

THE HUNTER ENVOY

STUDENT VOICE OF HUNTER COLLEGE, VOL. LV, #10 • 15 FEB 00

BLACK HISTORY

BLACK LABOR

WHITE WAVE AT HUNTER

HIPHOP & GLOBAL CULTURE

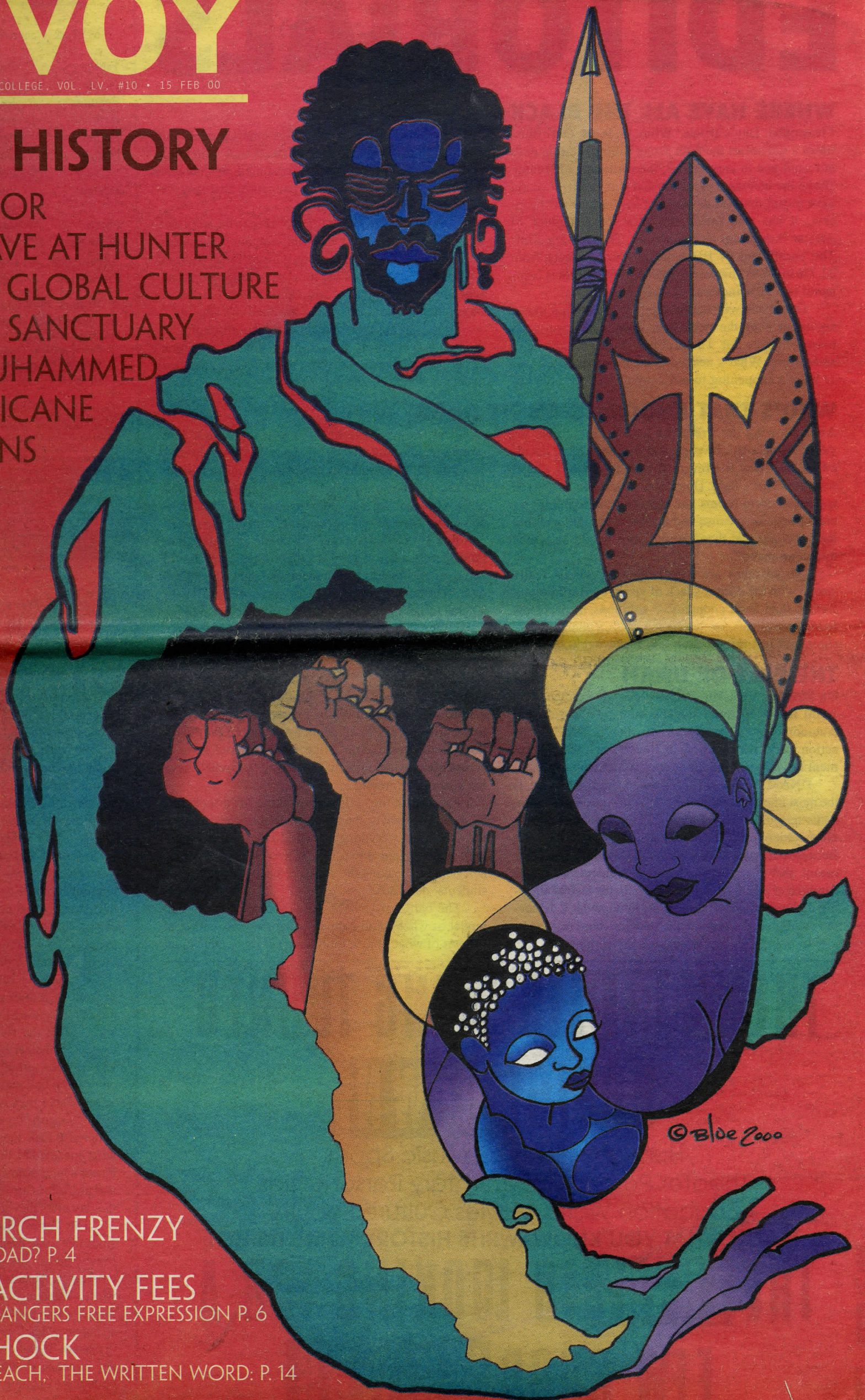
WITHOUT SANCTUARY

ELIJAH MUHAMMED

THE HURRICANE

INVENTIONS

ADVICE



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EDITORIALS

WHERE HAVE ALL THE BLACK PEOPLE GONE?

Christopher Day's article "White In, Black Out" illustrates a sad secret the 80th Street Administration does not want you to know about: the whitening of Hunter. While the increases in tuition and cuts in financial aid have meant more of us working harder for that sheepskin, it has also meant the slow disappearance of African-Americans on our campus. The facts are clear: The enrollment of Black people has dropped from 23.7% to 16.9% between 1993 and 1997. This is compared to a 50% increase in white enrollment.

This space will not be used to engage in a moral argument over the need over open admissions and increased state aid. The problem is deeper than right and wrong. What's needed is a collective awareness of what's happening to our campus and our commu-

nities. Whether that means the re-emergence of the dormant Black Student Union or an alliance with Latin and Asian students, the point is: something must be done to defend our right to an education and only we can do it.

As for President David Caputo; keep to the spirit and letter of your support for affirmative action. This means drastically increased spending on tutoring for students of color and an increase in the number of fellowships and scholarships for Black, Asian, and Latino students. A dozen fellowships doesn't help the hundreds kept out.

What's going on at Hunter isn't about bringing in the best and brightest. Rather, it is a cynical reflection of our education process where the right skin and class mean the right to higher ed.

WHO'S THAT KNOCKING ON MY DOOR

After allowing the fire alarm system to crumble for years, Pamela Burthwright and company have decided the best way to prevent fires is to conduct illegal searches. That's right. Dormitory officials have entered residents' dorm rooms and searched through drawers and closets for incense and toaster ovens. Who would have thought that these useful items would be turned into contraband?

The searches are a reflection of what's really wrong with the dorms, a lack of vision by Burthwright. Rather than seek cooperative solutions to problems faced by residents, Burthwright insists on punitive measures and last minute stop-gap make-work. Security

problem? Only allow residents two visits per week. Fire problem? Raid students' living space. Burthwright consistently deploys clumsy innovations to make it seem like she's doing something to earn her pay. Her failure to get a functioning alarm system up and running is hidden under accusations of residents skirting the rules.

Rather than harp on the Brookdale administration (and there's a lot to harp on these days), we should shout out the dozens for students who didn't get rolled over. 50 students jam-packed the president's office in a show of solidarity against these outrageous actions. The action seemed to work. The searches have been halted and legal action is being discussed.

THE FALL OF UNAM

On Monday, Feb. 7th, the Mexican government sent 1,000 troops to evict students holding the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). The action marks the first time in 30 years that the government has allowed the military on a Mexican campus.

UNAM, a kind of CUNY meets the Ivy League, is the most important university in Latin America. The students seized the university in defiance of an attempt to raise tuition from the nominal 10 cent fee to \$149. Because the average daily wage in Mexico is \$3, the hike meant that the average Mexican student would be deprived of an university education. In the face of allowing money and political interests to wipe out a democratic tradition of education, the students chose resistance.

In doing so, they controlled the campus for nine

months. The organization of the students was based on a consensus model. Initially, everyone from workers, to security guards to students had a say in the direction of the strike. The strike also garnered support across Mexico including in Chiapas, where rebels have led a peasant uprising.

Faced with the reality of touching off discontented sectors of society, the Mexican establishment, which has privatized everything from oil fields to land, fought with vigor to put down the strike. The government, hell-bent on breaking the strike, refused to consider the students' demands.

The battle of UNAM should be seen as a proud model of what could happen when students gather in support of what's basic for human survival: education.

THE WORLD IS BEING TURNED UPSIDE DOWN

Hunter Clubs NYC Music Sports
Theater Politics Commentary Personalities
Education World Movies Culture Faculty

TEACH WHAT YOU KNOW • WRITE HISTORY WHILE ITS HOT

THE ENVOY IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD WRITERS

THE HUNTER
ENVOY

STUDENT VOICE OF HUNTER COLLEGE, VOL. LV, #10 • 15 FEB 00

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Editorials appearing on the Editorial pages of the Hunter Envoy express the majority opinion of its staff unless otherwise indicated. Opinions in the Open Mic represent the viewpoints of the writers and are not counted towards staff credit. The Envoy reserves the right to edit letters and submissions for space and clarity. The Envoy is printed bi-monthly on Tuesdays. The Envoy's advertising policies are not to be confused with its editorial policy or contents. Any reprint of material without the consent of the Editor-in-Chief is not permitted. Please feel free to contact us for reprints, all power to the people.

COMMENTARY

the gospel according to the ferret

V-DAY BITTERS



The best thing about Valentine's Day is when people who have actual significant others ask you what you're doing to celebrate that night. You give them a dirty look, you say "nothing," or you laugh it off, but either way, you both know the score. Of course, you could always just lie.

Today is Valentine's Day, and the Ferret wishes all of you people with paramours well. The rest of us who are, shall we say, between relationships, are trying desperately to suppress the hatred we feel every time we see another one of you with your fifty dyed fake carnations and ten obnoxious balloons taking up three seats on the bus or half of the sidewalk.

The Ferret's subway station happens to be in front of a high school, and the Ferret happened to be going into it around 2:30 this afternoon, when the students were just starting to leave. Oh, the herds of teenybopper 13, 14, and 15 year-olds toting massive teddy bears, flowers, candy, balloons, bags of gifts, barely able to see where they were going. The Ferret was, at first, nearly consumed with bitterness and tempted to kick one of them over, but was somewhat consoled by the fact that, as a friend of the Ferret's later pointed out, their little boyfriends and girlfriends are probably going to dump them the day after they get it on at the junior prom.

The Ferret was not convinced, especially since that same friend has a date tonight anyway. Maybe he can live it up for the both of us. I'm crossing my fingers for us, man. Right on! Meanwhile, Valentine's Day can kiss my ass. Now there's a line that'll go down in history. Well, it so happens that I've got a hot date later too. With my hand. Tonight when I'm going home, and I see someone younger than me with flowers and balloons, I'm going to trip them up and run away.

GOV'S STATE BUDGET CUTS FINANCIAL AID, CHILDCARE, FACULTY

Jed Brandt
PRODUCTION MANAGER

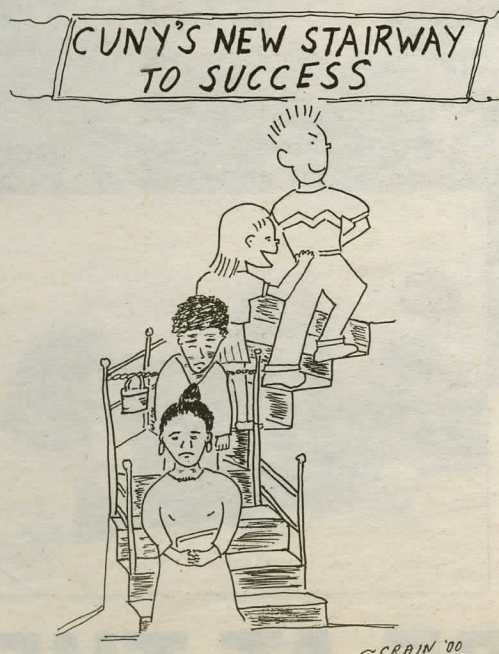
In what has become a dreaded rite of spring, New York Governor George Pataki's budget proposal for the coming year includes drastic cuts to the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), SEEK, Childcare and freezes funding lines for new faculty.

"These cuts directly target the most at-risk students in the system; single mothers and poor students," said Sandra Barros, project coordinator for USG.

Programs at both senior and community colleges are on the chopping block. TAP is the main state financial aid program and has already been eliminated for part-time students. The new budget would shrink the pool from which individual need-based grants are distributed by 8.5%.

SEEK, the program designed before open admissions to secure diversity at the City University, is also targeted even though it is mandated by state law. *SEEK at Brooklyn College is threatened with closing.*

With an estimated 300 members of the CUNY-wide teaching staff retiring this spring, the complete elimination of funds for new faculty are raising concerns of further reliance on adjuncts in already strained programs.



WHAT IS THE PATAKI ATTACK?

PROGRAM	1999 ALLOCATION	CHANGE IN 2000
CUNY SENIOR COLLEGES		
Childcare	\$1,230,000	-39.41%
Add Faculty	\$1,880.00	-100%
SEEK	\$1,950,000	-14.13%
CUNY COMMUNITY COLLEGES		
Total	\$1,083,000	-0.83%
Child Care	\$510,000	-37.09%
Add Faculty	\$980,000	-100%
TAP	\$40,100,000	-8.52%

Kimmich Takes Over as Brooklyn College President

Former interim CUNY Chancellor Christoph Kimmich took office on February 1 as Brooklyn College's newest president. Kimmich, a former history professor and provost of Brooklyn College, became acting chancellor in 1997 after Chancellor Ann Reynolds was forced out by Giuliani and his Board allies. Kimmich was replaced by Chancellor Matthew Goldstein and appointed to Brooklyn College six months ago, but decided to take some time off before returning to CUNY. He faces several tasks at Brooklyn College, including a large ongoing reconstruction project and a lack of funding.

CUNY Advocate Group Protests Proposed TAP, SEEK Cuts

On Wednesday, February 2, CUNY Is Our Future, a coalition of community groups, students, and faculty advocating open access to CUNY held an emergency conference at City Hall to call attention to NY Governor George Pataki's proposed budget cuts in programs that benefit CUNY's poorest students. The proposed 2000 executive budget calls for a \$2 million cut in SEEK, CUNY's primary program for disadvantaged students at the senior colleges, a combined \$2 million reduction in child care services to CUNY senior and community colleges (a 38% cut) and a statewide Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) cut of \$40 million.

New Scholarships for CUNY Minority Students

The Carver Scholarship Fund formally presented \$145,000 to CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein in January 28 to establish a new scholarship program for CUNY math, science, and engineering students. Students are eligible for the scholarships through CUNY's Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) in Science, Engineering, and Mathematics. Current LSAMP scholars include Hunter College geography major Xiomara Aguilera.

Prelude to Success Numbers In

The preliminary enrollment figures for the Prelude to Success program are in. The program pairs a senior and community college and, in the wake of the remediation ban at senior colleges, provides students who failed one of the CUNY placement tests by a small margin with a "smoother transition process" from that community college to its senior college partner. Hunter College is paired with the Borough of Manhattan Community College. The tallies are: Hunter, 62 students (30 first years, 32 transfers); Brooklyn College, 35 students (32 first years, 3 transfers); Baruch College, 61 students (3 first years, 58 transfers); and Queens College, 34 students (5 first years, 29 transfers). There are currently no numbers available on how many students have been excluded from the senior colleges under the new remediation policy.

CUNY MEDIA

STEP BACK! JUDGE CITES FIRST AMENDMENT CALLS FOR INJUNCTION AGAINST CUNY ADMINISTRATION'S MEDDLING IN STUDENT POLITICS & MEDIA

Eulan Atkinson and Jed Brandt
MANAGING EDITOR AND PRODUCTION MANAGER

Pointing the way to a possible resolution in the contentious *Husain v. Springer* case, Federal Magistrate Judge Cheryl Pollak has recommended that a preliminary injunction be issued prohibiting CUNY officials from canceling student government elections or taking reprisals against student newspapers for publishing endorsements, editorials or articles relating to student government elections.

"The loss of First Amendment freedoms for even minimal periods of time constitutes irreparable injury," wrote Pollak, who noted previous Supreme Court rulings to that effect.

The civil suit was originally filed in 1997 by ten College of Staten Island students against CSI president Marlene Springer, charging that she unfairly interfered with student elections and freedom of speech. Springer annulled the results of a student election when student newspaper *The College Voice*

endorsed candidates.

Springer contended that a special election issue was a "thinly veiled... piece of campaign literature" that compromised the fairness of the electoral process. The students responded that Springer's actions violated a 1995 Supreme Court ruling, which prohibits censorship of viewpoints in student publications at public colleges.

A similar case at City College, *Sigal v. Moses* involves *The Messenger*, a graduate student newspaper there. In both cases, elected, activist student governments were disqualified due to real or perceived endorsements from publications funded by student activity fees.

Election nullification has only been used against activist slates. At CSI, many individuals were involved in both the student government and *The College Voice*. *The Messenger* did not actually endorse a slate.

"We hadn't endorsed candidates and had printed statements from all can-

didates contending," said Brad Sigal, the editor of *The Messenger*. The only connection of note was a shared commitment to open admissions between an undergraduate political group and the graduate student newspaper.

This didn't stop former CCNY President Yolanda Moses from shutting down the Graduate Student Council until elections were held in the fall of 1998. *The Messenger's* funding was cut off and the computer and office were taken away, greatly limiting its publishing and distribution. The paper is currently funded by private donations.

The Voice did not lose funding, but the student election was annulled. Former CSI Voice editor Sara Husain is in Pakistan and could not be reached for comment.

William Wharton, the current editor of the *Voice* testified that they have cut coverage of student government news to avoid administration "retribution." At Hunter, the *Envoy* reduced coverage and

issued no endorsement in the 1999 student elections to avoid a possible election annulment.

"[Judge Pollak's] decision may wind up being adopted by Judge Griesa in the related lawsuit *Sigal v. Moses*, said attorney and long-time CUNY student advocate Ron McGuire, who is representing both Husain and Sigal.

CUNY has ten days to file any objections to Judge Pollak's recommendations. The students have asked Judge Gershon to issue an order before the beginning of April that would enable the students to publish their Spring 2000 election issue without the fear of reprisals by CUNY officials, according to McGuire.

The next hearing in *Husain v. Springer* is scheduled for March 3, 2000 at 10:00 AM before Judge Pollak at the Eastern District of New York courthouse at 225 Cadman Plaza East. Some information for this article was taken from a press release by McGuire.

BROOKDALE DORMS



DORM FRENZY: Above, 50-odd Brookdale residents pack Caputo's office demanding room searches cease; **ARTICULATING THE PROBLEM:** Right, members of the Brookdale Council explain their position. From left, Alan Sharafa, Zana Abdul-Wahabb, Nermene Abdel-Wahab (not related).

SHIRA NUSSDORF

STEVEN RINALDI

SEARCH & SEIZURE AT THE DORMS

RANDOM SEARCHES SUSPENDED AFTER STUDENT PROTEST

Shira Nussdorf
STAFF WRITER

No candles, incense or smoking. No hot plates or microwaves. No privacy. The dormitories at the Brookdale campus are a haven for students on a budget, but concerned residents are now asking whether student status means lack of rights. In the aftermath of random, unannounced searches of their rooms and personal effects.

The tightening of safety regulations at Brookdale was sparked by the tragic fire at a Seton Hall University dormitory in January. Residents of the Hunter dorms were caught by surprise when they received a series of memos warning students of impending room searches.

Led by the Brookdale Council, a student group which acts as the intermediary between dorm residents and the Hunter College administration, residents mobilized to demand an end to the searches. After a series of tense meetings, President Caputo issued a suspension of searches pending a clarification of policy.

On February 9, led by the Hunter Undergraduate Student Government, approximately 50 students with hand-made signs marched into President Caputo's office during his open hours, demanding that room searches be stopped and that they be given more input into the decisions that directly affect life at Brookdale.

"It's about respect," said Joshua Stone, dorm resident and SLAM/USG Finance Commissioner. "We went through all the proper procedures. We asked that lines of communication be opened and what we received was an immediate slap in the face."

"The purpose of the searches had nothing to do with trying to deny you your

rights," Hunter President David Caputo said to the students. "Rights of safety in this particular case supersede your individual rights. I'd be glad to fight you in court about it. If there are illegal things in your drawers, we have the right to take them out."

The list of "illegal things" that violate Brookdale's fire safety regulations includes candles, halogen lamps, incense, microwave ovens, toasters and toaster ovens, air conditioners, grills, waffle irons, and miscellaneous appliances, extension cords, and multi-plug adapters. At the end of the Fall 1999 semester, the Brookdale Residence reported 127 safety violations, including 13 smoking offenses and 7 cases of covering smoke detectors.

"We are faced with the issue of ensuing residents' safety," said Sylvia Fishman, Hunter's administrative Vice-President for Student Affairs, who was also present at the meeting. "Unfortunately, by some residents' own admission, there are commonplace violations of the policies enumerated in Living at Hunter," the college guide to dorm life.

Upon being asked by Brookdale resident Kerin Megan Carty whether he would "halt all searches as a measure of good faith until negotiations are over," Caputo responded, "Let me ask you this, will you go with me to tell parents that their child is dead because of a fire in someone else's room?"

President Caputo failed to mention that millions of apartment dwellers smoke cigarettes, burn incense and engage in private illegal behavior without having their apartments searched, a fact that was not lost on the students. The difference between an apartment building and a university dormitory was not clarified.

Many students agreed that poor

conditions at the dorms are potential fire hazards, but they argued that it was the common rooms, and not the individual rooms that posed the greatest risks.

"The kitchen themselves are fire hazards. They need to be inspected. There also aren't working microwaves on each floor. If there were, students wouldn't need microwaves in the room," said ZANAY SOMETHING. The administrators listened as students spoke about improper labeling of fire exits and broken stoves in the kitchen area. After much debate, Caputo agreed to stop the searches until both sides could come to an agreement.

A less confrontational meeting was held the following day. Students met with Hunter Vice President for Administration Thomas Tyburczy, Brookdale Director of Residence Life Pamela Burthwright, and other administrators.

"The students' concerns are the same as yours," said Alan Sharafa, head of the Brookdale Council. "Their safety versus their rights, and there are students on both sides of the fence. But there is a unanimous decision that room checks need to be announced. We all agree especially about there being a 24 hour notice."

Liam Flynn-Jambeck, a Brookdale resident and USG's External Affairs Commissioner, said that it was written into the contract signed by Brookdale residents that they would be given notice before searches were conducted. "Basically, we just want you to honor your own contract," he said.

Vice President Tyburczy did not contradict him, but said that "If we have an announced visit, the idea would be that if a person did have an item that was banned, that could start a fire, it would be removed. Then once the inspection took place it would be brought back, and the inspection

would be useless. That was the idea behind the unannounced random room inspections."

This angered several of the students, who condemned the lack of trust that the administration had in students. Tyburczy then asked for "suggestions how we could possibly do this so that the administration would be comfortable with this and [at] the same time respect the privacy of everybody."

The students presented the administration with a copy of the "Brookdale Council Proposal on the Issue of Fire Safety in the Residence," which, among other things, requested more fire extinguishers on each floor and fire safety seminars.

After several meetings between the students and the administration, the searches were halted until further notice. Students agreed that there should be an increase in fire safety and awareness, but not by disregarding their right to privacy.

"It is imperative that we do everything in our power to make sure that items that could possibly start fire are not in the dorm rooms and we thought that the best way to do that would be through unannounced visits," said one administrator. Some students were not placated by this semi-apology, and noted that although there the inspections have come to a halt, no formal decisions have been announced.

"It's aggravating that we have to go through all these red-tape procedures," said a searchee who did not want his name used. "I still don't feel secure." Other students, however, felt that the talks were very helpful. "We demanded that they stop searching until we spoke to them," said one student who was present at both the February 9 and 10 meetings. "At least we got them to stop."

CRISIS AT BROOKDALE: a chronology

Fall 1999 Semester ROOM INSPECTIONS BEGIN

In an effort to insure students had not tampered with smoke alarms (by placing bags over the smoke detectors) or stolen furniture from the residence hall, random searches go into effect. Inspections were conducted in the evening so residents could be present, and student Residence Assistants accompanied dormitory staff during all checks. In addition, students were given 24 hours notice of when they would occur. Several students complained, however, that Pamela Burthwright, Director of Residence Life violated their rights to privacy by asking them to open closets for further inspection because they looked "suspicious".

January 19, 2000 - DORMITORY FIRE!

Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ - A dormitory with no sprinkler system bursts into flames. Three students are killed and 58 injured. Many claimed to have ignored the initial warning because of 18 previous false alarms that year.

January 28 - PROHIBITED ITEMS

Hunter students are issued memos reminding of the prohibition of various items in the Brookdale dorms. Several new restrictions are listed which had not been mentioned on the original "Living at Hunter" contract signed by residents.

January 31 - THE BATTLE BEGINS

Students are warned in a letter that if prohibited items are found during room inspections, removal from the Residence Hall and criminal prosecution may take place. The posted date of the memo is January 28, but it was not placed under the doors until January 31.

February 2 - BROOKDALE COUNCIL RESPONDS

The Council demanded that checks be halted until an open meeting with President Caputo, and Vice President Fishman. Students demand a) prior notification of searches, b) the names of the persons who will be conducting the inspections, and c) that the exact procedures be documented and uniform

February 7 - SAFETY INSPECTIONS BEGIN

10:00 a.m.: The searches led by Brookdale security's John Shore begins. Witness say Shore enters several rooms unattended while another unidentified man waits outside. Security claims that the reason one guard did not enter was because he was trying to restrain and answer questions of concerned onlookers.

3:00 p.m.: Memo stating that "Safety Inspections" would be conducted between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. put under students' door approximately five hours after the searches had already begun. In addition, students are informed that "The College reserves the right to search any areas when there is a reasonable suspicion that is a violation of New York State, New York City, or college policy has been committed or is in progress." Students are warned about "disciplinary proceedings."

10:00 p.m.: BROOKDALE COUNCIL EMERGENCY MEETING
Student council mobilizes in order to alert students of the current crisis.

11:00 p.m.: DORM-WIDE MEETING AND DISCUSSION

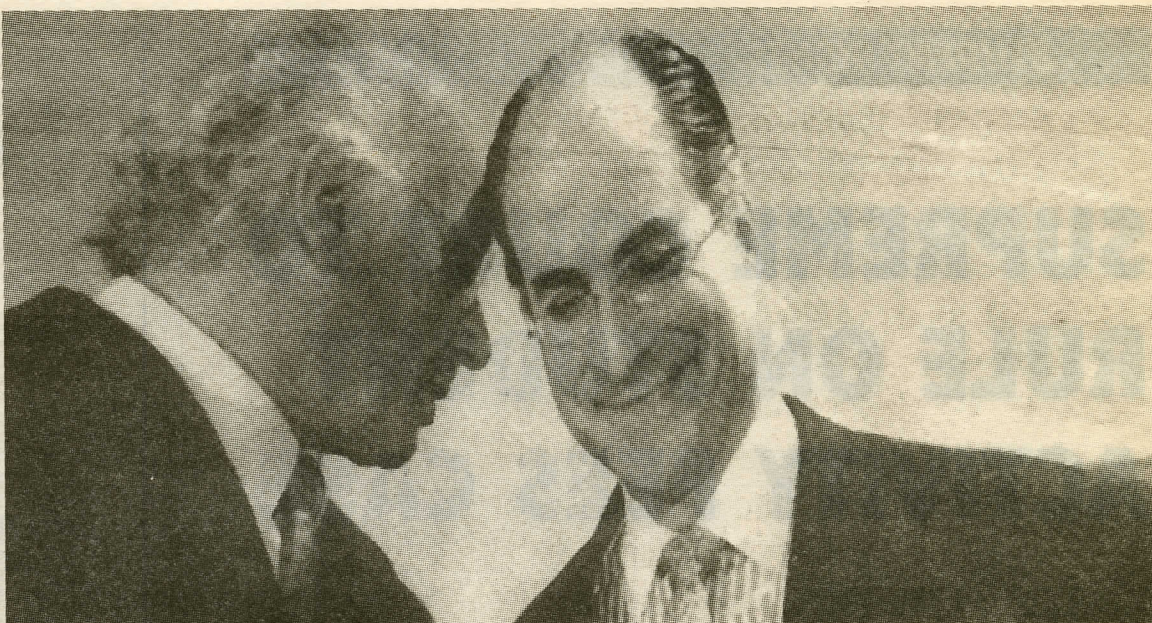
Brookdale Council members go door to door and round up approximately 100 residents into the cafeteria. The plan is to meet with President Caputo and demand that all room checks be halted until students are "spoken to on equal terms".

February 9 - PICKETING AND PROTESTS, SUSPENSION

Approximately 50 students picket President Caputo's office with signs and take over his office hours. Dean Fishman and VP Thomas Tyburczy are also present. Caputo agrees to suspend searches and two follow up meetings.

February 10 - ADMINISTRATION SUSPENDS SEARCHES

Pending a final decision, Tyburczy takes Brookdale councils program of action to Caputo for consultation.



SWEET NOTHING: CUNY Chancellor Goldstein pow-wowing with Board of Ed big Levy on new exams.

EDUCATION BIGS PROPOSE CUNY PLACEMENT TESTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Lev Davidson
STAFF WRITER

On February 7, City University Chancellor Matthew Goldstein and new interim Board of Education Schools Chancellor Harold O. Levy jointly announced that within three years, all city high school students would be allowed to take the CUNY math and English tests as early as ninth grade.

The announcement comes only a month after the ousting of former schools chancellor Rudy Crew and the elevation of former New York State Regent Levy to

the position. Levy, who was a Regent at the time of the November 22 State Regent vote on remediation at the CUNY senior colleges, voted to end it.

According to the new plan, which expands the College Now program, students who fail the placement tests in high school can take remedial courses with CUNY professors or adjuncts before they get to college. Those who pass will be allowed to take some college-level courses in high school.

College Now provides remedial help to high school students

before they reach college. In the next two years, Goldstein and Levy hope to expand the program to 213 high schools and 45,000 students.

The announcement was followed by the endorsement of CUNY Board of Trustees Chair Herman Badillo, who was the driving force behind the remediation ban at CUNY's senior colleges.

"We hope that this work with students will ensure that they will not need remedial assistance when they get to college," he said.

SEXUAL POLITICS

VAGINA MONOLOGUES TOO SEXY FOR CUNY SEZ CONSERVATIVE GROUP WITH TIME TO SPARE

Fatima Rashid
STAFF WRITER

The Borough of Manhattan Community College, the College of Staten Island, and Queens College are all scheduled to hold performances of "The Vagina Monologues," based on a book by Manhattan playwright Eve Ensler, as part of a national "V-Day 2000 College Initiative."

According to the conservative interest group CHANGE-NY, which calls itself "New York's leading taxpayer organization," the material glorifies lesbian statu-

tory rape and should not be performed on Valentine's Day or any other day at public campuses. Performances are also supposed to be held at three State University of New York (SUNY) colleges.

"If any campus president is willing to read large sections of the book to the parents paying the tuitions, I will withdraw my objections," said CHANGE-NY president Tom Carroll.

According to Ensler's publicist, "The Vagina Monologues" is part of her dedication to combating sexual violence. The per-

formances are expected to raise \$1 million for rape crisis centers and shelters.

"That is so ridiculous," said one Hunter student, after hearing about the protest. "This is a college, not an elementary school. Who are they trying to protect anyway? Everyone's an adult here, and I don't know what they're talking about with parents paying people's tuitions. I work and I pay my own tuition."

The NY Daily News was used as a source for this article.

HUNTER BRIEFS

Hunter Doctorate for James Earl Jones

Hunter plans to award an honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts to James Earl Jones at the June 1, 2000 Commencement. Honorary doctorates will also be awarded to four others, including Bel Kaufman and Oscar Arias Sanchez.

Envoy Staffers Win Presidential Fellowships

Former Hunter Envoy photo editor Manny Saenz-Reyes (Film and Media Studies) and Envoy copy editor Nathaniel Joshua Miller (History) were among the seven students named as the newest Hunter Presidential Scholar Fellowship recipients

on February 8. The other students were: Matt Moore and Patricia Ellis (Anthropology), Petra Richter (History), and Rebecca Brown and Olesya Tkacheva (Political Science).

Grants for Faculty Members

The Fall 1999 recipients of the Presidential Faculty Incentive and Teaching Grants were also announced on February 8. Awards were given to eighteen faculty members for various projects in 13 different departments, with Film and Media, Curriculum and Teaching, and Special Education receiving two grants each.

SUPREME COURT TO RULE ON STUDENT ACTIVITY FEES CASE

Diana Fryda
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The United States Supreme Court will soon decide whether student groups that are "political" or "ideological" are eligible to receive funding from the student activity fee. The case arises from Wisconsin, where the 7th Federal Circuit Court overturned the University of Wisconsin's student activity fee system. That ruling is directly opposed to rulings in other circuit courts, including the 2nd Circuit, which covers New York State.

Three students recruited by the Alliance Defense Fund sued 18 student organizations and the University of Wisconsin because they did not want to pay for activities that they disagree with. The groups sued include campus cultural organizations, environmental groups, women's groups, LGBT groups, WISPIRG, Amnesty International and others.

"The Seventh Circuit Court's decision is completely unreasonable, and goes against other court decisions," said Angie Duthie, a member of NYPIRG. "We hope the Supreme Court recognizes what other courts have recognized: that the student activity fee provides all sorts of great educational opportunities for students."

The Alliance Defense Fund argues that students who pay fees that support organizations whose activities they

oppose are having their First Amendment rights infringed on. The University of Wisconsin and others assert that there is no First Amendment infringement given that student activity fees, like tuition and other collective charges support a "marketplace of ideas" with a wide range of viewpoints and opinions. They also argue that the educational mission of colleges and universities cannot be fulfilled without the ability to fund activities that involve the expression of ideas and opinions.

The two sides in the legal dispute represent vastly different views of higher education. The side opposing the student activity fee includes the Alliance Defense Fund, the National Smokers Alliance (which represents the tobacco industry) and the Rutherford Institute (which funded Paula Jones' lawsuit).

In support of the University of Wisconsin are a wide range of higher education policy organizations, including the American Council on Education, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and the College Board. The Student Press Law Center, the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Education Association also support the University of Wisconsin and the student activity fee.

Oral arguments in the case were heard in November. A decision in the case is expected soon.

NEW COALITION FIGHTS FOR STUDENTS RIGHTS Hunter Joins Response to High Court Activity Fees Case

Umunyana Rugege
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

USG last week joined hundreds of student organizations at Hunter College and on college campuses throughout New York State in a coalition defending student rights. The Supreme Court is considering a case that will affect the use of student activity fees at public colleges all over the country.

The Court will soon decide whether student activity fees can support student clubs or organizations that engage in 'political' or 'ideological' activities. At Hunter, a wide range of student organizations could be affected.

In response to this case, NYPIRG is spearheading an effort to build a coalition in support of students' rights to fund diverse activities in their campus communities. "A university is a place of ideas and opinions and students cele-

brate the diversity of opinion through club activities. College is about being exposed to different cultures and ideas," says Marc Gilkes a freshman at Hunter, "agreeing or disagreeing with them is part of the learning experience, and tolerance is essential."

NYPIRG plans to organize a coalition of 1,000 student groups throughout New York State. So far, over 30 clubs and organizations at Hunter and about 550 CUNY and SUNY wide have signed onto the coalition. The purpose of the coalition is to send a powerful message to decision makers that students support a diverse range of groups that are made possible by the student activity fees and are willing to defend their right to free expression.

Students or clubs interested in joining the campaign can contact NYPIRG at (212) 772-4304 or 314 Thomas Hunter Hall.

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NOT ANOTHER 1968: Hunter students and others at the Mexican consulate on February 7.

MEXICAN POLICE CRUSH UNAM STUDENT PROTEST

745 ARRESTED AMIDST FEARS OF REPEAT MASSACRE

Envoy Staff

On February 6, Mexican federal police moved in on the campus of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), arresting 745 people and bloodlessly crushing the student strike over tuition that had paralyzed the largest university in Latin America for the last nine months.

The move by Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo and university authorities came in the wake of a violent February 1 battle between striking students and 200 anti-strike university custodians, traffic directors, and security guards. Television footage broadcast throughout Mexico showed scenes of the strikers throwing rocks at and beating the anti-strikers, 37 of whom were injured.

A general public outcry at the anarchic scenes prompted President Zedillo to action, particularly after concern over the issue began to overshadow his reelection campaign. That night, 400 Mexican federal officers carrying clubs and plastic shields fought their way into an UNAM building, knocking over barricades of

desks and chairs erected by the strikers. They then arrested 248 strikers, including Mario Benitez and Leticia Contreras, two of the best known leaders of the strike movement. Benitez, an economics professor, escaped but was re-arrested on February 6.

Also arrested on February 6 was Alejandro Echevarria, a political science student who was the chief strategist for the radical "ultras" student faction. "This movement will never give in!" he shouted as he was arrested.

The police action was reluctantly endorsed by the Mexican public, which did not want a repeat of the 1968 massacre at UNAM, in which 300 students were killed. The massacre was a turning point for democracy in Mexico, and actually resulted in a law banning intervention by government forces on the UNAM campus. In this most recent takeover, the Mexican federal police did not take guns onto the campus.

The student strikers refused to compromise with university president Juan Ramon de la Fuente on their demands, which included an end to a plan to introduce tuition fees for the university's 275,000 students and

instituting open admissions from some high schools in poor areas. UNAM has traditionally been the avenue to the middle class for poor Mexicans due to its original mission of free higher education.

De la Fuente called for the release of all minors arrested at UNAM. 89 adults and 2 minors remain in jail, facing criminal felony charges separate from the charge of illegal seizure of property for which all 745 people were arrested.

The student strikers' steering committee released an e-mail statement to students around the world saying that the police operation proved their suspicions that authorities were planning to "use violence" to end the strike all along. They said that they would not compromise on their demands, and called for supporters to organize protests across Mexico and at Mexican embassies overseas.

A recent protest at the Mexican Consulate in New York City was endorsed and supported by the Student Liberation Action Movement (SLAM), which currently controls the Hunter College Undergraduate Student Government.

THE FIGHT FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION: FROM MEXICO TO CUNY

Aliyah Khan
NEWS EDITOR

SLAM and the Hunter College Undergraduate Student Government joined other City University students and Latino community organizations on Monday, February 7 to show support for the student strikers at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. The two-hour protest was held at the Mexican Consulate in New York City.

"As CUNY students who face continued attacks against access to education, tuition hikes, and declining educational resources, we must stand in solidarity with these students who are risking their lives for the right to a free education," said a representative of SLAM.

The UNAM students held their campus hostage for nine months until February 6, when the strike was broken by Mexican federal authorities. UNAM traditionally provides a free college education to young Mexicans, but nine months ago university authorities hinted at the institution of a tuition fee, prompting the takeover. The student strikers also called for a form of open admissions from certain high schools.

Five Hunter students were at the UNAM over the winter intercession to meet with the strikers. Sandra Silva, Cultural Affairs Commissioner of the Hunter College USG, said that there were similarities between the proposed Mexican tuition implementation and CUNY's recent ban on remedial education at the senior colleges.

"There are striking parallels to UNAM [university president] Juan Ramon de la Fuente and CUNY Board of Trustees' Chancellor Herman Badillo," Silva said. "Both are making education inaccessible for the most marginalized groups in society — working people, the poor, and the dispossessed."

Members of the Hunter USG say that they were very concerned over the possibility of bloodshed and a repeat of the 1968 student massacre in Mexico, in which 300 striking students were killed by police.

"It is critical for CUNY students to support this strike because these students [risked] death and imprisonment in order to sustain their constitutional right to an education," said Hunter USG Finance Commissioner Joshua Stone.

Community organizations at the protest included the Dominican Youth Union and the Mexican Front.

The Mexican consulate was not open to questions.

Also present was a separate, large picket from a group called the Spartacist League.

For more information, contact the Hunter College Undergraduate Student Government in Room 121 North, or call (212) 772-4262.

WORLD BRIEFS

AUSTRIA: Fascist Takes Power, Israel Recalls Ambassador

A conservative party coalition took power on February 4 in Vienna, resulting in widespread demonstrations and European Union sanctions against Austria. The new governing coalition includes the anti-immigrant Freedom Party, headed by Joerg Haider. Haider is known for his praise of Adolf Hitler's "orderly employment" policy and the Waffen SS, whom he called "decent people of good character." He has since apologized for his remarks and assured the world that the new Austrian government is democratic. However, the European Union has already frozen its high-level contracts with Austria, and Israel has withdrawn its ambassador to Austria.

PERU: Shining Path Rebels Release Police Hostages

Last week, Maoist rebels from the Communist Party of Peru, popularly called the Shining Path, released 24 police hostages without winning any of their demands. The 50 rebels were being held at a harsh navy prison in the Andes until, armed with knives and iron bars, they overpowered their guards. The rebels demanded that authorities recognize them as prisoners of war and demolish the prison where many rebels are held.

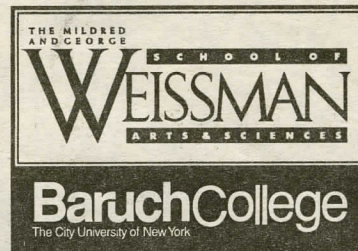
UNITED NATIONS: 45 Poor Countries Lose Vote

Forty-five of the world's poorest countries have lost their votes in the United Nations General Assembly after failing to pay their dues by the January 31 deadline. Most are expected to pay before the assembly reconvenes in September. Seven countries, including Bosnia, Nicaragua and Congo Republic did not lose their votes as a result of extraordinary financial hardship.

JAPAN: Hackers Denounce Rape of Nanjing

Eleven Japanese government Web sites, including that of the postal service, were hit by hackers last week who posted messages on them denouncing Japan's involvement in the 1937 Nanjing Massacre, or the Rape of Nanking, in which Japanese occupiers killed 60,000 to 300,000 Chinese civilians. The Bank of Japan's Web site has been hit at least 1,600 times. Other agencies affected included the Science and Technology Agency, the Supreme Court, and the Defense Ministry. Japanese revisionist historians have in recent weeks denied that there had ever been a large-scale massacre in Nanjing. Japan has never given China and other Asian nations what they consider to be a full apology for its wartime atrocities.

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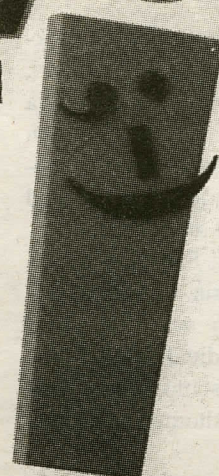
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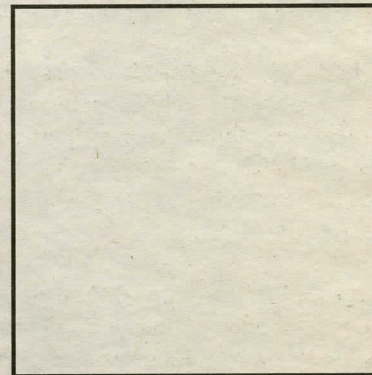
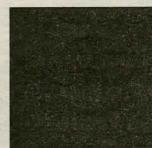
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WHITE IN BLACK OUT

TUITION HIKES AND FINANCIAL AID CUTS HAVE CHANGED THE FACE OF HUNTER

**WHITE ENROLLMENT HAS DOUBLED
BLACK AND LATINO NUMBERS HAVE DROPPED**



A LOT

By Christopher Day
STAFF WRITER

Hunter College is getting whiter. Many faculty and older students have commented on the apparent change in who is walking the halls of Hunter. After two decades of tuition increases, cuts to financial aid, and attacks on programs like SEEK that assist students of color, the Hunter College student body is getting whiter. For years CUNY student activists have been charging that these policies are racist and that their ultimate purpose is to roll back the gains that Black, Latino and Asian people have made in the area of higher education. Now the statistics support them.

The 'Student Profile 1993-1997,' published by Hunter's own Office of Institutional Research, documents the alarming change in Hunter's composition. The statistics speak for themselves. In 1997 Hunter's undergraduate student enrollment was 39.1 percent white, 23.3 percent Latino, 20.1 percent Black, and 17.3 percent Asian. These figures represented a slight increase in the white and Asian student populations and slight decreases in the Black and Latino populations. But these figures are deceptive. It's when we look at the breakdown for new entering students that we see the future of Hunter if current policies continue.

Between 1993 and 1997 the percentage of incoming freshmen who were white jumped from 22.3% to 33.9%, an increase of over 50 percent. Black incoming freshmen dropped from 26.5 percent in 1993 — slightly more than whites — to 17.3 percent in 1997 — a little more than half the number of white. Latinos dropped from 32.5% to 27.4% and Asians rose from 18.5% to 21.2%.

These figures reveal a few important things. The first is the much higher rate of retention for white stu-

dents. This is not surprising. On the whole, white students enter Hunter better prepared academically and in a better position financially to continue and complete a college education. The second is the trend towards a whiter school. Overall enrollment changes more slowly than new enrollments, but changes in new enrollment are good predictors of changes in overall enrollment.

Statistics on overall enrollment are deceptive because new students are more likely to be full-time while older students are more likely to attend part-time. Over 80 percent of Freshmen are full-time students, while almost half of the Senior class is part-time. This means that full-time students are more likely to be white than part-time students. Full-time students naturally have a bigger impact on the college. They take more classes, they spend more time on campus, and they are more likely to be involved in the extra-curricular activities that do so much to define the college experience.

It is impossible to say with precision what the exact causes of all these changes are. But the period from 1993 to 1997 saw a number of major policy changes at CUNY. Perhaps the most important were a series of tuition increases and cuts in the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP). Both of these changes undoubtedly made it harder for poorer students to attend CUNY, and those students are disproportionately students of color. The changes in TAP probably had the biggest impact. TAP was established in the late 1970s after tuition was first introduced at CUNY. It is a New York state program that was supposed to guarantee poorer students the opportunity to go to college. In 1993 the poorest students had 100 percent of their tuition paid by TAP. By 1997 that percentage had dropped to 75 percent. Coupled with tuition increas-

es, these changes pushed several thousand Hunter students out of school. Another significant change was the elimination of TAP for part-time students. Since better-off students are more likely to be able to afford to go to college full-time in the first place, this policy change effectively eliminated the most important form of financial aid for many poor students. Students who couldn't attend classes full-time because they need to work full-time or take care of family members were simply cut off from TAP and many were forced out of school. The students affected by both of these policy changes were disproportionately students of color.

All of the changes in the composition at Hunter documented in the 'Student Profile' took place before the elimination of remedial classes that is expected to have an even more dramatic impact on the composition of the student body than the budget cuts and tuition increases. The new policy went into effect this semester and many have already commented on the changes they see in the halls. The statistics aren't in yet, but the trend is clear. Whereas the composition of Hunter used to resemble the composition of New York City as a whole, it is fast approaching the point where Hunter is a white-majority school in a white-minority city.

The changes in the composition of Hunter signal a retreat from the commitment to racial equality embodied in the policy of Open Admissions adopted by the University in the wake of the 1969 Open Admissions strike by Black and Puerto Rican students at City College. That policy opened the doors of CUNY to all New York City high school graduates and gave hundreds of thousands of people of color a chance at a college education. Whether these changes will continue or be allowed to continue remains to be seen. But for now, Hunter is getting whiter.



PROCEED

MANNING MARABLE ON HIP-HOP, GLOBAL CULTURE AND THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM

Hip-hop music has evolved in succession with our generation. As our ideals expand globally with the communication age hip-hop music has begun to cross borders formerly unrealized. In a \$38.1 billion annual music industry hip-hop accounts for 10.1% (the second largest), by far the fastest growing genre. Artist like Lauren Hill, DMX, Puff Daddy have topped European and world charts for the last half of the 1990's. The responsibility of hip-hop as the chief cultural form of expression for it's derivative center, the black community, is implicit.

Manning Marable notes that the need for "a youth- oriented formation which taps the energies and abilities of the hip-hop generation," is critical to the African American struggle. "Music has always been central in the construction of African American culture and society because it's through music an oppressed people can express their collective imagination, their aspirations their sense of aesthetics- what is beauty... The oppressed find their own voice and expressiveness through music."

With this in mind, the point in focus is the complexity of the economic expectations and social repercussions generated by hip-hop and its ideals, namely capitalism, which are perhaps yet to be fully realized.

TO THE FINLAND STATION (NORTHBOUND ON THE 1 OR 9)

"It's not surprising hip-hop has assumed a pro-capitalist stance in most of its manifestations," Marable says. "Because we live in a period of the triumph of capitalism... We live in a market dominated society where cultural production and reproduction are defined as commodities... There are rare instances when a corporate capitalist enter-

BY NATHANIEL GREENBURG

prise will produce, distribute and promote messages that call for its abolition."

There is a growing concern that widespread capitalistic ideals will stifle or

overshadow the process of cultural and artistic expression by marketization and exploitation (as reported in the U.S. Census Bureau 2000, U.S. government funding for the arts is the lowest of all comparative countries, .13% of all U.S. government expenditures. Republican campaigns have been made to further decrease national endowments for the arts). The point, as Marable notes, is that, "every political movement must first be a cultural movement."

THE BLUES OF IT ALL

Stylistically, Marable makes a comparison with hip-hop is the blues. "One can draw an analogy between 'Leadbelly,' Huddy Leadbetter who wrote Bourgeois Blues and the work of Biggie Smalls. [The music is] both overtly sensual, but also political and social commentary."

However, there is a radical difference as Marable describes. "If you compare hip hop to blues... the voices of people like Robert Johnson, Huddy Leadbetter, Bessy Smith, these were not artists who found favor or resources or wealth or fame from the corporate, white controlled industry during their lifetimes. Most blues artist died poor. Hip-hop was first ignored then aggressively seized by the music industry because they saw it as a commodity and they began to try to shape it in a particular way..."

The reality that capitalistic ideals in hip-hop are merely reflective of American society as a whole is coherent to the theory of C.L.R James which Marable adheres to in that the masses will dictate, intellectuals and artists can only interpret. In a similar sense, the international adoption of hip-hop music is reflective of the overall adoption of American ideals.

"This is always the inherent danger of certain cultural forms," Marable says, "because there are embedded in them immense contradictions that are mirrored by the larger society's contradictions."

Indeed, there is little distinction on an international level between conceptions of American life and impressions taken from popular, cultural expression such as hip-hop.

THE C.R.E.A.M. AND STAKES

The popularity of hip-hop internationally is unmistakable. "Like jazz hip-hop is now becoming an international, cultural language in which the black experience is at the heart of it but now no longer solely defines it or expresses it."

In Europe, I would see little kids in rural Italian villages wearing Wu-Tang tee-shirts; freestyle sessions from tape-decks on the docks of Marseilles. Furthermore, groups like The Roots, actively progressing the nature of the music survived in Europe for years, much like jazz musicians did in their time. A distinction, however, is that hip-hop unlike jazz is a verbal art form. Words, not horns dictate the messages and sentiment.

"There are competing and conflicting, often contradicting images evoked by hip hop as it is seen from without," Marable says. "There are really two kinds of approaches to hip hop; from the inside out and the outside in. The hip hop community has its own discourse its own frame of reference and an interior understanding of the power and various meanings of that cultural form."

The music and the image often comes out of context. The walls hip-hop artist have broken down don't exist second hand. Rather, the straightforward message of the music prevails. C.R.E.A.M without poverty is the spirit of capitalism in its rawest form and that's how it's seen and that's what is aspired to. In France, for example, although the government recently passed a law limiting maximum work hours to 35 a week; where the social benefits are enough to raise a family comfortably; the popular culture is undoubtedly championed by American hip-hop. Patrice Lamula is an MD in Nice, France, who works with student athletes. He said that the culture of American hip-hop is the most appealing to teenagers where the goals are clear and simple- "Ils me disent tojours, fait million dollars avant veintcing annes, (make

a million dollars before twenty five years old)."

"Tupac Shakur," Marable says, "was as well known in the London black neighborhood of Brixton as he was in South Central. In the heavily impoverished sectors of Cape Town, Johannesburg, Soweto, on South African MTV, one finds South African hip-hop artists, there's a huge hip-hop audience."

Cultural misinterpretations can be seen in various ways. Although ambivalent, Marable analogizes "that very much like African Americans in the South ate chitlins because it was the only part of the pig the masters would allow them to have turned it into a delicacy that would allow for the sustenance and development of children in a community; so to have rap artist attempted to use the phrase 'nigga' and turn it into its opposite. To turn it into, in effect, a language of solidarity and brotherhood that creates notions of community and intimacy. But that strategy is always plagued with difficulty... Because most of the straight, white world is fairly un-hip and hearing the epithet 'nigger' would fall back to (an understanding of) its original root form."

THE VISION AND THE WORD

The international adoption of American democratic and capitalistic ideals from hip-hop can be ironic.

"Right now, about half of the two-million people in prisons are black; most of them are under the age of 30; about a third of all prisoners were unemployed at the time of their arrest. So, your talking about young black men for whom hip-hop is their chief cultural expression."

Marable stressed that it is important to understand the three basic contradictions American democracy was founded on. That is, race, gender and class. It is the contradiction of class that Marable concentrates on as a writer and feels is far from being resolved for the black community.

"Socialists believe there can never be a full democracy in America as long as one percent of the population have a greater net wealth than the bottom 90 percent of the U.S. population. How can you have democracy say in a city like New York. There are census tracks on the upper east side that have family incomes of over three hundred and fifty thousand dollars annually. And only 20 blocks away in E. Harlem you have medium incomes in census tracks of 8,500 dollars. Do people who earn less than 20,000 dollars a year really have equal political weight in a so called political democracy with those who earn more than a half million a year? In a market driven society there are inherent inequalities of condition."

"There must be a democratic restructuring of access to resources and ownership so that all people within society have certain prerequisites to a decent life. Education should be free and available from Kindergarten through graduate school and professional school for everyone. Everyone should have universal free health care. Everyone should have shelter. Clean affordable shelter. That is what is expressed in the politics of socialism which is why I am a socialist."

"Capitalism fosters societies of extreme individualism, of competition, notions of society as a zero sum gain. If I benefit you must loose. And all of that has an impact on the development of rap."

Marable strongly recognizes the battles hip-hop artists have mounted against the racial contradiction in America society. And, in general, "the black movement has been organized not around the class contradiction but fundamentally around the racial contradiction." However, "how to make a link between the socialist project of radical democracy and the anti-racist project of progressive hip-hop is an unresolved question."

"I would predict, as the class contradiction deepens in U.S society and as more people of color find themselves trapped in the criminal justice system the same population will find how to express itself in a particular political way or organizational way, which has not happened yet, but it will, because the social and political space for it exists, it exists in a big way."

In the next issue, the second article will look at the evolution of hip-hop as an art form and its potentials as seen through a new young band.

"MUSIC HAS ALWAYS BEEN CENTRAL IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE AND SOCIETY BECAUSE IT'S THROUGH MUSIC AN OPPRESSED PEOPLE CAN EXPRESS THEIR COLLECTIVE IMAGINATION, THEIR ASPIRATIONS THEIR SENSE OF AESTHETICS - WHAT IS BEAUTY... THE OPPRESSED FIND THEIR OWN VOICE AND EXPRESSIVENESS THROUGH MUSIC."

THIS FIRST OF TWO ARTICLES WILL DISCUSS THE DYNAMICS OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN STRUGGLE TO INCORPORATE HIP-HOP INTO A SOCIALIST MOVEMENT AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A GLOBAL CULTURE WHICH IS STEADILY DEFINING ITSELF BY THE VOICES OF HIP-HOP, IN AN INTERVIEW WITH MANNING MARABLE. THE SECOND ARTICLE WILL LOOK AT THE EVOLUTION OF HIP-HOP AS AN ART FORM AND ITS POTENTIALS AS SEEN THROUGH A NEW YOUNG BAND.

Black Labor and the Formation of the American Economy

Ibi Aanu Akowe
FEATURES EDITOR

In light of the ongoing debates over "what America owes to Blacks," there is much to be considered in the exchange of Black labor and monetary compensation. Black labor is not merely the working hands of a so-called minority race. It is the achievements, culture, and intellect that make up the American economy.

The world's most sophisticated and thriving economy has only been 200 hundred years in the making. The United States of America was once England's stepchild trying to pave its way in a world dominated by European control. It was the New World and a fragile infant making its first steps into a burgeoning capitalist structure.

Through blood, sweat and tears and struggling for the dreams of gold-paved streets and hot apple pie on window sills, the UNITED STATES is now the superpower it was always meant to be.

The sun has finally set on the British Empire. But the question remains — whose blood, sweat, and tears are this country's wealth founded on? Whose struggles are continuously overlooked?

In celebration of Black History Month, it is pertinent to examine slavery as a major contribution to American



wealth. Africans have made an impact to this country's booming economy from musical culture to technological advancements. The free and forced labor of slaves, who were not even considered part of the American establishment, was the foundation for building an infrastructure for political and cultural world power.

American pop culture is the world leader in setting standards for music, fashion, and style. Music sets the stage for the overall temperament of the culture. Jazz, rock-n-roll, rhythm & blues, and of course, hip-hop were all born out of the

rollercoaster cycles of turmoil, contentment, and confusion in American history.

No matter how much it is imitated and the amount of money it produces, Black music is a force that upholds a nation that would otherwise be a blatant materialist system scrounging for the creativity of others for moral support. These forms of music are all encoded languages of ancient African drums and voices protesting, crying, testifying, and rejoicing. What was supposed to be sanctified expression became a commodity for mass consumption and production. Both the slaves and their talents

were labeled and given a price tag for the prosperity of a nation that thrives on the labor of others.

The end of slavery did not bring a sudden downfall in the American economy. Rather, it was a steady climb towards the top with African talents, culture, intelligence, and prowess as a stepping stool.

Blacks also made up a significant population of the soldiers fighting in wars to help bring America to the position it now holds. The numerous achievements of the Tuskegee Airmen and the countless infantries still remain overlooked as a contribution to the success of the two World Wars.

Important inventions are attributed to many Blacks who had no choice but to improve their forced working conditions. Modern medical science was founded on the mysteries of Ancient Egypt and the great Imhotep. Tools and devices that simplify the daily tasks in our lives — as well as scientific and spiritual advancements — are all familiar knowledge embedded in the minds and souls of Africans.

One short month in the calendar year is no comparison to hundreds and thousands of years of intuition and wisdom of Black culture. No amount of money or apology can substitute what Black labor has contributed to the wealth of nations.

AFRICAN AMERICAN INVENTIONS

Item	Inventor	Date
Electric Lamp/Bulb	Lewis Latimer	1882
Blood Plasma Bag	Charles Drew	1945
Street Sweeper	Charles B. Brooks	1890
Clothes Dryer	G.T. Sampson	1892
Mop	Thomas W. Stewart	1893
Telephone Transmitter	Granville T. Woods	1884
Cellular Car Phone	Henry T. Sampson	1971
Typewriter	Burridge & Marshman	1885
Guitar	Robert F. Flemming, Jr.	1886
Hair Brush	Lydia D. Newman	1896
Lock	W.A. Martin	1889
Peanut Butter	Geo. Washington Carver	1896
Door Knob	O. Dorsey	1878
Thermostat Control	Frederick M. Jones	1960
Stethoscope	Imhotep	Ancient Egypt
Mail Box	Paul Blooming	1891
Fountain Pen	W.B. Purvis	1890
Almanac	Benjamin Banneker	1791
Fire Extinguisher	T.J. Marshall	1872
Automatic Gear Shift	Richard B. Spikes	1932
Motor	Frederick M. Jones	1939
Gas Mask	Garret Morgan	1914
Traffic Light	Garret Morgan	1923
Automatic Switch	Granville T. Woods	1889
Straightening Comb	Madam C.J. Walker	1905
Lawn Mower	J.A. Burr	1889
Stove	T.A. Carrington	1878
Refrigerator	J. Standard	1891
Air Conditioning Unit	Frederick M. Jones	1949

ADVICE

ASK ODO-ORION DA ORACLE

Orion - wHat caN I Do aBout ThOse People?

Hey ODO!

I need some serious help getting along with these people. They don't do anything to me personally. It's just that I know what their people have done, what they're capable of doing, and what they're doing to my people now. I say my people and their people because they are quite different from us. (With a name like ODO, I'm assuming you're one of us!) They look different, they talk different, and they even dance different. There's something desirable about them, though. I know some of their people try to be like us, and some of us try to be like them. Everybody wants us to get along, but they just get under my skin, literally. I know there's a lot more of them out there than it seems and I want to be able to tolerate them. I'm not asking for a best friend, just enough guts to crack a smile when anyone of them tells one of their stupid jokes. Please tell me what I can do.

Color Blind

Dear Color Blind,

This is a major problem you have here. The world is filled with lots of Your people and My people (not assuming that you're one of us). If we can't get along somehow, this thing called life is going to fall in on itself. I hate to sound cliché, but we do need each other. It's just that some of us and some of them don't like to share. Sad to say that there are those out there who keep on taking and never give back. That's the main problem between the Your

people and the My people. One of them ends up at the bottom of the totem pole. They need to use somebody as a stepping ladder to get to the top, right? That's not how life and living work.

Some people have a fear of those things that are unfamiliar to them. That's just plain ignorant. But that's the foundation of all our conflicts. You, my dear friend, are just caught up in an uninformed cesspool of cowardice. It's time to step out of your little utopian cloud and see the illustrious colors that make up the rainbow of my world.

CLUB BRIEFS

DAUGHTERS OF AFRIKA & STOLEN LEGACY COMMEMORATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Daughters of Afrika and Stolen Legacy have been very active in this year's Black History Month Celebration. They have been showing movies that deal with Black politics and culture. Sankofa, the highly acclaimed film by Haile Gerima, the documentary with the late Dr. John Henrik Clarke A Great and Mighty Walk, and a Malcolm X documentary were among selected films on display. The two clubs plan to have an Open Mic followed by an Open Forum dealing with Hip-Hop on Thursday, February 24 in room 105TH.

Sankofa

By Haile Gerima

Spirit of the dead, rise up.
Lingering spirit of the dead, rise up and possess
your bird of passage.

Those stolen Africans step out of the ocean,
from the wombs of the ships and claim your story.

Spirit of the dead rise up, lingering spirit
of the dead rise up and possess your vessel.
Those Africans shackled and led, ironed
and enslaved step out of the acres of cane
fields and cotton fields and tell your story.

Spirit of the dead rise up, lingering spirits
of the dead rise up and possess your bird of
passage.

Those lynched in the magnolias, swinging
on the limbs of the weeping willows, rotting
food for the vultures step down and claim
your story.

Spirit of the dead rise up, lingering
spirits of the dead rise up and possess your
vessel.

Those tied, bound and whipped from
Brazil to Mississippi, step out and tell your
story.

Those in Jamaica, in the fiels of Cuba,
in the swamps of Florida, the rice fields of
South Carolina, you waiting Africans step out
and tell your story.

Spirit of the dead rise up, lingering
spirit of the dead rise up and possess your
bird of passage

From Alabama to Suriname, up to the caves of
Louisiana, come out you African spirits, step
out and claim your stories.

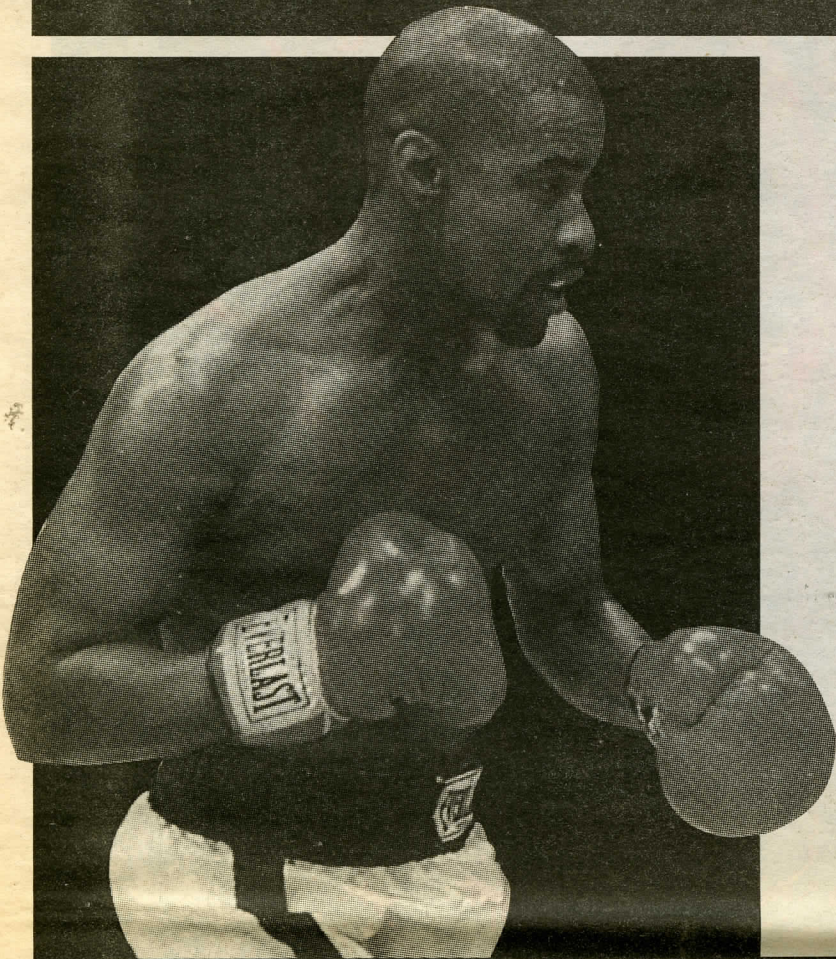
You raped, slave-bred, castrated
burned, tarred and feathered, roasted,
chopped, lobotomized, bound and gagged, you
African spirits,

Spirit of the dead rise up, lingering
spirit of the dead, rise up and possess your
bird of passage.



HURRICANE STILL

BAD POLITICS MAKE BAD



DENZEL WASHINGTON

Mohamed Fathelbab
STAFF WRITER

Denzel Washington gives one of the most electrifying performances of 1999, and of his career, as Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, a New Jersey boxer who, along with John Artis, was wrongfully convicted of murders he did not commit in 1966. He would spend the next 19 years of his life incarcerated before his conviction was overturned in the mid 1980s.

The story is a liberal Hollywood "innocent black man stuck in prison" flick that would have sunk if it weren't for the presence of Washington. He saves the film from turning into the typical "You're out of order! This whole system is out of order!" philosophy that is followed by every film that has to deal with the judicial branch of our government. Washington is rage and compassion all in one. He turns Carter into a complex human being, and not just a

symbolic treatment of an angry, young black man. Lesser actors would have made *The Hurricane* a raindrop.

What holds back the rest of the cast, though they are not entirely at fault (blame the screenplay!) is that every other character is one-dimensional. The ultra nice Canadians to the evil Italian cop who stalks Carter throughout his lifetime, trying to make sure that he spent the rest of his days in jail.

And now there is some trouble brewing, right before Oscar time. It seems that Hollywood had taken some dramatic license when it came to the adaptation of Carter's life. The family of the three victims of the murders Carter and his pal were convicted of would like to re-open the case in order to try to prove that the New Jersey police had it right all along.

Det. Della Pesca (Dan Hedaya), the man who had made it his life's work to capture Carter, never existed. He some-

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i am open to new things.
and, i am powered by me.

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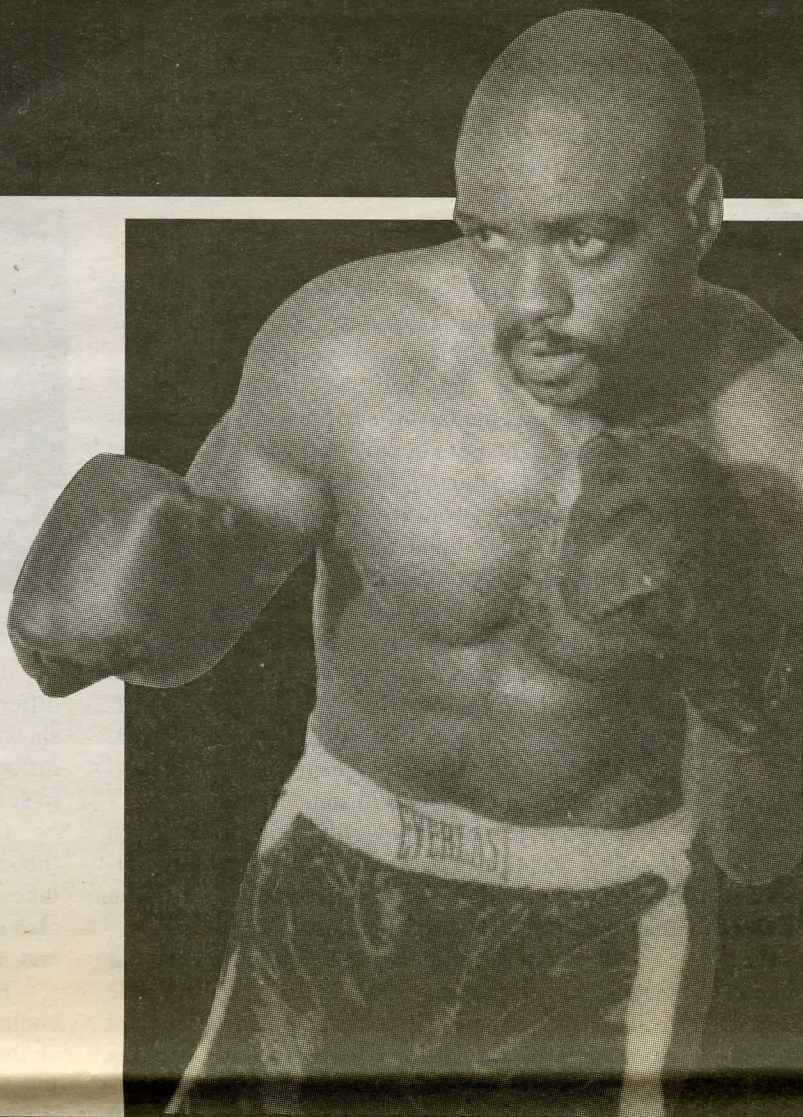
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BLOWING MOVIES

how symbolizes the entire Patterson, New Jersey police force, according to Carter himself, in a recent interview with Larry King. In my opinion, this is the weakest link in the film. Not showing the racial prejudice of the police force, and instead focusing on one man's obsession will not rile up passion amongst the viewers.

And the Canadians. The nice and sweet Canadians. In the film, three Canadians gathered up evidence that proved Carter's innocence. In real life, eight Canadians assisted Carter's lawyers with the case. However, according to Carter attorney Lewis M. Steel in last week's Entertainment Weekly, the Canadians discovered "not one piece of evidence." They just helped out. But, since they are Canadians, they must be good people, right? Don't Blame Canada!

The deal is, if you want to see Denzel Washington in an amazing performance, then pay ten dollars to see The Hurricane. Just don't expect anything else.



RUBIN "HURRICANE" CARTER

HOW TO MAKE A LIBERAL MOVIE

Kazembe Balagoon
STAFF WRITER

The liberal film has been part of American cinema since *The Defiant Ones*. Once necessary in the days of attacking segregation, the liberal film has waned and fallen off during the time of the Reagan revolution. However the Hurricane may spell a resurgence of this lost art form.

The key ingredient for the liberal film are as follows: 1) Show injustice, but not challenge it 2) Present people of color, women, and "others" as objects of pity and affection, not agents of change. 3) Be sure, at all cost, to have at least two or three really good white people to balance out any racism.

In the spirit of *Hurricane* and *Amistad*, I have decided to produce my own grand liberal film. *Wheels of Glory* centers around Kareem (played by Latrell Sprewell) a wheel chair bound Black basketball player trying to become a white lesbian. Mel Curtis (played by PJ Carlesimo) is Kareem's hard-boiled coach who seeks to blot out Kareem's dream of munching on carpet and listening to Ani Di Franco albums. Baby George (played by Ralph Machino), is the twelve year old white boy who is the only one who understands Kareem ("I love you man, I love you!") Will Kareem find happiness before the big game? Will Baby George resolve his racism complex before he graduates the eighth grade? Does Coach Curtis have the understanding to appreciate Kareem's courage? Only Hollywood knows!

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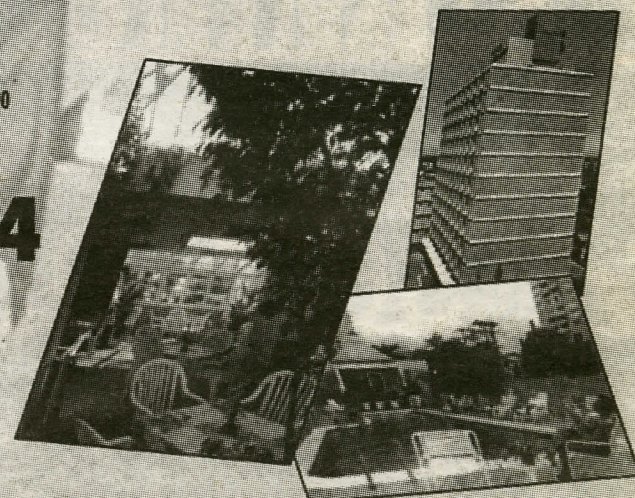
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HUNTER SYMPHONY



Hunter Symphony Rings in New Millennium

John Gateley
STAFF WRITER

Professor Clayton Westermann, music director and conductor of the Hunter Symphony, has announced the program for the opening performance of the millennium season. On Wednesday, February 23 at 7 pm, a concert entitled "Inspired by Classicism" will be presented. The orchestra performs Dvorak's Carnival Overture, Hindemith's Clarinet Concerto and Brahms' Symphony No. 1.

John Marco, a premier clarinetist and in-demand New York soloist is featured in the Hindemith piece. Marco is a member of Hunter College's instructional faculty and has been a part of the Hunter Symphony for 24 years. The orchestra is comprised of students from Hunter and from various conservatories around the New York area, including Juilliard and the Manhattan School of Music. A cadre of professional mentors perform along side young artists and provide a training experience rarely available to student players. John Marco's contributions in this area, as leader of the woodwind section, have been invaluable.

CUNY students with ID are entitled to free tickets for this event, which takes place in the newly refurbished Hunter Main Auditorium on the first floor of the North Building. Tickets may be obtained from the Hunter Box Office, in the lobby of the Kaye Playhouse, and from special booths on the third floor during the week preceding the concert.

HUNTER ALUMNI GOES SCI-FI

Asmi Fathelbab
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The first sci-fi film of the millennium is upon us, and I know that the first thought that would pop into your mind is, "Not another one." But being the big sci-fi fan that I am, I had to see it in order to make a judgment.

Within the first three minutes of *Pitch Black* I was hooked. Then I figured that it was too good to be true and that they don't make good sci-fi films like they use too. The last thing that I saw that came close to being good was the last *Aliens* flick, which I caught at 3 am one night. But after giving the movie a chance, within the first 30 minutes I had decided that the director, David Twohy—who also co-wrote the screenplay to *Pitch Black* with Jim & Ken Wheat—was a genius.

Pitch Black was different. The movie starts with a cast of about 40 people and takes place on a spaceship in the future that crash lands on a planet with mysterious creatures that only come out at night and eat whatever moves. The film ends up with a significantly smaller number of people than at the outset. Along for the ride is a cop transporting a very dangerous criminal to another planet.

This movie is actually worth paying to see. Even though it was filmed on a very tight budget for a sci-fi film (\$25 million), it was better than any sci-fi film that took over \$100 million to make.

The actors weren't of the \$20 million variety, but instead up-and-coming actors that we'll all be able to identify by name within a year. Radha Mitchell gave a great performance as the eventual leader of the group. Keith David also gave us a memorable character, "Imamm," who proves to us all that minorities exist in the future. Johns (Cole Hauser) and Riddick (Vin Diesel, *Saving Private Ryan*) give you a good reason to question who to trust from their great performances.

After being scared to the point where my glasses popped off of my head, I was introduced to the cast and director of this film. David Twohy saw this as a



ASMI & VIN DIESEL

ENVOY ARCHIVES

different kind of film that he would love to take and show to the world. When asked what sci-fi films have influenced him, he answered, "2001. I actually went to see it when it was out in theaters."

Cole Hauser gave us a gruesome description of the shooting of a particular scene which took four takes and required an optometrist on the set. He also stated that his favorite sci-fi films were *2001* and *Aliens*.

Hunter Alumnus Vin Diesel is probably the coolest person that I have ever met. Regarding the similarity between his and Hauser's role's, he told me that "it exposed people's humanity and the different sides that we all have, that's independent, that stands out on its own." When asked about his own painful ordeal, he stated that "it was to manipulate others, the idea was to communicate without expression, but yet it felt like hubcaps, and an optometrist also had to be there for me." He also told us that he thought the limited budget was better because of the fact that the less you saw of the creatures, the more scared you got.

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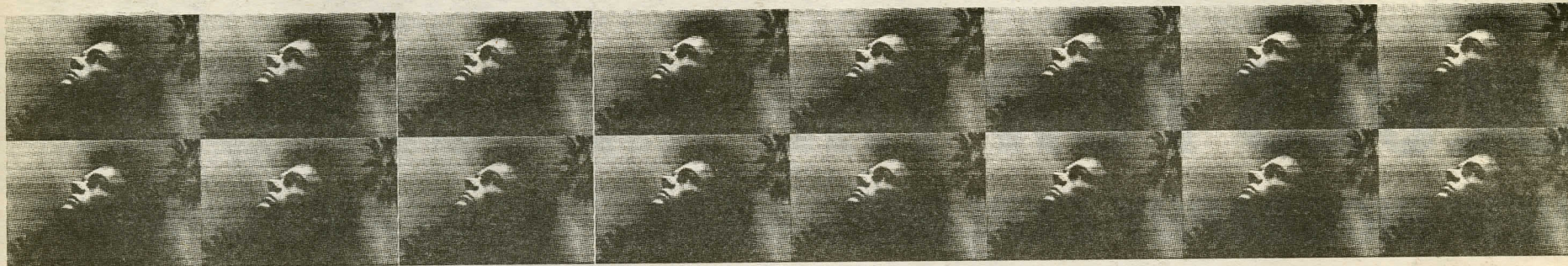
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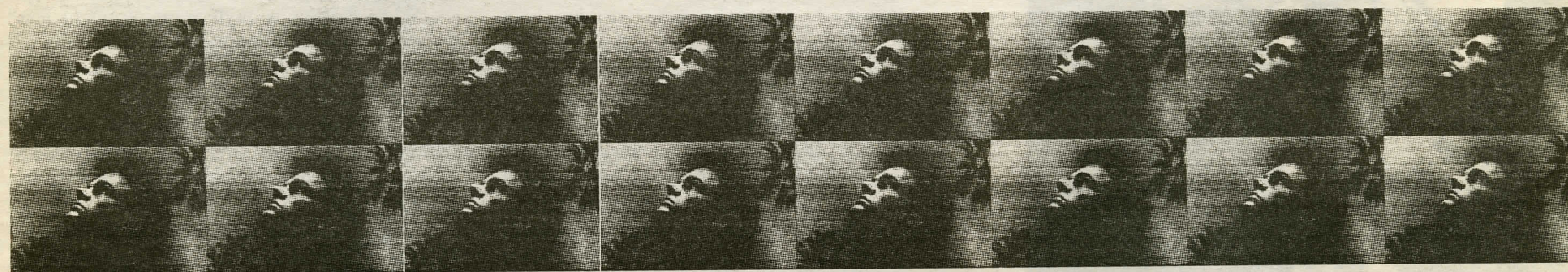
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PARADISE LOST:

Water-logged Leo takes to The Beach



Jennifer Mascia
ARTS EDITOR

After the crushing, cumbersome success of the most gargantuan movie of all time, it seems that all parties involved in the unavoidably clichéd *Titanic* are intent on keeping a low profile. This is especially true for Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet, who are drawn to obscure independents of iffy quality, operating under the hope that flying in the face of their larger-than-life personas will simply make them go away. For reasons I'll never fully understand, more anticipation has been heaped onto Leo's only post-*Titanic* turn than Winslet's two-*Hideous Kinky* and *Holy Smoke!*, both gutsy, precocious performances—and the buzz surrounding Leo has become more intoxicating than the prospect of any actual finished product.

Well, Mr. Leo's ship has finally come in (forgive me), and he sticks true to his indie sensibilities in a vain attempt to prove that the film that preceded the formation of his notorious Moomba-going "Pussy Posse" was just a diversion from the blood and guts of low-budget moviemaking, like the modest superstar he is. Right.

In the December 1997 issue of *Time Out New York*, Kate Winslet, dressed up like Santa Claus in the photo spread that accompanied her interview, mentioned that, for her next project, she'd like to work with "Danny Boyle and the Trainspotting boys." Apparently she wasn't the only one, and I could just imagine her dismay when it was announced last year that her one-time crush, Mr. DiCaprio, was being wooed by her idols to star in the film version of Alex Garland's novel *The Beach*. I felt her dismay as well, but mainly because I felt—and still feel—that although Leo has had some shining moments in past films (the oft-mentioned What's Eating Gilbert Grape among them), the deafening hype and teenage adoration surrounding his supernova-like burst onto the Hollywood radar was without merit, especially since he physically

resembles an infant prune.

With Danny Boyle and Andrew McDonald's *The Beach*, it will be undoubtedly proven once again that anything carrying the "Leo DiCaprio" trademark will propel a product to sell like hotcakes. (Just ask the folks from *Man in the Iron Mask*.) *The Beach*, borrowing heavily from *Apocalypse Now*, *Taxi Driver*, *Fight Club* and Boyle's own *Trainspotting*, attempts to characterize an aimless twenty-something generation under the Gameboy that lacks a war to give it focus and meaning, leaving its reluctant membership to search for that meaning in the same grungy, smelly Asian locales so evilly vilified in *Brokedown Palace*, *Return to Paradise* and *The Year of Living Dangerously*.

DiCaprio's Richard is an American inexplicably wandering around the streets of Thailand, travelling as far away from convention as he can get, even willing to drink snake blood if it means putting distance between himself and Disneyland. Like the "Choose life, choose a career" anti-conformity monologue that opened and closed *Trainspotting*, Richard runs down an itemized list of what not to do when in a Smelly Grungy Asian Place, like some "Life According To Leo" diatribe, delivered without the pleasure of Ewan McGregor's heroin-induced Scottish lilt. Leo, tanned and slightly buff, has his Basketball Diaries cynicism in full force, and he swings it fast and loose as he registers the muck around him in a sneering, Travis Bickle-like fashion.

In an insect-infested hotel room, Richard encounters Daffy (Robert Carlyle; Begbie in *Trainspotting*), a depressive who hands him a map promising seclusion and enlightenment in an isolated island off the coast of Thailand, featuring pristine beaches not visible from the mainland. Richard decides that this trek will bring him Meaning, so after Daffy slits his wrists, Richard ventures onward to his own private paradise, but not without asking the fawn-like Francoise (Virginie Ledoyen)

and her boyfriend Etienne (Guillaume Canet) to join. Though it's hard to imagine the flaming Leo chasing pussy, I suspended my disbelief and got sucked in by the seductive locale and Darius Khondji's dazzling cinematography, immersed in a techno/trance soundtrack with many of the same artists from the two Trainspotting albums (Leftfield, Underworld, New Order, Blur, Orbital) and a mesmerizing mix by Moby.

After the three pilgrims reach the beach, they find a secret society of twentysomethings (Leo's Creek?) who have soaked up the sun, Lord of the Flies-style, for some six years. The group, led by the androgynous Sal (Tilda Swinton, Orlando), shuns conventional society, co-existing relatively peacefully with the few Thai natives who reside on the other side of the island and ironically don western dress and artillery. Richard and the Beach-goers believe they have found the antidote to urban, quotidian existence, unaware that they are, in fact, conforming to another kind of day-to-day routine, replacing Apple G3s and Metrocards with fishing, rituals and tattoos.

In truth, the film doesn't embarrass any involved, as I imagined it would. Instead of screaming "Vehicle! Vehicle!" *The Beach* contains no great performances, mainly because the beach steals the show. Awash in blue waters and powdery sand, the film does make a good case for checking into Club Med instead of college, but I didn't know exactly what these kids were rebelling against. Richard's pre-sojourn life was not touched upon at all, nor were any of the lives of the beach's inhabitants, making it difficult to sympathize with young people who were, for all I knew, nothing but trust fund babies with a plane ticket.

The sight of Leo hopping around in Texas brought to mind the coverage of the actor's post-*Titanic* trips to Cuba and other exotic locales, and may as well have been lifted from Access Hollywood. ("Bob, here's a shot of Leo smoking a Cuban with Fidel...") No, he is not a bad actor, and I am thankful that his presence

didn't overpower the film, unlike other vehicles for newly minted superstars.

The film had its humorous moments, such as the shots of a delirious Leo gone mad with isolation, sequestered in the forest by Sal as punishment for copying the map for a group of brain dead American tourists in a scene that plays almost as a shot-by-shot of *Apocalypse Now*. The homage, which has Leo conversing with a long-dead Daffy, à la Martin Sheen and Marlon Brando, adds a witty touch in its attempt to deliver the message of the movie: Leo as a Gameboy character in his Own Private Video Game, all roboticized aw-shucks vigor as he dashes through the forest, leaping and twisting among the vines. However, no reason for his breakdown is given, nor for his subsequent sobering up upon witnessing real-life murder, as opposed to reel-life murder. I think Boyle is trying to tell us that Gen-Y life amounts to little more than Sony PlayStation, much like the lives of Irvine Welsh's Trainspotters amounted to little more than smack.

A troubling factor lies in the romance that swiftly and painlessly develops between Richard and Francoise, right under her boyfriend Etienne's nose. Not only did I not believe that this French fish-stick-of-a-girl was Leo's reason for ditching civilization altogether, I had trouble with the lack of obstacles in the couple's path. It was too easy for them to hook up. Sex On The Beach is a strange thing, however: once it happens, no matter who is involved, each of the island's inhabitants eerily develop ESP and catch on to any canoodling before the condom even comes off.

Like *Trainspotting* before it, *The Beach* tries to explain Generation X and Y rootlessness as a by-product of not having a Vietnam to guide us, leaving us to rely instead on Gameboy as a desensitizing substitute, something Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold apparently already knew.

BLUES FOR THE MESSENGER:

NEW BIOGRAPHY EXPLORES NATION OF ISLAM FOUNDER



Kazembe Balagoon
STAFF WRITER

Oscar Micheaux's film *Body and Soul* features a young Paul Robeson playing a city slicker disguised as a country preacher. Robeson's convincing play as a philandering hustler makes him both lovable and hated. The viewer hopes for his downfall and yet is awed by his ability to juggle multiple personalities.

Perhaps this is the most attractive thing about Elijah Muhammad, the subject of Karl Evanzz's new biography, *The Messenger: The Rise and Fall of Elijah Muhammad*. Muhammad, born Elijah Poole in 1897, traverses the line between saint and sinner. Check out Muhammad defiantly refusing to fight in World War II convinced that Black people should not kill other people of color while not having freedom at home. James Baldwin noted that Muhammad was able to do what no poverty program can do: give Blacks a sense of pride and knowledge of self.

Muhammad, who only had a fourth grade education, expanded the contours of African-American thought influencing Malcolm X and Muhammad Ali, the last Black intellectuals with any street credibility.

However, like *Body and Soul*'s Robeson character, Muhammad is less than the prophet he

built himself to be. The reader finds a Muhammad who is paranoid and has delusions of grandeur. While preaching diet and temperance, Muhammad had several illicit affairs that resulted in children born out of wedlock. Shockingly Muhammad allowed a culture of violence to arise in the Nation of Islam that engulfed Malcolm X and the women and children of Hanafi Muslims, a rival Islamic sect.

While having enough ammunition to tear down Muhammad, Evanzz allows his study to play like a tragic-blues comedy. Muhammad is less villain than Macbeth or Lear; he is a victim of fate and circumstance. How else can one explain the delicious irony of Muhammad's anti-white Nation being integrated fully after his death.

Evanzz, who also authored the *Judas Factor: The Plot to Kill Malcolm X*, has penned a flowing, cogent biography of a man very few know about beyond faded newsreels. Evanzz's primary sources are copious FBI files on Muhammad, yet he does not allow the feds' hatred of Muhammad to cloud his history.

The 667-page tapestry that is *The Messenger* should not be missed. Both part time academics and full time heavies will dig this book.

THE WRITTEN WORD

Brad Senning
STAFF WRITER

HAL BENNETT
LORD OF DARK PLACES
Turtle Point Press, \$15

Like taxation laws and political statements, the Bible has a lot of weird loopholes, some of them exploited by medieval crusaders who killed for the cause of conversion, some of them by priests who fest justified playing one-eyed Pilate with the altar boys. That there was once a perfect Eden now utterly lost isn't disregarded by anyone who opens *Lord of Dark Places*, the weird tale of a black father and son due who go on an evangelist tour to exploit the "cult of the penis" at the height of late 1950s revivalism.

Joe Market, the son, takes the name "The Naked Disciple," whose role is to expose his prodigious penis at the climax of the father's evangelical oratory. As the cult gathers momentum, father and son decide to let followers take part in a more active worship of the penis, which terminates with the father's arrest. The oddness of this arrest provides us with a glimpse of the story's charm. White police don't care about what these black beast-like people do with their bodies,

but take offense only at the thought of spiritual links to them, when the father asks for equality under one God.

Like the white police of this story, the reader must continually adjudicate his or her focus by discriminating between one perspective and another. Because, while this story is the phallogocentric account of one black man, from here on out Joe Market dominates the story as he goes to bed with as many people as Wilt Chamberlain. It is also the bitter struggle for equality in the eyes of a higher authority, be it the white man of his times or those who devised the systems of religion. Joe says, "The Jewish prophets had been mistaken with their neat little package of predictions about the Christ. For one thing, they left no room for the black man, no possibility that a black man as well as a white one might turn out to be Judas or the messiah."

It makes sense that there's a feral quality about Joe. That way, he and the entire book will be dismissed by the prejudiced majority, thereby making its point. To the reader who enters the world of this book unbiased, there is much to praise. The voice is jaunty. The story is tight. And the issues raised are eternal in a weird way, which makes for an enjoyable reading experience.

HA JIN
WAITING
Pantheon, \$24

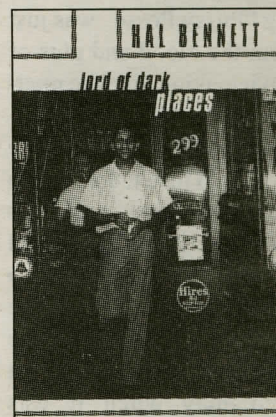
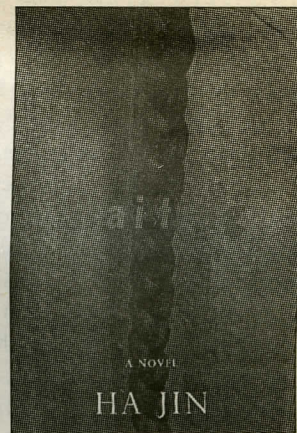
"Every summer Lin Kong returned to Goose Village to divorce his wife, Shuyu." So begins the unrequited Chinese romance of *Waiting*, the most recent book by Pen/Hemingway Award winner Ha Jin.

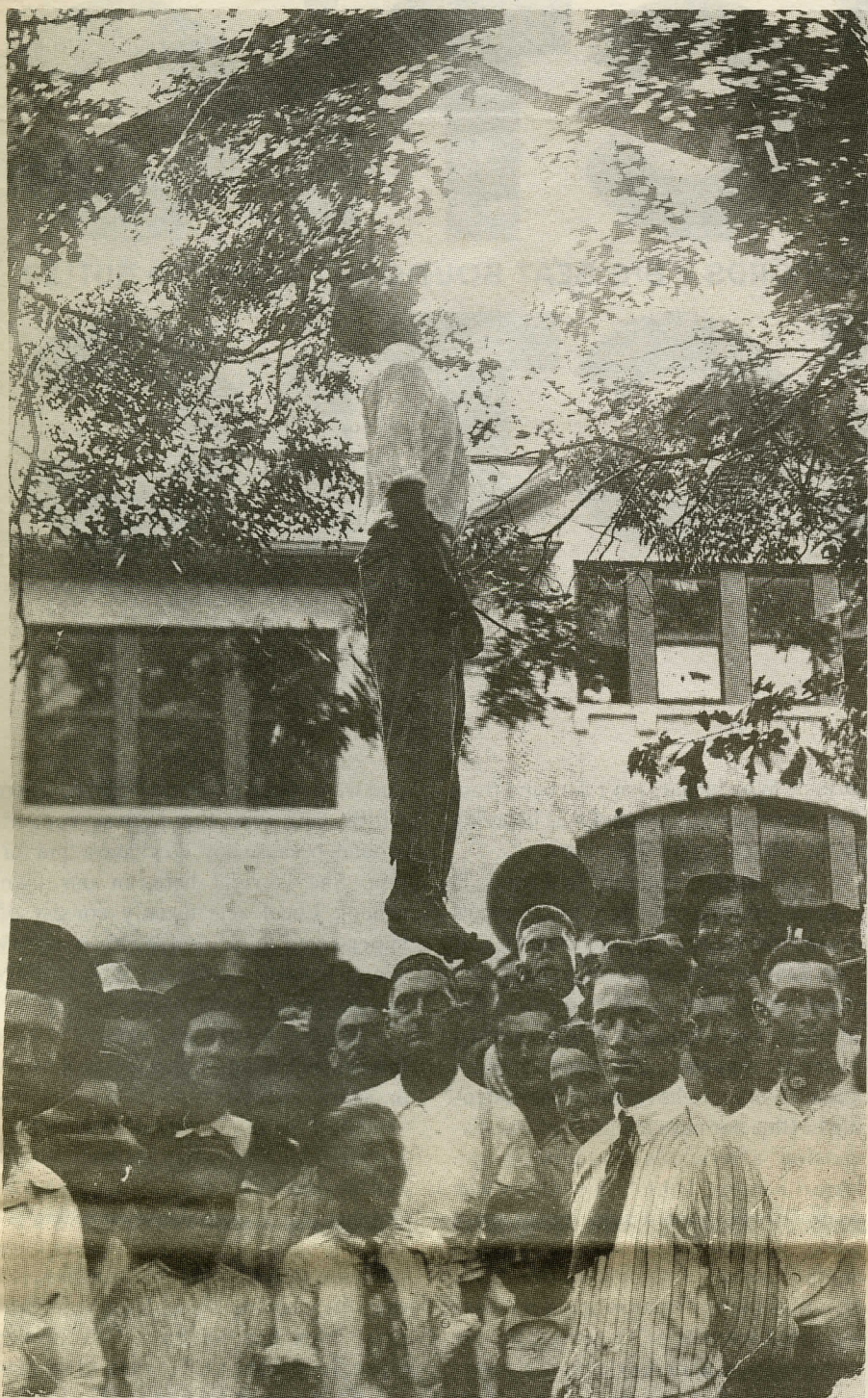
Lin Kong, a doctor at the Muji City army hospital, makes an annual journey to his native village to ask his wife for a divorce. At first, she agrees. But Lin's petition is rejected when Shuyu, as always, changes her mind in court. Without the divorce, Lin cannot marry his co-worker, Manna Wu, a nurse with whom he has been in love for many years. There are strict regulations prohibiting Lin and Manna from pursuing their attraction. And the only alternative is to wait (hence the title *Waiting*) until 18 years has passed, when, according to Chinese law, the husband can be granted a divorce without the wife's consent.

Natural barriers to love such as these fuel much of literature's greatest work, from Shakespeare to Tolstoy. Shakespeare famously wrote, "The course of true love never did run smooth," but with Ha Jin, the subject is less the romance than the political cli-

mate. This is a cultural revolution period-piece that uses romance as a foil for its anti-communist groans.

And yet it's a beauty. Anyone with a particular interest in Chinese culture will find that this book captures the essence of the cultural crisis. It does so approachably, and with a reticence that is titillating. Which is one of the reasons it won the coveted National Book Award.





WITHOUT SHAME: Photographers were often welcome at lynchings, and after the occasion, photos would arise as popular picture postcards.

WITHOUT SANCTUARY:

Lynching Photography in America

LeRonn Brooks
STAFF WRITER

On January 1, 2000, we celebrated the dawn of a new millennium. Each of us, in our own way, participated in the crossing of an important temporal border: from the twentieth century to the twenty-first. It was an important day to be alive. However, have we, as Americans, truly looked behind us to see what was left at the foot of this border in time? What have we, as a nation, chosen to take for the journey and what have we taken for the ride? America, a nation founded on the overriding theoretical principles of democracy, even-handed juridical processes, and refuge for the oppressed, indeed has baggage — violent baggage to haul.

Without Sanctuary: Lynching Photography in America exposes the horrific reality of a nation — our nation — that has never, truly, addressed its past. Along with some of the great mechanical inventions of the twentieth century, lynching was created and perfected in America, in northern boomtowns like Cairo, Illinois, and Southern rural areas such as Eau Gallie, Florida. Lynching involved hangings, burnings, and castrations. You may ask yourself, what would cause a person to commit such acts of violence, involving the torture, mutilation, and eventual hanging of a subject?

In town squares around the nation, Americans bore witness to the stench of burning carcasses belonging mostly to African Americans. Lynchings were a public spectacle, usually for crowds ranging from hundreds to even thousands, as in the case of the lynching of Sam Hose, a black Georgian, which was witnessed by some two thousand white Georgians. Falsely accused of murdering his employer and raping his wife, Hose was stripped of his clothes, and chained to a tree surrounded by kerosene-soaked wood. Along with skinning his face, his ears, fingers, and genitals were cut off, then he was set aflame; after which, the crowd collected pieces of his burnt remains as souvenirs. Although before the 1890s most of the victims of lynchings had been whites, American Indians, Mexicans and Asians, the ending of slavery in the 1860s caused many whites throughout the country to feel cheated, not only by the black entrance into the labor force, but the eventual loosening of social constraints that kept blacks in check. Hence, the surfacing of legal segregation and the rise of mob violence. In the 1890s, 139 lynchings occurred each year and between 1882 and 1968, an estimated 4,742 black Americans were lynched.

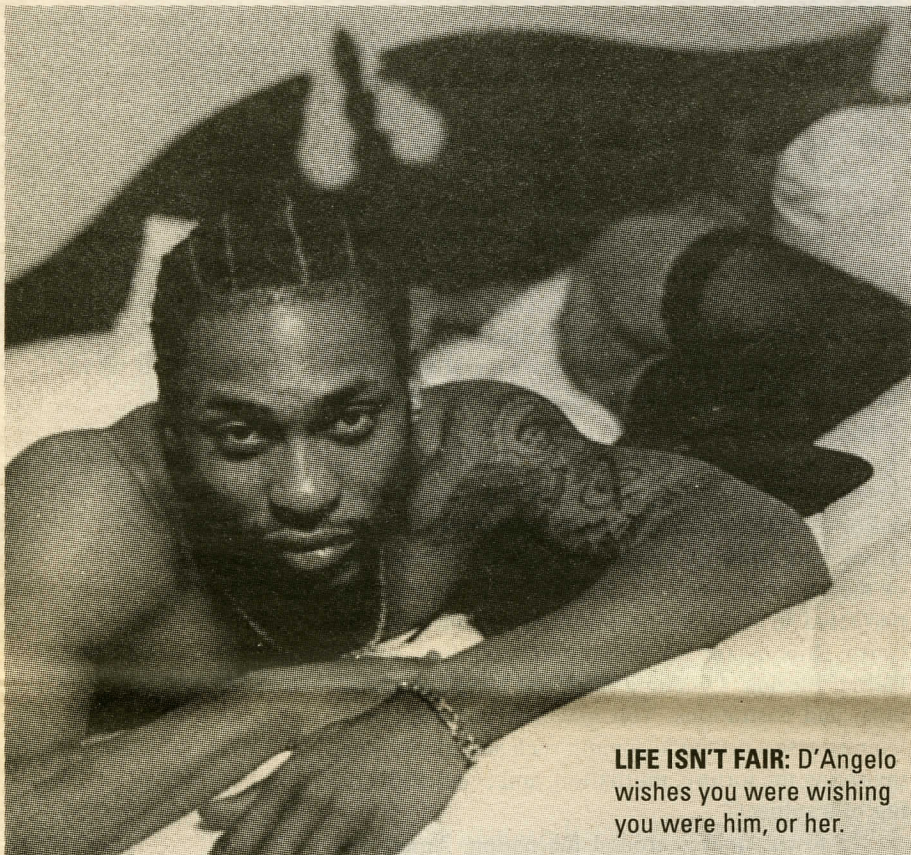
Most victims had not reached a court of law before they were taken by vigilante mobs. Their captors resisted wearing masks. In fact, prominent figures often flaunted their presence with impunity. Victims fed the collective mob, hungry for death. Constructed on a bed of the genocide of one indigenous population after another, America, it seems, has been founded upon systematic primal aggression and genocide.

Collected by James Allen, an antique dealer from Atlanta, every image in the show is from the Allen Littlefield Collection at Emory University's Robert W. Woodruff Library. Some 60 of these postcard size images were on display at Roth Horowitz Gallery, located at 160A East 70th Street, until February 12; a catalogue of the exhibition is still available at the gallery.

ECLECTIC

D'ANGELO • EJ • JOYDROP • THIRD EYE BLIND • THE ROCKFORDS • BIG BEAT BOUTIQUE • BERNARD BUTLER

DIALECTIC



LIFE ISN'T FAIR: D'Angelo wishes you were wishing you were him, or her.

D'ANGELO
VOODOO
Virgin Records America

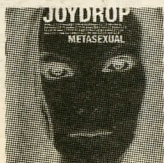
D'Angelo must be the hardest working man in music. He writes, produces, mixes, and sings in the number one album in the nation as I write this review. The effort shows.

Voodoo is a great meeting of old school R&B and new school hip-hop, but taking it further than Lauryn Hill did with her wildly successful *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill*. "Left & Right," featuring Redman and Method Man, is frank in its detail of sexing a woman up ("Smack your ass / Pull your hair" and other wild unmentionable stuff) but the slow beat in the background makes it undeniably appealing.

There is more. The entire album is a smooth mood setter that will no doubt have the ladies screaming for more. Just take a look at the album cover. The man is shirtless. I do not think that this album was made for business gatherings. So, for that special Valentines, *Voodoo* is highly recommended. You can thank me later.

—Mohamed Fathelbab

JOYDROP
METASEXUAL
Tommy Boy Records



I never thought that I would see the day that Tommy Boy, the label where old

school hip-hop reigned during the early 1990s, would release a good rock album. But they did, and by a band from Canada. What's up with this? First Our Lady Peace, now Joydrop. Are Canadians taking over the rock genre? I don't know.

Metasexual was actually released early last year but only now did I get the chance to listen to this album. There's something about a woman fronting a head-banging alternative band. It's sexy. And Tara Slone's sultry vocals add just that, very much like Shirley Manson's voice adds that dimension to Garbage. You could say that the two bands are alike. But don't forget: Joydrop is purely Canadian.

The best track of this album is "Beautiful." A somber start about a girl who might have a self-image problem, but then picks up with a big "fuck you" to society's image of the perfect woman. So, there is a message but the music is the focus. A good combination. Final words: *Metasexual* is good.

—Mohamed Fathelbab

THIRD EYE BLIND
BLUE
Elektra Entertainment

The sophomore release by Third Eye Blind is not that much different than their very successful self-titled debut album. There is still that mix of rock and pop, but Stephen Jenkins now sounds

British. Why is that? Isn't the band from San Francisco? I thought I was listening to the Manic Street Preachers.

"Anything," the very first track, is a good jumpstart to *Blue*, but it wanes down from there. With the exception of "An Ode to Maybe," there isn't one strong track. They could be throwaways from the first album, or freshly written material. Anyway, it's bland. I don't know if you can have much fun listening to *Blue* nor have a philosophical discussion afterwards concerning the lyrical context. I think this album was written with soundtracks in mind. I guess Kevin Williamson is writing another screenplay or Jennifer Love Hewitt is going to star in another movie marketed towards us, the young people of America. Either way, it is not good.

Throw this album in the "Just Slashed the Price" CD bin, right next to Garth Brooks, Chris Gaines and Puff Daddy. It is where it belongs.

—Mohamed Fathelbab

THE ROCKFORDS
THE ROCKFORDS
Epic Records



Now here's a woman-fronted band that sucks. A throwback to Southside Johnny, The Rockfords sing the type of blues-like rock songs that make going to bars a tiresome chore. Maybe they sound better when one's drunk. That should be the marketing campaign. "A bottle of vodka with every copy of The Rockfords you buy!"

All the tracks sound like they've been played on *Buffy: The Vampire Slayer*, or, very much like Third Eye Blind's *Blue*, ready for a teen movie soundtrack. No more, please!

Here's another reason not to go out and buy The Rockfords: Nancy Wilson from the 80s band Heart joins the group for "Riverwide." Why? I guess Susanna Hoffs was too busy for them. In any case, run like you've never run before if you stumble across this album.

—Mohamed Fathelbab

EJ
ANOTHER INSUFFICIENT FARE
Luminous Flux Records

I hope this teenybopper trend ends soon

and we go back to the mid-1990s, when Lilith Fair was the hottest concert around, because boy, do I have a find for you. She is right here, in our own school. Local acts usually consist of super-sized egos performing shitty songs, but EJ is different. She actually has this thing called talent.

Another Insufficient Fare is a truly independent album, which means it has its drawbacks, but that is just studio junk that shouldn't get in the way of one's listening pleasure. The songs are well written and they are well sung. "The Angel Song" is a melodic track that, at first listen, is a pop-ish number, but after paying close attention to lyrics and performance, is a deep and moving piece. It ain't no Britney "From the Bottom of My Broken Heart," and thank the Good Lord for that.

The strongest track off *Another Insufficient Fare* is "Fantasy Land." It proves that chicks can rock. And once again, it is a deeply poignant, horrific tale of rape and insanity. Now, would Jessica Simpson even dare come near subject matter as strong as that? I think not.

It's time that we stop supporting crap and begin supporting struggling new artists who can carry a tune. To get yourself a copy, contact (212) 714-8297. And try to catch her next show, which is Friday, February 25, at 9 pm at The Baggott Inn (West 3rd Street and Sullivan).

BIG BEAT BOUTIQUE
MIXED BY LO FIDELITY
ALLSTARS ON
THE FLOOR AT
THE BOUTIQUE
Columbia Records



Who knew that white boys could be so good at re-mixing tracks? There's Moby, Fatboy Slim, and The Chemical Brothers. Now comes the return of Lo Fidelity Allstars with a compilation CD that is neat filler for those parties that seem to go nowhere.

There are some nice re-mixes of late 90s hits, such as Blackstreet's "No Diggity" and Jungle Brother's "Black is Black." There are no drastic changes, but the tracks found on this album are all for fun.

If you want to get a compilation album then get *Big Beat Boutique*. If you don't want a compilation album then don't buy it.

—Mohamed Fathelbab

STAFF AUDITOR

A major NYC nonprofit business corporation seeks a motivated professional to perform operational and financial audits. Successful candidate must be detail oriented and have a minimum of 1-2 years of auditing experience.

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POSITION AVAILABLE

Advertising Manager

The Hunter Envoy is currently seeking a dependable individual to oversee our advertising flow. Must have work history demonstrating responsibility, initiative and organizational ability. Office experience is an advantage. Knowledge of Hunter voucher system A+. Duties include distributing ad information, soliciting ads, maintaining records and sending invoices.

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For more information call Editor Irene Neofotistos or Managing Editor Eulan Atkinson at (212) 772-4251.

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BY WILLIAM D. JACKSON



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ENVOY CLASSIFIEDS WORK!
If you're reading this, so are thousands of Hunter Students. Reach the sharpest student body in New York. Direct inquiries to: Danny Haywood, Envoy Ad Manager, 695 Park Avenue, Room 211TH, New York City, NY 10021, (212) 772-4252, Fax (212) 772-5539.

ATTENTION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

The official organization which represents students, charters clubs, allocates funds, and provides social, cultural and political programs.

Available positions: Executive Officers and Senators.

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STUDENT

COLLEGE ASSOCIATION

This organization reviews and approves all student activity fee supported budgets.

It also includes professors and administrators.

ELECTIONS

AUXILIARY ENTERPRISE BOARD

This organization reviews and approves all contracts for auxiliary enterprises on campus such as the bookstore and cafeteria. Additionally, this organization allocates funds for various campus activities based on available revenue from auxiliary enterprises.

ARE COMING

FACULTY-STUDENT DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

This committee hears testimony and renders decisions regarding allegations, which if proved, may subject a student to disciplinary action

WHAT IS STUDENT GOVERNMENT?

Every Hunter student pays a student activity fee alongside their tuition. These are the elected bodies that choose what **priorities** are given to those funds. In addition to accounting, the Undergraduate Student Government bears a **special responsibility** to defend the **integrity** of the City University and the communities of New York it has traditionally served. Elections will be held during the Spring 2000 semester for the 2000/2001 academic year.

The administration has made campaign funds available. For more information, get the election packet from Student Services, or **visit Student Government** in room 121 Hunter North.

HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

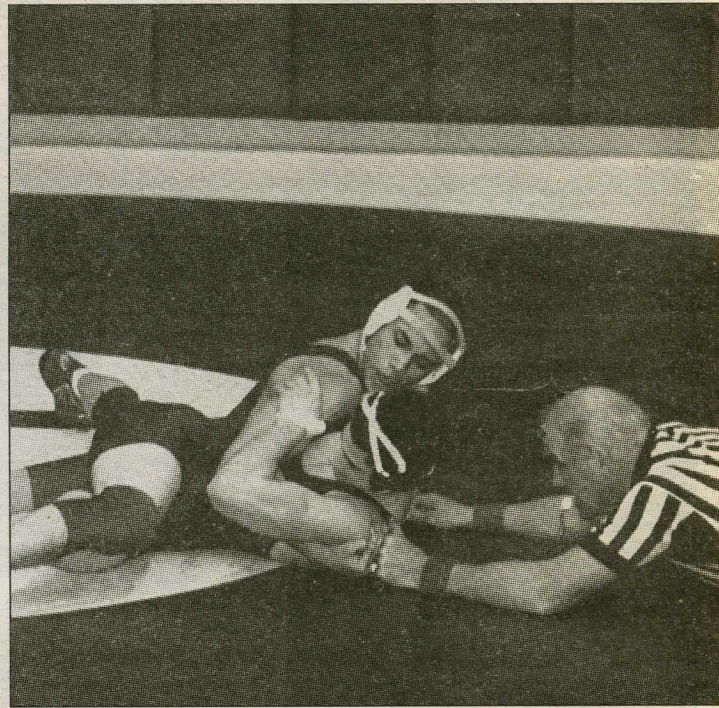
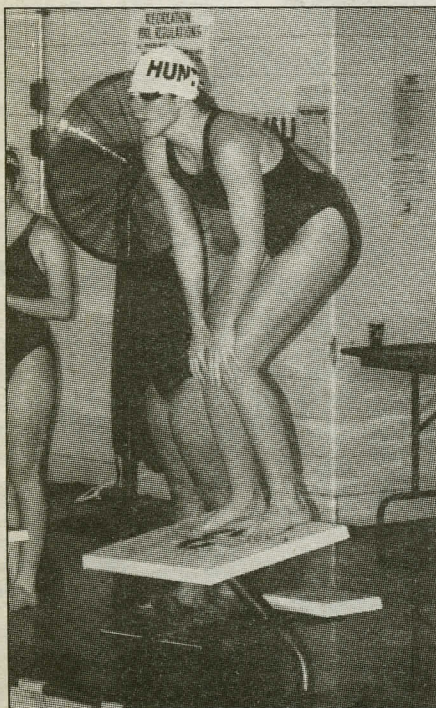
For those students who are considering running for any of the above positions, Student Services has scheduled four "Prospective Candidate Workshops" so that you may learn more about the rules governing the elections, eligibility, how to organize a campaign, etc. Please feel free to attend either workshop. All will be held in Room 1103 East.

Tuesday, February 15
Friday, March 3
Monday, March 27
Thursday, April 6

2:30 to 3:30 pm
11:00 am to 12:00 noon
4:00 to 5:00 pm
5:00 to 6:00 pm

Election packets are available in room 1119 East beginning February 7, 2000

Crunch Time for the Hawks



COURTESY OF HUNTER ATHLETICS

WOMEN'S SWIMMING: Freshman Maureen McBride was named CUNYAC Most Valuable Swimmer after winning four gold medals at the conference championship. **INDOOR TRACK:** Senior Kimberly Young, CUNYAC long jump and triple jump champion. **MEN'S WRESTLING:** Sophomore Mario Villa pins his opponent after throwing him to the mat.

Brian Fraga
SPORTS EDITOR

The first two weeks of the spring semester has already seen the coronation of two CUNYAC championships in men's and women's track as well as women's swimming. The men's wrestling program has begun preparations for the upcoming Metropolitan Conference Championships and the men's and women's basketball programs will soon start play in their respective CUNYAC basketball championships tournaments.

Indoor Track & Field

It was an end of an era as new CUNYAC champions were crowned at the indoor track and field championships on Feb 5. Hunter's men's team failed to fin-

ish first for the first time in four years as York dethroned the Hawks, finishing in first place with 99 total points as Hunter fell to a distant third with 57 points.

The Hawks' Ronald Reid did manage to set a new record in the 400 meters however, with a time of 50.38 seconds. Reid also placed 7th in the long jump event and ran on the 4X400m relay that finished second overall.

The women's team came up short against Lehman College, who won the overall CUNYAC championship. The Hawks' Kim Young was able to finish first overall in the triple and long jumps, with jumps of 10.32 meters and 5.01 meters respectively. Samantha Wiltshire also finished first in the high jump for the Hawks with a jump of 1.46 meters.

Women's Swimming

The inaugural swimming CUNYAC championships were held on Jan 29 and Staten Island cruised to an easy victory with 401 points, 75 points over second-place Hunter College.

The main reason for Hunters' second-place finish was the performance of standout freshman Maureen McBride. McBride won all four events she entered in and captured all four gold medals on her way to being named the CUNYAC Most Valuable Swimmer.

The swim team will be competing in the Metro Conference Championships February 18-20 as they seek to earn a bid to the NCAA Division III championships.

Men's Wrestling

The Hawks' season is winding down, with only the Metropolitan Conference Championships in its way before the NCAA tournament begins in early March. Mario Villa has returned from an early injury this season and has posted a 7-4 record in tournaments. Mike Omelio has also led the Hawks with a 9-3 record in dual meets, 12-8 overall.

Women's Basketball

The Hawks have owned the CUNYAC conference this year, amassing a 10-1 record against their conference rivals. They have done this without the services of senior center Tanika Hurtt, who as of Feb 7, was still out of service with a fractured hip.

The Hawks recently defeated CCNY at home 68-51 and avenged an earlier loss to CCNY two weeks prior that halted their CUNYAC winning streak at 26 games. Jen Rodgers continued to be a long distance threat for the Hawks, with 4 three-pointers against CCNY, and Diana Olaya kept up her fine all-around play with 9 assists, 11 points and 6 steals.

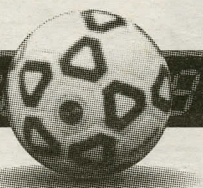
Men's Basketball

The men's program this season hasn't had the success of their female counterparts. As of Feb 7, the Hawks had a 4-18 overall record, 3-8 in the CUNYAC.

However, the attitude around the team has remained optimistic and head coach Bill Healy feels strongly about his team's chances to compete in the upcoming CUNYAC championships.

Giving fodder for Healy's optimism has been the team's recent solid play of late, which included a 64-58 victory over Baruch on Feb 4. The loss knocked Baruch out of first place in the CUNYAC's North Division. Guard Lorenz Albano led the Hawks with 20 points and center Greg Hardin contributed with 16 points and 14 rebounds.

THE SPORTS CORNER



Brian Fraga
SPORTS EDITOR

Ahh, early February. The football season is finished, baseball is still over 2 months away and it's still too early in the NBA season to really care about what's going on. Even though this may be a dead spot in the yearly sports schedule, nothing can ever stop this sports editor from sharing a few thoughts on the state of sport...

What a tough last couple of months it has been for the NFL! First the Ray Carruth and Ray Lewis murder raps, and now the sudden passing of Derrick Thomas. The NFL and the Kansas City Chiefs lost one of the good guys in Thomas, who was active in his community from his days in college...

At least the story of Kurt Warner offers a feel-good story for the NFL. Here's a guy who was stocking shelves at a grocery store for 5.50 an hour, playing football in the arena

league and quarterbacking a team in the European league just 2 seasons ago. So what does he do this season? Get frustrated? Nah, just go on to throw over 40 touchdown passes, win the league MVP, win the Super Bowl and star in the Pro Bowl...

It looks like I'll be watching the NBA's All-Star Weekend this year. I was glad to see them bring back the dunk contest, even if it's officially sponsored now. This time, the NBA needs to make sure real stars like Vince Carter and Kobe Bryant take part in it and not fringe players like Dee Brown and Harold Miner...

People that think the NBA has no superstars can't be serious. With young studs like, Carter, Bryant, Kevin Garnett, Shaquille O'Neal and Allen Iverson, the NBA may be as talented as ever.

CUNY STANDINGS

(AS OF 2/10/00)

MEN'S B-BALL	CUNYAC W-L	OVERALL W-L
North Division		
John Jay	8-2	11-9
Baruch	7-3	13-8
Lehman	4-8	8-12
City College	4-8	8-12
Hunter	3-7	4-17
South Division		
Staten Island	9-1	15-6
York	8-1	12-7
Brooklyn	4-6	12-6
Medgar Evers	2-7	4-15
NYC Tech	2-9	5-14
WOMEN'S B-BALL	W-L	W-L
North Division		
Hunter	9-1	14-7
City College	7-3	9-11
Lehman	7-5	13-8
John Jay	2-9	5-16
Baruch	0-9	2-13
South Division		
Staten Island	9-1	13-7
York	8-3	12-7
NYC Technical	5-6	7-13
Medgar Evers	3-7	6-14
Brooklyn	2-8	6-13

HUNTER SPORTS

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HUNTER ATHLETICS: UPCOMING EVENTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Feb 19 @ CUNYAC Championships
(Staten Island) TBA
Feb 22 @ CUNYAC Championships
Feb 25 @ CUNYAC Championships

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Feb 20 @ CUNYAC Championships TBA
Feb 23 @ CUNYAC Championships TBA
Feb 25 @ CUNYAC Championships TBA

WOMEN'S JV BASKETBALL

Feb 5 @ Nassau CC 1:00pm
Feb 9 Purchase State 7:00pm

WRESTLING

Feb 19 @ Metro Championships
(Montclair State) 10:00pm

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Feb 18 @ Metro Championships (CNJ)
Feb 19 @ Metro Championships (CNJ)
Feb 20 @ Metro Championships (CNJ)

MEN'S FENCING

Feb 17 Stevens Tech (Senior Day) TBA
Feb 27 vs. Club Army & Club Cornell
(Stevens Tech) TBA

WOMEN'S FENCING

Feb 12 @ Stevens Tech 10:00pm
Feb 18 Bard 5:00pm
Feb 20 @ Stevens Tech 10:00pm
Feb 24 @ Fairleigh Dickinson 5:30pm

MEN'S & WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK

Feb 19 @ MAC Championships
(168 Armory) TBA
Feb 26 @ Princeton Invitational TBA

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Feb 19 D'Youville 7:00pm
Feb 23 @ John Jay 7:00pm
Feb 27 @ Sacred Heart 1:00pm
Feb 28 @ Lehman 7:00pm

For more info, call the Hawks Hotline at
772-4929 or point your WWW browser at
studentweb.hunter.cuny.edu/~athletic

MEN'S BASKETBALL: Senior point
guard Quentin Lauriston calls out a
play for his team.

COURTESY OF HUNTER ATHLETICS

