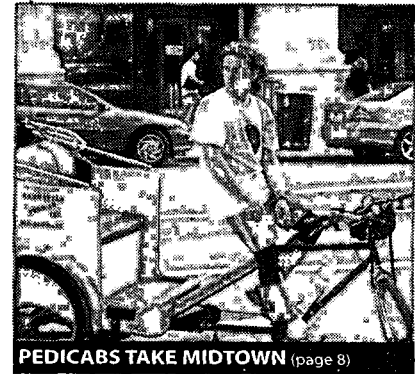


# JESUS CAMP NYC: 'HELL HOUSE' A HALLOWEEN HOWLER

## CUNY GRADUATE CENTER **Advocate**



PEDICABS TAKE MIDTOWN (page 8)

The Newspaper for the CUNY GC Community

October 2006

NEW ADDRESS! <http://gcadvocate.org>

## Excessive Force and James Fyfe's Long Shadow



Dr. Fyfe testifying at Amadou Diallo's trial in February, 2000.

COURT TV

CHARLES LIEBERMAN

Thursday, October 5th, marked the inception of the conference, titled Research and Policy on Police Accountability, commemorating the legacy of James Fyfe. Some of the most influential researchers in the field of policing, as well as a few leaders of major police agencies, presented papers. The conference, held at CUNY's John Jay College of Criminal Justice, included research on use of force by police, the policy impact of research, and commenced with the announcement of the first Fyfe Fellowship recipient, which was awarded to a doctoral student in the Criminal Justice Program who had served as a police officer. The fellowship is designed to fund future or current research in the field of policing. Speaking at the Fyfe Fellowship Dinner was Professor Jerome Skolnick, co-author with publications on policing, "Above the Law: Police and the Excessive Use of Force." Dr. Fyfe, a native of New York City, former New York City police officer, the first Deputy Commissioner for Training at the NYPD, and distinguished professor at CUNY, was one of the great scholars and researchers in the fields of police use of force and police training.

Although James Fyfe passed away last November, his work remains an important part of academic research in the field of criminal justice and policing. It is nearly impossible to research police use of force or police training without encountering a James Fyfe citation. Jeremy Travis, President of John Jay College of Criminal Justice, was quoted as saying that Dr. Fyfe's "research on the use of force changed the direction of police practice and legal doctrine." His expert testimony led to major changes in both police training and procedures regarding police use of force. He was also involved in Section 1983[1] litigation and consent decrees[2] for police departments, which affected major cities in the United States, such as Philadelphia, a city that Fyfe concluded was "one of the worst in the nation for lax discipline, excessive union power and an arbitration process that favors the police and cuts off most city appeals to the courts." [3] Consent decrees led to monitoring of police agencies by Federal authorities until the problems associated with the decree could be corrected. Dr. Fyfe conducted research and published extensively on police use of force.

Police use of force remains an issue that greatly concerns the public. Accountability for these officers of the law that employ force against members of the public has

continued page 9

## Columbia Protesters Oust Minuteman

On Wednesday, October 4th, left leaning student groups from across the city, including the CUNY Internationalist Group, gathered to protest a scheduled speech by the co-founder and spokesman of the Minuteman Project Jim Gilchrist. Gilchrist, who was invited by the Columbia College Republicans, was interrupted when a group of students from Columbia's Chicano Caucus climbed on stage with a banner reading "Say no to Racism." The melee that followed has become the source of a significant amount of debate, sparking discussions of the limits of free speech and public discourse on campuses across the country.

Gilchrist is the author of *Minutemen: the Battle to Secure America's Borders* and is an outspoken critic of current immigration law. His organization aims to prevent illegal immigration across American borders through political action and the creation of citizen border patrol groups. The Minutemen argue that they are "Americans doing the job that Congress won't do," but they have been widely criticized by many immigrant groups for supporting a racist and nativist political agenda. Although Gilchrist and his organization have taken pains to separate themselves from racist and nativist

groups, many, including the Southern Poverty Law Center, say that the minuteman project has become a cover for neo-Nazis and racist extremist groups like the National Alliance, whose members openly advocate violent vigilantism on US borders.

Protesters at Wednesday's rally posted an official response to the events on the internet.

"Fascist scapegoating is not up for academic discussion. Like Hitler in pre-Nazi Germany, Gilchrist and the Minutemen attempt to demonize foreign-born poor people, blaming "illegals" for society's problems. His group doesn't present reasoned debate. It spouts racism and hatred, aiming to divide people."

But official criticism of the protests was swift and overwhelming. President Bollinger of Columbia University responded to the protesters in a public statement on Friday, condemning the use of intimidation to silence speakers:

"It is unacceptable to seek to deprive another person of his or her right of expression through actions such as taking a stage and interrupting the

speech. We rightly have a visceral rejection of this behavior, because we all sense how easy it is to slide from our collective commitment to the hard work of intellectual confrontation to the easy path of physical brutishness. When the latter happens, we know instinctively we are all threatened."



Similarly, Mayor Bloomberg criticized Bollinger and Columbia University saying "I don't care whether you're from the hard left, the hard right ... if you get invited, whoever invites you should have the courtesy to let you speak and provide the protection so that you can do it."

Gilchrist responded that Columbia "is a gutter school. The students are not being taught how to learn but how to hate.... It is a shame that we cannot discuss the issues."

# Of Devils and Democracy

Let's face it: Americans are becoming an increasingly thin-skinned people. Fueled by the self-pity, anxiety, and insecurity of recent historical events—including the attacks on the world trade center and the disastrous outcome of our recent misadventures in Iraq—Americans are apparently less capable than ever of understanding or empathizing with their critics. We bristle at the slightest condemnation of our government, our culture, or our international policy, while failing to realize that this lack of self-reflection and understanding is precisely at the heart of our problems.

The American public's bumbling and inane response to the recent UN speeches by Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad are two telling examples of this knee-jerk jingoism. Regardless of what you might think about the two leaders—Ahmadinejad is certainly no angel—their respective speeches at the United Nations marked the beginning of the end of America's unquestioned global authority, and as such represented a potentially transformative shift in global democracy from a world dominated by U.S. interests, to one more broadly representative of the needs of all nations. Ironically, it seems, it might be from the global south, from the mestizos and indigenes of Venezuela and Mexico that global democracy will find its greatest supporters and not, despite all of our president's empty rhetoric, from the United States.

Although the popular media and politicians, both conservative and liberal, raced to be the first to condemn and ridicule Chavez's speech for its over the top characterization of President Bush as the devil, few of them seemed capable of understanding what Chavez was really saying or the real significance of the event. Charles Rangel's idiotic response: "an attack on Bush is an attack on all Americans," made him the darling of the conservative New York Post, garnering him a spot on the front page, and even John Stewart, once an irreproachable defender of the freedom to satirize America and the American media, joined the mob of angry voices, suggesting that

## From the Editor's Desk

Chavez's "insane" theatrics detract from real criticisms of the president: "calling Bush the devil is just stupid!" But Stewart is wrong. Chavez's speech and his outrageous characterization of President Bush as the devil, was anything but stupid. Quite the opposite, Chavez's theatrics were a calculated performance, designed to draw attention, not to himself, but to the hypocrisy of the U.S. Chavez could have offered a more moderate, less outrageous critique of President Bush and American foreign

policy, as other members of the UN did that week, but it would have been widely ignored. As such Chavez's speech was a refined mixture of substance and flash. Designed to create a media stir and draw attention to the problems of a U.S. dominated United Nations and the failure of American policy to lead the world, Chavez's speech could not have been more successful. But Chavez did more than merely call the president the devil.

Chavez's speech, full of references to Noam Chomsky and Alfred Hitchcock, displayed a familiar and sympathetic acquaintance with the intellectual American left, perhaps his greatest ally in containing and curtailing American power. It's no coincidence that before calling the president a devil, Chavez recommended uber-liberal Noam Chomsky's *Hegemony or Survival*—now #18 on Amazon's best seller list—saying "the first people who should read this book are our brothers and sisters in the United States, because their threat is right in their own house." Similarly, Chavez's call to move the UN to Caracas may have been hyperbole designed to get attention, but there is in fact a good argument to be made for this. The United States, through its abuses of power in the Security Council has done everything that it can to destroy the legitimate sovereignty of the United Nations for decades now. Chavez's suggestion gets to the heart of that hypocrisy.

Likewise, Ahmadinejad's speech, taken on its own, was remarkably sensible—especially for a man primarily defined as a holocaust denier. Much longer, more substantive and less theatrical than Chavez's speech, Ahmadinejad's offered

continued page 5

## Advocate

<http://gcadvocate.org>

CUNY Graduate Center, Rm. 5396  
365 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, NY 10016  
Tel: 212.817.7884  
Email: [advocate@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:advocate@gc.cuny.edu)

### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

James Hoff

### MANAGING EDITOR

Lindsay Krasnoff

### LAYOUT EDITOR

Mark Wilson

### ONLINE EDITOR

Abigail Schoneboom

### MEDIA BOARD CHAIR

David Hamilton Golland

### CONTRIBUTORS

Anton Borst, Frank Episale, Tim Krause, Matt Lau, Charles Lieberman, Jason Schulman, Timothy Shortell, Dan Venning.

THE ADVOCATE is the student paper of the CUNY Graduate Center and published six times a year. Publication is subsidized by Student Activities Fees and the Doctoral Student Council.

THE ADVOCATE accepts contributions of articles, illustrations, photos and letters to the editor. Please query the above email address. Articles selected for publication will be subjected to editorial revision. Writers who contribute stories of 1,000 words will be reimbursed \$50 and those who submit longer articles requiring research will receive \$75. We also pay for photos.

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.

### To The Editor:

As someone who conceives of democracy "as a way of life," it bothers me when I see others who self-identify as "left" engaging in behavior that discredits the cause. Case in point: Kevin Barrett and the whole "Loose Change" 9-11-was-an-inside-job-crowd. These folks are often critical of the US government (which they should be), but then they want everyone to believe that the Bush Administration has the brains to pull off a conspiracy which makes the story-lines from the combined 5 seasons of 24 look like something Dr. Bunsen hatched in his Muppet lab? A conspiracy as vast as Barrett and company envision involves lots of people, and people tend to talk. Give me a break guys.

Ditto the "leftist" students who disrupted Minuteman (his organization, not his wife's nickname for him) Jim Gilchrist's speech at Columbia the first week in October. Freedom of speech, which has allowed many an idea left of the pale to be aired, applies to those whose views we disagree with too. Shutting guests up and bullying them is just as bad if the perp is Bill O'Reilly or the Columbia chapter of the International Socialist Organization.

People like Barrett and the rowdy lefties at Columbia (maybe they're angry over all the money they're lay-

## Letters to the Editor

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

ing out for the Columbia imprima-tur--shoulda gone to the GC guys!) don't help the cause. They do exactly the opposite. What motivates them? I think D.H. Lawrence was wrong in his assessment of pacifist Bertrand Russell's motivations, but that his words to the philosopher could be applied to Barrett and the Columbia campus rowdies: "It isn't in the least true that you, your basic self, want ultimate peace. You are satisfying in an indirect, false way your lust to jab and strike."

### TONY MONCHINSKI

Student in the Political Science Program and author of the forthcoming "The Politics of Education" (Sense Publishers)

### To The Editor:

Defending immigrants against Minuteman vigilantes is vital to us throughout CUNY, our classmates, the students we teach and the multiethnic working class of this city. In protesting the Minutemen, we are helping defend literally thousands of "undocumented" students at CUNY. Many are from families that brave

dangerous desert or ocean crossings, "Migra" helicopters and now Minuteman vigilantes. In areas around New York (including Long Island and New Jersey), anti-immigrant vigilantes have targeted immigrant day laborers for violent attacks. Now the Minutemen are pushing to organize racist vigilantes inside the city itself.

This is not an issue of "free speech" but of defending ourselves against the Minuteman racists, who are not a debating society but an action squad that helps kill immigrants. They are linked to and have been joined by other fascist and violent racist groups like the National Vanguard, National Alliance and KKK. Just five blocks from the Grad Center on October 7, an anti-Mexican rally by the Minutemen featured skinhead fascists and thugs -- one of whom had kicked a Columbia protester in the head and was wearing a shirt with boot prints and the slogan "Stomp Out Illegal Immigration" -- screaming for more deportations and attacks on immigrants. It is vital that we defend the students who protested the Minutemen at Columbia University; and that we join with the power of the multiracial labor movement to keep out these murderous vigilante squads.

### SANDOR JOHN

Adjunct (History) and supporter of the CUNY Internationalist Clubs

## Check out the all-new Advocate web site

New, cleaner design • Searchable text • Subscribe • Submission guidelines  
with more new features to come...

# [www.gcadvocate.org](http://www.gcadvocate.org)