

Academic Repression: Is City College Trying to Silence Its Critics?

CUNY GRADUATE CENTER **Advocate**



PSC joins anti-war rally (page 3)

The Newspaper for the CUNY GC Community

October 2005

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

Wellness Center Survives Fee Crisis

DSC funding of Student Health services assured; referendum passes 654 to 457

The Graduate Center student body has voted to increase the Student Activity fee from \$29.60 to \$41.60 in order to maintain funding to the Student Health Services portion of the Wellness Center. The \$12 increase will go into effect as part of the Spring 2006 tuition and fees. Without this increase, Student Health Services at the Wellness Center would have ceased operations on December 31.

From September 27 through October 3, the aroma of fresh popcorn wafted through the Graduate Center lobby and up the elevator shafts to entice students to learn about the referendum and participate in the vote.

The concern about and interest in the issue was evidenced by the voter turnout. Sharon Lerner, Director of

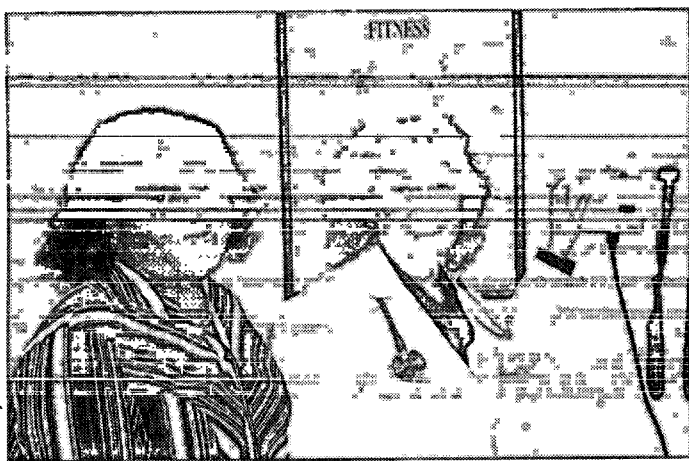


PHOTO: SPENCER SUNSHINE

The Wellness Center staff includes administrative coordinator Annabella Bernard and nurse practitioner Mary P. Clancy, RN.

Student Affairs, says this is the largest turnout by far of any election or referendum that she has seen in the more

than 15 years that she has been involved with the Office of Student Affairs. 26% of the student body voted; more than one thousand votes were tallied.

The DSC receives all of its funds through the Student Activity Fee, and pays 60% of the costs of Student Health Services; the fee had not been increased since 1998. The increase will be earmarked solely for funding of Student Health Services, freeing up

additional DSC funds to be utilized for other student-related activities. This arrangement allows the DSC to maintain other services such as childcare, travel and research grants, and community events.

Members of the DSC Steering Committee and other concerned students pulled "popcorn duty," tabling and answering questions during the referendum. Many students did not know about the Wellness Center at all: two of the most common questions were "What is the Wellness Center?" and "Who is it for?"

The Wellness Center Student Health Services is open to all GC students, whether or not they have insurance.

The Wellness Center is located on the see DSC NEWS, page 11

CORPORATE RUBBISH

Evaluating Restaurant Associates' environmental claims about Styrofoam cups

LEA JOHNSON

In the May 2005 issue of THE ADVOCATE, Charles Hunter replied to Abigail Schoneboom's letter regarding Restaurant Associates' decision to shift from the use of paper to styrofoam cups in the Graduate Center's 365 Café. He claimed that Restaurant Associates made a "deliberate and thoughtful decision to go with foam, rather than paper cups." The information he presented as the basis for this "thoughtful" deliberation was based entirely on the website of the Dart Container Company, the world's largest manufacturer of foam cups. Even the citations he listed can be found on the Dart website under "The Basics: Environmental Q&A."

It seems more likely that Mr. Hunter's decision-making was influenced by the fact that twelve-ounce foam cups average three to four cents a cup, while paper ones average six to eleven cents – a question of profit margin, not environmental impact.

What would a "deliberate and thoughtful" examination of the paper versus foam cup question look like? A brief investigation of sources other than the Dart website gives us an idea.

PRODUCT LIFE CYCLES

Hunter – and the Dart company website – rely heavily on a 1991 *Science* policy article by University of Victoria professor Martin B. Hocking to ground the claim that styrofoam cups are more environmentally sound than paper cups. Hocking's comparison of foam and paper cups followed each one through the major stages of its manufacture, from raw materials (petroleum, trees, chemicals, etc.) to finished product.

But in a subsequent issue of *Science*, both Hocking's methods and the data on which they relied were questioned by other scientists, including the author of one of the papers whose data Hocking used for his calculations. While Hocking's main point is valid – that evaluating the relative environmental impacts of products is complex – his calculations hardly warrant a wholehearted embrace of single-use foam cups.

Product life cycle analysis is a way of accounting for the resources, energy and impacts involved in making a product; however, the relative importance of those impacts is subject to debate. How do you weigh kidney damage versus cancer, or biodiversity

loss versus casualties in wars to safeguard oil supply? Even Hocking, in a 1999 paper, discusses the need for complex values frameworks in comparative evaluation of products. One suspects that Dart's publicists forgot to read that one.

WHAT'S IN MY CUP: POLYSTYRENE FOAM

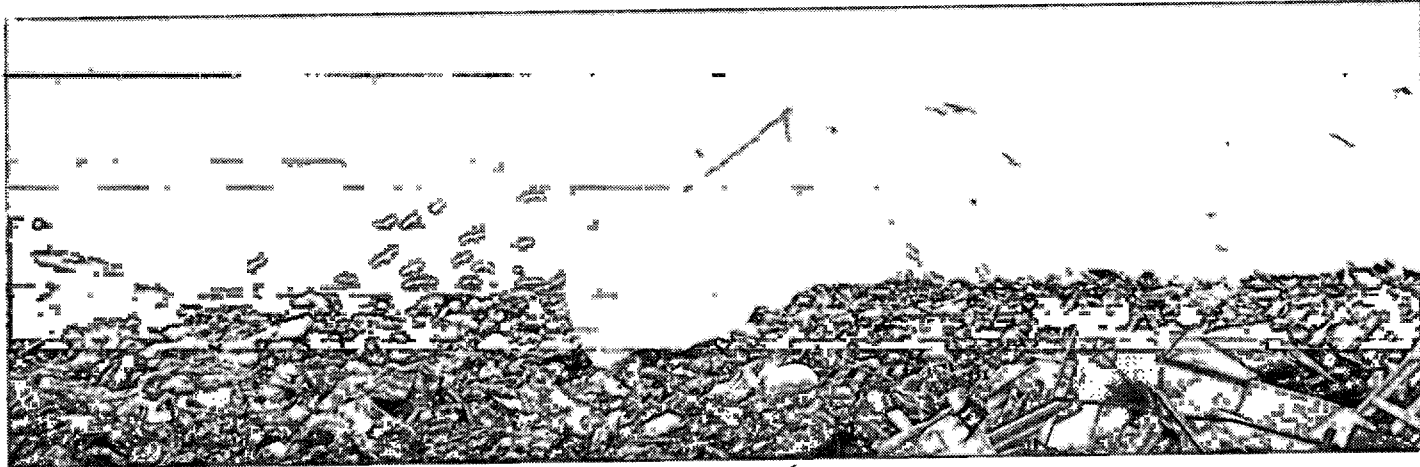
Styrofoam, introduced by Dow Chemical in 1937, was the first flexible, moldable plastic foam (today, Dow only wants "Styrofoam" to refer to a blue foam used as building insulation). It is also called polystyrene foam.

Polystyrene's main ingredient, benzene, is a petrochemical that comes from crude oil or coal. The environmental and human costs of the oil and coal industries are numerous and well-documented.

Benzene, a known carcinogen linked to leukemia, is then converted to styrene. New York is among the top 10 states listed by the EPA for toxic emissions of styrene to land and water. Chronic high-level exposure to styrene is associated with liver and nerve tissue damage. According to the EPA, food packaged in polystyrene containers has been found to contain small amounts of styrene. Styrene is chemically

linked to form polystyrene, which is then expanded (or "blown") with gas to produce a foam that is approximately 95% air. This high air content is what gives the foam its insulation properties. In the 1970s, expanded polystyrene foam was blown with chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) that were found to result in destruction of the ozone layer. Following public outcry, most polystyrene is now blown with gases not called CFCs (like pentane and HCFCs, which got their "H" after the bad publicity) that may be "less" destructive

see STYROFOAM CUPS, page 3



From the Editor

I am disturbed by the Carol Lang case (see interview on page four). I would be disturbed by it even if she is guilty – although how I would ever be able to come to that conclusion is not immediately clear, since the City College of New York (CCNY) seems to have done everything in its power to black out information about this case, from denying access to her June hearings to refusing to release to THE ADVOCATE their Public safety "Incident Report Forms" (see "City College Reinstates CCNY4, But Charges Still Pending" by James Hoff, May 2005 – available online).

But even if she is guilty, the actions of the administration frighten me. And they're intended to do just that – to frighten students and employees away from opposing the agendas of the CUNY bureaucrats, especially when they involve ties to the military.

While the GC may remain a quiet oasis, complete with Marxist-influenced social "science" and humanities departments where one can sip department-financed wine and discuss whether Marx is read more profitably through Spinoza or Hegel, there's increasing noise across the CUNY system which sounds like progressives getting hit harder and harder. But this noise is also a reflection of a larger wave which is sweeping across campuses nationally. And it's not just loud-mouths like Ward Churchill, who purposely taunt their mainstream opponents, who are being targeted – it seems to be hitting a large variety of faculty, students and employees, whether they are organizing or just daring to publicly offer their nonconservative opinions.

This isn't to suggest that there's some vast conspiracy theory afoot, with its origins in either a PNAC three-drink lunch or some cold, dark crevice of Karl Rove's reptilian brain. We live in a time of Rightist reaction in America. My older friends assure me it's gotten as bad as the Reagan years, although then we had crumbs of the welfare state to nibble on (since swept away by a Democrat, no less). Maybe I'm just a vulgar Foucauldian, but all I see is right-wing Power taking advantage of this historical juncture, trying to dislodge its opponents from their roosts and resting places. (And now, if it ever was, the time is Right.)

I encourage everyone to read the interview with Carol Lang. Can you imagine being accused of a crime, the head of your work sending out an email repeating the accusations to thousands, being arrested days later while you are at work, being suspended without pay for four weeks – all this without ever having a trial or even an administrative hearing – then having your hearing judged by an official who is intimately linked to your accuser, and finally having to face five more weeks of unpaid suspension? When NYPD officers shoot someone, they immediately go on paid leave until an investigation is conducted. Why are CUNY employees treated differently?

Besides Lang's ordeal, which I think speaks for itself, let me mention one more thing. In a past life I too was that person at "every demonstration" – from polite two-person pickets to full-blown anti-globalizations fracas. After 15 years, I've never been arrested – and if I was, I sure as hell wouldn't throw a punch at a cop. I've sat through far too many trials of my friends for Assaulting an Officer for that. In fact, it seems to be a police strategy to rough people up and then charge them with assault. CCNY President Williams, a former sheriff's deputy, is undoubtedly familiar with this trick, one of the oldest in the cop book. But it is no easy thing to not react when you see officers hurting other people – twisting their arms or banging their heads against walls, or yelling in your face – and one must keep a kind of meditative zen cool. After 30 years, Carol Lang must be a master at this.

While I certainly don't agree with all of Lang's politics, there is no doubt in my mind whatsoever that she is my master when it comes to holding her temper in a tense situation. The idea that this five foot tall woman would, after 30 years, strike an officer during a demonstration at her very own workplace, is totally ludicrous. And ultimately it is this that makes me not believe a word of the accusations against her.

Lang asks that people attend her final arbitration hearing on Tuesday, November 29 at 10am at 1633 Broadway (and 50th St) on the 10th floor. There, a professional arbitrator will be decide if she will be suspended for an additional five weeks without pay, as CCNY officials have suggested. happen. THE ADVOCATE seconds this call.

— Spencer Sunshine

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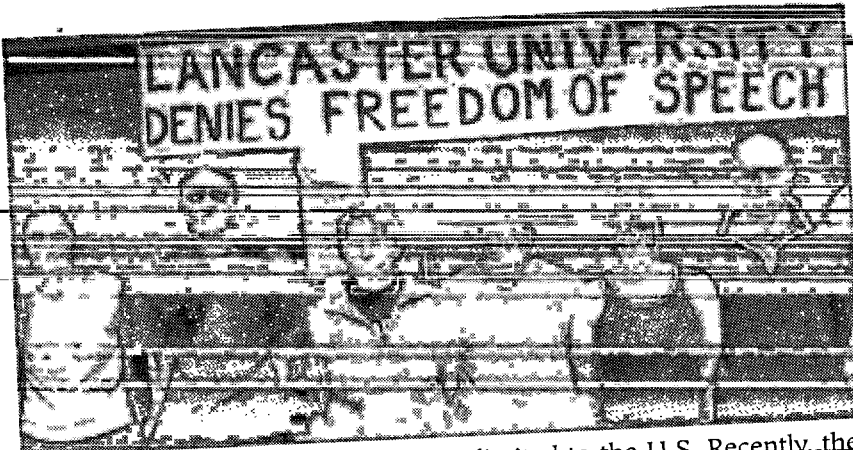
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THE ADVOCATE is published 3 times a semester, in September, October and November; and February, March and April. Submissions should be in by the beginning of the month, and print copies will be on the stacks around the 15th.

Academic Repression



Academic repression is by no means limited to the U.S. Recently, the George Fox 6 where convicted of Aggravated Trespass for a demonstration at Lancaster University in England. The students had originally faced more serious charges of Harassment and Intimidation which were rejected by the judge. The six had entered a meeting between university officials and corporate representatives from companies such as Shell, the Carlyle Group, GlaxoSmithKline, DuPont and Unilever, who were discussing how to "commercialise university research". The students were in the theatre for three minutes and passed out flyers. The six have received two year suspended sentences and will appeal. For more info: <http://www.free-webspace.biz/GeorgeFox/index.html>.

Miguel Malo's second trial began in Bronx County Criminal Court on October 17. Malo was the Vice President of the Hostos College Student Senate when he was arrested four years ago for holding up a sign outside the school cafeteria to protest cutbacks in bilingual education. His first trial ended in a mistrial. Malo, who was later elected President of the Hostos Student Senate, could be sentenced to up to a year in prison if he is convicted of the most serious charges of assaulting two CUNY Peace Officers. For more information, call CUNY Action to Defend Miguel Malo, (212) 460-0983 or (917) 520-5368.

Tariq Khan, a student at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia was reportedly beaten by campus police – as well as local bystanders which decided to 'join-in' – after staging a one-person protest against military recruiters on his campus on September 29. He was charged with trespassing and disorderly conduct after standing next to the recruiting table wearing a homemade sign that read "Recruiters tell lies. Don't be fooled." A university official had previously instructed Khan, an Air Force veteran, to leave, which he refused to do, citing his right to free speech in a public facility. For more information: <http://fawcettweb.com/peace>.

Demonstrations against military recruiters also occurred at Holyoke Community College in Massachusetts, where police equipped with tear gas tangled with the crowd. One student, Charles T. Peterson, was banned from campus after being pepper-sprayed by the cops, but later was allowed to return. Students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison also held anti-recruiting protests on September 26 and October 10 and reportedly were immediately threatened with arrest on both days.

A new anti-terrorism bill in the UK is being objected to by both the Association of University Teachers and NATFHE (a lecturers union) as having the potential to abridge the academic freedoms of professors. The bill would make it a crime, punishable by up to seven years in jail, to "encourage or glorify terrorism or to disseminate terrorist publications." Home Secretary Charles Clark has already been forced to make some concessions on the bill, dropping a "list of proscribed historical events that people could not glorify" and making the legislation more tightly worded. Still, those opposed to the bill continue to insist that the language is very general and could cover a large variety of routine academic discussions. (from Guardian Unlimited, online version).

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People Get Ready: Historic PSC Mass Meeting Packs Cooper Union

ABBY SCHONEBOOM

It's been more than 30-years since CUNY has seen a meeting like this. On September 29 over 1,200 people packed the Cooper Union hall for this mass

broad-based effort to speak to the entire membership, building networks of PSC "picket captains" who will each speak to 10 or 15 of their colleagues about the struggle. If November 3 comes around

PSC membership, and the PSC campaign will be coordinated with parallel efforts by the heavyweight teacher's union, the UFT, whose leader Randy Weingarten also addressed the Cooper Union

had a contract, and the city has brought one shabby proposal after another to the negotiating table. And the members are mad as hell about it – they greeted one speaker after another with thunderous clapping, punctuating speeches with spontaneous cheers and applause. And there was loud support when PSC President Barbara Bowen said "job action," the supposedly dirty words that, as public employees shackled by the punitive Taylor Law, union members are not supposed to be allowed to contemplate.

Here's how it is, Bowen explained. The PSC has been offered a concessionary contract, one that, accounting for inflation, gives PSC members a pay cut while also eroding job security and plunging their welfare fund deeper into crisis (anyone remember dentists?). All this in a wider political context that amounts to a systematic attack on the public sphere by our billionaire mayor and his ilk, an attack that has reduced the real dollar value of CUNY public funding by 40%; that has tipped the balance so that most of the teaching at CUNY is done on the cheap by part-time workers; and that has left the welfare fund to shoulder an 18% rise in prescription drug costs.

So what is to be done? The month of October will see intense organizing across CUNY, with informational pickets planned for October 19 and 20, and a

vote on whether or not to go ahead with a job action (which could mean anything from a strike to a sick-out, to withholding of grading). The only other option, arbitration, is not being pursued because it is subject to heavy political influence and will likely result in minuscule gains.

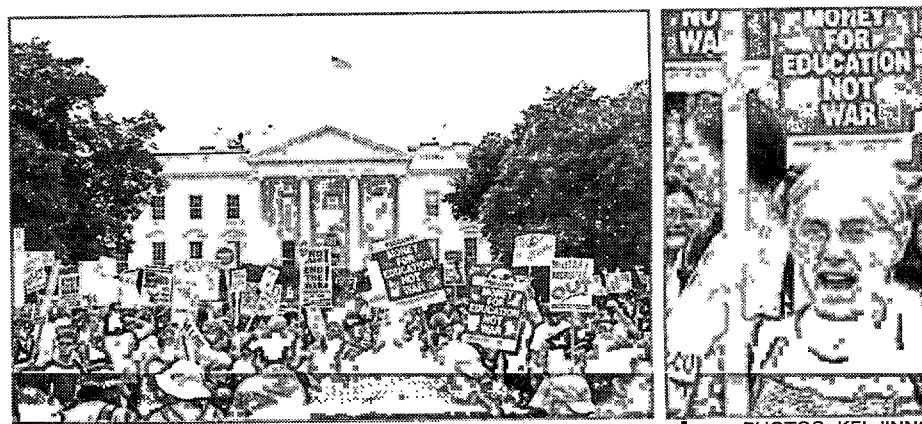
It's heavy-duty stuff, especially with the Taylor Law looming over us (did you see that scary email message from the Chancellor reminding PSC members that they would be fined two days' pay for a day of striking?), but it is these high stakes that

make the resounding applause in the Cooper Union so fiercely impressive. These are full-time professors, adjuncts, and HEOs who staff the computer labs and work in admissions who are getting ready to withhold their labor to send a message to political leaders who, really, have cared too little for too long about CUNY. The coming months will be a time of intense activity for the

sign up to be a picket captain and talk to colleagues or at your campus. And even if you're not, come to the informational pickets on October 19 and 20. Or you can just get into a conversation about what's going on with some guy at the bus stop. It all helps, and the revolution will not be televised, so keep your eyes peeled for more information, talk to people, and check out <http://www.psc-cuny.edu> for more information and action alerts.

Abby Schoneboom is a doctoral student in the Sociology program.

The PSC and CUNY students joined the largest antiwar protest in Washington since the war began on Sept. 24. More than 300,000 people marched to demand an end to the war and occupation, and for resources to be spent instead on people's needs.



PHOTOS: KEI JINNO

Styrofoam Cups

from page 1

of ozone because they break down somewhat faster. It is also now blown with pentane and other hydrocarbons that contribute to smog, are highly flammable, and create dangerous workplaces. No polystyrene foam is produced without negative impact on the atmosphere.

WHAT'S IN MY CUP: PAPER

A paper hot-drinks cup; on the other hand, begins as a tree – either in an uncut forest (yes, it could be old-growth you're drinking from) or somewhere already converted to a plantation by timber companies – like many of our National Forests. The wood is pulped, bleached, and made into paper, then it is shaped, glued and coated with a plastic to keep liquids from soaking through.

Deforestation destroys habitats and habitat loss and degradation are the primary causes of the current mass extinction of species. Deforestation is accompanied by soil erosion that takes thousands of years to form; carbon sequestration loss that contributes to global warming; transportation and fossil fuel use; fragmentation of remaining habitat by logging roads; and release and disposal of chemical pollutants used to pulp and then bleach paper to a crisp white. Once the paper is ready to be made into a cup, chemical adhesives are needed to hold the parts of the cup together, and of course the plastic lining.

RUBBISH!

Once used and tossed, both cups become a waste disposal problem. Polystyrene and paper are the top materials found as litter. Unlike paper,

however, polystyrene does not biodegrade when it blows out of trash cans or is dropped in the street. When it lands in water, it kills the fish, mammals and birds that eat it, mistaking floating plastic particles for food.

While it appears to be true, as Hunter-Dart claim, that polystyrene foam accounts for less than 1% of an average landfill's contents by weight, the amount of space it occupies is greater than its weight would suggest due to its being about 95% air.

Hunter also repeats Dart's assertion that paper cups are always "double-cupped" to keep the customer's tender fingers from being broiled by too-hot contents. While this does occur, it is certainly not always the case, and resting one's analysis of relative impact on doubling one product's environmental cause by assuming double use is disingenuous. There are always those cardboard finger-protectors (increasingly doing double-duty as advertising) that Hunter calls "wasteful" as well – an odd choice of words to defend a throwaway cup.

BUT WHAT ABOUT RECYCLING?

Hunter – and the Dart FAQ page – cite an article about William Rathje and Cullen Murphy's book *Rubbish! The Archaeology of Garbage*, which does discuss positive attributes of foam cups from a specifically waste-disposal angle. However, like Dart, Rathje and Murphy rely on Hocking's paper for much of their argument. Their pro-plastic stance is based on the largely unrealized possibility of plastics recycling.

Polystyrene foam is potentially recyclable, but it is currently recycled in only four states and one Canadian province – and not in New York. Contamination with food, and the low

volume of foam present in individual containers, currently make recycling unfeasible.

Plastics are also easily contaminated with other plastic types in the recycling process; the resulting product may not conform exactly to the chemical properties of "virgin" plastics made directly from petrochemicals. Because it is relatively inexpensive (under current subsidies to the petroleum industry) to make fresh plastics to exact specifications, there is little demand for recycled plastics.

Even where plastics are collected for recycling, they often end up at the dump when there is no demand from plastics companies. While the production of plastics stamped with the little recycling triangle has skyrocketed, only 5% of plastics get recycled.

Paper hot-drinks cups are rarely recycled either, although they can be. The plastic lining sprayed onto paper cups to keep liquids from soaking through (imagine wet food on a paper plate at a picnic) is problematic for recyclers, making them more difficult to recycle than uncoated paper.

Both paper and plastics are subject to downcycling in the recycling process; chemical bonds break down each time a product is destroyed, ground, heated and chemically treated. "Virgin" plastic or wood pulp must be added to the mix in order to keep the structural properties of the original product.

SO – PAPER OR PLASTIC?

According to the EPA, packaging now takes up 30% of landfill space. Packaging is a product itself – one that most people rarely think about – and yet its sale has created large and profitable corporations with the power to lobby against any restrictions on their

industry (recall defeats of efforts to expand bottle return laws to include juice and water bottles). Also due to their influence, five-cent bottle returns have not increased since they were instituted thirty-five years ago (back when five cents was more of an incentive).

From an environmental perspective, the simplest option is a re-usable cup. A 1999 Hocking analysis suggests that, in terms of energy use, it takes 500 uses for a re-usable cup to out-compete a plastic one. But even if this is correct, a broader perspective which considers toxicity, waste disposal, chemical pollution of air, soil and water, habitat destruction – as well as the social and political costs associated with single-use products of all kinds – strongly suggests that durable, repairable goods are a more "thoughtfully considered" solution. Few people know that the refrain "reduce, reuse, recycle" is actually in order – of lowest impact. Recycled materials are subject to demand, just like other products. What about cups with post-consumer recycled content?

Will GC students begin toting travel mugs like students at other universities? Will faculty (and others fortunate enough to have an office at the GC) park a mug on their desk and take it downstairs to refill? Maybe, maybe not. As long as we demand single-use products, however, we will also be demanding the problems of their creation, disposal, and long-term effects.

For more, see *Rubbish!* by William Rathje and Cullen Murphy, *Stuff* by John Ryan and Alan Durning, and *Gone Tomorrow* by Heather Rogers.

Lea Johnson holds an MS in Biology and Environmental Science. She is currently finishing an MA in Secondary Science Education at City College.

INTERVIEW WITH CAROL LANG

Is CCNY Trying to Silence a Long-time Critic on Trumped-Up Charges?

SPENCER SUNSHINE

A demonstration against military recruiters at City College on March 9 ended in violence – although the question of who was violent to whom is highly contentious. Three students were arrested that day, and two days later so was an employee – Theatre Department secretary Carol Lang. Although the charges against all four were eventually reduced to ACDs (an Adjournment in Contemplation of Dismissal; it is not an admission of guilt but rather an agreement that if you are not arrested again in six months, all charges will be expunged for your records), Lang still faces five additional weeks of unpaid suspension from her job. The editor of THE ADVOCATE sat down with Lang on October 7 at City College to hear her side of things. (Please note that this interview was edited for brevity.)

Spencer Sunshine (SS): How long have you been at CUNY as an employee here?

Carol Lang (CL): 32 years

SS: Have you been at the City College the whole time?

CL: I started at Bronx Community in 1973 and, after the budget cuts in 1976, I came up to City. I've been here ever since then.

SS: And you're the Theatre department secretary?

CL: Yes, I am.

SS: Do you have a degree from CUNY? You said you were going to the Graduate Center at some point.

CL: I'm actually going for my doctorate in History. I'm ABD.

SS: And what are you doing your dissertation on?

CL: The British working class during World War I and the impact on the Russian Revolution.

32 YEARS OF PROTESTS, 0 ARRESTS

SS: When I mention your name to people, they often say you are a very vocal political activist.

CL: I am.

SS: What kind of activities have you taken part of in the past?

CL: Well I go to practically every single demonstration that [laughs] has ever happened at City College in the last 27 years – or I should say 32 years. And also I am very active in the union, which is DC-37, so I go to union meetings. I've been a delegate in my union. I'm just generally active in terms of all kinds of progressive causes at City – and throughout the city.

SS: Had you ever been arrested in the past at a demonstration?

CL: Never.

SS: Never been arrested for anything?

CL: Never.

SS: So, before the March 9 demonstration, I heard that there were two previous demonstrations against recruiters on campus at City College? Is that true?

CL: Well, we have them every semester, whenever the recruiters show up.

SS: Had you gone to these other demonstrations?

CL: I go to them all.

SS: So tell me what happened on March 9.

CL: Basically what happened was since the Army recruiters [at a job fair] were inside the Great Hall, which is this humungous room, and positioned themselves with Verizon and Bell Telephone... So the 20 of us decided to go over to the reservists table and shout "US Out of Iraq, Recruiters Off Campus," and that lasted, five minutes at the most.

SS: Did you stand in front of their table?

CL: We stood in front their table and we raised our fists, but we didn't prevent anybody from getting to the table. We didn't link arms, we didn't do anything to obstruct anybody's movement. But we made ourselves heard. Anyway, within a few minutes security sent out word to every security guard on the campus everywhere and surrounded us – we were about 20 people, tops, so there were more security guards than demonstrators... they surrounded us, and sort of nudged us out of the room – we stood in the hallway, because we were upset, and nobody wanted us to leave, and people were shouting "Whose school? Our school!"

SS: Did anyone strike a security officer during this time?

CL: No, we were just shouting. I actually had stopped, because I could feel that there was tremendous tension in the hallway, and so I stayed pretty much to watch what was going on, and to help anyone who was in distress.



PHOTO: MICHELE "BURDIE" BURDIAC

Carol Lang

[Lang described how she then witnessed security guards rough up and arrest three City College students: Nick Bergreen, Hadas Their and Justino Rodriguez.]

A MYSTERIOUS MISSING FILM

CL: In the meantime, two of the film students came out – one just to watch the whole melée, and the other one was taking a film... I am trying to get hold of it now, because he was threatened with suspension himself if he gave me the film.. He was trying to follow the security guards, to get their names, and then the security guards said "Give me your camera, give me

your camera," and he said, "No, I'm not giving it to you" – so they were being quite aggressive towards him.

I got into a conversation with one of the heads of security and I told him that I thought that this absolutely had to be investigated, and he said, "It will be, Carol" – and he made sure to say "Carol." And then I had an argument with a woman from Student Affairs – the Vice President – about the question of free speech...

So, it was two o'clock, the demonstration had started around one, I was on my lunch hour, and I went back to work. And that's what happened on

CL: [At the second-step hearing] lots of people showed up to demonstrate, and they all wanted to get in, and both management, which is CUNY – and my union President – decided that they shouldn't be allowed in.

SS: Did they ask you if you wanted people to be allowed in?

CL: I told them that I wanted them in. And for obvious reasons management didn't want people to be allowed in, because it would put pressure on them, and it would politicize the situation, as opposed to "I beat up some cop." My union didn't want it because, in the middle of all this, we

Academic Repression

in the first person

Presented here are Parts One and Two of a new, on-going series which lets professors, students and university employees tell their own stories of being fired, passed up for promotion, suspended or silenced for their political views.

March 9th.

SS: And can this video that this student had be subpoenaed at the hearing?

CL: I'm going to try to do that, because he is 'having a hard time finding it.' Now, I don't know whether he's having a hard time finding it whether he doesn't want to. He told me at the end of last semester that they threatened him.

SS: Who's they?

CL: The administration. They specifically threatened him with suspension.

[Lang described the email sent out by CCNY President Gregory Williams the next day which had openly repeated the claims of the officers as if they were confirmed facts, and then how two days later at her workplace she was arrested during lunch, held for 36 hours, and then subsequently suspended without pay for 19 days].

SUSPENSION AND LEGAL ISSUES

SS: And you were suspended without pay for 19 work days?

CL: Yes.

SS: And this is permissible under the university by-laws?

CL: Well, it turns out that my contract is filled with double-talk. On one hand, it says 'If the employee gets in trouble, there really needs to be an investigation, there needs to be a hearing' – the whole shebang. One the other hand, if the President deems the person a danger, he can remove them – without pay.

SS: So, the legal issues – on May 19, everyone agreed to take an ACD, and that's the end of your issues with the New York police. When did you return to work?

CL: I think it was April 11. We have three steps [in administrative hearings]. The first step is at the college, the second step is at CUNY – which is at 80th Street – and the third step is arbitration. So they suspended the first step hearing and let me come back on campus.

CUNY + UNION = KAFKA: THE ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

had nominations for elections for officers. And someone nominated me for President, so I was running against my union President. And she was so upset at me for doing this that she decided to have me disqualified because I was off the payroll and wasn't a member in good standing.

SS: So what happened at this June hearing?

CL: Well, the two Peace Officers, Lt. White, and the officer that said that I hit him [Lt. Takpui], both testified. The officer that said that I hit him identified me as 5'6", and he said that I hit him from the front, and I hit him with an object. Lt. White said I hit him from behind, and that I hit him with a closed fist. Lt. Takpui said I hit him on the wrist, Lt. White said I hit him somewhere between the wrist and the elbow. What happened, I believe, is that when he was trying to arrest people, he got hurt. Because he was slamming people around all over the place, so he probably banged his arm against the wall. So in any case, there were two different descriptions of what went on.

SS: Did you have a scuffle with any of these officers? Did you ever put your hands on any of them?

CL: No, I wasn't even near them.

SS: They never put their hands on you?

CL: No.

SS: No physical contact between any of the parties.

CL: No. I yelled, a lot. I was going "Help her, help her, she is being arrested, help her" [when Hadas Their was being arrested].

SS: Were you yelling at the officer or at the student?

CL: Well, they were one. He had her arm pulled back.

SS: But you didn't try to pull his arms off of her?

CL: No, no. [At the hearing] I had two witnesses to testify for me, and I testified, too. I testified for one minute – my lawyer asked me what happened, and then Paul Occhiogrosso said to me – and he said this to everybody – "Did you go to any agency to complain about security?" And we hadn't gone,

This Could Happen to You

ANDY SMITH

This could happen to you.

Campus administrators contact department chairs to "check up" on which ones joined an anti-war rally. Or campus police harass and arrest protesting professors. A temporary writing teacher makes a modest antiwar remark, and that is the end of her job. This disturbing phenomenon hits close to home. This could happen to you. This almost happened to me.

Before the Ward Churchill circus had calmed down, and around the time that I learned about anarchist Yale professor David Graeber getting terminated, I almost lost my university teaching job for defending my students in a public controversy surrounding a particularly provocative class project. While the details of that event are rather remarkable, it's rarely the exact circumstances that make these controversies and crises so disturbing. Rather, it's the overall impact that should scare us, when a chill wind blows through a community, when timid teachers think twice about reading a provocative passage or showing a shocking film clip, even when these have explicit connections to the course curriculum.

As right-wing and seemingly ridiculous as it is, the current assault on radical academics is consistent and vitriolic. The recent case of Ward Churchill is only the well-publicized version. Professors may be losing control of their profession. Countless teachers are attacked by a mob that includes right-wing radio and television hosts, ex-leftist David Horowitz's organized campaign for his version of "academic freedom," conservative bloggers, vindictive parents, and opportunistic politicians. From teachers attacked by irate parents who don't want their adult children to read profanity, to conservative students who protest poor grades by profiling lefty profs, these incidents may not be considered witch hunts, but they constitute a ubiquitous trend in an increasingly conformist America.

Throughout my life as a radical publisher, subversive writer, and revolutionary activist, I've often embraced trouble and tumult. But when I'm teaching at my day job, I maintain positive relations with my colleagues, never seek conflict with my students, and simply don't have the time to stir up much dissent on my friendly but conservative campus. So, imagine the shock I experienced when I discovered that my behavior at a one-day writing festival sponsored by my department might cost me my job.

A class project that involved informal interviews with students on the subject of "Greek stereotypes" gained sensational gravity when the "conclusions" of the research were presented as a poster at the Festival of Writing. The "offensive" claims made by the poster were these: (1) "Every stereotype contains a little bit of truth" and (2) "If you don't like a stereotype, change it"; then, the logo of each fraternity and sorority was presented in conjunction with the one-word "label" gleaned from the research.

It would be difficult to exaggerate the wild fracas that ensued. Students crowded around the poster; some tried to destroy it; others demanded it be removed. People shouted. People cried. People called me names, somehow assuming that as the professor, I had "endorsed" the conclusions of the project. (Like, perhaps, I had "endorsed" my other students' South Park project, full with TV-monitors spewing spicy episodes, or - get this - a visually strong anti-abortion project, complete with a poster filled with pictures of mutilated-fetuses).

My mistakes came when people verbally assaulted me, and I verbally defended myself with "unprofessional" language. The people I "had words with" included paid members of the fraternity council and a local parent (and police officer) who happened to be the father of a particularly offended sorority sister.

As a feminist, it's disconcerting that I was accused of anti-female hate speech. But that's precisely what happened because the members of one sorority had, according to my students, earned the label of "sluts." Now, I'm not sure how this works on other campuses, but I learned very clearly that the fraternity and sorority members are in fact members of an oppressed minority group, ready to seize the tools of political correctness to attack the libertarian predilections of a composition teacher.

It's amazing that my administration wanted to give me a pink slip over this incident. But this is what almost went down, when days after the incident, my department chair called me with the bad news. And as a temporary instructor with a one-year contract, I have no real recourse. Even without controversy, the university is never obligated to rehire me, and legally, can fire me without reason.

But in an equally incredible turn of events, this did not happen. I kept my job. I got a "letter in my file," but I am still teaching at the same school. It was only through vigorous support from my colleagues that I kept my temporary teaching gig for

importance of working with... belonging to faculty organizations, of real workplace solidarity. My department chair and the director of writing both stood with me in a private meeting with the Provost. The president of the state conference of the AAUP wrote a letter on my behalf and met with my administration. Our attitude was not confrontational. Rather, we simply defended my excellent teaching, explained my position, and asked for compassion. Solidarity saved my ass, and I will not soon forget the fierce compassion I saw in the eyes of my "supervisors" as they refused to abandon me to take the administration's reprimand alone.

Of course, I was also reminded again that universities are part of a larger system, a massively corrupt, profit-driven, administratively demonic, bureaucratic matrix. The Right is wrong: the college is not some orgiastic den of anti-American fervor. It's not even some lofty laboratory of social democracy as we would like it to be.

While our teaching itself—authentic and subversive compared to much modern workfare—can be a form of activism, it is at bottom a day job, a respectable and challenging way to pay our bills. Teaching critical thinking and healthy skepticism to our temporary audience of a few hundred impressionable young people—while valuable on its own terms—does not a revolution make.

The battle to defend our right to teach is a reaction. It's defensive, and in a sense, conservative. But this is not a battle we should abandon. Those of us avowed radicals still working in the classrooms at public universities know that the larger trend is not really about Ward Churchill or David Graeber or any one professor unfairly singled out for repression and ridicule, as important as such situations are. But rather, these attacks are the crude attempts of a vocal minority and noisy neo-conservative throng to threaten, twist, and appropriate the liberal construct of "academic freedom"—especially in the arts and social sciences—and impose a patronizingly simplistic version of exceptionalism and Americanism in its place.

Despite the dream of some conservatives, teaching composition to me is not about being a curator of commas, a police officer enforcing correct punctuation. In my four sections of composition this term, I still teach rhetoric and argument. We still read challenging and even radical material. While I know real freedom lies far beyond the academy, I am glad to be back at work this semester.

Writer, publisher, and activist Andy Smith is a composition instructor at a public university in Tennessee and a card-carrying member of the AAUP.

because the only person you could go to was to Williams, who was President, because they answer to Williams - and Williams had already determined that we were guilty and they were innocent. It didn't matter to them.

SS: After the hearing, they found you guilty. Who is it that found you guilty?

CL: The person that wrote the decision was Occhiogrosso, the person who signed it was this woman Malone, who's some sort of VP at CUNY.

SS: Was she present at the hearing?

CL: Not at all. She read his notes - Occhiogrosso's notes. He works for City College, he's the Dean of Faculty and Staff Relations.

[Having been found guilty, the last step is now arbitration. The City College administration is calling for Lang to be suspended without pay for an additional five weeks.]

ARBITRATION: MORE SUSPENSION?

SS: So you're facing five weeks sus-

pension, and that will be decided on November 29th. Who's going to decide this?

CL: An arbitrator... from the American Arbitration Association.

SS: Where's the arbitration going to be?

CL: 1633 Broadway, I think it's on 50th Street, 10th floor. It is on November 29, at 10am, and I'm calling for everybody to show up at the room!

SS: Are people going to be allowed inside?

CL: Well, according to my lawyer, they're allowed to come inside. So I've been going to many meetings of left-wing organizations and telling my story and encouraging people to show up. You know, my union wouldn't even pass a resolution to demand that the City University drop the charges.

SS: Haven't several CUNY organizations passed resolutions?

CL: The PSC, which is the teachers' union, passed a resolution; the Faculty Senate, the CUNY-wide

Faculty Council passed a resolution saying that they should drop the charges, that it was outrageous.

SS: Do you think that your arrest was an attempt to intimidate CUNY workers from attending political demonstrations, especially anti-recruiting demonstrations?

CL: Absolutely.

SS: Do you think he [President Williams] ordered, or asked, that you be charged?

CL: Of course.

SS: The officers could've arrested you at that time, when they arrested the other students.

CL: You think?

SS: You were at the scene for hours?

CL: For an hour.

SS: Did any of them speak to you at the time?

CL: I spoke to the head of Security at the time.

SENDING A MESSAGE TO WORKERS

SS: Do you have anything to add?

CL: I think that the difference between

me, and the students, is that people assume that students do these things - they're sort of youthful, exuberant, and students rebel, and all of that. But you don't want workers to rebel. Workers don't normally rebel, especially in this country they're pretty quiet. Workers have lots of power, workers could shut everything down if they want to. I mean, if people were conscious enough and decided not to work, workers could end this war like that [snaps fingers]. If they decide not to produce the war material, not to ship the war material, not to allow it to be boarded... So nobody likes an administrative goal for workers to do these kind of things, and they really do want to prevent any sort of transgressions on the part of the working class. So that's why I think they're being harder on me than they are on the students, because really to send a message to everybody else, that we won't have this here, that this won't be tolerated. Their cases are over, and mine is still going on.

ANALYSIS

Iraqi Democracy: Is Civil War the Solution?

OZGUR USENMEZ

As the death toll of American soldiers in Iraq continues to rise, President Bush and his neo-conservative fellows once again reiterated that things are under control and that their mission – of bringing democracy to Iraqi people – will soon be completed. Putting aside the usual propaganda, the question we should ask ourselves is this: do we have a better infrastructure and political situation for democracy in Iraq than existed during the days of Saddam's dictatorship? My answer is yes, although my reasoning is unconventional. I came to the conclusion by attempting to understand the perspective of the victims of this illegal occupation.

First, my interpretation of democracy and freedom has nothing to do with the so-called American liberation. The first reason Bush stated as a justification for the war was that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction (WMD). When the world saw that there were no WMDs, a second justification was deployed by accusing Saddam of collaborating with Al-Qaeda – an accusation which was not credible, and has been proven false. Finally, as the third justification, we heard that Americans are in Iraq to bring democracy to the Middle East – though that mission greatly resembles the renowned burden of the White man. As the democratic aspirations of the Iraqi people melt down in the annals of Iraqi sectarian politics, and the insurgency against the occupation escalates, the Bush administration has come up with yet another new justification for the continuation of the occupation. They have argued, especially in response to the growing anti-war sentiment at home, that Americans should complete the mission at least for the sake of fallen soldiers. This line of defense is the most abominable of all – neo-cons justifying future killings with past killings – and it provides a lens through which we can glimpse at the haplessness of the occupation.

Most of the time, the American pub-

lic must either choose to "stay the course," and therefore suffer more troop losses, or to leave Iraq, which is viewed as a strategic defeat for American power in the 21st century. Neo-cons and associated pundits claim that withdraw can only deepen the possibility of a civil war in Iraq. So the media has created a mystified aura that this possibility would be the worst option of all, and is therefore unthinkable. Civil war is a disaster for American project because Washington has planned a free-market economy and has enormous stakes in the oil revenues and construction businesses of the region. Since Halliburton and its subsidiaries took charge of many of these business opportunities, the most important issue has become the stability of the investment environment.

Even plundering and looting in Baghdad was praised by Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld when he said that "it is good for accumulation of capital." If one looks at the writings of Marx on primitive accumulation, there is an inexorable logic that ties Rumsfeld to the earlier imperialist masters regarding the creation of the basis of colonial administrations. The transitional law that regulates social and political relationships requires the privatization of state enterprises without even providing a modicum of explanation as to where they can find those private capitals among the Iraqis. How could anyone believe the occupier's protestations about freedom, considering that the first thing they did once in Iraq was to secure the oil ministry and its wells, well before doing anything bearing on urgent human needs? The real motives of the occupation were appar-

ent from the beginning. Amidst the plundering of Iraqi museums and libraries, Iraq lost many of its historic artifacts that bridged ancient human civilizations of Mesopotamia to our day. Not only was this a huge cultural catastrophe, but it also showed how contemptuous the occupying force was towards the future of the people of that land.

The lesson that should be learned from this American project is that the

Finally...we heard that Americans are in Iraq to bring democracy to the Middle East – though that mission greatly resembles the renowned burden of the White man.

occupiers have no actual, progressive plan for a democracy; what they care for is only the future guarantee of American corporate profits in a relatively stable environment. Today one sees that the prospects for a peaceful coexistence of all communities in Iraq is sliding into near-hopelessness as America's old allies from the '80s Afghan-Soviet war, the *mujahadeen*, are waging a merciless war not only against the Americans,

but on the social fabric of Iraq. Since the days of Abbasid period, these different ethnic and religious groups, from non-believers to the Shiites to Sunnis to Kurds, have all coexisted in more-or-less peace – as long as their society's own internal dynamics were left alone by outside powers. Even Iraqi women have lived in relative freedom, especially when compared to their counterparts in American-friendly Saudi Arabia.

One could argue that Iraq was invaded by Abbasids, Mongolians, Ottomans and British during the past millennium, but it should be remembered that, putting aside the 14 years of brutal British repression between 1918-32, the imperial powers have preferred distant control and locally agreeable administrations whose legitimacy was derived from the consent of different communities. But since the

Saddam and the Ba'ath party, onetime American allies, initiated its campaign of ruthless oppression, ruptures occurred within that peaceful social fabric. Saddam used his Sunni roots to engender a client network whose existence depended on perpetuation of visible discrimination among various religious and ethnic groups. During the Cold War years and the struggle against Iran's Islamist regime, the US and its allies supported that infamous policy which resulted in many deaths in Shiite communities and the gassing of Kurds in the Iran-Iraq war. The CIA in the '70s and '80s recommended

Saddam as the workable and reasonable guy against the Communists and other subversive groups in Iraq. The Iraqi Communist party historically got its biggest support from poor Shiite working class or secular Kurds, and it lost most of its members during Saddam's oppression years. Thus the American cold-war policy of containment of Soviet Union alloyed with Saddam's interests in creating fissures within that tolerant culture of Mesopotamia.

The current conditions and political situation in Iraq do not suggest a stable and peaceful future. Anti-American Islamic extremists, largely Sunni, are obsessed with the destruction of prevailing structures; what they don't have is a rational, long-term political program for the Iraqi people. This can be understood from Al-Zarqawi's messages, which have asked Al-Qaeda leaders about their post-occupation plans. The political program of the Radical Islamists rests upon the negative fear they inflict on their rivals; whether or not they have anything positive in their arsenal was already foreshadowed in post-Cold War Afghanistan. These organizations were more of a by-product of American Cold War plans than the results of internal Iraqi politics.

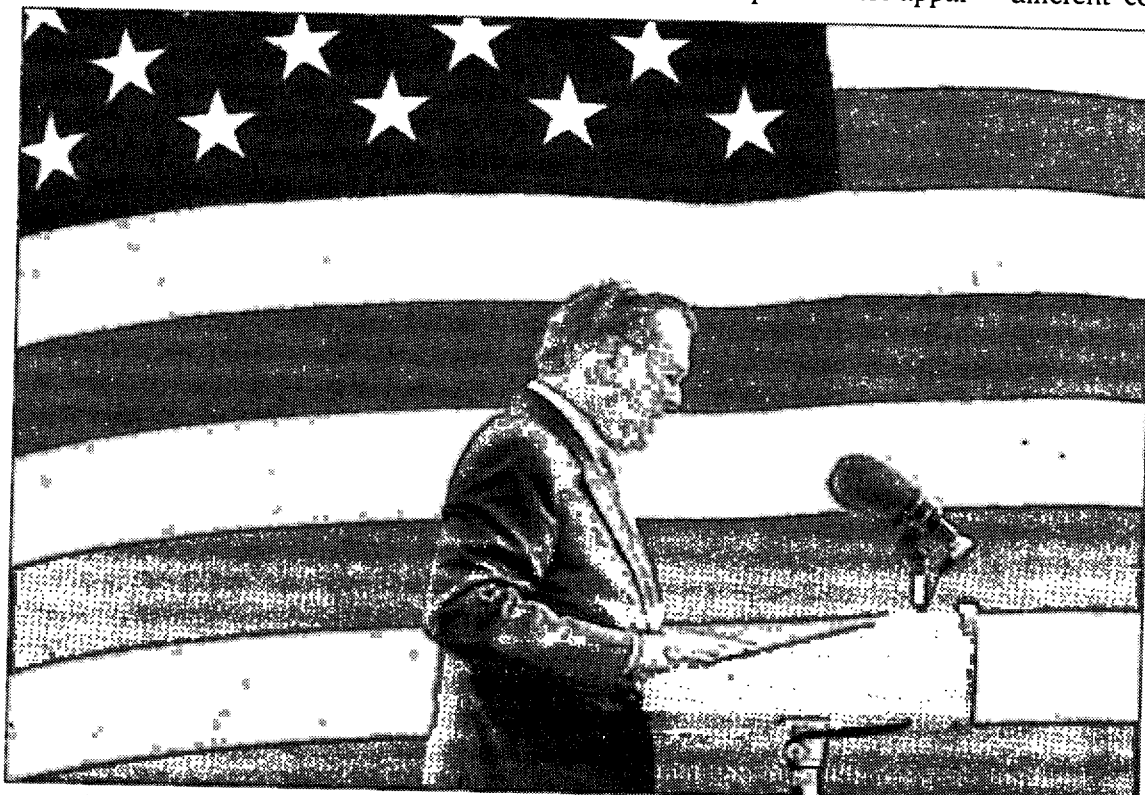
In addition to Sunni extremists, the strict Shiite groups that support an Iranian-style Islamic republic demand privileges for their religious officials and have tried to develop new ties with Iran. With corrupt officials like Ahmad Chalabi in power, Shiite religious groups constitute the second flammable front of this civil war.

Indeed, the situation looks grim when one assesses the difficulties precluding a peaceful solution. Although a minority, the secular and open-minded religious groups who want a real democratic process are also struggling to overcome the grievances that inter-communal violence has created. Most of these groups, especially on the Left, have tried to organize people around labor unions or other civic associations. This is an on-going struggle.

Civil war looks like the most likely road ahead for a post-occupation Iraq. However, one might suspect that the US and other foreign powers will take sides in those proxy wars. And if the democracy the US claims to be building in Iraq triumphs over all other options, it will not only encourage further neo-conservative wars in the region, but will block the movement towards a real democracy and civil initiatives by establishing a low-intensity democracy. This is an option not even worthy of discussion, since millions of Latin and Central Americans have been suffering exactly from that kind of governance for the last three decades.

So, as the best of the horrible options before us, civil war at least contains the possibility that clear political programs will emerge and that a modicum of understanding of the political process will crystalize.

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Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld is apparently in favor of looting and plundering, at least in Iraq. His views on similar activities in New Orleans are not on record.

PHOTO: DEFENSE DEPARTMENT

institutions effect individuals. For example, certain jobs have a tendency to bring out a conservative streak in those who work them. Consider law enforcement and education. When I was a kid, being a police officer was considered a noble profession. Cancel the manufactured 1950s image of peace officers walking their beat, whistling a tune and rescuing cats from trees. Due to the nature of their work, today's police come into contact with unsavory elements of society, deal with them harshly, extrapolate – however unfairly – stereotypes from said elements to the larger population bearing the same racial and class characteristics, thereby earning reps as “pigs” and “fascists” when in fact most police are themselves working class stiffs trying to make a better life for their families.

Teachers face a similar situation. This is a job I can speak to personally as I have been in special education for nearly a decade now. Just the other day in class one of my high school sophomores, functioning at the level of an elementary school child and known for acts of sexual aggression against hapless animals (categorized in his individualized education plan as “other health impaired”), blurted out, “I was a crack baby.” To which another sixteen year old labeled “emotionally disabled” with a similar record of obstreperous behavior concurred, “So was I!” Lest you think they were kidding, they were not.

I can't get over it: 15 years ago I was in college working to better myself while someone was out there smoking their life away and getting pregnant, bringing children into the world that never stood a fair chance and now wind up in my classroom disrupting the education of other students, receiving free lunches because their families cannot afford to care for them, and often being abused by these same parents.

It would be easy to feel sorry for some of these kids, to make excuses for their actions. But that wouldn't let them off the hook for their bad behaviors. Understanding is not excusing, something some of my liberal brethren seem to lose sight of. I shudder to

think that some of these children are sexually active. Every year I get to watch half a dozen teen girls get pregnant by teen boys (or older men) who do not stick around. Their babies are born with strikes against them and I suspect that fifteen years down the pike they'll be entering my classroom as their mother or father did before them. Thus, I have begun to wonder: why should these kids, the fathers as well as the mothers, be allowed to reproduce? If we feel no qualms “fixing” our dogs and cats so they cannot mate and populate, why is such a discussion when centered on the human animal anathema? To seriously entertain such questions call for rethinking

eralism, which holds the individual inviolable. Questions pertinent to such an endeavor have been raised by Princeton's Peter Singer.

Being “liberal” in America today means something different than it once did. Liberal is invoked against “conservative,” usually by people who consider themselves conservatives trying to defame liberals. This brand of liberalism under fire is reformist in that it seeks to use government as a means to address the ills of society. Think FDR, New Deal and welfare state. This is the type of liberalism people have in mind when they chastise “big” government and drool over shrinking it to the size of something that can be drowned in a bathtub. Yet liberalism and its seemingly comfy relationship with the state hasn't always been the case.

Liberalism emerged in the struggle between the monarchy and the bourgeoisie. For centuries, rulers were mostly men (kings) and their justification was divine right. The emerging middle class between lords and serfs in feudal times – the bourgeoisie – found this arrangement antithetical to their concerns, especially their business interests and the rights that guarantee such interests. Government by monarch was capricious and oppressive, and a protest against it was mounted by championing natural rights and natural law, what Jeremy Bentham – no conservative himself – dismissed as “nonsense on stilts.” If all men were created equal, the reasoning went, with natural rights to life, liberty and property, how could rule by one be justified? Simple: it couldn't. With the dawn of the English Civil War and the French Revolution, a new class came to power, championing the individual and his rights against the state, a class that benefited from a liberalism that advanced the interests of property owners.

The shift in the role of the state from manifest oppressor to potential corrector originated in the 19th century. Beginning in the early 1800s, the image of the state shifted from trampler to guarantor of individual liberties. The hypothetical state of nature came to be seen not as a playground of

bliss where people frolicked in perfect freedom, but as an inconvenient arrangement where men and women were slaves to nature. Liberalism began to look at society and the state as a necessary compliment to the full attainment of one's individuality, not as a hindrance to its recognition.

Still, the idea of natural rights has continued to levy a significant weight on our current zeitgeist. Everyone, we are told, is created equal, if not in fact, then potentially. But is this truly so? Is my student, known for sexually torturing small animals really of equal worth to other students his age? I don't think so. It's not popular to say there are differences in worth between people, but

ignore ideas.

This is where Peter Singer comes in. Singer's been doing his thing for years now, misunderstood and maligned by many. He's probably best known for his work in favor of non-human animal rights, but he has some interesting views that challenge our assumptions when it comes to infanticide, euthanasia, and abortion, views that rock the



Princeton University philosophy professor Peter Singer.

boat but are still essentially liberal. An excellent introduction to his thought is *Writings on an Ethical Life* (2000).

When today's social conservatives (whether George Bush and his ilk are true conservatives is a matter for another essay) uphold the sanctity of life, we should ask ourselves what they're talking about. Singer accuses them of “speciesism,” of putting human animal life on a higher plain than other, non-human animal life. In Singer's words, “To give preference to the life of a being simply because that being is a member of our species would put us in the same position as racists who give preference to those who are members of their race.” To a degree speciesism is understandable: we, the human ape, possess self reflective consciousness and can plan for the future. And we are aware that others like us are capable of the same. Singer's stance against speciesism informs his vegetarianism, opposition to animal testing, and his views on animal liberation.

Many non-human animals seem to be trapped in the present. Does a chicken or a cat plan for the future? It doesn't seem they do. Would either suffer if it knew that there would be no tomorrow? Contrast that to the condemned human being awaiting his moment with the executioner. Such rational ability may be beyond the grasp of our fellow two and four legged friends. Singer differentiates between persons and conscious beings. A person is a “being who is capable of conceiving of herself as a distinct entity existing over time,” whereas a conscious being is “sentient and capable of experiencing pleasure and pain but [is] not rational and self-conscious and so not [a person].” You, by dint of reading this, are a person. Your dog, using this issue of THE ADVOCATE as a wee-wee pad, is a conscious being.

Many people will nod their heads in agreement with Singer up to this point, saying, “Oh yeah, I never thought of it

that way.” But what about “newborn infants and some intellectually disabled humans”? Infants don't seem to make plans for the future because they can't. Some humans with mental disabilities require constant supervision and assisted living. As infants and some disabled fall into the category “conscious being” and not “persons,” Singer can justify infanticide and abortion. Infanticide in cases when “the life of an infant will be so miserable as not to be worth living,” where “it is better that the child should be helped to die without further suffering.”

Abortion serves as a precursor to infanticide. Singer's bifurcation between conscious being and person allows us to view abortion in a new light. Where one side views the aborted as a baby and the other side as a fetus, through Singer's lens we can view the gestation in the mother's womb as, indeed, at some point a conscious being with the potential to become a person if allowed birth and development. This might make it more uncomfortable for pro-choice activists who take refuge in the idea of a somehow not-quite human “fetus” being “aborted” rather than killed, but it will certainly equally shock anti-abortion activists who uphold the sanctity of all life.

Liberalism champions individuality. This can be traced directly back to the oppression of the many by the few. But has liberalism gone too far? Some will argue that institutions are the problem – and they may be right. If we lived in a better world, students like the two I mentioned would be cared for and not be viewed as a burden on taxpayers as they are now because of the welfare payments they receive and could conceivably receive for the rest of their lives.

We don't live in a perfect world, which makes Singer's line of thought and extensions from it all the more appealing. If infanticide was allowed in our country, maybe these kids wouldn't have matured. Sometimes it is easy to think that this would have been better for all concerned.

Singer operates from the utilitarian camp of liberalism, and he would have the individual decide whether she herself chooses abortion; that the individual determine whether his newborn child is better off dead so as to avoid suffering; that the individual determine that the life she lives is a “life not worth living” – because, say, of terminal illness – and should therefore have the right to end her life. The question of sterilization raises the hairs on our necks because it would be forced sterilization and those sterilized would be chosen by others. That, in a nutshell, is the conundrum: who has the right to decide who should and should not be sterilized, aborted, euthanized, etc.? Who has the right “to play god”?

It is beyond the scope of this essay to answer that last question, but I think some general outlines towards an answer are possible. First, any such decision cannot be levied against an entire race, gender, sexual orientation, see LIBERALISM, page 12

Eat Here Now

Forget 365 Express – If you like your food good (and cheap), check out these GC-area eateries

ELIZABETH ALSOP

Like many new students, I arrived at the Graduate Center this Fall brimming with ambition, excitement, and a single, all-consuming question: Where to eat? Since then, undaunted by mounting responsibilities and dwindling resources, I've committed myself to uncovering the best food to be had within walking distance of the GC. Here are some preliminary findings. Please consider this list a work in progress – I plan to add to it as the year goes on. But in the meantime, I hope they will provide you with some happy alternatives to the shrink-wrapped sandwich or the "Student Lunch."

1 Sophie's Cuban Cuisine

179 Madison Ave at 34th St, (212) 679-3500; M-F, 7:30am-7:30pm

Cheap, quick, and just around the corner, this café is a boon for hungry students. Sit down for the homemade daily specials (\$8), or better yet, get a freshly toasted Cuban sandwich (\$6) to go. In Sophie's collective hands, the traditional smorgasbord of ham, roast pork, Swiss cheese, pickles, mayo, and mustard is transformed into something so satisfying it makes you want to stop and thank the culinary wunderkind that dreamed up the combination in the first place. As an added bonus, Sophie's Cubano is tightly assembled, making it both a tidy and tasty lunch option.

2 Woorijip

12 West 32nd St, (212) 244-1115; open 24/7

The next time hunger strikes just as you're putting the final touches on that 11th-hour paper, head a few blocks south to Koreatown, where you'll find a congeries of round-the-clock options. But if you're not feeling up to the task of table-side barbecue, Woorijip, a cute Korean deli/café, provides a likeable and low-key alternative. This storefront spot (whose name means "our house") is like a culinary three-ring circus, combining a buffet and noodle bar with an unusually fresh and ample array of prepared foods. The thrust is pre-packaged portions of Korean home cooking, from favorites like Bibimbap, Kimchee, and Japchae, to less familiar offerings like blood sausage, do-it-yourself Fishcake Soup, and a sprightly combination labeled simply, "Korean Breakfast." Avoid the Americanized offerings (e.g. spaghetti) in favor of one of the many of more authentic choices – Dak Jook (\$3), for instance, a hearty chicken porridge, does wonders for a head cold, while a container of beef over rice (\$4.50) makes for a more substantial tuck-in. If you're looking to eat-in, head to the noodle bar in back: order and pay at the window, find a place, and wait for your made-to-order meal. Have a big, steaming bowl of unusually spicy Ramen (\$6), or try the Soft Tofu Stew (\$6); other options vary daily. Best of all, each meal comes with an appetizing array of panchan, the small vegetable side dishes that traditionally accompany a Korean meal. If all else fails, there's a hot-water spout, handy for mixing up a Styrofoam bowl of instant noodles bought on premises. Added bonuses: the self-serve coffee machine that dispenses serviceable brew for 25 cents, and a counter up front that provides the perfect perch for people-watching.

3 Mandoo Bar

2 West 32nd St (bet. Broadway and 5th), (212) 279-3075; Daily, 11:30am-10:30pm

Mandoo Bar is like a little dream in lower midtown, its sage-green walls and low lighting providing wel-

come sanctuary from the bustle outside its doors. Settle in at one of the wooden tables with some reading, and enjoy the good food and equally good service. For those who enjoy some heat, Yuk Kae Jang (\$5) may be the best soup you've never heard of, a spicy, bracing broth packed with shredded beef, scallions, and bits of egg. The signature mandoo (steamed, boiled, or fried dumplings) can be stuffed with pork, vegetables, or seafood; an order of the Combo Mandoo (\$10) will net you four of each. On a recent visit, the simple Mool Mandoo (\$8) were just right, the dumplings tender, the filling fresh and bright tasting. A cup of green tea – the perfect foil to these highly flavored morsels – rounds things out.

4 Waldy's Pizza

800 6th Ave (bet 27th and 28th), (212) 213-5042; Daily, 11:30am to 11pm

It's uncertain what side chef Waldy Malouf would take in New York's ongoing Slice vs. Whole Pie debate, since, in a welcome gesture of equanimity, his new upscale parlor lets you have it both ways. Pizzas here are available in "half," regular, and large denominations; a half would be plenty for the average appetite – particularly if he or she has put away several handfuls of the tart, briny olives on offer at the condiment bar. Purists like myself will probably gravitate towards the Pizza Margherita (\$5.50 for half), but for those more amenable to exotic toppings, the menu offers infinite opportunity for fiddling. Understand that this is pizza in its thin-crust incarnation (a strange but growing phenomenon in the city), so the standard here should be crispness. By this measure, Waldy's does a decent job, producing a crust that – while a bit overburdened – is notably crisp, with just the right amount of under-

side char. Savvy diners, however, may forego the pizza altogether, in favor of some

Wood-Roasted Penne (\$5.50 for a small portion);

the version with Roquefort and Croutons is particularly good, a sort of Franco-Italian take on Mac 'n Cheese. As you wait for your order, flick through one of the

copies of the NY Post that are usually lying around, or watch what

may be New York's only snip-your-own-herb bar in action. And as you leave, take a moment to appreciate one of Manhattan's last verifiably "seedy" neighborhoods: where else can you get high-end pizza next to cut-rate handbags, Halloween decorations, and "genuine human hair" wigs?

5 Shake Shack

Madison Square Park, near corner of Madison Ave and 23rd, (212) 889-6600; Daily, 11am to 8pm until December

On my most recent visit to the Shake Shack, Danny Meyer's ongoing encomium to fast food, I overheard a woman ahead of me try to soothe her toddler-age son. "I know you'll miss the ice cream, sweetie," she cooed, "but they'll be open again next year." Cold comfort, I'm afraid. The Shake Shack's seasonal hiatus is a blow to anyone who loves hot-dogs, burgers, fries, and what could be the best frozen-custard this side of Wisconsin. And judging by the lines that peak times, this is a lot of people. It's hard to overestimate the advantage we, as graduate students, have in being able to frequent the Shake Shack during off-hours, or all hours, really. (In fact, my own experience suggests that arriving at odd moments will

actually increase your chances of spotting local celebrities.) But I digress. The real draw here is most definitely the food: versions of American roadside standards that are fresher, tastier, and just real-foodier than the originals. The Shack Burger (\$4.15) in particular seems to have been bred for all the best traits in the burger species: a rich, meaty little patty; a size-appropriate, soft-yet-sturdy bun; crisp slices of L and T; and, to top it off, a secret mayonnaise-based sauce that just WORKS. The Chicago Dog (\$2.77), a juicy, snappy frank with lots of texturally diverse toppings, has its own distinct charms. Whatever you do, just don't walk away without a cone of the vanilla frozen custard – the bigger, the better – which I feel strongly to be the *sine qua non* of frozen dairy: smooth, dense, creamy, and eggy, in the best possible sense of the word (\$3 for a double dip). While the weather is still only crisp, the outdoor tables provide an equally good spot for eating, studying, and chatting, and the green surroundings do you good after a long afternoon in the library. Coming soon: Breakfast starting October 17th.

6 Bagelry

429 3rd Ave (at 30th), (212) 679-9845; Daily 6:30am-6:30pm

I know this one's a bit further afield – but would I really send you even a few short city blocks if I didn't think it was worth it? These are great, old-school New York bagels: dense, chewy, and (unlike the many imposters masquerading behind coffee-shop counters these days) smaller than your average subway car. Although they claim their cream cheese is Philadelphia, it somehow tastes better than that, slightly tart and without the trademark gumminess. Recently, I discovered that a salt bagel with a "schmear" (\$1.85) was just the thing to replace all those electrolytes you lose by studying. Coffee, too, is better than the bodega average. Sitting and sipping at one of the sunny outdoor tables, it's easy to feel that one has attained the full complement of creature comforts, if only for a short while.

7 'wichcraft

Bryant Park (near the corner of 42nd and 6th), (212) 780-0577; Daily 11am-4pm

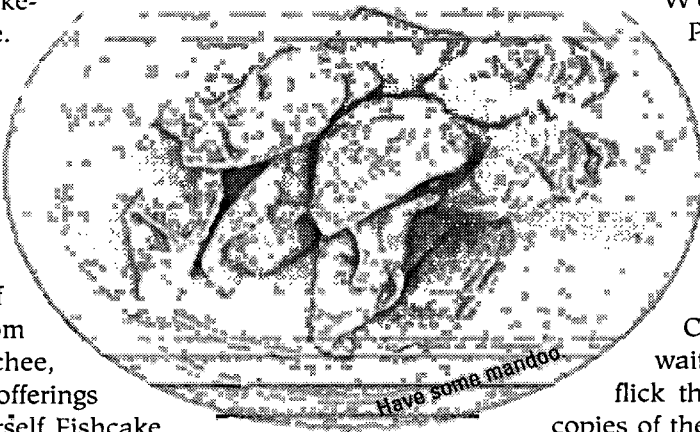
Tom Colicchio is New York's reigning king of sandwichery and, as a result, many of his multi-dimensional creations come at a price. Nevertheless, there are bargains to be had – among them, the platonic ideal of PB&Js: two layered tiers of (crust-on) Pullman bread, crunchy peanut butter, and slices of strawberry-rhubarb jam. Two takes on grilled cheese are similarly spot-on, particularly the gruyère with caramelized onions (\$5.50). If it's payday, splash out on the warm corned beef on rye (\$9.50), an admirable rendition of the Reuben. Either way, take a minute to spend the best \$1 of your life: order a peanut-butter sandwich cookie, and for just eight bits, sample one of the best baked goods this city has to offer; chocolate and lemon versions are exceptional as well.

8 Crestanello Gran Caffè

475 5th Ave (bet 40th and 41st), (212) 545-9996; M-F 8am-8pm, Weekends 10am-7pm

If you find yourself feeling peckish at the NYPL, cross the street to Crestanello, the elegant American outpost of an Italian café chain. Although coffee is middling, the kitchen prepares a Caprese I'd be willing to pit against the best in the town. Because this classic combination so often gets bungled, it's a relief to see it done properly: Slices of fresh, salt-flecked focaccia sandwich a respectable slab of mozzarella, a slice or two of tomato, and a scattering of shredded basil. At \$7.50, it's a little steep, but well worth it – especially considering how smug you'll feel for having had the good sense to buy it.

Elizabeth Alsop is a student in the Comparative Literature program.



Film Review: *Mondovino*

HARLAN D. WHATLEY

Directed and written by Jonathon Nossiter, *Mondovino* (ThinkFilm – 35 minutes) is a documentary about the impact of globalization on the world's different wine regions. The opening scene is set in Brazil where workers are harvesting coconuts from palm trees. After this non-sequitur, the film bounces around the globe from California, Italy, Sardinia, France, Argentina and New York. Yes, wine is a global industry, with families like the Mondavis and Staglins in Napa Valley partnering with some of the oldest vintners in Italy and France to create a global branding and distribution of their wines. The amount of revenue generated by these big wine producers is often to the tune of several hundreds of millions of dollars; some are even publicly traded. Nossiter exposes how Robert Mondavi has elevated himself from businessman and winemaker to self-proclaimed "philosopher."

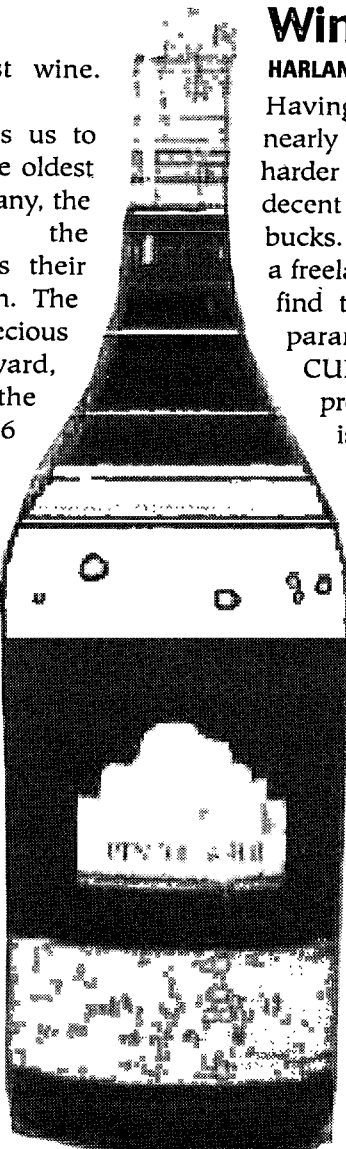
In France we learn about the male dominated vineyard run by the de Montille family in Burgundy. In one scene, one of the sons, Etienne, chastises the workers for missing some of the premiere grapes during a picking, telling them "this is not a scene from a film." The daughter, Alix, works for a rival vineyard and compares her father, Hubert, to a good, burgundy wine: "he's a bit strong." Another, smaller winemaker, Aimé Guibert, who refuses to partner with large wine producers like Mondavi, claims cynically in a Derrida-like moment that "Wine is dead. Let's be clear, wine is

dead. And not just wine. Fruits. Cheeses..."

Nossiter then takes us to Italy where two of the oldest wine families in Tuscany, the Antinoris and the Frescobaldis, discuss their view on globalization. The former sold their precious jewel of a vineyard, Ornellaia, to the Mondavi family for \$56 million while the latter became the Mondavi's distribution and wine-making partner in Italy, raising the eyebrows of more than a few wine pundits.

Despite the film's strong premise and interesting interviewees, its production quality is poor. Many of the scenes are shot in a shaky, hand held fashion. Often the shooter will focus on a worker in the background or a dog running around while in the midst of the interview. Perhaps the intent was comic relief, but to me it was tediously annoying. *Mondovino* is now available on DVD.

Harlan D. Whatley received his MFA in Integrated Media Arts from Hunter College/CUNY, where he is an Adjunct Lecturer in the Film & Media Studies Department.



Wine on a Grad Student Budget

HARLAN D. WHATLEY

Having lived in Manhattan for nearly sixteen years now, I find it harder and harder to purchase a decent bottle of wine for under ten bucks. But as a documentarian and a freelance journalist, it's my job to find things that fall into certain parameters – and if you're a CUNY graduate student, you're probably on a budget, so here is what I recommend:

2003 DOMAIN CATON PINOT NOIR (FRANCE)

Ever since the Academy Award winning motion film *Sideways*, oenophiles and regular folks have gone Pinot crazy. Personally, I have been drinking Pinot Noirs, or what the French normally label as Bourgogne, for over ten years. But it is becoming more and more difficult to find a decent Pinot Noir for under twenty dollars, much less ten – especially in Manhattan. Recently, however, I stumbled across a very attractive looking label with an

image of a French maison with a vineyard unknown to me. When I saw the \$7.99 price tag, the rational side of my brain kicked in and said, "Buy it kid. At this price, what have you got to lose."

Fortunately, my frugal Scottish genes were right. The color of the wine

is a solid garnet red – frank and brilliant. The bouquet has a nose of a good intensity that evokes morello cherry, red fruits and fume notes. The taste is a full frontal attack and generous mouth. This wine has a beautiful tannic structure present that will keep itself a few years in cellar. My suggestion is to buy a few bottles for the semester and serve with anything from spaghetti and meatballs to a well-dressed burger. You can't go wrong with this wine at this price.

2004 WOODBRIDGE SAUVIGNON BLANC (CALIFORNIA)

So you're hosting a dinner party, perhaps after your graduate seminar's first paper was completed, and you want to serve both red and white to your guests. You now know what red to buy, but what to do about those needy blanco types? California Chardonnay is a big no-no, due to its harsh oakiness, so you spread your wine lover's wings with a nice, reliable and affordable Sauvignon Blanc.

Woodridge is a Robert Mondavi vineyard, which means they not only put a lot of family pride and money into creating this crispy, fruity wine, but marketing it as well. The taste is more grassy and herbal with a hint of lemon, melon and pear. This is a great wine to pair with grilled fish and chicken, especially Asian and Mexican dishes. Another bargain basement bottle at \$6.99 per bottle, which is less than what most Manhattan restaurants charge per glass. You can't go wrong with this Sauvignon Blanc.

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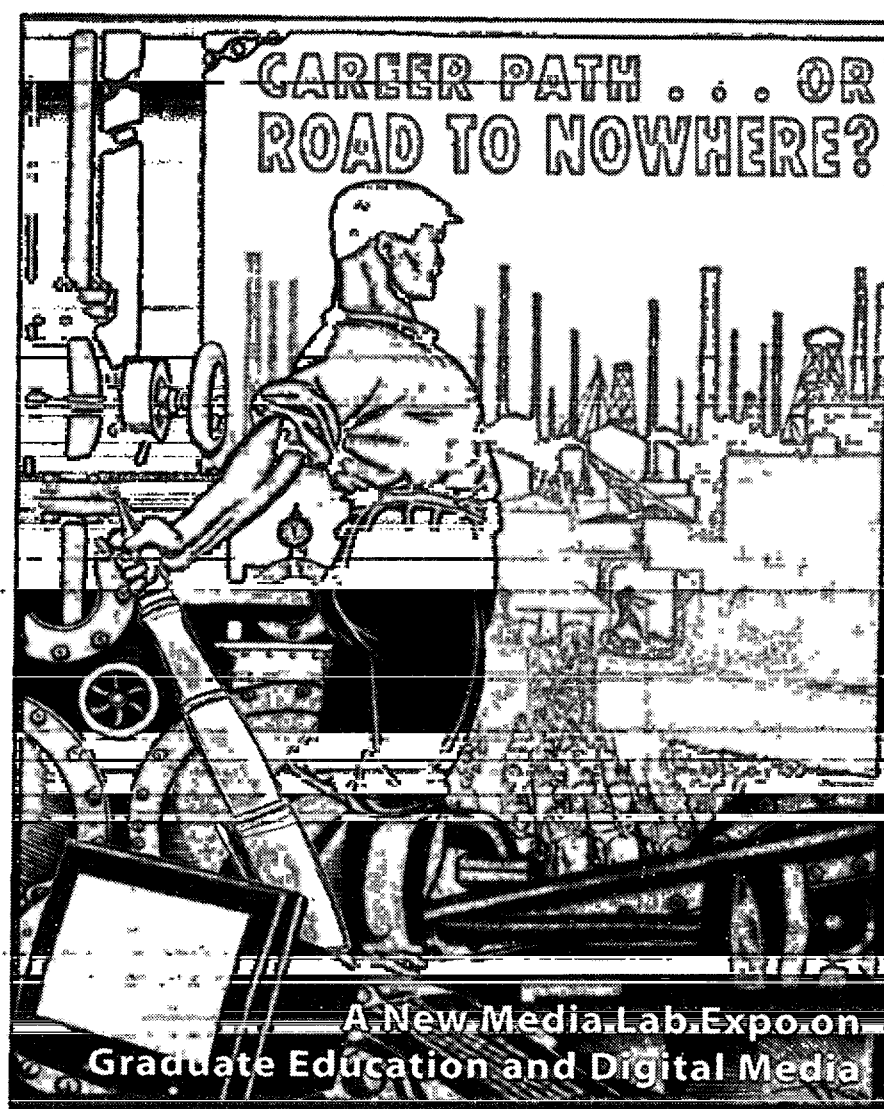
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A Populist Movement: The Free Market Nigerian Movie Industry

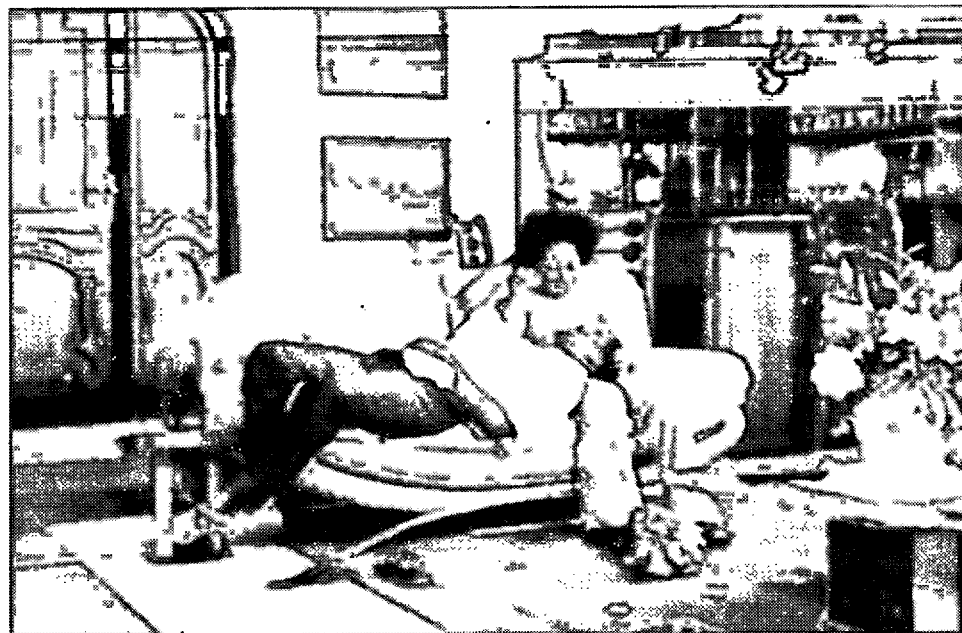
RODERICK GRAHAM

Though it is not yet on the world's radar screen – but will soon be – a unique cultural phenomenon has developed in the West African country of Nigeria. Centered in the commercial capital of Lagos (the official capital is Abuja), is a burgeoning movie industry informally known as Nollywood. No mere commercial venture, it is also one of the strongest populist movements in the world today.

In 1992 an enterprising filmmaker, Kenneth Nnebue, used his own money to write and produce a movie entitled *Living in Bondage*, about a man who makes a Faustian pact with a cult to become rich. This movie, shot on video and mass produced on VHS, was an instant hit. This movie marked the unofficial beginning of the movie industry in Nigeria.

While Nollywood is similar in many ways to the Los Angeles and Bombay markets, it is in other ways wholly different. This is an industry built literally from the ground up, employing ingenious strategies to circumvent capital restraints. In the earliest days of the industry (the mid 80's), even before *Living in Bondage*, movies were made by troupes of traveling stage performers who wanted to capture their performances on video and sell them to villagers. In a novel form of tit for tat, an actor turned producer would ask his other actor friends to work in his movie for free, with the promise that when they wished to make a film he would do the same for them. This strategy worked so well that actors were clamoring to appear in their friend's movies for free so that they could employ them for free later! This strategy kept costs low and allowed movies to appear on the market, in a sense priming the Nigerian audience for the eventual success of *Living in Bondage*.

While the tit-for-tat strategy may not be as necessary anymore, Nigerian film makers still must produce in an environment where there is little capital and little government regulation. They are not shot on traditional celluloid (the medium used in most films), but instead are shot with digital video camera on a break-neck schedule of a few weeks with budgets ranging from \$8,000 to \$12,000 US. Movie are usually about three hours long, but are broken up and sold in two parts. Again, this seems to be out of necessity – it doesn't cost more to make a three hour movie than a ninety minute movie – but there is potential for higher sales returns for two installments. These videos are then sold to distributors who usually pay for the rights of the movie and take on the gamble of making a profit by selling it to the masses. The videos are sold cheap – they have to be – because the Nigerian government has

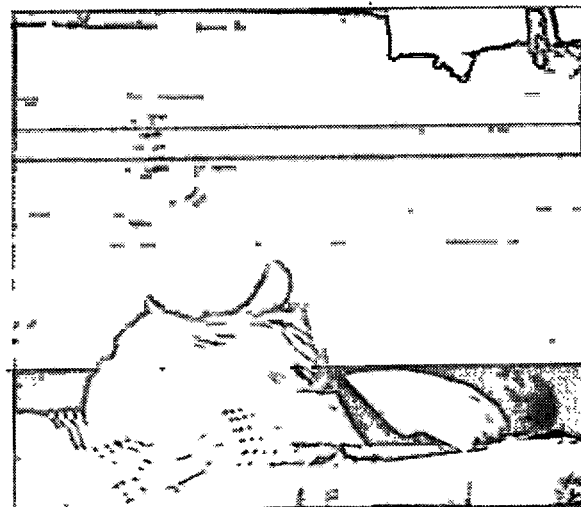


A scene from *2 Faced*. The ostentatious displays of wealth are a common theme in the Nollywood movies. In this scene the female character discusses with her fiancée how her father is financing her stay in Paris.

not yet been able to curb piracy. Thus, a distributor must always keep his prices low enough to compete with cheaper, but lower quality, copies. A Nigerian video film can cost \$3 US dollars on the market.

But production is only one side of the equation: there must be enough consumers willing and able to support the industry. Indeed, in Nigeria, as in most African countries, there is a growing newly urbanized proletariat removed from their traditional rural underpinnings. Nigeria's cities are some of the fastest growing in the world, and Lagos has a population of over 8 million. Also, there are few movie theatres in Nigeria, and the few still in operation are often near-empty – they are seen as places for prostitution and vice. Since DVD and video-cassette players are becoming more and more affordable, the Nollywood film industry has high growth potential.

But it is the masses that matter, and the masses have voted with their



Scene from the film *Devil's Nest*. The lead male character's spirit is being called to the village elders for punishment. He will be punished for allowing his wife to commit adultery and thus disgrace the village.

Naira (Nigerian currency) on what works and what does not. Thus, films are often tailored for the poor and working class, similar in many ways to the telenovellas of Latin America. The characters in these movies are usually rich, and there is an ostentatious celebration of money in these films.

Thus Nollywood. Thus the phenom-

enon. More than 500 movies are licensed per year. Just browsing www.allafricanmovies.com will clue you in to the variety. The most successful videos consistently sell over 200,000 units, but most sell at least 20,000. By most accounts, Nollywood is the third largest movie industry in the world behind that of the US and India. It was only a matter of time.

Indeed, the factors I listed above may have the air of constraints, but, really, they are enablers. The lack of capital and the wild west atmosphere of the industry scared away investors both foreign and domestic, allowing for creators on the ground floor to produce a populist, proletarian form of mass media that is quickly becoming one of the most important cultural exports of the country (the adjective cultural must be used...because nothing will take the place of its main export of oil). These gritty, low budget productions dripping with violence, religion, or overdone sentiment probably will not strike a chord with westernized viewers (for the same reasons Nigerian elites are slow to patronize these films). I must confess, in fact, that I do not like these movies so much. I cannot get past what I see as bad acting, bad quality, and predictable plots. But then, I am not a member of the Nigerian populace, who may find their lives filled with bad actors (politicians are exemplars of this species), bad quality (bad movie quality is a trifle compared to other things), and predictable plots (it is a safe bet that most of the poor who watch these movies will die poor).

I see the Nollywood phenomenon as a cultural marker. Indeed, for Nigeria specifically and Africa generally, where the party line for so many years for so many nations has been "African Socialism," the idea of embracing free market capitalism is a populist movement. In situations like some African, Latin American, and Asian countries where crackpot dictators and their cronies – all elites – control the country through the veil of the state, populist movements imply the reverse: a relaxation of state power,

the lifting of market regulation, and the breaking up of many state owned industries.

Free markets create growth – admittedly at the top initially, but this growth is inherently democratic, and the common people will enjoy the fruits of this growth as well (China is easily the most prominent case). I am certainly not in favor of the privatization of all industries or services (as in the ridiculous case of water privatization in Bolivia), just sensible ones. For example, there is a state owned movie production company in Nigeria. It is not beholden to the market. It does not have to make a profit. It produces less than four movies a year. And no one watches them.

But for the Nigerian people, the entrepreneurial free market Nollywood that is forced to cater to their whims, works unequivocally. Nollywood evokes the principles of democratic consumption – and the populace of Nigeria endorses these principles loudly with their patronage. When they see ethnic characters devoid of titles and living lives of consumption and leisure, a symbolic distance between the worlds they live in and the world they dream of is shortened just a little bit. They have hope. When they see characters using religion or the occult to garner riches, they may recognize that they too have access to religious practices, and that they too can achieve success. Nollywood evokes the principles of democratic consumption – and the Nigerian masses endorse these principles loudly with their patronage.

In time, when academics finish writing their ethnographies and doing their surveys, the historical significance of Nollywood will be better understood. When feminists begin to imply that Nollywood is an inherently 'feminine' industry because of its emphasis on emotional domestic affairs, when Marxists and neo-Marxists decry the films because they divert the masses from the real cause of their misery, the historical meaning of Nollywood will grow to embrace many different perspective (read: ideology). The producers will be seen as "artists" struggling to present their representation of the world in the midst of an oppressive regime and the initial impetus of profit motive will be forgotten. Or, maybe the films themselves will be analyzed for some "subversive" content (I see none, but my guess is that Nigerians do). My hope is that despite my interpretation of the phenomenon of Nigeria as a populist movement, in favor of free market capitalism, we will not lose sight of that which seems apparent now: (1) a form of popular culture created by the Nigerian business man cum film producer who wanted to make a buck, and (2) the masses of Nigerian consumers who wanted some entertainment that spoke to their needs.

Roderick Graham is a PhD student in the Sociology department.

Meet the DSC Steering Committee Members

CELIA BRAXTON

Representative for the Theater Department
DSC Steering Committee Coordinator for Office Management
Co-Chair (with Ericka Calton) of the Health Issues Committee

Thanks to a week of tabling by DSC members and representatives from the Office of Student Affairs, my major goal for the year has already been met: to ensure a large enough voter turnout for the Wellness Center Referendum to be valid. Our future goals under Health Issues include working with the staff of the Wellness Center to improve staff/student communications, and to look for new health insurance options for students. I would also like to hear from evening students regarding the offerings and operating hours at the 365 Express. Are your food needs being met to take you through your 6:30 classes? If not, what's missing (please be specific)? Email me at cbraxton@gc.cuny.edu, and put "365 Express" in the subject line.

LEE HACHADOORIAN

Representative for Dept of Earth and Environmental Sciences
Coordinator for Campus Outreach

I am pursuing a PhD in Geography. My focus is economic geography, particularly the economic determinants of urban form. I was born in New York City and have left and returned twice, most recently returning three years ago when I began my current program of study. I originally intended to develop a theory of economic relocation based on my own experiences, but I had trouble with the IRB and my advisor wouldn't sign off on a study with $n=1$. As a member of a department spread over four campuses, I have taken on the role of Coordinator for Campus Outreach. I hope to see to it that those of us who are members of non-GC departments still feel like part of the GC community.

CHARLES LIEBERMAN

DSC Representative to the CUNY University Senate

My name is Charles Lieberman and I am a second year student in the Criminal Justice PhD program,

housed at John Jay. I am your Doctoral Students

Council representative at the CUNY University Student Senate. Over the course of the next year I hope to increase awareness of the opportunities that the USS can offer all CUNY students, including GC students. Although I am not running for the chair or vice chair positions within the USS, I plan to be involved in working with committees to ensure that the needs of graduate students are considered.

ADRIANA TOMASINO

Representative for the English Department
Coordinator of Publicity for the Steering Committee

As Coordinator of Publicity for the Steering Committee, it is my responsibility to advertise the goals of the Doctoral Students' Council, to publicize the numerous proceedings and events of the DSC, as well as issues of importance to CUNY students. In addition, I will collaborate with the Co-Chair of Student Affairs to create and distribute business cards to all students who wish to have them, write articles on behalf of the Committee when necessary and serve on the Health Committee to continue to sustain our Wellness Center.

BRENDA VOLLMAN

Coordinator for Students with Disabilities
Representative for the Department of Criminal Justice

I'm a student in the Criminal Justice PhD program of the Graduate Center at John Jay College, and have been appointed by CUNY, the Graduate Center's queer student organization, to serve as a student representative on the CLAGS board. I'm on the Steering Committee of the Doctoral Student Council, am the Chair of the Committee on Disabilities and am an active intra-program representative. Additionally, I'm currently an adjunct in the Sociology Department at John Jay College. I intend to be a strong voice and advocate for the concerns of all students, with particular focus on addressing unmet or insufficiently met needs of students with disabilities. My central goal is to fos-

ter an environment within which students with disabilities can comfortably and effectively contribute to their academic disciplines.

CHONG (CJ) WOJTKOWSKI

International Student Representative
Representative for the French Department

I'm a third-year student in the French Department. My goal as International Student representative is to address the particular needs of foreign students. Many CUNY departments rely on international students to fill their ranks and teach their classes, but support for "student life" is lacking. Students with alien status cannot just go out and find part-time jobs, and many times their financial existence depends on a professor-mentor's ability to secure funding, which is an uneasy position to be in. My goal for this year is not only to be a listener and a voice for the international student body, but to work closely with the departments themselves to ensure that students who are invited to attend the GC are housed appropriately and integrated into the CUNY system with special consideration.

ERICKA CALTON

Representative for the Biomedical Engineering Department
Co-Chair (with Celia Braxton) of the Health Issues Committee

Our first task for this academic year was to submit a petition to the Office of Student Affairs so that we could hold a referendum to increase student fees to \$41.60 per semester. The Wellness Center has had budgetary problems in the past and without an increase in financial support, would have closed after December 2005. The referendum passed and we are now moving towards the issue of health insurance. The DSC is working with the Office of Student Affairs to increase student awareness about health care issues. Student feedback is essential. I hope that the interest that was shown during this first part of this semester continues and I look forward to working on issues related to student health care throughout the 2005-06 academic year.

DSC News

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sixth floor, in room 6422. It is staffed by a nurse practitioner who provides diagnosis, treatment, and prescription services. Students can get physical examinations including cholesterol screening, gynecological and male health exams, and testing for HIV and other STDs.

The Wellness Center is responsible for maintaining immunization records of all GC students and provides immunizations for those who cannot provide up-to-date records. Flu vaccinations are available and medical tests that are ordered are subsidized 70% by the DSC. Students can be seen by appointment or on a walk-in basis. If you are fortunate enough to have insurance, just bring your insurance card when you come.

The results of the students' vote and President Kelly's recommendation will be forwarded to the CUNY Board of Trustees. If approved, the fee increase will take effect next semester, ensuring the continuation of Student Health Services at the GC Wellness Center.

Special thanks go out to all the students who helped with this initiative; all the students who voted; the participants of the 2003-04; Student Health Survey; the members of the 2004-05 DSC Wellness Center Subcommittee; the 2005-06 DSC Health Committee, Ericka Calton and Celia Braxton, Co-

Chairs; and the Director of Student Activities, Ms. Elise Perram.

STUDENTS IN GC GOVERNANCE

There are students on every committee of the Graduate Council, the body that functions as the Graduate Center's legislative branch. The DSC is responsible for recommending students to fill vacancies on these committees. At the September plenary meeting, the following students were recommended for committee appointments:

- David Golland (History), Committee on Structure.
- Christopher Poulos (Poli-Sci), Committee on Curriculum and Degree Requirements.
- Antonia Levy (Sociology), Committee on Student Services.

The DSC also recommends students to serve on College-wide governing boards. The following were recommended at the September plenary:

- Aleta Styers (Poli-Sci) and Celia Braxton (Theater), College Association.
- Charles Lieberman (Crim. Just.) and Carolyn Fisher (Anthropology), Auxiliary Enterprise Board.

At the October meeting, the DSC will recommend one more student each to the Committee on Curriculum and Degree Requirements (all students eligible) and the College Association (DSC members eligible).

DISCOUNTED MOVIE TICKETS

Discounted movie tickets are available in the DSC office (GC 5495) for \$6.00. They can be used at Loews Theatres, although there is a \$1 surcharge at Manhattan locations.

MIGUEL MALO UPDATE

The DSC has extended its endorsement of the position that CUNY recommend to the Bronx District Attorney that all charges against former Hostos student government leader Miguel Malo be dropped immediately. The trial is scheduled to begin on October 17th at 9:30 AM in Part 40, room 625 in the Bronx County Supreme Court at 851 Grand Concourse at 161st Street. The nearest subway station is 161st Street on the B-D-4 lines. Please note that Miguel's case is now in the Supreme Court building on the Grand Concourse, not the Criminal Court where many of his

previous court appearances have been. For further information, contact CUNY Action to Defend Miguel Malo at: (212) 460-0983 or (917) 520-5368.

DSC WELCOMES ADMINISTRATORS

On the heels of Bill Kelly's appointment as GC President, the Board of Trustees has confirmed Linda Edwards as Acting Provost and Senior Vice President. The DSC looks forward to working with the Kelly-Edwards administration (pun intended). The DSC also welcomes Acting Associate Provost Julia Wrigley.

DSC FALL PARTY (& OTHER EVENTS)

The DSC fall party was an unmitigated success, especially if success were to be measured by the need to buy more and more food. Please visit the DSC website for updated information pertaining to upcoming events like the DSC coffee hour.

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Liberalism

from page 7

class position or disability. We are right to condemn Hitler for his policies of forced euthanasia of Jews, homosexuals, Gypsies, the disabled, and others. Every such decision should be on a case-by-case basis.

As it is, we play god and make decisions for other people all the time. When a woman chooses to have an abortion, does she consult with the life inside her? Of course she couldn't, because when the life inside her reaches "conscious being" status it is still many years away from being a true person. When we decide to pull the plug on someone in a persistent vegetative state, are we not deciding for them? Why would it be so wrong to ensure that twelve and thirteen year olds could not impregnate one another? With our medical technology, maybe such measures could be temporary, allowing the child at a later level of maturity to reverse the process and make reproductive decisions him or herself.

Some who read this will shake their heads in disgust, wondering how someone with views like this can be allowed to teach. I can understand such a criticism, but to anyone harboring such a viewpoint, I'd ask you to walk in my shoes for a day, to see the unwanted babies and what becomes of them, the lives they lead and the ways their lives impact those of others. We live in an industrial capitalist society where the

power wielders are doing their best to roll back the social contract. We must mount a challenge to them, but experience has taught us that they aren't going to roll over overnight. The first to suffer directly from their ongoing assault will be those like the students I mentioned.

Their suffering will be felt by indirect victims, people like you and I.

Are our institutions to blame? Partly. Theorists like Rousseau believed that people are born good and that society corrupts us. But I think this is too cheery a picture of human nature. Even if we usurp the capitalist state and institute something more humane and responsive, humans will still be capable of appalling behavior towards one another. Those who make life easier for others should have some say in the comportment of the lives of those who attempt to make life more difficult for others. In the short term this could be taken as justification for forced sterilization. Maybe all people are born with equal potential, but under current circumstances, all people do not maximize or are not allowed to maximize their potential. Furthermore, not everyone is of equal worth to society. Those who contribute and make life a better place for everyone concerned should be actively encouraged to keep on with what they're doing. Those who hinder the happiness and security of others should not be given a free hand.

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

TAROT ASTROLOGY

What do the stars and cards hold in store for you?

HEATHER ROYCE-ROLL

astic Sagittarius.

for you to worry about money, but since you are the poster child for anxiety, you still will miss sleep. If you get offered a loan, just take it, will ya?

like a fool. Now try to let some defenses down without being really stupid about where you do it.

ARIES

March 21 to April 20

Running away from complex emotional problems that might make you grow is what you're best at, and you're proving it now.

That's not so bad, actually if you can keep a cooler temper. Oh wait. You're Aries.

TAURUS

April 21 to May 21

Go to the John Lennon "Imagine" memorial and sit there. If nothing else, look at the people looking at you funny. You're being too practical, too stubborn, and too stuck in your ways.

GEMINI

May 22 to June 21

It's commendable that you want to study. It's not so commendable that you don't know what that it is you want to study. Just listen for your cue.

It might sound like an overly enthusi-

CANCER

June 22 to July 22

The good news is a very satisfying romance is brewing. The bad news is that you're a Cancer and you're looking for the clouds between all these silver linings.

LEO

July 23 to August 23

Be ruthless about your goals. Focus like there's no one else in the world. Because there isn't. At least no one on your side.

VIRGO

August 24 to September 22

Your natural, go-by-the-beat-of-my-own-drum way of life has been placed temporarily on hold. Social engagements will make you nervous, especially since you can't enjoy being a hermit right now. Pull the covers over your head and wait this one out.

LIBRA

September 23 to October 23

There is no reason

SCORPIO

October 24 to November 22

It's all over. The stress, the betrayals, the constant torment that's left you a bloody corpse are gone. Yes, that window of nagging harpies is closing. Unfortunately, it's a wait before the doors open again.

SAGITTARIUS

November 23 to December 21

Grab that Gemini and tell them what to do. It doesn't matter if you finish the project, how often do you ever do that anyway? What matters is you get the vision out there so someone else can take credit for it.

CAPRICORN

December 22 to January 20

Although it goes against all your 10 times: I will let my defenses down in spite of looking

AQUARIUS

January 21 to February 19

When all those lofty, higher than Thou values that keep your world view in place come crashing down, tell yourself "I am free." Then look at how you made this mental chaos to begin with. Time for mental yoga flexibility.

PISCES

February 20 to March 20

Poor Pisces. It isn't easy to be everyone's victim. Oops, it is, if you stop taking responsibility for what happens to you. Yes, there is that Virgo driving you crazy, but the cross current pulling at you is yourself and that's a million times easier to work with than someone else's problems. Believe, dear fishes, and swim upstream.

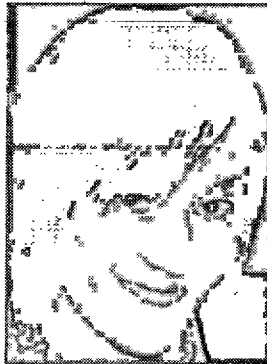
Heather Royce-Roll is a Tarot reader, astrologer and freelance writer living in Toronto. Visit her site at www.earthless.com/tarot.

What do you think about the food options and services in the building?



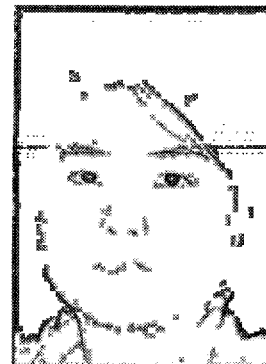
Ian MacDonald,
Visiting Scholar,
Political Science

Very impressed.
Decent prices for
Midtown.



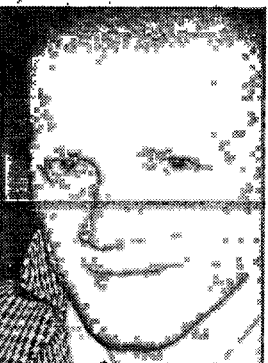
Elizabeth Alsop,
Comparative Literature

Passable. They do
a good job trying
to satisfy a wide
range of people.
The coffee is
terrible, though.



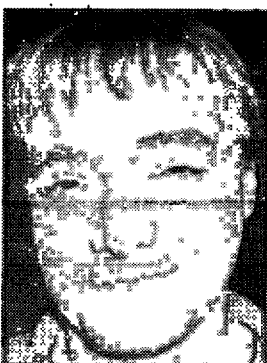
Jeehey Kim,
Art History

Expensive. The
coffee and tea
are not good.
Everything closes
too early for those
taking night
classes.



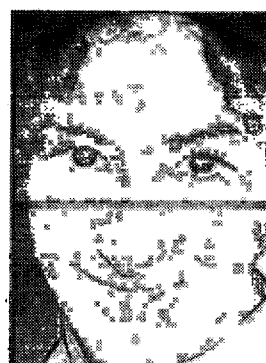
Andrew Porter,
Philosophy

The food is good,
but it's overpriced
for students. Ah,
if I could only
afford it...



Wade Martin,
Philosophy

Sufficient —
especially the
vegetarian
options — but
needs to be
cheaper.



Miriam Attia,
Liberal Studies

Meager selection.
I would only pay
the prices if I
were completely
famished and only
had five minutes
till class and if
that class were
three hours long.