and in Iraq. Ruth and Steve will cover the actions we can take to resist this undeclared aggression, in particular addressing the role of students in resisting the call for their bodies and the issue of an impending military draft, and for all of us, the call for our tax money.

The evening includes time for questions and comments on both presentations, and for explanations on resistance to paying for war. It begins with a selection of original songs by the Raging Grannies & Their Daughters, a project of WILPF (Women's International League of Peace and Freedom), which started in the 1980s in Canada, and now has chapters all over the world.

This is a time for renewal of our energy and determination to make this the last year of a war that should never have been waged, one that has not only killed members of the armed forces but taken the lives of over 100,000 Iraqi civilians, to say nothing of life-long scars on the hearts and minds of Iraqi men, women and children.

This event is presented in collaboration with the New York City People's Life Fund, a fund made up of resisted taxes and contributions. For over 30 years, the Fund has been a vital link to outstanding community groups, providing grants and loans to support their work.

7:30 pm; Suggested donation: \$6 - Brecht Forum (Co-sponsor: the New York City People's Life Fund) 451 West Street, New York, NY 10014; mail@brechtforum.org

Wednesday, April 6

Book release party for:

I Am Not Not a Man, I Am Dynamite! Friedrich Nietzsche & the Anarchist Tradition.

GC student and *Advocate* staff member Spencer Sunshine will introduce this new collection which he is associate editor of.

7pm. Free. ABC No Rio, 156 Rivington St between Norfolk & Clinton., Lower East Side.

Wednesday, April 6

Globalization and Political Power: Frances Fox Piven

Distinguished Professor of Political Science & Sociology at the GC & author of *Regulating the Poor: The Functions of Public Welfare*, among many other publications

6:30 pm, Baisley Powell Elebash Recital Hall, CUNY Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Ave. (@ 34th Street) Free

Wednesday, April 13

2005 Democratic Mayoral Forum

The four democratic candidates for New York City mayor are scheduled to speak and answer questions:

- Fernando Ferrer, former Bronx Borough President
- C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
- Gifford Miller, Speaker, New York City Council
- Anthony Weiner, Member of Congress, 9th District

With Moderator: Prof. Kenneth Sherrill, Chair of the Political Science Department, Hunter College, CUNY and CFD's District Leaders: Beth Berns & Marc Landis, 67th AD /Joan Paylo & Gregory Soumas, 69th AD

6:30-9:30 pm; West-Park Church, 165 W. 86th Street. For more info, visit [www.cfdnyc.org](http://www.cfdnyc.org) or e-mail [cfdweb@aol.com](mailto:cfdweb@aol.com) / phone 212-222-1986.

## THE ADVOCATE

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

CUNY Graduate Center, Rm. 5396

365 Fifth Avenue

New York, NY 10016

Tel: 212 817 7332 or 7335

Email: [advocate@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:advocate@gc.cuny.edu)

James Timarco  
Editor-in-Chief

Dan Skinner  
Managing Editor

Spencer Sunshine  
Layout/Production Editor

Camille Inpton  
Online Editor

Paul McBreen  
Media Board Chair

Contributors:  
Mariya Gluzman, James Hoff, Annelies  
Kamran, Antonia Levy, Tony  
Monchinski and Masha Rumer.

*The Advocate* is the student paper of the CUNY Graduate Center and published six times a year. Publication is subsidized by the Doctoral Student Council.

*The Advocate* accepts contributions of articles, poetry, illustrations, photos and letters to the editor. Please query the above email address. Articles selected for publication will be subjected to editorial revision. Payment for articles ranges from \$30 to \$75, depending on the time commitment.

Shorter articles should be between 500 and 1,000 words; features may run up to 1,500 words. *The Advocate* is published six times each year; submission deadlines are the 25th of the month before publication.



# Interactive Technology & Pedagogy Certificate Draft

MASHA RUMER

Here's a list of glitches encountered by a grad student teaching for her very first class:

- ✦ Ignoring a student when she calls your attention by "Professor."
- ✦ Student leaving the classroom after lecture: "Thank you." You, [gleefully], "Thank you!"
- ✦ "I didn't know there was a rule that missing five classes lowers your grade!"
- ✦ "I didn't know there was a rule that saying 'smoking dope' in an essay lowers your grade!"
- ✦ Spending over ten minutes fast-forwarding or rewinding a VHS tape, your back turned to the students.
- ✦ "I couldn't pick up the midterm review because I was visiting my grandmother in the hospital and my roommate (hung over, slouching in the corner) had food poisoning."
- ✦ Xerox machine jamming as you make 40 copies right before class; the secretary is talking about her hairstylist and ignoring your pleas.
- ✦ Panic at hearing things like Blackboard, PDF, JPEG, URL, online research, and receiving student emails at midnight.

If you're teaching at CUNY or elsewhere, chances are you will be launched into the higher education field without any training. You will be green, underpaid, and idealistic, pursued by late night grading, stage fright, and nightmares about lecturing in the nude or secretary conspiracies.

But you don't have to accept this as just the way things are. The Graduate Center's Interactive Technology & Pedagogy Certificate was created to address this very problem. This certificate program teaches graduate students how to effectively use digital technology in a classroom and allows them to discuss teaching in a formal setting.

"Lamentably, we teach a lot about how to do research; we tend not to teach about how to teach the disciplines," says Dr. Steve Brier, Associate Provost for Instructional Technology and Dean for Interdisciplinary Studies, who launched the program in 1999. "I came to quickly realize that the Graduate Center was not doing enough for the doctoral students in helping prepare them for employment in the new world of instructional technology that they would be finding when they went out to get jobs and look for positions in the academy." In response, Brier put together a task force of students, faculty, and administrators to devise this program and get it approved by the CUNY Central Office and the State Education Office in

Kimon Keramidas



Albany.

The certificate is a nine-credit, three course program. "History, Theory, and Practice of Interactive Media" deals with the theoretical foundations of technology. "Theory, Design, and Practice" offers the valuable hands-on application of that knowledge. Finally, for the Independent Study course the student gets to create his own project. There is an array of workshops covering topics such as HTML, discussion boards, list-serves, Photoshop, DreamWeaver, Final Cut Pro, and Microsoft Access, among others. Considerable space is devoted to issues such as intellectual property, copyright, and keeping a seminar lively and interactive.

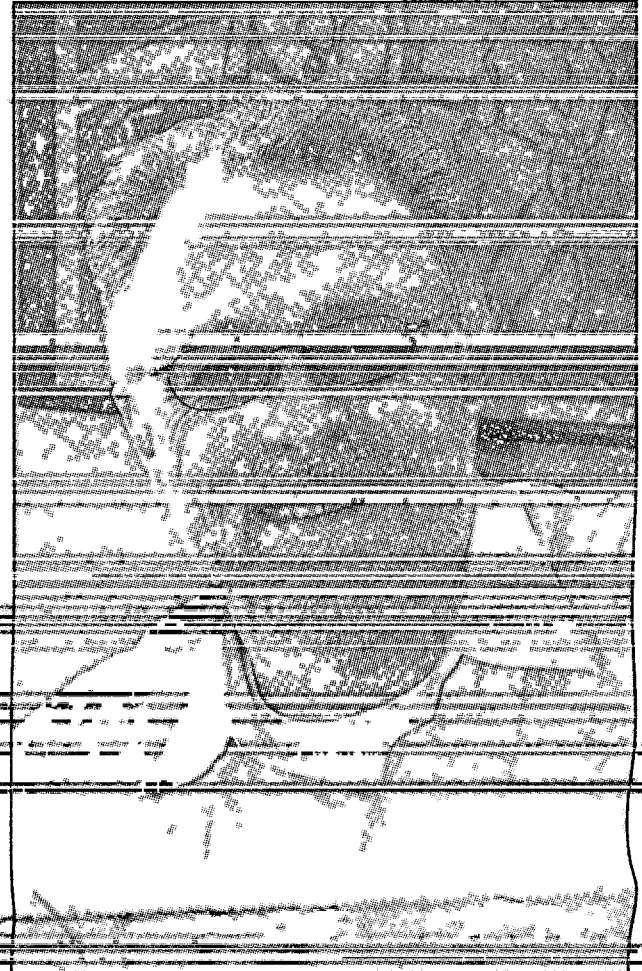
Some of the instructors are Professors Joan Greenbaum, George Otte, David Jaffee, Penne Bender, and Steve Brier himself, who helped design all three courses and frequently supervises the Independent Study. Mariya Gluzman, a web developer, doctoral student in Philosophy, and DSC Adjunct Project Coordinator, also teaches web design. Many courses are team-taught.

Says Brier, "We take the P in our name [for practice] as seriously as the T in our name [for technology]. Everybody thinks since it's a tech program it must be about teaching people how to use computers, and it is that, to be sure. But the P is just as important. This is not just a skills program, it is meant to be a serious intellectual engagement with notions of the impact of technology on teaching and learning [and] about how teaching is done." The program ultimately strives to make education more active and efficient, keeping pace with the times. It also fosters better professor/student and student/student communication. Those enrolled in the program get a chance to discuss their teaching experiences, concerns, and frustrations in a constructive manner.

Kimon Keramidas, a Theater student, came to the Certificate Program his second year and claims it has been one of his best experiences at the Graduate Center. One of his favorite aspects is the diversity. "In my group we had a couple of musicologists, someone from musical performance and social services; one woman was doing her work on breastfeeding; we had a criminal justice PhD. We all got along really well and it made for diverse discussions. It was wonderful to see how different people were looking at the same topic." Now, Keramidas works as a researcher for the Associate Provost and also teaches a number of workshops in the program.

Whether teaching writing, political science, physics, or anthropology, it is becoming increasingly more difficult to bypass technology in the 21st century, especially when dealing with young people, many of whom grew up with the computer as their nanny.

"If you're going to teach students in this day and age, and not use a computer, you're not going to connect with them," Keramidas believes. "You are losing a whole portion of their sensory reception that they are so attuned to.



Steve Brier

We are in a visual culture and interactive age. They want a website, they want to get their readings online. We need to adapt to the state of technology in our culture."

That line on the diploma that says "Certification in Interactive Technology and Pedagogy," and the knowledge it entails, can also make a difference during a job search, whether for an adjunct or a full-time professor position. As the GC President refers to it, a student thereby gains "an extra arrow in the quiver."

Brier encourages students on or after their second year to enroll in the certificate program. "In a world in which there is enormous competition for the few academic jobs, it has become increasingly clear to me that lots of academic institutions are looking for new younger faculty members to join them who come with the skill set, who are familiar with and are able to use instructional technology to teach. It is an important certification."

Masha Rumer is a student in the PhD program in Comparative Literature and a freelance journalist.

**For more information,  
check out:**

<http://web.gc.cuny.edu/provost/apit/itech/index.html>  
(Description of program and samples of syllabi)

[http://web.gc.cuny.edu/provost/apit/ids/media\\_power/](http://web.gc.cuny.edu/provost/apit/ids/media_power/)  
(Sample Independent Study Project)

# Show of Hands (con't from 1)

dents need to take a long hard look at the way the Graduate Center uses and will be using data, and how (and by whom) the system will be managed. Emulating the best practices of other universities and companies would be a good place to start. To do this, Information Resources needs new management.

Bryan Renne, a student in the Computer Science program, helped start a petition to this end. Located at <http://petition.otspecial.org>, the petition demands that "the candidate selected for the position of Assistant Vice President for Information Resources meet the following requirements: he or she must be hired from outside The Graduate Center," and "he or she must have first-hand, in-depth technical knowledge of computer system administration." It goes on to state that, "If the conditions in the previous item cannot be met by anyone in the current pool of candidates, a new search committee will be formed and the search process begun anew."

Renne asserts, "In my view, the problems at the GC are the result of poor management. This is not merely the overall response to the various problems that users have experienced but also with respect to planning, organization, and allocation of skilled workers (which are either effectively lacking or are not adequately utilized)."

Furthermore, he notes, there are consequences to this lack of experienced staff: first, it costs the Graduate Center money to frequently resort to outside consultants and technical support. Second, it takes time—far too much time. "It is not enough for the Assistant Vice President of IR to be a skilled manager with people skills," he notes. "The individual must also have in-depth, first-hand knowledge of the technology deployed, its consequences, and also other options that we may want to put on the table in the future... It isn't the users' responsibility to change their usage patterns so that nothing breaks. It's IR's job to observe usage and adapt to serve the community that employs it."

## Network Possibilities

In addition to its staffing problems, the Graduate Center's computer systems are overly centralized. There are different types of networks, and each has benefits and drawbacks. However, the attributes we should look for in a network are simple: robustness, meaning the ability to withstand failure, especially of individual components; and reliability, meaning the ability to work around obstacles. A random network, one in which computers are randomly connected to each other (no one computer is more likely to have more links to other computers than any other computer) is subject to cascading failures because it can't work around obstacles. Take out a few key nodes, and the entire network comes crashing down. (Picture the electricity grid in the United States—a failure in Ohio is blamed for causing the big Northeast Blackout of 2003.) The GC configuration is a star network in which many computers are connected to a central hub. (Picture the axle of a wagon wheel.) This is more robust, but it is subject to complete failure when the hub fails or is attacked. There is no ability to work around obstacles, because all are reliant on the central hub.

What we need here at the GC is a scale-free network, in which computers are connected to a few large hubs, like the internet. This would be a robust and reliable network, because even if one of the hubs that connect the computers fails, the others can take up the slack. Shutting down a scale-free network requires deliberately attacking the hubs simultaneously, something that is less likely to happen if the GC has a more secure and robust network.

## Why Open-Source Software is Right for CUNY

How can the transition to a scale-free system be accomplished? By switching to non-Microsoft-dependent products and services, the system can be made more secure.

The best source of non-Microsoft products is open-source software. Open-source software is "free" in the

sense of liberty, not "free" as in costing nothing. The open-source movement of computer users and programmers is a global phenomenon. The movement shares a belief that software should be free to users and its code (its internal workings) available to anyone who wants to study or improve on them. A general policy is that improvements are also shared. (Open-source software is available at no cost, however, the cost of the software itself is usually not the most expensive part.

Users also need to keep in mind the costs of technical support and specialized programming necessary to configure the software to user needs.) Open-source software could be used to address budgetary, intellectual monopoly, and academic freedom issues at the Graduate Center.

For example, the Linux operating system started as Linus Torvalds' college research project in 1991. An operating system is the software that tells the hardware what to do: how to run the applications that we use everyday by telling the computer how much memory is needed, how tasks should be scheduled, and how the user can interact with the computer. (For more information about Linux, see <http://www.linux.org/info/index.html>.) Torvalds developed Linux as a variant of UNIX, a proprietary operating system that has been in use since 1969. Developers all over the world have worked on Linux, and many others have developed open-source software that runs on Linux systems, including graphic user interfaces (GUIs) that look like the "desktop" screens familiar to everyone from Apple and Microsoft. There is even a bundle of commonly used applications called OpenOffice, which is similar to Microsoft Office programs like Word and Excel. Again, the software can be configured the way the user wants it: those of us who miss WordPerfect's ability to format a document properly through the "reveal codes" command would appreciate OpenOffice.

Let's look at the issue of security through the criminal justice lens: motive, means, and opportunity. Microsoft is a global monopoly. If the GC were to move to Linux or other open-source software, we would be moving from a system controlled by a monopoly to a system controlled by CUNY. Several hundred million people have been burned by Microsoft products and business practices—a vast pool of people with a motive for writing viruses and other malicious software. At most, CUNY has only exasperated several thousand people to the point of such activity.

Next, let's consider means. The majority of computer users approach computers the same way they approach cars. The specifics of the internal combustion engine are of little or no interest; what is important is that when you turn it on, it runs. Out of the pool of people with a motive for mucking with the GC's systems, we can eliminate those who lack the technical expertise.

Finally, we have opportunity. Those with the best opportunities for destroying the Graduate Center's systems are those who have control over its components. The most likely source, as we have seen in the past two months, of system failure is therefore the employees of Information Resources. Lack of planning and failure to build robust networks has led to exactly the same effect as if someone had deliberately attacked us—the same loss of time and data.

Open-source programs have better security because they are not monolithic targets and because developers all over the world can work to improve them. With these advantages, they are gaining in popularity. While Windows still has a lock on desktop operating systems and application servers, open-source software runs the majority of Web and email servers, and is poised to take over databases.

Tired of security flaws, pop-up ads, spyware, and viruses? Meet the flashiest entry in open-source software: Firefox, an alternative web browser. Launched in November 2004, it had captured 4% of the US browser market by December, according to Wired magazine. At

the beginning of February, it had been downloaded 11 million times. By the middle of February it had been downloaded over 25 million times. You can download it yourself at <http://www.mozilla.org>. (In one of my alternate identities, I am a content editor for the nation's largest publisher of social studies software, and we use Firefox.)

The list of institutions using open-source software is long and growing. Deutsche Bahn in Germany, the Gendarmerie Nationale of France, the cities of Munich, Germany and Bergen, Norway, the Ministry of Defense in Singapore, and the national government of Brazil are either moving or have moved to open-source software. They will be supported by companies such as IBM and Novell, who have invested a great deal of money in developing and supporting end-user applications for Linux operating systems. Only one month after Firefox was launched, The Christian Science Monitor reported that Penn State University "advised its 80,000 students to abandon Internet Explorer for Firefox."

## Some Examples from Other Institutions

How would a more decentralized, more robust network using partitioned administration and data, and redundant features stack up to industry standards? And how does the Graduate Center stack up against other area institutions?

A quick tour of the Web brings to light many interesting details. Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), for instance, is located on Long Island. BNL is one of ten national labs, conducting research in physical, biomedical, and environmental sciences, as well as in energy technologies and national security. Like us, BNL requires reliable email—and they have two servers for Microsoft Outlook Web Access (which allows users to access their email from the web, instead of directly from the server), instead of only one Outlook Web Access server for all email.

New York University has a department for Academic Computing Services, which provides instruction- and research-focused resources and services for NYU faculty and students; and another department for Administrative Computing Services, which provides application development, database administration, and security services for NYU's administrative systems (such as human resources and financial administration). Yet another department of Communications & Computing Services handles infrastructure for telephony and computing. All report to NYU's Information Technology Services division, but they are separate departments.

Columbia University's Academic Information Systems (AcIS) uses UNIX to support their email and Web services, instead of Microsoft Exchange and Internet Information Services (IIS). They experienced an email outage on February 28, it's true—but theirs lasted 30 minutes, not five days. In addition, AcIS's responsibilities covers computing systems, academic technologies such as online course delivery, research computing support, computing support services such as the help desk, and information services research and development. AcIS is led by the Deputy Vice President for Academic Information Systems. AcIS is not responsible for the design, management, or security of Columbia's administrative technology needs. That function is handled separately by Administrative Information Services (AIS), part of the Office of the Senior Executive Vice President for Administration. AIS handles the systems for accounting, purchasing, inventory, and so on.

Keeping these systems administratively separate ensures not only that the primary functions of the university do not take a back seat to the support functions. Keeping these systems physically separated is how we can ensure that when one system fails, it doesn't take all the others with it.

*Annelies Kamran is a student in the PhD program in Political Science, and a Research Associate at the Ralph Bunche Institute.*



# A Day in the Life of a GC Adjunct

ANONYMOUS

The alarm clock goes off like an explosion. I open one eye; it's eight a.m., so I press the snooze button. Soon I will be packing last night's leftovers for lunch like a zombie while I wait for the coffee to kick in—I am too cheap (or rather, too poor) to throw away six bucks on some lousy soup and crackers at the GC cafeteria. My paycheck would be gone in a blink if I started living large like that. I stuff my bag with bananas and apples—they are for snacking during my commute. Finally, I trudge to the subway, and remember that the fares just went up again. I fight an old lady and a little girl to be able to get into the packed car so I can have my nose pressed against a tall man's armpit. Did somebody just pinch my butt? Great! I can't think of a better way to spend two dollars than this. I would like to read, but I can't move my arms. Two hours later I emerge at my destination. I have half an hour to get ready to teach a class.

My desk at the College Where I Teach (CWIT) was probably made before World War I—the room has that familiar smell of dust and old books. I hope my allergies won't bother me too much today; I am already out of Claritin. I wish I could open the windows or turn down the heat, but the windows seem shut for good, the thermo-

stat is broken, and the 60-year-old professor with whom I share the office always complains that it is too cold. His stuff is everywhere—pictures, posters, books, old papers. I guess I could try and make myself feel a little more at home and bring some stuff to make this place nicer, but who knows if CWIT will hire me again next semester. I don't want to invest myself.

Somebody knocks. A student comes in before class to ask some questions. Hallelujah! I am hoping for some intellectual stimulation. Why did I not understand what he wanted to say in his essay? he asks. I look at the text again. The sentence starts with a quotation mark, begins to ask a question, yet ends before any verb appears. How do I tell him that he writes at a second grade level?

Total frustration at myself, the students, and the American educational system has been a prominent theme in my life since I became an adjunct. At first, I thought it was just me. I thought I was a horrible professor. I was thrown into teaching without any advice or training. By now, I know it is not about me. I have attended so many teaching seminars, incorporated so many different genres into my syllabus, made the class as exciting as I could, tried to reach out to students in so many different ways. I know they like it, they often try

hard, sometimes they engage the material, and they care about it. Yet, they cannot write and they can hardly read. Somewhere along the line, someone really failed them—probably many someones.

I love CUNY and I wish we could go back to providing a free education for everyone. I do what I can to fight tuition hikes, and I am proud that my institution produces such high percentages of minority graduates. My students are interesting people: young mothers, Jamaican nurses, a man who used to be homeless, and many beautiful Puerto Rican boys. Some of them hardly speak English. I don't let that excuse slide because English is my second language, too. I read sixty to one hundred horrible papers per week. I know that my students need to learn how to write and I hope they can learn by writing, so I assign a lot of it. I have them write plays, dialogues, letters, and simple essays. I often see glimpses of critical thought and understanding, but mostly the writing is horrendous. They have no concept of what a full sentence is, what a subject is, verb agreement, how to quote, how to edit. They plagiarize. Their paragraphs don't make any sense. Many of them are lazy and do not go to the trouble to add "s" to their plurals, completely omit the "ed" in past tense verbs, or write like they are really, really high. I wonder if it would help me grade

their papers if I got high myself. Unfortunately, the adjunct salary does not really allow for such luxuries.

I want to scratch my eyes out. There are thirty more papers waiting for me on my desk at home. The professor I work for decided that I am better suited to grade them—she sticks to lecturing. I am bitter because she gets paid so much more but I am stuck with the shitty part of the job. Anyway, I plow through the papers, investing myself totally, writing long notes about how to improve—only to find out that two weeks later, on another assignment they make the same bloody mistake I advised them not to make ever again.

I try hard not to compare my students with the kids in my own high school. I went back there recently to teach a week-end workshop and, on any given day, the worst student there is writing and reading on a level that is light years beyond that of the students at CWIT. The difference is that those smart high schoolers are from predominantly middle-class families and nice neighborhoods, while the CWIT kids are teenage mothers, Rikers Island alumni, or working parents with three kids and a fourth one on a way. I am usually the only white face in the room, and I routinely lie about my age because so many of them are

see *A Day in the Life*, page 9

## Coffee Price Increase Due to Tsunami? Come On... (con't from 1)

"I think it's great, and the prices are reasonable. I think the coffee, however, is dreadful. I'd prefer some ordinary, working-joe back-office grade coffee to the so-called fancy java they have." (Arthur Beckman, Political Science)

"After having realized a new increase of prices I decided to have a conversation with Mr. Hunter, the manager of the cafeteria, about their price policy. To my question why prices increase every semester he answered that the price of coffee at the production level is increasing on a daily basis, and so they need to follow suit. He added that other places (for example Starbucks) maintain the same price for a cup of coffee while on the other hand they reduce the portions/quantity of coffee per cup, by for example reducing the size of their cups. In other words, the decision to raise the price of coffee by the managerial staff of the cafeteria was made instead to increase the price maintaining the size of the cups unaltered." (Anthony Buttarro, Sociology)

"The choices are great. Where else can you get a hot lunch or all veggie meal for under 9\$? RA does a good job. When looking at food costs at the GC you need to keep in mind the world we live in. The Tsunami affected the coffee price, floods in Cali affect produce. Cost of food is based on lots of issues if people are upset over rising costs here they should also be upset over rising food costs all over Manhattan." (RA employee)

### Ideas for Change

Last but not least we asked our respondents: What, apart from cutting prices, could be done differently? While most suggestions concerned additional food options and longer opening hours, two students protested that a company with such an atrocious labor rights record as RA should not be allowed to provide food in the GC.

"The schedule is far too restrictive for both the 8th and ground floors. It is designed for the administrative staff

and excludes attention to students' true schedules. The worst thing about the schedule is the fact that the ground floor facility closes too early for students who finish class at 6:15 and want to eat before going to the library. ... There should be full food service available on the 8th floor until 4." (Aleta Styers, Political Science)

"I'd like to see longer hours of operation. ... And what about weekends?" (Annelies Kamran, Political Science)

"It should be open not only when they can make money but when students have to study. It's not only about business." (A. Alonso, Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Languages and Literatures)

"Please bring back the wine!" (Luana Ferreira, Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Languages and Literatures)

"Cheaper prices and more sushi – but only if it's cheap – actually not cheap, just inexpensive." (Patrick Inglis, Sociology)

"There could be healthier options in the café." (Robert Wood, Musicology)

"They might not bring the price of coffee down, but there are things as their 'student lunch' policy. Why do I have to pick a bag of chips? Could they broaden one's choices? ... Or the other day I wanted to have water instead of soda, and nope! that was not allowed. I even asked if I could change my soda for a cup of coffee and that was not a possibility either. Have the soda or leave it was pretty much the choice.... and well, I took the soda against my will." (Patricia Ruiz-Navarro, Psychology)

"I would like to see greater food choices with perhaps some organic alternatives. Personally, I would like to see Lays, Mars, and some other products be replaced by more socially and environmentally friendly alternatives." (Mariya Gluzman, Philosophy)

"It should be a totally unionized work force and totally vegetarian kitchen. And there should be rooftop dining available." (Jamie McCallum, Art History)

"I am really mad about this entire situation. Personally, I am committed to boycott the cafeteria: I am have not bought anything there since the day of my conversation with Mr. Hunter. Especially when considering all the advantages that this company has in operating within the GC; for example the fact that every event that takes place within the GC that entails refreshments must, by contract, be catered by this company." (Anthony Buttarro, Sociology)

### Price for a 10oz cup of coffee at the GC Dining Commons

Until summer 2004: \$1.00

Sept 2004: 2 choices:

\$1.00 for Ritazza coffee

\$1.25 for Java coffee

Nov 2004: \$1.25

(\$1.00 option vanished. According to an RA employee, this was because "there weren't enough cups.")

Jan 2005: \$1.35

(The Tsunami is blamed.)

# Christo & Jean-Claude Bring New Yorkers to Central Park with "The Gates"

MASHA RUMER

For two weeks in February, New York City was transformed by Christo and Jeanne-Claude's large-scale installation piece, "The Gates." The husband and wife team share the same birthday and a love of public installation art, as well as the color saffron. Having conceived the project 25 years ago, this Bulgarian-French artist duo finally brought it to completion on February 12, with the official permission of Mayor Bloomberg. "The Gates" were impossible to avoid during these two weeks, even if you live in New Jersey.

Officially titled "The Gates: 1979-2005," the project involved the installation of 7,500 gates with suspended saffron-colored nylon fabric, stationed along the entire 23 miles of walkways in Central Park. The project required 5,290 US tons of steel, 116,389 miles of nylon thread, 165,000 bolts and nuts, and 60 miles of Vinyl tube. The cost: US \$20,000 million, financed entirely by the artists, who sold their sketches and earlier works to support the project.

Christo and Jeanne-Claude have a long-standing reputation for challenging traditional notions of art. In the past, they wrapped fabric around oil barrels in Cologne; they wrapped bottles, trees, and The Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art; they wrapped monuments in Europe including the Reichstag in Berlin. They surrounded islands in Florida with fabric and erected a barrel wall. All projects are temporary and the artists refuse volunteer help and contributions from corporate or private foundations.

So what is the purpose of "The Gates" in 30-degree weather? For many New Yorkers and tourists flocking in from all over the country, this was a chance to bask in color in the center of the snow-covered city. Andrew, from Brooklyn, took his five-year-old daughter Julia for an afternoon walk in the park. "I like them! It's a happening!" he said. "[Julia] asked me what the purpose of the gates was, and I said the purpose was that Christo wanted to just get people to come out." For others, the project offered an adventure, shaking up February's stalemate.

Thousands of people strolled, ran, and took carriage rides through the park daily, stretching to touch the saffron fabric, eating hotdogs, taking photographs like there was

no tomorrow, striking conversations with strangers, and trying to stay warm. According to a police officer working on the premises, who preferred to remain anonymous, the park saw about five times the number of visitors it typically gets in February. "Usually you just see people jogging or walking their dogs." The majority allegedly showed up on the last weekend before the dismantling of the project.

"There is a lot of energy," said Olga Aksakalova, an English student from the Graduate Center. "Everybody is doing the same thing—taking pictures of each other, finding the right angle, distributing those little pieces of material. In terms of the artistic goal, I'm not really sure. It's just a way to give people some happiness and bring them together. It's something colorful in the middle of winter."

Christo and Jeanne-Claude hired 900 workers to put together, monitor, and dismantle the gates for two weeks after the project. Dixie DeGraw came all the way from Oregon, where she works and studies art at Portland State University.

"This was a dream come true for me, really," said DeGraw, holding the monitor's pole with a tennis ball secured at the end. "I get here about seven o'clock, I have a little coffee, talk to other people, then the engineer and Christo and Jeanne-Claude make announcements. Then we come out here and basically take care of the gates." The duties include answering visitors' questions, keeping the fabric hanging properly, and distributing hundreds of swatches. "We just make everything look pretty and help make people happy, I guess."

On the artistic purpose of "The Gates," DeGraw said, "I love it, but I'm a little biased. My favorite part of it is when the wind moves through it. My favorite kind of day to look at is when there's a good blue sky, no clouds, it's very sunny, and there's a lot of wind. That's when I think it's the most beautiful."

André Cruz, who works for a security company in New York City, is another monitor. "I'll be here until the end. Two weeks after the closing." Cruz's favorite part is "meeting people from all around the world, the experience of the exhibit, just coming outside and enjoying the day as the day goes by. It's all about communicating well with the public." Cruz has heard a variety of reactions, but most of them positive.

Many businesses, like hospitality and restaurant indus-

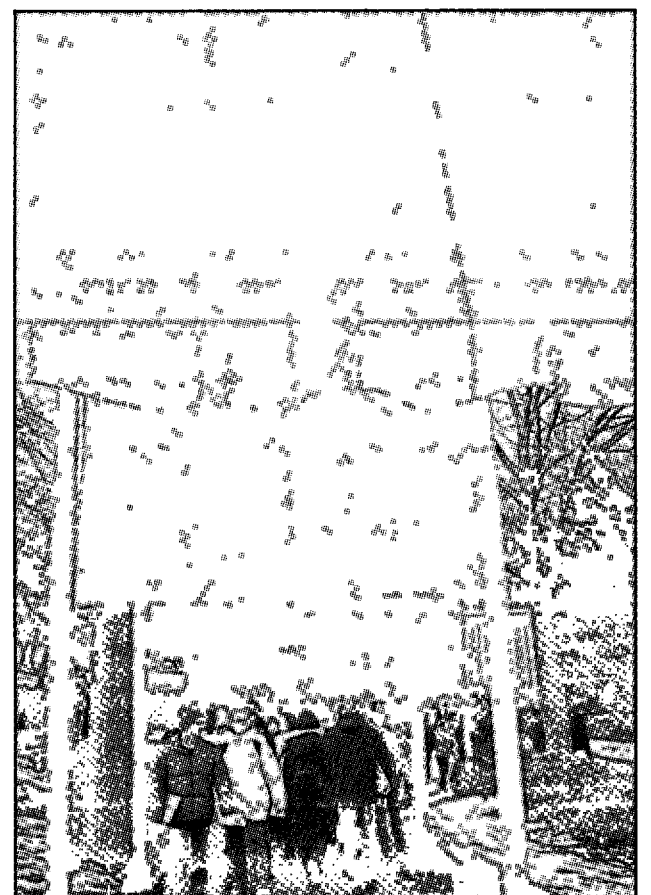
try, experienced a surge of clients. Central Park itself was cashing in on \$5 guides, entitled "On Walking 'The Gates,'" and \$20 mugs and baseball caps. Photographers instantly produced prints of varying quality, putting them up for sale throughout.

John, manager of Cosmic Coffee Shop on 58th and Broadway, by the South entrance to the park, was optimistic. "Everything was good. There was extra business: a lot of people from all over the world and United States. It was very busy from the morning on—nine o'clock until seven o'clock. Nice people, no problems, everybody enjoying the gates," he commented on the project's last Saturday.

However, many New Yorkers disapproved of the installation and the hype. Many saw "The Gates" as a gratuitous attempt of Christo and Jeanne-Claude to buy publicity, rather than spend the money on more charitable causes during a winter season when thousands are homeless. For others, the project raised questions about the definition and purpose of art: they were dissatisfied with the free-for-all interpretation. After all, the project promised a unique visual and temporal experience, fanned by Christo and Jeanne-Claude on their official website as, "Each separate 'gate' would be merely a relic of the artwork and not a work of art. Seven thousand, five hundred structures together in Central Park IS a work of art." So, many expected to see something more, well, artistic. A few immigrants from the former Soviet Union were convinced that the Gates were New York's secret expression of solidarity with Ukrainian Prime Minister Yushenko, poisoned by dioxide, who used orange as the official color of his campaign. Many critics simply saw no point to the artificiality of nylon and steel amid the natural landscape.

Yet others, whether out of peer pressure or genuine appreciation, welcomed the free opportunity to venture beyond their stoop and subway stop, to get excited, mingle with strangers, and smile in acknowledgement of somebody's multimillion dollar attempt to change the way they view themselves and their city on a cold February day.

Masha Rumer is a student in the PhD program in Comparative Literature and a freelance journalist.





# Vamps, Virgins, Smokers, and Stags – The Museum of Sex Offers a Little Something for Everyone

JAMES HOFF

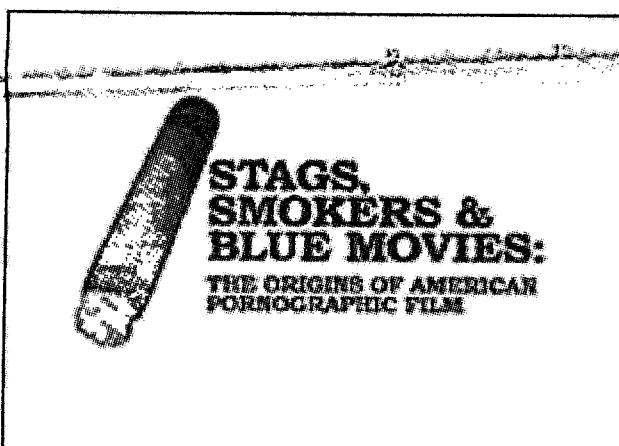
Located inconspicuously on the corner of 27th and 5th Avenue, far from such "Museum Mile" giants as the Metropolitan and the Guggenheim, the Museum of Sex, or MoSex for short, is quietly challenging the curatorial status quo with a series of exhibits ranging from the relatively tame to the pleasantly hardcore. Despite the steep \$18 entrance fee (Students get in for \$13.50) and the remarkably unhelpful and unfriendly staff, MoSex, only seven blocks from the Graduate Center, is the perfect excuse to put off that seminar paper or dissertation and spend a little time studying what we would all rather be doing anyway.

Except for the nearly hidden entrance on 27th and the vibrators and dildos on sale in the gift shop, the lobby of the Museum of Sex looks like any other small, modern museum, with an abundance of smooth surfaces, muted whites, grays, and a general sense of sanitized decorum. Once past the turnstile that leads into the exhibits, however, it is plain to see this is not like any other museum you've ever been to. Although the first exhibit, "Vamps and Virgins, The History of the American Pinup." As the exhibit is tolerably mild, with only the occasional beaver shot, there is a palpable sense that somehow something is amiss. After all, it is rare for us to share these sorts of experiences in public, much less with a room full of old men, German tourists, and middle-aged couples. Single patrons in the exhibit stand apart from one another, and couples talk very little, fixedly gazing at the photos and alternately reading the descriptions on the wall. Although we've all seen this kind of imagery before, seeing it on exhibit creates a sense of disconnect and cold rationality, as if the erotic nature of the images has been lost.

This first exhibit, traces the development of the female nude in photography from the comparatively risqué and enticing Victorian images of masters and maids (including a remarkable photograph of a young woman with one the first-ever electric vibrators) through to the decidedly "plain vanilla" playboy images of buxom blondes in bubble-baths of the 50s and 60s. Despite the poor lighting and the over-abundance of academic material that accompanies the exhibit, Vamps and Virgins does manage to offer a fascinating and first-hand insight into a side of American history that the curator, Jennifer Kabat has called "easily the single most important development impacting women's rights, the history of sexuality, and feminism over the last century." Indeed, the exhibit, by turns pedantic and anecdotal, takes pains to show the degree to which the genre was influenced by American history and how

the pinup, in turn, impacted American culture. From the early 20th-century "better than 'cheesecake'" images of women in stockings and garter belts and the classically wholesome poses of 1930s "pictorialism," to more straightforward and empowering images of sexualized woman in the twenties and sixties, the exhibit shows, if anything, just how volatile and powerful such images were to a society that has always been highly ambivalent about its own sexuality, alternately embracing pleasure, purity, and abstinence.

Stags, Smokers & Blue Movies: The Origins of American Pornographic Film, offers the viewer an entirely different and at times almost surreal experience. By the time the visitor has finished dutifully taking notes on the first exhibit and fully considered the cultural and political implications of her own experiences with the pinup, any potential arousal has been intellectually sublimated. Although the sometimes humorous, sometimes arcane information provided with the exhibit is interesting, it is as if the pleasure of the forbidden has been stripped away completely, sanctioned and sanitized.



It's not until you climb the black stairs to the second-floor exhibit that you begin to realize where you are. There, in the darkened room, smartly displayed upon several knee-high, rectangular pedestals are running loops of various old stag films from the early 20th century to the 1960s. Looking down upon these images at once reaffirms the sense of being in a museum, reminding us these are cultural artifacts, not porn, while simultaneously providing viewers with a false sense of privacy, since only those standing directly next to you know what you are watching. The exhibit is arranged in chronological order, beginning in 1907 and ending in 1965. The first film, a stag party classic, is the relatively innocuous and humorous animated short "Buried Treasure," in which a hapless man falls victim to the whims and desires of his own monstrously oversized appendage, leading him into a series of predictable mishaps along the way, including comic sex with a number of different animals. The rest of the exhibit, on the other hand, is surprisingly, refreshingly, and unapologetically "hardcore." These films, which include a fair amount of fellatio, cunnilingus, female onanism, straight sex, and one instance of homosexual oral sex. They offer a glimpse of some of the earliest examples of what would become, in America, a multi-billion dollar industry by the twenty-first century. Most of the 35mm shorts, normally about 10-12 minutes each, are of poor quality compared to today's standards, but lacking the flash and gynecological exactness of so much modern porn, these films seem somehow more intense and more raw. In the darkened and crowded exhibit space they seem strange, yet somehow powerfully real, their ability to move the viewer more dangerous because of the public

nature of the exhibit. This is perhaps exactly what the curators were looking to accomplish, after all most of the films were originally viewed by large groups of men at stag parties.

The exhibit, on the other hand, is more than merely an intellectualized peepshow. Along with the films there are small viewing booths, looking conspicuously like those one might find in any number of porn shops from Chelsea to Times Square, except that these booths offer interviews and first-person accounts of men who had seen many of these films at stag parties, and smokers in the 60s and 70s. Their honest, unapologetic, and earnest responses help to give the films a human face and place them within a broader cultural context.

In addition to the two main exhibits, the museum offers a sampling of its permanent collection, highlights which at the time include a "male chastity belt" designed to prevent the evils of masturbation, as well as a number of large, fully-equipped mechanical sex devices, a bibliographical history of sex education, and a rather depressing exhibit on "Sex, Society and Law" that makes one question the very notion of sexual progress. Although we should applaud the Museum's mission "to preserve and present the history, evolution, and cultural significance of human sexuality," current and past exhibits do tend to overlook male and female homosexuality except as aberration and exception.

James Hoff is a student in the PhD program in English.



Soft-core porn, right in the GC's neighborhood.

**"Vamps and Virgins, The History of the American Pinup," closes March 30th. Museum hours are Sunday - Friday: 11:00am - 6:30pm (last ticket sold at 5:45pm) and Saturday: 11:00am - 8:00pm (last ticket sold at 7:15pm). \$13.50 + tax**

**Discount coupons are sometimes available on their website: <http://museumofsex.com>**

# Fear & Loathing in Amsterdam

ANONYMOUS

This winter saw the passing of a number of remarkable human beings. Some were praised in the public spotlight, others were left relatively unsung. There were the celebrities—like Ossie Davis, Sandra Dee, Bonnie Raitt's father, Arthur Miller, Lucien Carr—and then there were the thousands of deaths that don't make the newspapers, that might resonate only on a personal level.

Hunter S. Thompson's death had celebrity writ-large all over it and, at the same time, touched me in a way the other departures have not. Thompson, best known for his "gonzo journalism," could arguably be called America's first and foremost embedded journalist. Whether the subject was biker gangs, the machinations of Washington insiders, or psychedelics, Thompson immersed himself in his subject, breaking through to that other side Jim Morrison told us all about and reporting things the way he found them there.

I read about Thompson's death on-line in a in an Amsterdam internet café. My wife and I were on holiday and I was taking full advantage of the city's drug policies. Drugs are decriminalized in Amsterdam. They're not legal, but the Dutch view drug abuse as a medical problem, not one necessitating prison. They also seem to understand that there is a difference between drug use and drug abuse. Coffeehouses and cafés, like herring stands and French fries with mayonnaise, abound in Amsterdam. The difference between a coffeehouse and a café is that in coffeehouses, you can buy marijuana in addition to coffee. It's funny walking into a coffeehouse and asking to see the

cannabis menu, comparing the varieties—from White Widow to Bubblegum, organically cultivated to hydroponically grown, from space cakes (think marijuana brownies) to hashish—and prices (which ranged, in general, from six to twelve Euro per gram of marijuana). The Dutch are enlightened, at least when it comes to their drug policies.

Smart drugs are also available in Amsterdam. Mushrooms, herbal ecstasy, peyote. The doors of perception are readily cleansed in Amsterdam, and there is no fear that you'll be busted by the authorities for mere possession of said substances—aside from the paranoia that is a natural accompaniment of some of the drugs, one of the side effects that can lead to a bad trip if one isn't careful. Compare that to America, where over two million people languish in cages, many for relatively minor drug violations, and a sixty-something year old man named Tommy Chong can spend over a year in prison for selling bongos over the internet. Strange days indeed.

So Thompson was dead—by his own hand—and I thought it was only fitting to celebrate his life and works in a way he himself would have smiled upon. Having tripped the night before on Mexican mushrooms, I went looking for a different experience. The proprietor in the Smart shop explained what one could expect from Philosopher Stone's pebbly-looking mushrooms originally grown in Florida providing an intense philosophic exploration accompanied by vivid differentiations of colors and sound. "Eat these," he said, "then go check out a museum." For 15 Euro, one couldn't go wrong. Two hours later my wife was effectively my tour guide, having not

imbibed the mushrooms, which were starting to take hold. She was sober, which meant I was safe in public not to make a fool out of myself, but it also meant I had to accompany her as she enjoyed a European shopping spree.

The so-called psychedelic drugs have a way of tapping into your emotions that other drugs lack. If you're feeling down, tripping on shrooms or LSD probably isn't the way to go. You may dwell on the negative emotions and find yourself experiencing a "bad trip," huddled in the corner of your room, arms clasped to knees drawn up to chin. My wife led me from store to store, where she perused the shoes and jewelry and I stared at the manufactured goods, mulling over consumerism and capitalism as the walls and racks of items expanded and contracted with each breath. At one point I found myself caressing a boot, smelling the leather and the cow it had come from, seeing the field the cow grazed in, wondering if the cow had been a happy cow, munching on the grass, ruminating, cogitating, perhaps really enjoying life before being turned into footwear and hamburger. Fortunately the boot was on a rack and not on someone's foot.

Up until this point, I've been misleading the reader. My wife did not have to "drag" me from store to store, which is usually what happens when we go shopping. I went along willingly, enjoying the sights and sounds of the city. And neither do I believe psychedelic drugs "cause" what one experiences after having ingested them. As psychedelic pioneer and fellow space cowboy Alexander Shulgin noted in *The New York Times Magazine* several weeks

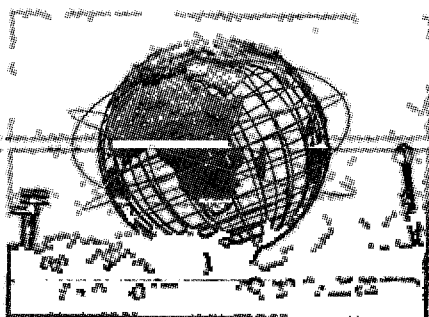
continued on next page

## Asian American / Asian Research Institute

The City University of New York



### 2005 International Conference on Global Entrepreneurship: Economic Development for Asia and the U.S.



Date: Friday, May 6, 2005  
Time: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
Place: Vertical Campus - Baruch College, CUNY

Cost: \$35 (Registered By 3.21.05)  
\$45 (Registered After 3.21.05)  
- Includes Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner -  
\* Student & AAARI/AAHEC Members: \$20

Co-Sponsors: White House Initiative on Asian and Pacific Islanders, Chinese Association For Science and Business, Committee of 100, and Weissman Center for International Business - Baruch College, CUNY

### CUNY Response to Tsunami Disaster in South Asia Speakers Bureau

Date: Wednesdays, 2.16.05 to 5.25.05 Time: 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM  
Place: 25 W. 43rd St., 18th Floor, btwn 5th & 6th Ave., Manhattan

- 2.16.05 - "The Recent Tsunami: A Geologist's Perspective" by Nehru Cherukupalli (Brooklyn College)
- 2.23.05 - "Issues Concerning International Relief Efforts in Sri Lanka" by Harendra Sirisena (NYC College of Technology)
- 3.02.05 - "Social Work in Indonesia After the Tsunami" by Martha Haffey (Hunter College School of Social Work)
- 3.09.05 - "Counseling Issues in Treating Traumatized Victims" by Sung Ha Suh (John Jay College of Criminal Justice)

### 2005 CUNY Asian American Film / Media Festival SEEKING ENTRIES!!!

Prizes: \$200 & \$100 (Fiction, Documentary & Experimental)  
♦ Film or media must have an Asian or Asian American reference.

♦ Length of film or media is limited to thirty minutes or less.

Submission Deadline: Friday, April 1, 2005  
Send submissions to: 25 West 43rd Street, Room 1827, New York, NY 10036

### Friday Evening Lecture Series

Time: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Place: 25 W. 43rd St., 18th Floor, btwn 5th & 6th Ave., Manhattan

- 3.04.05 - "The Chinese Virtuoso: Celebrating the Aesthetic of Extremes" by Charles Riley (Baruch)
- 3.11.05 - "Intergenerational Transmission of Religion & Ethnicity: Indian Hindus and Korean Protestants" by Pyong Gap Min (Queens)
- 3.18.05 - "An Evening of Tibet: En Route To Lhasa & A Village on Qinghai - Tibet Plateau (Slides)" by Tom Tam & Cynthia Chang

For more information, to register for events, or to view past presentations & awarded films, please visit our website @

**www.aaari.info**

Tel: 212.869.0182 E-mail: info@aaari.info



## Amsterdam (con't)

back, having imbibed peyote he found himself inundated with sights and thoughts that "had been brought about by a fraction of a gram of a white solid, but that in no way whatsoever could it be argued that these memories had been contained within the white solid ... I understood that our entire universe is contained in the mind and the spirit. We may choose not to find access to it, we may even deny its existence, but it is indeed there inside us, and there are chemicals that can catalyze its availability." As Timothy Leary would point out, "Your mind is God."

And that's something the anti-drug crusaders fail to recognize but Hunter S. Thompson did. Psychedelics are keys. They open doors in the mind that have been effectively shut by millions of years of evolution away from the primordial seas. In our normal waking life we experience five senses, readily identified and handily segmented. Trip on LSD, shrooms, mescaline or the like and you will feel music, you will delve into your unconscious without \$125-an-hour therapist fees. Psychedelics break down the barriers that have proven evolutionarily necessary for us to survive on the savannahs, allowing us to experience tastes, sights, thoughts, sounds and tactile sensations in ways that are otherwise impossible.

Psychedelics may also reveal truths to the user. For example, when I trip, I am always struck by the feeling of "oceanic consciousness" that pervades existence. One realizes what one's motivations are. Insecurity and fear

are heavy for all of us. Non-existence looms as a large pool, actually more like a vast ocean, the surface of which is rippled and pocked as fish explode from its depths, arc towards the wondrous sky and dive back down to disappear. We're the individual fish, thrust into this world from the vastness of non-existence, ascending for a time, unaware of the pool beneath us from whence we all came, peaking and then catapulting inexorably back into the soothing depths. "Life is a waterfall," as System of a Down lead vocalist Serj Tankian sings. "We're one with the river and one again after the fall." Along our trajectories we can communicate with others if we choose to do so, but within the pool it doesn't appear possible.

Communication being so fundamental to this life, to existence and our democratic participation in it, we take it as an intrinsic good. Then a guy like Hunter Thompson comes around, tells us about his drug-fueled nights of insane madness, of the fear and loathing, and many write him off as a kook. Commenting on his father's suicide by .45-caliber, Juan Thompson told the Associated Press, "One thing he said many times was that 'I'm a road man for the lords of karma.' It's cryptic, but there's an implication there that he may have decided that his work was done and that he didn't want to overstay his welcome; it was time to go." Thompson requested that his ashes be fired out of a cannon.

Above the Singel Canal in Amsterdam, right where the flower market begins off the Vijzelgracht Straat, looms the Mint Tower. As my wife and I emerged from our shopping spree and made our way to our room where I would

do my best to melt into the crack separating the two mattresses of our king-sized bed, the Mint Tower greeted us against a blue sky dotted by puffy white clouds. Trippers will understand. There are things—places, spots, monuments—that stand out when one trips, and these things don't leave. There is a bond between the tripper and the object. Once I viewed a sunset on the beach on acid, and it was the most beautiful/terrible thing I have ever seen. It was the genesis and destruction of humankind encompassed in one red orb slipping under the horizon. When you trip, you can go from tears to laughter within the same breath.

Million Dollar Baby cleaned up at the Oscars but drew flack for supposedly supporting euthanasia. One thing those who attempt to impose their morality on others fail to recognize is: this is it. Here on Earth, completely at random or by divine ordination (depending on one's religious views or lack thereof), here we are for the time being. Instead of making existence harder for one another, we should be focused on making life better and more fulfilling, on exploring our place and limited time in this vast universe. None of us ask to be born, but, thrust into existence, we attempt to make the best of it. Hunter S. Thompson understood these simple truths. Further, he grasped Morrison's reminder that "no one here gets out alive." Thompson lived his life his way, and there is much exemplary in that life.

The author is a doctoral student at the GC.

## A Day in the Life of a GC Adjunct (con't from 5)

older than me.

I rush to the classroom to teach, which I enjoy. My academic discipline allows me to connect what is going on in our lives with what is going on in the world. I like when the students ask questions, or when they start really getting into it. I am grateful for being allowed those glimpses into their lives, and for them letting me know what they think and feel. We talk about so many difficult things, but I often find myself disappointed that I cannot seem to convince them to see things from my perspective. It is hard to be balanced if you come from a progressive background, are an activist, and see your students struggle so much. I hear their stories and see them getting kicked by life. Yet, when they talk about their dream of a better life—they talk about how to stop paying taxes so they can have money to pay rent, about owning a gun so they can protect themselves, or about getting a better job at some bank. Some are sympathetic and interested when I talk about fighting tuition hikes, getting involved in local politics, or joining unions to improve the education system of which they themselves are victims. But mostly they just want to be left alone, graduate, and make some money.

I feel angry and bitter when I realize how many of my colleagues, and many older, tenured professors think that they are helping my students by letting them slide by. They give them As and Bs "for encouragement," praise them for submitting a paper on time, and do not assign professional academic papers because they are "too difficult." My students are shocked when I have to give Ds to half of the class, and don't understand why they cannot use a Daily News article for class analysis, like they do in other classes. I sympathize with the pressures that they are under and respect that they have taken it upon themselves to try to counteract the effects of the many years of failed public school education. But for every professor who gives a damn there is another who is too tired to care, or who genuinely believes that students cannot do better. I know that they can do better, but they are infantilized daily. They are allowed to act and write like adolescents, and told that their marginally acceptable product is "good enough." I think we are cheating them out of their education and not giving them their money's worth. And me? I am a hypocrite myself. As much as I do care now, I also know that the moment I am offered a better paying job with health benefits, I will kiss CUNY goodbye and not think twice about it.

I genuinely value CUNY's mission and believe in public education. I would love to stay here, but that would be self-destructive. I refuse to be treated the way CUNY treats its adjuncts, if I can help it. I am underpaid, under-

appreciated, overworked and cannot treat seriously any employer who does not offer health benefits for this difficult work. I think that the PSC and the Adjunct Project are wonderful, but I don't want to wait another two years to buy another pair of shoes.

I run to my other job. This one is illegal, so I cannot really talk to many people about it. As an international student, I am supposed to pay the out-of-state \$3,500 tuition per semester and make do with 20 hours of work. It is ridiculous, and I know we all cheat to survive.

Then I am off to teach yet another class at a different CWIT school. I eat something unhealthy, with a lot of sugar, as I commute. No wonder my ass gets bigger by the hour. I have to watch out because I don't have health insurance, so I have to learn to take care of myself better. Soon GC will eliminate the Wellness Center and I will lose any contact with the medical profession for the next few years. After my class, I attend a committee meeting, and later I help a fellow student prepare for an exam. I go the ATM and find out that I have three dollars left in my account. It's a good thing today is a payday at the Graduate Center. I can probably survive the few days it will take for my paycheck to clear. Unfortunately, the Bursar says that the school took my tuition out of my paycheck and I still owe them money. My heart almost stops, as I quickly do the math in my head. Well, the school made a mistake; they were supposed to give me a check for a few hundred bucks. They apologize and tell me to wait: "it's in the mail." I wonder how long I can live on rice and beans again and decide to find another babysitting or waitressing gig to tide me over.

I am heading to meet a professor to talk about my dissertation proposal. Her office is locked even though I have an appointment. Half an hour later, I call her at home. She apologizes: she forgot because she is finishing a chapter for her book and her publisher is on her back; we will talk in a few weeks when she gets back from a conference in Hawaii. I feel stuck with this whole dissertation business and desperately need advice. Otherwise I will become one of those eternal ABDs. So I email another professor to whom I sent my work a month earlier. He responds that he is sorry but he was too busy traveling to look at it yet, and suggests that I go see Professor Stinky Breath, who really knows much more about my topic and my area. But Professor Stinky Breath has a tendency to look at my chest way too often and makes awkward jokes. It is not threatening in any way, just pathetic. I would rather dig myself out than go see him.

I still have time to check my email quickly before the GC closes. Yes, they close the library here earlier than at

the undergraduate colleges. I was going to get myself a high-speed connection at home, but then suddenly my department decreased my funding. They need to lure incoming freshmen with more attractive financial aid packages, they say. This just means I will spend more time and money to apply for all those grants I won't get. I wrote eight grant proposals this semester alone. I am lucky I found so many, because there are few opportunities for non-green-card holders. I was close to getting one of them but it went to another student. He is not embarrassed to admit that he does not really intend to write about what he said he would (and what the grant required), and jokes that he is lucky the grant administrators don't know about his wife's investments, or else he would not meet the financial aid requirements. Ironically, I receive an email from my mom, asking me again when will I get married and have babies, like a normal girl should.

On my subway ride home I manage to read a few pages of a novel by my favorite Japanese author. This is the only time I allow myself to read non-fiction. It is such a luxury and a nice departure from the dry, convoluted language of the writers in my discipline. As I narrowly escape the spit of a coughing elderly businessman seated across the aisle from me, I decide that I am finally going to leave New York, drop out of the program and get a job. I've already promised myself that a couple of times before. I wonder if I will finally do it this time.

The author is a doctoral student at the GC.

### Anonymous Semen Donors Wanted

20 - 39 years old.  
Flexible appointments with  
at least a 1 year commitment.  
Applicants screened and tested

Earn up to \$425 per month!  
Call between 10 AM and 5 PM,  
Mon - Fri for information

Park Avenue Fertility  
(212) 779-1608

# Flying South

TONY MONCHINSKI

Her name is Peru and she comes into my life unexpectedly but that's more often than not the way the best things in your life happen. She is beautiful, intelligent and sexy, and I don't understand why someone hadn't snatched her up a long time ago. But I am not going to complain. I am just going to get to know her better.

Our first date we go to a coffee shop and talk for three hours. I have a regular Guatemala, black, which I let cool for most of the evening. She dunks her biscotti in a double latte decaf skim with Irish Cream. We laugh and talk and outside the spring is coming.

She says she believes in reincarnation and feels she has been here before. She asks me if I believe in reincarnation. I have to think about that one for awhile.

Then I tell her about Plato's insights, Marx's totality, how we're all capable of knowing the same things. And now they're doing all this DNA research. Maybe knowledge can be passed down genetically, I suggest.

If you can come back, she wants to know, what would it be as? That's another one I have to think about.

I wake up at her place and I don't want to leave.

At work I can't wait to see her and touch her and talk to her and say mindless, useless things like how was your day? And the thing is I really do care how it was and what went on in her life. We can sit looking at a wall and say nothing forever and

I'd be happy.

We go through all the options in the "Complete Manual of Sexual Positions." One of my favorites is number sixty-three, she on her side on a wingback chair with me from behind. We both agree that a wingback chair is a welcome addition to any home.

On campus we walk around watching the leaves change color. I try to take her book bag but she's into that liberated woman thing and doesn't let me.

Everything is going from green to brown to red to orange. Then it turns black and falls to the ground. We try not to step on the cracks in the pavement.

I like to wake up with Peru. I can wrap my leg and arm around her and we nestle like two spoons. Fall asleep that way sometimes. Wake up next to her with bad breath and keep my mouth shut so she won't notice until I brush my teeth. There are some things I wouldn't wish on others.

Get back in bed again after I run to the bathroom to pee and hunker down in the warm spot. Wake up extra early and lie there beside my Peru, watching her sleep and when she wakes greeting her.

Her chest goes up and down and she has the most exquisite breastbone I have ever seen. Sometimes she catches me admiring her and she asks what I am doing. And sometimes I tell her and other times I just kiss her.

"Do you trust my judgment?" I ask her. She asks me why.

I tell her not to say anything, to just listen to me.

I tell her I am in love with her, that I love her. I tell her I know she is capable of taking care of herself, but that I want to take care of her as much as I can. That I know she can watch out for her own person, but that if she lets me I will watch out for her. I tell her I know she's into being her own person but I want to carry her book bag if she'll let me.

"How do I know you'll always love me?" Peru asks.

We are lying in bed. Her head is on my chest. I am invincible.

"You've just got to believe me," I tell her.

She is quiet for a moment, then, "I do."

I smile. "I know."

And then one day she tells me she loves me.

When she tells me about the leukemia she is scared that I will want nothing to do with her. Does she really think that I am going to push her away?

I pull her close, hold her tight, and try not to cry. I try to be as strong as I can.

I go with her to the hospital for the treatments. We sip bad coffee in the lounge and make small talk with the geriatric candy strippers.

Sometimes we go for little walks to the maternity ward and look in on the babies in the glass. A lot of them cry and wriggle around. I squeeze her shoulder and smell her hair.

We laugh and kid a lot about silly things and I attack her with two pinching fingers. I call teeny flies.

Mirthfully we agree that we'll open a combination coffee shop-slash-cigar store-sex club one day. After all, what's better than a good cup of coffee, some great sex and a nice cigar? Neither of us smokes.

Pomp and circumstance night would see all the patrons dressed in tuxedos and gowns. A mock wedding ceremony would culminate with our consummating the union in front of everyone else. From there the whole scene would degenerate into a Dionysian-free-for-all.

She laughs and says I am crazy.

I take her to treatment and after awhile I sit in her room and watch garish television programs beside her bed. I hold her hand and she asks me to read her poems.

I push her chair around in the children's ward. They talk to us and the ones who can play. They're always glad to see people.

One thing I like to do is press my nose to her head and smell her hair. I breathe it all in and it is good. Sometimes when she stays the night I spend the whole next day finding little hairs strewn about. I play with them and run them across my face and wish I had her here.

I went to visit Peru today, at the cemetery. She beat the leukemia. But in the end her body was so tired it couldn't carry her through.

A bunch of geese go by overhead. They make a lot of noise because they are late flying south.

I squat there next to where she is now, and I run my hand over the stone. It's been awhile and I don't cry anymore like I used to, but that doesn't mean I don't miss her.

The geese have gone home.

The ground is pretty solid in the winter so I have to leave the flowers lying there. I can't drive them into the dirt.

I love her you know.

Tony Monchinski is a PhD student in the Political Science department.

## Is Heaven a Used Bookstore?

SPENCER SUNSHINE

Like many graduate students, I spend a lot of time in used bookstores. New bookstores hold little appeal, since you can buy anything online. But I have a hard time walking by a used one without going in, and an even harder time walking out without buying something (which more often than not sits unread on my sprawling bookshelf, unless I skip my class reading for the week and delve into my new purchase immediately). New York City may be poor in good cafes where one can sit all day and read, but it is rich in used bookstores. Here's my quick & dirty tour of those on my radar — not to be mistaken for an exhaustive guide!

### Manhattan:

1. **The Strand.** The most famous used bookstore in New York happens to also be the worst. Good luck trying to find anything, and it's always a pain to check your bag while dodging the hordes. They do have good prices on remaindered reference books, and their fiction section is doable, otherwise strictly for the unserious browser. (828 Broadway at 12th St.; 212-473-1452)

2. **Alabaster Bookstop.** The mirror image of the Strand — small, tidy, and on the other side of the block. A small but well-chosen selection, moderate prices. (122 4th Ave between 12th and 13th; 212-982-3550)

3. **East Village Books.** They recently relocated down the street from their old space. The new store is beautiful, but the prices are the highest in the city; they regularly charge 75% of the new cover price, and often for damaged books. But a good source for out-of-print Leftist titles. For the high-income bracket. (99 St Marks Place, between 1st and Ave A; 212-477-8647)

4. **12th Street Books.** I only discovered this store this year, but it immediately became my favorite. Huge collection of scholarly works, good selection in all areas, and very cheap prices. Don't know how they do it. And there's a cheap Mexican place across the street to grab a bite while you peruse your new purchase. (11 E 12th St. b/t 5th Ave and University; 212-645-4340)

5. **Street Vendors Across from NYU's Bobst Library.** In NYC you can sell books and periodicals on the sidewalk without a special vendors license, and quite a few booksellers take advantage of this by setting up tables at various places across the city. The best, however, is in front of the NYU library, on the block southeast of Washington Square Park. Good selection, decent prices and haggling opportunities await you.

### Brooklyn:

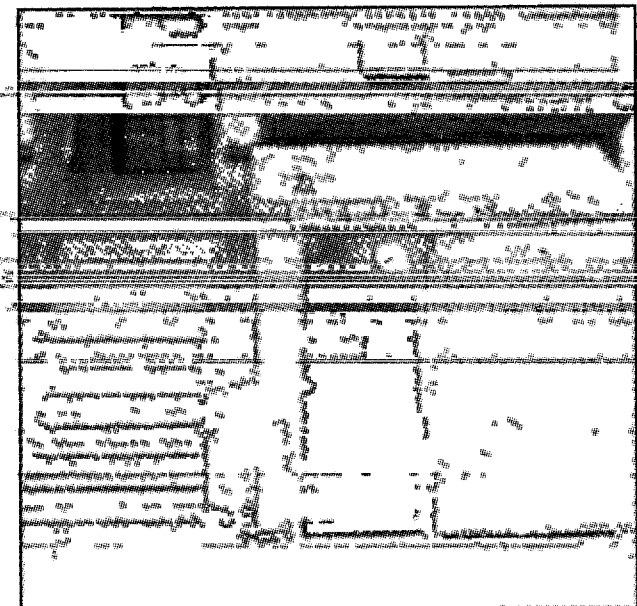
6. **Seventh Avenue Books.** Practically across the street from a Barnes & Noble, this bookstore has a decent selection and very cheap prices with high turnover. A good place to pick up a cheap novel and see if there's a tasty bite sitting around elsewhere for you. I always find something worthwhile here. (Park Slope, Brooklyn; 300 7th Ave, b/t 7th and 8th; 718-840-0188)

7. **Park Slope Books.** A much more scholarly collection than Seventh Avenue Books, but much higher prices. One of the only used bookstores I've been in that regularly gets anarchist titles in. But high prices and low quality-control: the binding of more than one book I've bought here has split. (Park Slope, Brooklyn; 200 7th Ave. b/t 2nd and 3rd; 718-499-3064)

8. **Clovis Press Books.** Bookstores often come with

familiars — in this case, the store is named after the owner's (sadly, recently deceased) dog. Good selection and high turnover, but also high prices. But they also carry new books, small-press radical texts, magazines, and tasteful trinkets such as fair-trade coffee. Much nicer since they redesigned the interior of the store. (Williamsburg, Brooklyn; 229 Bedford Ave.; 718-302-3751)

9. **Spoonbill & Sugartown Booksellers.** Across the street from Clovis, S&S is much larger. Interesting collection of philosophy texts, art and architecture books and remainders. For some reason I have found a lot of Situationist books in here. For hip architects and designers. (Williamsburg, Brooklyn; 218 Bedford Ave; 718-387-7322)



East Village Books at their old locale.



## DSC Demands Linux for the GC

During the recent email outages students attempted to determine solutions for the problems facing information technologies at The Graduate Center, CUNY. One partial solution is to switch the GC's overall operating system from Microsoft to Linux. While not seen as a panacea, Linux may offer a more stable technological environment for the GC. The DSC adopted this resolution at its recent plenary meeting of March 11, 2005:

Be it resolved by the Doctoral Students' Council at The Graduate Center of the City University of New York;

Whereas open source code such as Linux is freely available to the public, and therefore offers more robust, reliable operating and more options for interoperability;

Whereas Linux is a variant of the UNIX operating system, developed in 1969, in which email has been a standard application since its inception;

Whereas Microsoft, as a monopoly, has become the prime target of crackers' viruses, worms, and Trojans, therefore The Graduate Center should seek to reduce its reliance on Microsoft products (e.g., it should use Mozilla Firefox instead of Microsoft Internet Explorer);

Whereas many corporations and countries all over the world are switching to Linux-based systems, among them Deutsche Bahn (Germany), the Gendarmerie Nationale (France), the cities of Munich, Germany and Bergen, Norway, the Ministry of Defense in Singapore, and the national government of Brazil;

Whereas major companies such as IBM and Novell have committed themselves to the open source code movement by investing millions of dollars in developing and supporting end-user applications for Linux operating systems;

Whereas the City University of New York is chronically underfunded and can ill afford to continue its association with Microsoft, a monopoly corporation, for technical support;

Whereas The Graduate Center of the City University of New York, as a major research institution:

has need of reliable computation and telecommunication systems, has departments full of people capable of coding and troubleshooting in Linux (including but not limited to: Computer Science, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, and Biology), and should emulate the service levels and practices commonly found at other universities;

Therefore be it resolved, it is the sense of the Doctoral Students' Council that The Graduate Center and indeed all of CUNY should switch where at all possible to Linux and/or open source code-based operating systems and applications.

## President Horowitz Calls For CUNY to Contact State Legislators

Open letter from Frances Degen Horowitz, GC President:

The Assembly and the Senate conference committees are currently engaged in discussion of the State budget. Now is the time when it would be especially helpful for you to be in contact with your elected representatives on behalf of CUNY's budget needs. CUNY has made contacting your legislative representatives especially convenient by establishing a web site: <http://www.support-cuny.org> that enables you to locate with ease the e-mail address of your state senator and assembly member, to review sample letters, and to send your own message to your legislative representatives.

As you know, among the items of most concern related to CUNY's budget is the projected shortfall in operating funds for next year which would put further pressure on our already very strained resources, our request for doctoral student tuition fellowships, the proposals for a tuition increases and changes in the TAP financial aid program. Indeed, it would be especially helpful if in any letter you send by way of the web site you make special mention of CUNY's specific request for \$5.4 million in state support for Doctoral Student Fellowships while also emphasizing CUNY's operating budget needs.

## Logo Contest for DSC

The DSC needs an identifying logo! This year we printed business cards for our all representatives to the DSC. Some reps liked the cards so much that they spent their department's annual DSC allotments on business cards for all students in their program. Our cards need a logo of our own and we want a student to design one. We are accepting electronic submissions due by April 15th. There will be an award of \$150 for the submission which is selected by the steering committee. Please check the DSC website for details and submit your entry to [spiderbot@gmail.com](mailto:spiderbot@gmail.com).

# 3<sup>1/2</sup>¢ Copies

Full Service Copy Center  
Rush printing always available

### Theses & Dissertations

4.75¢ per side for 25% rag 8.5" x 11" white paper  
all bindings available — call for quote

You can get our full price list at the  
Advocate Office: Suite 5396

e-mail jobs to us at:  
[sales@printer7.com](mailto:sales@printer7.com)

[www.wholesalecopies.com](http://www.wholesalecopies.com)

Call us: 212-779-4065

WHOLESALE COPIES, INC.

1 E. 28th St., 4th Fl., NY NY 10016

(Between 5th Ave & Madison)

# 3<sup>1/2</sup>¢ Copies

# National Public Radio's Terry Gross: On Interviewing Technique, Public Radio, and Fox News

MASHA RUMER

"Hello, I'm Terry Gross and this is Fresh Air" is a line familiar to millions of National Public Radio listeners. For over 20 years Terry Gross has been the host of Fresh Air, an award-winning program produced by WHYY and featuring interviews with the leading artistic, cultural, and political figures of the day. What makes Fresh Air unique is the array of interesting guests, Ms. Gross's expansive knowledge of the topics, and her uncanny ability to listen and ask questions that reveal, explain, and inspire. Her book, "All I Did Was Ask," was published in 2004 by Hyperion, and brings together a collection of some of her most memorable interviews with the likes of Johnny Cash, John Updike, Sonny Rollins, Chris Rock, Uta Hagen, and even Kiss frontman Gene Simmons.

On February 25, I spoke with Ms. Gross from the studios of WHYY in Philadelphia.

MR: In your book, "All I Did Was Ask," you mention that the media is often preoccupied with the dirty details of celebrities' personal lives. How do you avoid this on Fresh Air and what do you focus on? What's important to you in an interview?

TG: I figure the reason why we're interested in an actor, or writer, or a musician in the first place is their work. We like their work. It makes us laugh, it makes us feel something. We like the sensibility of this

person. So what I try to do in interviews is to discover what shaped that sensibility that we love. If you're an artist, you're born with a gift. But that gift is shaped by what happens to you, it's shaped by how your parents treated you, the neighborhood you grew up in, what your school years were like, all that kind of stuff. So I want to ask about that kind of stuff. And that requires asking some personal questions, not intimate questions. Not questions about who you're sleeping with or a secret alcohol habit, or anything like that, but just biographical questions. And, unfortunately, people take these questions the wrong way, because they're so used to questions that are just leading to who they're having an affair with or if they have a secret drug problem. I'm not heading there, but they don't necessarily know that.

MR: What role does Fresh Air play in American culture?

TG: What we see as our mission in arts and entertainment is to call people's attention to some of the most interesting performers, artists, and writers, some of the most interesting books, movies and music, and world of issues. Part of our mission is to just stand back and try to explain what's going on, to get some of the smartest and some of the most informed people in the country explain some of the more complicated issues in the news.

MR: Does Fresh Air have a target audience?

TG: I don't think of it that way. We tend to not think demographically. Age-wise, our staff is really diverse—twenties through fifties. So we have different generations represented within the staff, and we generally try to go with what would we believe is interesting and important, without thinking about the target audience. Though we do assume that most of the people who listen to public radio have a fairly high level of curiosity about the world around them and about the arts and entertainment. And they want to hear things with more depth. If you didn't assume that, you'd be really wasting your time.

MR: Back in January you came to the CUNY Graduate Center to speak at the NY Times Arts & Leisure Weekend, along with James Lipton of Inside the Actor's Studio. Mr. Lipton told a story about Jack Lemmon coming onto his show and confessing that he was an alcoholic. Everybody was shocked and there was a long pause in the studio, then Mr. Lipton changed the subject. You asked Lipton at this point: "But why didn't you ask about his alcoholism?" How does this incident capture your approach to interviewing?

TG: You see, I might have done the same thing as he did. What he meant was he thought Lemmon said all that he cared to say about it, and that it was time to move on. And I had something similar happen to me, where something surprises you, but you get the feeling that this wouldn't be the right moment to go further. So I wasn't suggesting that he should have pushed harder or should have asked more. I just wanted to know why he decided not to.

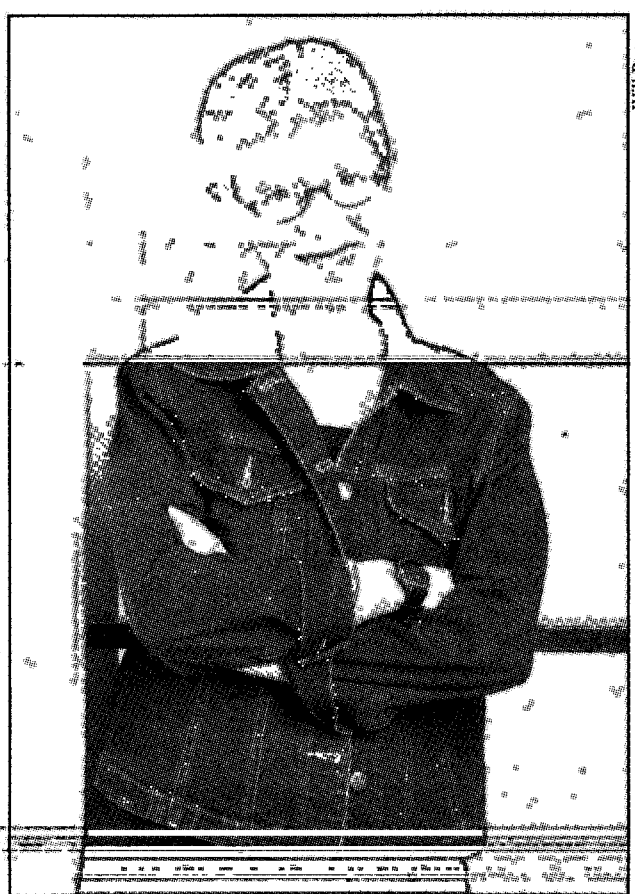
MR: How do you keep your bias from interfering during your interviews?

TG: The show isn't about my views and what I think, it's about getting people to express what they think.

MR: You speak with a variety of interesting people: musicians, writers, actors, about their craft. Do you ever find yourself fantasizing, what it would be like to have their job, to work in their field?

TG: Only in the sense that I try to imagine myself in their shoes as an exercise to prepare for the interview, to get a feeling what it's like to do their work, to know what to ask them. But I don't fool myself into thinking that talking to actors, writers, and musicians makes me an actor, writer, or a musician. So it's not like I'm there thinking or wishing I was in their shoes or doing their work.

MR: Is there a difference in the way NPR brings the news as opposed to, say, CNN



Radio host and, now, author: Terry Gross

TG: I think NPR truly is fair and accurate. On NPR's news programs, like Morning Edition or All Things Considered, reporters get 45 minutes to tell a story, they're not crammed into 30 seconds or 60 seconds. So you get a fuller and more complex picture of an issue by virtue of that amount of time.

MR: Are there other reasons, aside from time limitations?

TG: Fox News is really largely interview programs. It's not really a news network per se. It's mostly talk shows about the news, so it's a little difficult to compare. What Fox is doing isn't in any way like All Things Considered or Morning Edition. It's called a news network, but it's really more of a discussion network. I don't mean that in a disparaging way, I mean it's not a series of reports. It's mostly analysis, commentary, pundits, interviews.

MR: During your famous interview with Bill O'Reilly, you were discussing objectivity in certain news and talk show programs, whether they seek to divide the population or to find answers. What is your opinion?

TG: In general, I think that talk shows have become more partisan than ever. The host tends to have the point of view as well as the guest. Sometimes that sheds light on the information, and sometimes it just adds to the confusion. I think that a lot of shows are about generating controversy, as opposed to truly trying to present the most fair and accurate information.

Masha Rumer is a student in the PhD program in Comparative Literature and a freelance journalist.

Will Ryan

## Protests against Military Recruitment at CUNY Incite Police Crackdown

Members of the "counter-recruitment" movement, which aims to block military recruitment at college campuses, have come under increasing fire in the US in general and at CUNY in particular.

A case in point is the arrest of three City College of New York students on March 9. The students, Hadas Their, Nick Bergreen, and Justino Rodriguez, were among a group of other students who attended a job fair organized by CCNY. They then took a place in front of National Guard recruitment table and began to chant anti-war slogans. The response from campus security officers was immediate. According to a press release by the students' lawyers, "private security officers immediately surrounded the protesters, pushed them into an empty hallway outside the job fair, closed the hall door and assaulted two protesters, also arresting a third who was taking pictures." Bergreen and Rodriguez are now being charged with felony assault, while Their—who was taking pictures—with obstruction of a government administrator. Rodriguez claims that the officers slammed his head repeatedly against a wall, an action he considers "unnecessary

brutality."

Just a few days later, this action was followed by the arrest of Carol Lang, the administrative assistant in the CCNY Theater program. CUNY peace officers reportedly entered her office, arrested her, and arranged to have her sent to Central Booking. She too will now be charged with assaulting a peace officer at the same protest where the CCNY three were originally arrested. Such arrests of staff members for political activity are unusual if not unprecedented.

These incidents are not unique to CUNY. For instance, an activist was arrested at William Patterson University in New Jersey simply for handing out counter-recruitment pamphlets. But the spate of counter-recruitment arrests points to what seems to be a conscious administration decision to stifle dissent on the campuses and provide recruitment officials with a protest-free zone. The students in question claim that their action was completely peaceful, and that officers responded with violence. Please keep an eye on coming issues of The Advocate for more in-depth reporting on these important issues.