

Clarion

NEWSPAPER OF THE PROFESSIONAL STAFF CONGRESS / CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



MARCH 2003



WAR Reservists at CUNY

CUNY employees and students have been called up for a possible war in Iraq.

PAGE 6



Gary Schochet

BUILDING A MOVEMENT

ANOTHER BUDGET IS POSSIBLE

The movement is growing. Faculty, staff and students are organizing to turn back Governor George Pataki's proposed severe CUNY budget cuts and tuition hike. Plans for a city-wide CUNY Day of Action on March 26 and a massive rally

in Albany on May 3 are moving forward. Fifteen hundred people made their voices heard at a February 26 rally at City Hall, above. At right, PSC BMCC Chapter Chair Jane Young.

SEE PAGES 8-9, 11

CIVIL RIGHTS

Detained for shooting photos

A LaGuardia honors student was working on a simple class assignment in Flushing. But police didn't like what they saw the Pakistani student doing.

PAGE 5

PSC SURVEY

Membership speaks

The PSC sent out a membership survey, and thousands of members made their opinions known. The results will help shape the next contract negotiations.

PAGE 3

GENDER

Women in academe

Much has changed and much has not for women in higher education and the labor movement. An analysis of women's work, unions and the University.

PAGE 10

PSC ELECTIONS

Union-wide Voting

Candidate statements included inside.

PAGES 12-15





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR | WRITE TO: CLARION/PSC, 25 W. 43RD STREET, FIFTH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY 10036.
E-MAIL: PHOGNESS@PSCMAIL.ORG. FAX: 212-302-7815.

“Justice and decency” require parity for adjuncts

● Prof. Landesman (Letter, “No to parity for adjuncts,” February 2003) supports the CUNY Association of Scholars in its recommendation “that the role of part-time faculty should be limited to providing flexibility in response to enrollment fluctuations and . . . coverage . . . when full-time faculty are temporarily unavailable.” That may be the desideratum, and the way things were in the past, but today so-called “part-time” faculty are anything but temporary and, in many cases, anything but part-time.

The demand for “parity” is a response to the *current reality* that CUNY has become dependent on exploiting thousands of adjuncts.

Does anyone really think that skilled and experienced teachers should have to scramble to live on \$20-30,000 per year, teaching the equivalent of full-time course loads, including summers? Or that they should have so little job security that they can be told on a Friday that they have no job on Monday, even after years of service? That they should abruptly lose health insurance?

This is not a matter of “academic standards.” CUNY is full of highly qualified adjuncts that have been teaching for 5, 10, even 20 years, many of whom have PhDs and/or publications in their fields. Parity for adjuncts is a matter of justice and decency.

Shirley Frank
York and City Tech

Not expendable

● The statement in Charles Landesman’s letter that the CUNY Association of Scholars (CUNYAS), on whose Executive Committee Landesman sits, “do[es] not object to improvements in the wages and working conditions of part-time faculty” is given the lie by the very documents Prof. Landesman cites. The CUNYAS Report “Parity for Adjuncts” specifically deplores PSC initiatives that would give adjuncts the right to notice of full-time position openings; ensure adequate office space, desks, filing cabinets and computer access for adjuncts; and compensate adjuncts for late course cancellations. This is totally inconsistent with Landesman’s claims.

Both documents Landesman cites are based upon the false premise that adjuncts are monumentally inferior instructors and scholars, lack

“professional commitment,” and should be treated as expendable and disposable throwaways. If CUNYAS were truly interested in “professional commitment,” then it would not stridently oppose measures to make CUNY worthy of our commitment to quality instruction. Is CUNYAS’s opposition to “parity” for adjuncts an objective stance based upon genuine concerns for the integrity of the academy, or is it an agenda beclouded to the point of inconsistency and irrationality by a bigotry born of elitism?

Kenneth H. Ryesky
Queens College

Library faculty demands

● In the latest issue of *Clarion* [February 2003], PSC President Barbara Bowen writes about “Reassigned time . . .” I think that the PSC is well aware that librarians are completely disenfranchised by the latest contract – the granting of 12 hours of reassigned time as “an entitlement” to newly hired teaching faculty, while ignoring the real needs of new library faculty.

What is additionally galling is that Barbara Bowen pointedly encourages faculty counselors to avail themselves of Article 25.4 of the contract for “fully paid professional leaves of up to four weeks,” but does not do the same for librarians when she discusses them in the next paragraph.

Professor Bowen indicates that librarians “are required to meet publication standards just as other faculty are to achieve tenure” and that “enhancing the research time for librarians is one of the union’s important goals for the next contract.” If she is serious about this, then she needs to accord library faculty the same respect she is giving to all other faculty, including faculty counselors. By not using the term “library faculty” for librarians, she sets them apart – potentially harming the goal of enhancing their situation in the next round of contract negotiations.

Janet Butler Munch
Lehman College

Barbara Bowen responds:

It is true that library faculty did not make any special gains beyond salary increases in the last contract. As I wrote in the last *Clarion*, remedying that is a major goal for the union in negotiating the next con-

tract. But I disagree that library faculty were disenfranchised: they, like many other faculty, simply received no new gains beyond the significant salary increase. We worked hard to make structural changes for many groups; we were successful for many, but not all. But the gains in this contract open the door to further changes in the next round.

Perhaps I should have directed library faculty (some of whom, by the way, have asked me to call them Librarians) to the section of the contract on professional leaves; I did so only for Counselors because there was something new in their section. No disrespect was meant. My aim was to be honest about our disappointment about not winning reassigned time for new library faculty, rather than trying to gloss over it, and to educate the entire union to the importance of this issue.

I invite you and others to be active and outspoken in the fight for our next contract – to come to union rallies, take part in union campaigns, and ask your colleagues to do the same. A show of force is the way we win things, and that has to come from *numbers*, not from me alone.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

War’s price tag

● A “pre-emptive” war in Iraq would be criminal, contravening the UN Charter, which permits only wars of self-defense. This war is for oil and geopolitical power.

It will also be expensive. The *LA Times* on February 26 cited Pentagon speculation that the cost might be \$85 billion. For convenience, let’s posit this war’s length as 85 days, ergo, \$1 billion a day. How might that money have been spent in New York State, in New York City, at CUNY?

● 11½ days of war = the State budget deficit for FY 2003 and 2004 (\$11.5 billion)

● 3½ days of war = the City budget deficit for FY 2004 (\$3.4 billion)

● 1½ days of war = CUNY’s total Budget Request for 2003-2004, senior and comprehensive and community colleges (\$1.5 billion)

● ½ day of war = the total revenue target from tuition at the senior colleges: \$504 million

● 2 hours and 24 minutes of war = City aid to the community colleges: \$124 million

So without a war, we could elimi-

nate the City and State deficits, restore free tuition, and have \$67 billion left.

Lenore Beaky
LaGuardia Community College

Prisoners of TIAA-CREF

● For many years those of us in TIAA-CREF had our entire retirement savings tied up in an annuity. Finally the union managed to have TIAA agree, reluctantly, to allow its members (I would say prisoners) to transfer that money into various CREF investment accounts, albeit over an eleven-year period.

I thought that upon completion of the transfer my money would be mine. But now that I’m retiring TIAA informed me that, regardless of the progress of the transfer, they are retaining *one-third* of my account as an annuity. Their explanation is that the city requires this of them. Moreover, upon questioning, they admitted that they annually recalculate the one-third, so that if the CREF accounts increase when the economy recovers, TIAA appropriates additional money.

Yes, we can roll the remaining two-thirds of our own money out of TIAA into an IRA, but then retirees are subject to New York State income taxes, from which the approved retirement plans such as TIAA are exempt. So we’re damned if we do, and damned if we don’t. It’s time the union forces TIAA to treat our money as ours, and not theirs!

Mitchell Okun
Kingsborough

Moving words

● I really appreciated seeing a couple of poems in the February *Clarion*. Something novel and moving.

Chip Stewart
City College

Keep it up

● You’re putting out the best union paper I see. Keep up the fine work.

Sumner M. Rosen
Columbia University (emeritus)

Write to Clarion

Letters should be no more than 150-200 words in length and are subject to editing.

LABOR IN BRIEF

Day care workers hold one-day strike

Almost city 7,000 day care workers held a one-day strike in February, demanding wage increases to match other municipal workers. DC 1707, which represents the day care workers responsible for 50,000 children at more than 350 day care centers, is seeking annual 4% increases and better health care benefits.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg has offered the workers no salary increases and instead offered annual lump sum payments. Cooks and custodians, who are part of the union, at the centers earn about \$21,000 a year. The city is also seeking givebacks, including less vacation time and \$15 co-pays for doctor visits. On the day of the strike, the day care workers, who have been without a contract for 25 months, held a rally at City Hall.

All aboard?

Drivers of a freight train in the UK put the brakes on a shipment of ammunition apparently earmarked for British forces preparing for a possible war in Iraq. The job action is believed to be the first such industrial action by workers in the UK in decades. Officials with the drivers’ union, ASLEF, were pressured to get the drivers – who are believed to be the only two in the area who know that particular route – back on the job, according to *The Guardian*. But the union is strongly opposed to British participation in any attack on Iraq, and was in no hurry to force the drivers to comply with Ministry of Defense demands.

Airport workers screened out

The Bush Administration has announced that it will deny 56,000 federal airport screeners the right to form a union. The American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) had been gaining momentum in a national drive to organize the airport screeners, filing for elections on behalf of workers at New York- and Washington-area airports.

“Mandatory collective bargaining is not compatible with the flexibility required to wage the war against terrorism,” James Loy, head of the Transportation Security Administration, told the *LA Times*. But the White House “has not been able to cite a single example of how unions have ever compromised national security,” said AFGE President Bobby Harnage. “Where I come from, we call Bush’s ‘flexibilities’ just plain old Texas B.S. and union-busting.” AFGE is challenging the decision in federal court.

PSC chapter elections news

The PSC Elections Committee incorrectly scheduled a mail ballot election to fill two vacancies at NY-CCT for Welfare Fund Advisory Council representatives. Since this is an election to fill a vacancy rather

than a special election, proper procedure calls for a nominating meeting, to which all PSC members on the campus are invited. Thus, the committee stopped the mail ballot in progress and asked the chapter

chair to convene the required meeting. The committee thanks all involved for their patience and apologizes for any inconvenience.

In recent special elections, Santiago Villafane and Leander W. Hardaway were elected unopposed as chapter chair and vice chair, respectively, at the Bronx EOC. Deborah

Osunbor won a contested race for alternate delegate. In an uncontested election in the Registrars Chapter, Y. Rosenrauch and F. Matcovsky became chair and vice chair, respectively. At the Grad Center, D. Williams and J. Wrigley were elected unopposed to the Welfare Fund Advisory Council.

Membership sounds off

By **STEVE LONDON**
PSC First Vice President

PSC members responded to last fall's contract survey in record numbers. The comprehensive questionnaire asked members for their opinions on a range of contract and union issues and for their priorities in the next round of negotiations. The responses show an engaged union membership with deep concerns about their future at CUNY.

University-wide, three demands stood out as top priorities for PSC members: across-the-board salary increases, job security and support for the Welfare Fund. Subsets of respondents reveal a different picture, however, with equity increases, workload, advancement and promotion chosen as priorities by different groups.

Some new elements emerged from the survey results. For example, 55% said that paid child care leave is important or very important, and most faculty say the same about protections against workload increases related to distance learning.

3,600 RESPONSES

In total, 3,600 members responded, representing 33% of members in non-contingent full-time titles (36% for teaching faculty and 25% for non-teaching professional staff) and 11% of members in part-time titles. The response rate for full-timers was good and the distribution of the titles reflected the actual distribution of titles in the bargaining unit. As expected, the part-timer response rate was smaller, but the distribution among titles was also good.

By significant margins, all groups

A look at contract survey



Mike Fabricant and Marcia Newfield in a strategy discussion at a recent PSC bargaining team meeting.

favored some sort of equity adjustment in the PSC's approach to salary increases. For example, 46% of full-timers approved of the approach taken in the last contract, which targeted a combination of differential percentage and dollar amount increases at the bottom and the top. An additional one-fifth of full-timers want an approach that targets more money to the lower salary ranks. Taken together, two-thirds of full-timers support some sort of equity approach to salary increases. Not surprisingly, 83% of part-timers favored an equity approach to salary increases.

SALARY STEPS

Overwhelmingly, all groups want to maintain the current step salary system. Only 10% supported man-

agement's attempts to impose a discretionary pay scheme, a result that was consistent across all groups.

The PSC's membership is very diverse, and, not surprisingly, members in different titles have different concerns. For example, among full-time faculty reduction in course load by one course is considered very important or important by 70% of respondents. Protections against excessive workload in distance learning and an increased rate of pay for full-year sabbaticals were major workload concerns for about 65%. For full-time faculty, across-the-board salary increases, workload and the Welfare Fund were the top three priorities.

Over half of full-time faculty were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with existing support for research and scholarship and financial support for professional groups, and 42% felt they did not have access to adequate office space. Governance issues were also a concern: 49% of full-time faculty respondents report they have sometimes or frequently faced administrative interference in curricular or instructional matters.

A total of 926 part-timers responded, the majority of whom are adjunct lecturers. Among part-timers responding, 60% have been employed at CUNY for more than five years, 68% have no full-time job outside of CUNY, and they earn on average 52% of their income from CUNY employment. The part-timer respondents thus represent those who have a long-time connection to CUNY and are the most financially dependent on their CUNY jobs.

Part-timers had the highest degree of internal agreement among all groups, with equity raises a clear standout as the top concern. Job security came not too far behind and advancement and promotion was number three. Salary increases were chosen by 81% of part-timer respondents as one of their top three priorities.

Cross-campus members (Higher Education Officers and College Lab Technicians) ranked job security as their number one concern, followed by salary increases and advancement. 69% of cross-campus respondents were dissatisfied or very dis-

They're reading it

The survey also showed that members pay close attention to the union newspaper: 44% said that they always read *Clarion*, while 36% said that they usually do so. "That's great," said editor Peter Hogness. "It really makes our work feel worthwhile. It also keeps us on our toes!"

satisfied with the fairness of the system for reclassification and promotion.

Full-time cross-campus respondents held particularly strong views about workload as well. Paid overtime was considered very important or important by nearly 85% of HEO respondents, as was compensatory time. HEOs and CLTs have a contractual 35-hour work week, but respondents reported working an average of 43 hours per week.

SAFETY AND HEALTH

Since cross-campus members tend to spend the most time on campus, they are the most vulnerable to safety and health problems. Disturbingly, 43% were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with safety and health conditions at their school.

There is much more to be learned from this survey. The results will help us identify specific issues at the campus level. We will also be looking at the results by income, length of service, gender and race. Our state affiliate, New York State United Teachers, took on a large share of both the survey's financial cost and the analytic work, and it will continue to assist the PSC in analyzing the results.

Arbitrator allows evaluation of chairs

By **CLARION STAFF**

A January 17 arbitration decision upheld the CUNY administration's position that each college president has the right to conduct evaluations of all department chairpersons. The arbitrator upheld the applicability of the Board of Trustees Bylaws, which state that such evaluations will be made with an eye on the "capacity of the individual selected to act effectively as the departmental administrator and spokesperson and as a participant in the formation, development, and interpretation of college-wide interests and policy."

FACULTY GOVERNANCE

"Clearly such a decision threatens to put pressure on faculty governance," said Charles Molesworth, professor of English at Queens College and chair of the PSC Grievance Policy Committee.

Faculty governance at issue

This change in faculty governance was first proposed unilaterally by Chancellor Goldstein in October 2000, and the PSC quickly instituted a grievance to block it. Many department chairs were consulted at the various campuses, and there was near-unanimous resistance to the new policy. The union further argued that department chairs are members of the PSC, and that as bargaining unit members their terms and conditions of employment could not be altered without negotiations between CUNY and the PSC. "The right of the union to negotiate employment issues for all members is one of the

cornerstones of the labor-management relationship," Molesworth said.

The PSC argued that this new policy was adopted without negotiation, and that it unilaterally superimposed an evaluation process on members of the bargaining unit (i.e. department chairs), in contrast to the clearly delineated process found in Article 18 of the union contract.

The change was first proposed unilaterally by Goldstein in October 2000.

"The PSC feels strongly that the election of chairs is an important exercise of faculty governance, and the chair is not in the usual sense a supervisor, but is rather a peer of his or her colleagues," Molesworth explained. Election by the faculty

gives the chairs an authority that ultimately rests in the faculty itself, he said.

Another point raised by the union in the arbitration is that historically at CUNY, it has only been in extraordinary circumstances that a college president has exercised the Bylaw authority to recommend removal of a chair to the Trustees.

EVALUATION LIMITED

In arriving at his decision, the arbitrator noted that, as promulgated by CUNY, "the evaluation...must be limited" to the chair's administrative duties, he stated, and could not apply to the chair's work as a faculty member. No information gathered in this new evaluation can be used for the purposes set forth in Article 18. As a result, the record of the evaluation by the college president would not be kept in the chairperson's personal or adminis-

trative personnel file, both of which are governed by the contract's Article 19.

CONFUSION

When the policy was first promulgated by the Chancellor there was confusion and erratic implementation of the proposed procedure. It remains to be seen how the administration will conduct these new evaluations now that this decision has been rendered. "The PSC wants to be sure that there is no misuse of evaluations," Molesworth said. "We would welcome comments and reports by the chairs, and others, on this new evaluation procedure."

Correction

Due to a typographical error, in last month's "Roving Reporter" the "d" was dropped from the name of Medgar Evers College. *Clarion* regrets the error.

Education bill for welfare recipients

By TOMIO GERON

Education and welfare advocates won a victory on February 12 when the City Council voted to allow people on public assistance to count education – including study at CUNY – as part of their weekly work requirement.

Mayor Bloomberg had 30 days to act on the bill, and, as *Clarion* went to press, the mayor was still considering whether he would sign it. But odds were high that the Council could override any mayoral veto, as the bill – Intro. 93A – was approved by an overwhelming 42-3 margin.

VETO OVERRIDE?

“We’re hopeful that the Council would override a veto,” said Lorraine Cohen of the PSC Women’s Committee, “but it’s imperative that people call their Council member and urge them to stand firm. We have a shot, we really can win this one.”

Cohen and other Women’s Committee members have been active with the Coalition for Access to Training and Education (CATE), the group supporting Intro. 93A. The coalition worked with General Welfare Committee Chair Bill de Blasio and Speaker Gifford Miller to get the bill introduced and passed, and activists pushed to keep its provisions strong as the details were debated.

City Council expands access to college



PSC members including Anne Friedman, center, braved the cold, joining PSC Associate Executive Director Mary Ann Carlese and City Council member Gale Brewer at a January 22 rally at City Hall to support Intro. 93A.

Education is the best way to move people off welfare, argued CUNY and welfare rights advocates. “Presumably welfare reform was intended to make people less dependent,” said Fran Geteles, a retired SEEK counselor and PSC Women’s Committee member. “The only way to do

that is to give them the tools they need.”

“Statistics show that upon getting a B.A., 87% of us move not only off welfare but out of poverty,” said Maureen Lane of the Welfare Rights Initiative at Hunter College, herself a former welfare recipient, citing a

five-state Ford Foundation study. “And 75% move off welfare in the first two years.”

Under former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani’s highly touted “workfare” program, NYC’s welfare rolls fell dramatically. But advocates argue that many former welfare recipients are unemployed and destitute or, at best, stuck in dead-end jobs.

“The whole goal is to move welfare recipients out of poverty, not just off welfare, so education is key,” said Brenda Stewart, a former welfare recipient and an organizer with Families Unit-

ed for Racial and Economic Equality, a member of the CATE coalition. “It would have been beneficial for me to go to college or take training courses of my choosing. I didn’t have that option.”

ALMOST 22,000 STUDENTS

The number of CUNY students who receive welfare has fallen from about 27,000 in 1996 to 5,356 in Fall

2002, according to Stephen Loffredo, a professor at CUNY School of Law, who is an expert on the issue. Loffredo said that Giuliani’s workfare program, which remains in place today, forced thousands of students to drop out.

Conservative pundits, like the Manhattan Institute’s Heather MacDonald, have argued that welfare recipients should attend college on their own time, not during their 30-hour “work requirement.”

Loffredo counters that this is simply unrealistic: “For many students, especially those with young children, there’s simply not enough hours in the day to attend to studies, create a solid home environment for children and work full-time.” Loffredo noted that many welfare recipients attending school have an internship in addition to their required workfare job.

Advocates say that Bloomberg has largely stuck with Giuliani’s welfare policies, but they note that he has struck a softer tone, and are hopeful that he might decide to give Intro. 93A his support. While City Council members believe that they have the votes to override a veto by Bloomberg, the mayor also has the option of simply not signing it by the 30-day deadline – in which case the bill would automatically become law.

Education is key to moving welfare recipients out of poverty.

Antiwar views gain strength in labor

By KRISTIN LAWLER

The PSC had a robust presence at the February 15 antiwar demonstration in New York City, in which as many as 500,000 took part. The rally was part of the largest protest in world history, with 8 to 10 million people participating in cities around the globe.

Carrying bright red signs that demanded “Money for Education, Not War,” a PSC contingent of over 500 took to the streets with 28 other New York unions opposed to war with Iraq. “It’s good to be part of the union speaking out,” said Susan Falls, a graduate assistant at New York City Tech. “Even the narrowest economic issues depend on the health of the whole economy, the whole society – and these are compromised by war and the threat of war.”

The PSC first took a stand against a war with Iraq last May, after two months of union-wide discussion. Since then more and more US unions have adopted an antiwar position. Currently 8 national unions, 38 central labor councils, 2 state labor federations and over 125 local

PSC part of biggest protest in world history

unions have come out against Bush’s moves toward war. In early January, representatives of unions with over two million members met in Chicago to form US Labor Against the War (USLAW).

PSC POSITION

The PSC’s January Delegate Assembly (DA) decided to defer any decision on joining USLAW until the following month, and asked chapters to discuss the question and the resolution passed at USLAW’s initial meeting (www.psc-cuny.org/antiwar.htm). At the February 27 DA meeting, delegates from BMCC, Brooklyn, CCNY, City Tech, LaGuardia, Queens, York and other chapters reported strong majorities in support of the USLAW statement. “We had our largest chapter meeting ever and a very passionate discussion,” reported Marianne Pita of Bronx Community College. “In the end the vote was 3-to-1 in favor.”

Chapters that did not schedule meetings in this period discussed the

issue via e-mail. This included Queensborough, the only chapter where most comments ran against PSC support for USLAW. Irwin Yelowitz of the Retirees Chapter explained that he would abstain to express his general opposition to unions taking stands on international issues. In the end, the DA voted 54-0 to join USLAW, with 8 abstentions. The DA also voted to work within USLAW to refine the group’s statement of its political position.

The same day the growing labor opposition to war with Iraq was reflected in a statement from the AFL-CIO Executive Council. Emphasizing that the Bush Administration has “managed to insult many of our strong allies and divided the world at a time when it should speak as one,” the statement opposed a war with Iraq at this time.

To some extent the AFL-CIO statement straddled the views of unions with a strong antiwar stance and others less categorically opposed to Bush’s policy. “Some

unions, most notably the American Federation of Teachers, are more willing to accept a unilateral approach,” reported the *New York Times* – referring to an AFT Executive Council resolution adopted January 23. Though the AFT statement criticizes Bush for advancing a “partisan domestic agenda” and expresses a preference for acting with international support, it supports the use of American military force against Iraq – unilaterally if necessary. (See www.psc-cuny.org/antiwar.htm, “AFT Position.”)

AFT POSITION

Eighteen AFT locals have come out against war with Iraq, and a few AFT Executive Council members voted against the AFT’s resolution – among them PSC President Barbara Bowen. “The PSC has taken a clear position, and the AFT resolution itself was not one I could support,” said Bowen. “It ultimately supports Bush’s plan of a unilateral, pre-emptive strike by the United States, and



Over 500 PSC members joined the historic February 15 demonstration.

misrepresents the proposed war against Iraq as an act of ‘liberation.’ This war is not about liberation, but rather about political and economic interests and control. I could not, in conscience, vote for our union to support it.”

If you attended the Feb. 15 protest, or did not but would like to be notified of future PSC anti-war events, please e-mail Nancy Romer at nancyromer@earthlink.net.

Police detain honors student

By TOMIO GERON

Yasser Hussain was taking photos of storefronts on Main Street in Flushing for a presentation in his urban sociology class on February 12. The LaGuardia student was startled when he was stopped by three police officers.

They asked for ID and why he was taking pictures. “[The officer] asks me if that’s my name,” said Hussain. “I said, ‘Yeah that’s my name.’ Then he asks me my ethnic background. I said ‘I’m from Pakistan.’”

That was enough information for the police, who called in another car with four more officers. A total of at least nine officers surrounded the 20-year-old. “They told me not to move,” recounted Hussain. “I was standing in front of the subway. Everyone walking by was looking at me like I’m a criminal.”

When police told the student to come with them, he asked how long it would take, explaining that he had to pick up his three-year-old daughter from child care. They said it would only take a minute.

Hussain spent the next five hours in the 109th Precinct stationhouse, as police officers questioned him about friends, family, political beliefs, immigration status and even whether he is related to Saddam Hussein.

The LaGuardia honors student – Phi Beta Kappa with a 3.75 GPA –

Taking photos on Main St.

was peppered with numerous questions. “[The officer] asked if I have any connections with Saddam Hussein or Osama bin Laden,” said Hussain. “They asked me if I know anyone involved in terrorism or militant groups. He even asked me, what do I think about Saddam Hussein? I said I totally resent him.”

Hussain told the officers that his assignment was on neighborhood change in Flushing – a story, ironi-

cally, of immigrant achievement. He told police that they could call LaGuardia to verify the course and his student status – he is in the US on a student visa.

CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE

But the police apparently never called the college. Instead, they called the Criminal Intelligence Section of the NYPD, which handles investigations of terrorism.



LaGuardia honors student Yasser Hussain was taking photos for a class assignment in Flushing when he was picked up by police.

It wasn’t just the constant questions that shook Hussain. One of the many officers grilling him tried to add some dark humor. “He says ‘Let me just close the door in case I have to beat you up,’” the student recalled. “He thought it was funny. I didn’t think it was funny. I’m stressed out.”

Hussain was not offered a chance to make a phone call until the questioning was almost over. While he was in the stationhouse, “the only thing on my mind was my wife and baby girl,” he told *Clarion*. After hours of interrogation and a search of his car, police let him go and returned his camera – but not the film. He was not charged with any crime.

The incident was especially disturbing for Hussain because it came on Eid, the holy day when Muslims hold large family celebrations. He was five hours late picking up his daughter, and then missed going to his relatives’ house for the celebration. “I was upset because this was a special day,” said Hussain, “Basically the whole day was ruined.”

The next day in class, other students presented posters with a wide variety of photos of New York’s changing neighborhoods. But Hussain’s poster had only one picture, of himself. Beneath it he wrote, “I was arrested and detained for taking pictures of Flushing.”

His classmates and teacher, Assistant Professor of Social Science Janet Michello, were

stunned. “I was very shocked and disturbed by what happened,” said Michello, who called LaGuardia President Gail Mellow to ask her to address the situation.

Mellow told *Clarion* that the college immediately followed up, calling police to ask if they could confirm that a student had been detained. “The Community Affairs Office of the 109th Precinct told the college that the information is confidential and being handled by the Joint Terrorism Task Force,” said Mellow. “We informed the CUNY Legal Office, and will continue to monitor the situation.”

Jane Sovern of CUNY’s Office for Legal Affairs said that her office took no action, leaving it to LaGuardia.

Joan Greenbaum, PSC Chapter Chair at LaGuardia, said that the incident poses troubling questions for CUNY faculty. “Now we can’t even send students out to do an assignment without worrying about whether they’ll be picked up,” she said. “How are we supposed to teach like this?”

LITTLE DOUBT

Hussain has little doubt about why he was picked up. “If I was white or had the name John Patterson, nothing would happen,” he said. “But being how I look and my name is Yasser Hussain, it makes situations worse.”

A spokesperson for the FBI/NYPD Joint Terrorism Task Force told *Clarion* that he could not comment, and the 109th Precinct did not return repeated phone calls.

The incident has made Hussain wary of even walking down the street. “When I’m walking outside, I want to make sure I don’t cause too much attention,” he said. “I’m basically afraid right now.”

International students face INS “mess”

A glitch in a new computerized tracking system has left CUNY’s international students stranded. Several who need to leave and re-enter the country have been unable to get the necessary legal documents from the University.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) recently began to require US colleges to submit extensive information on all international students through the Web-based Student Exchange and Visitor Information System (SEVIS). SEVIS was supposed to be up and running by February 15, but as of mid-March CUNY still could not use the system.

According to CUNY student advisors, the problem has meant that at least three students who needed to return to their home country due to a death in the family could not obtain the I-20 immigration forms they needed to assure re-entry to the US.

Computer system inaccessible

James McGovern, Director of International Student and Scholar Services at City College, told *Clarion* that one of these students had decided to leave the country anyway, despite not knowing when – or if – she would be allowed back in.

A STANDSTILL

Ongoing processing of international student information is also at a standstill while INS and its contractor, EDS, try to get SEVIS to work at CUNY. “We’re stopped dead in our tracks,” said one of CUNY’s international student advisors. “If any student is traveling, changing majors or moving, we can’t do anything to help them.”

The SEVIS system is required by federal immigration legislation

passed in 1996; members of Congress cited the fact that one participant in the 1993 attack on the World Trade Center was in the US on an expired student visa. The project moved slowly until the 2001 USA-PATRIOT Act set a deadline of January 30, 2003.

“I just think it’s silly for the INS to set deadlines before it knows whether the system [required] by that deadline is going to work,” said Victor Johnson, associate executive director of the Washington, DC-based Association of International Educators. Adding to the confusion, said Johnson, is the recent merger of the INS into the new Department of Homeland Security

(DHS). The DHS’s enforcement arm will oversee SEVIS, prompting fears of aggressive handling of foreign students and scholars.

Acknowledging that colleges were having problems using the system, the INS pushed the original January 30 deadline back to February 15. But student advisors told *Clarion* that at CUNY the system crashed the first time someone tried to log on to it, at the end of January, and has remained unusable. Because SEVIS had been set up to treat CUNY’s 18 colleges as a single school, the system cannot handle multiple log-ons.

LOG-ON?

It is unclear how many other universities are having difficulties with SEVIS. At UC Berkeley and Columbia, the system is reportedly func-

tioning, but sources at NYU told *Clarion* that their school has had significant problems.

Harry Franklin, Interim University Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, told *Clarion* that he has been “in constant communication” with the INS and EDS and that CUNY has been promised rapid action. “I would feel confident that CUNY and the SEVIS help desk are working to rectify the issue,” said Chris Bentley of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the new DHS agency in charge of SEVIS. He would not, however, predict how soon the system would be fixed.

The longer the problem goes unresolved, the greater the number of international students affected, with growing numbers unable to leave for spring break or summer vacation, apply for summer work permits or register for fall classes. Already overworked student advisors are also concerned that they won’t meet an August 1 deadline for entering all data on CUNY’s thousands of international students, which can take 30 minutes for each student. – TG

Waiting for the call

By PETER HOGNESS

How many people at CUNY are in the reserves or National Guard? Nobody knows. "We do not have that information, for students or for faculty and staff," says 80th Street spokesperson Rita Rodin. But once you start looking, you find reservists at CUNY everywhere.

They include Ghanim Khalil, a student at College of Staten Island. After four years of active duty in the Marines, he's now in the National Guard. But if Khalil is called up, he's decided that he won't go. "It's against my religion to kill other Muslims for oil, which is what I consider this war to be," says Khalil. "But even if I wasn't a Muslim, I don't want to be involved in killing half a million people." If that means jail, he'll accept it: "An earthly punishment is better than a punishment in the afterlife."

CUNY reservists include Jeff Novak, a HEO at City Tech who's worked at the University for 20 years. Not knowing whether he'll be called up "has certainly created a lot of stomach acid," he says. "But what's really screwy is that what I'm worried about is how my work will get done while I'm away. Maybe that's how I'm channeling my anxiety." But in the end, Novak says, he's glad to serve. "I don't like the way some people trash America," he says. "I joined because I think you should support the country, not deride it."

THE TRILLIONTH MOTHER

Family connections are another way that the impact of military service is felt at CUNY. Andrea Alonzo is a full-time lecturer in English at BMCC; her 21-year-old son Jason joined the reserves three years ago and recently transferred to the regular Army. She thinks his unit has something to do with missiles or ammunition, but he can't discuss it. He's stationed somewhere near Saudi Arabia.

"I'm sure I'm the trillionth mother down through the ages who's gone through this," says Alonzo, a PSC member since 1986. "My mood goes up and down. Every time I hear from him, I'm very happy." That lasts a few days; then she starts to worry. Then when she's "just about to go nuts," she says, he calls again. "You feel helpless," Alonzo says. "I pray about it sometimes. It's comforting to know other people are thinking about him as well."

When Jason first joined the reserves, she says, he was a "rebellious teenager." She couldn't talk him out of the decision. Today she feels proud of her son, as well as worried. Serving the country "seems to give him a sense of purpose," she says.

Ask her about Iraq, and Alonzo answers, "I don't like the way Bush is handling it." She sees the Admin-

CUNY and the military reserves



Jackie Myrie, assistant professor of nursing at BMCC, also serves as a major in the Army Reserves.

istration rushing into war instead of treating it as a last resort. "I think demonstrations are a good idea," she adds. "I was really upset that I wasn't able to go [on February 15]. The largest protest ever – it was a beautiful thing."

EVIL OUT THERE

Another PSC member, who asked to remain anonymous, takes a different view. "I'm actually angry at all these anti-war people," he tells *Clarion*. "They're frivolous kids, 21 or 22. They don't understand that there's real evil out there."

He's a middle-aged Navy reservist who's just been called up, and he thinks that protests increase the risks that he will face all too soon. "These protesters make Saddam more emboldened," he says. "They just want to feel virtuous. I hate all of them." He has a clear idea how the war will end: "The faster we kill Saddam, the sooner I can come home to my wife and kids."

He's asked not to be identified out of concern for his family. "These terrorist idiots read the newspaper," he says. Family is his focus in the few days left before he leaves. "I'm going

to be relaxed," he says. "Take the kids to the zoo, to the aquarium. Just make the most of family time."

He took his wife to her favorite sushi restaurant, and when a couple at the next table heard that he'd been called up they insisted on paying for the dinner. "They said, 'No, we insist,'" he recalls. "And that \$40 means a lot to me. Most of us in my unit, we're just working guys."

He did four years active duty in the Navy in the 1970s, and then four years in the reserves. Three years ago he re-joined the reserves for a simple reason: "It's an excellent retirement. After four years active duty and 20 years reserve time, I can get \$1000 a month forever. That's not a 401K that goes up and down, and I need it."

His sudden departure will cause some problems for his co-workers. "My boss would like it if I stayed behind," he says. "What boss wouldn't? But they know I have to go." Veteran reservists have told him that somehow those left behind will pick up the slack. "They'll hire a temp if they have to," he says. "Because by law they have to take me back, and I'm glad about that."

UNDER ONE FLAG

"The military has been a good thing for me," says Jackie Myrie, assistant professor of nursing at BMCC. "I've truly enjoyed it. It's something that has allowed me to grow in my profession."

Myrie joined the Army reserves as an officer, thanks to her master's degree. Since 1984 she's risen to the rank of major, and she's up for a promotion to lieutenant colonel next year.

Myrie had been interested in the military since her youth in the Panama Canal Zone. "I saw the opportunity, and saw that [the reserves] could supplement my salary as a part-time job," she says. Her first assignment was as part of a medical team in a field hospital. Later she was assigned to a combat support hospital, a unit designed to move with troops in the field.

Though never yet called to active duty, Myrie has logged many hours on weekends and during her two-week training period each summer. Her recent reserve duties have the same focus as her job at BMCC: training medical personnel. Myrie currently serves on a sort of accreditation committee, visiting various training sites to make sure they're able to do the job.

Myrie is guarded in her comments about the looming confrontation with Iraq. "Trying to settle it without going to war is always the best thing," she says. "But we are under one flag. And if I'm activated, I've got to go."

SUDDEN CHANGES

Ask Ireneusz Ciara about his professors at Hunter and he lights up. "Hunter has a very good religion department," he says. "The faculty, I think they are the jewel of Hunter College."

Ciara is majoring in philosophy and religion, with a focus on Hinduism, Buddhism and religions of China and Japan. "Philosophy is something I was always interested in but never really got to study," he explains. "I was discouraged by my parents – you know, they said, 'How can you support your family with a degree in that?' But finally I just had to do it." He says he's glad he chose the Hunter program: "It's been a life-changing experience."

But there are things besides philosophy that can change your life, and one of them is the phone call Ciara got on February 14. He is in the National Guard, and the call instructed Ciara to report for active duty, to be sent overseas. The philosopher is being called to war.

"Jesus, I have so many things to do!" he tells *Clarion* on his last day as a civilian. "On Friday, they told me to report Tuesday morning at 7:30." What does the callup mean for his Hunter studies? "I have no idea," Ciara says. The college is still closed for a three-day weekend.

Like many at CUNY, Ciara joined the Guard to help pay for school. But now college must be put aside. "I'm not afraid to go to war, but it's my last semester," he says. "That kind of makes me not want to go."

If you ask, you'll find that Ciara is unenthusiastic for other reasons as well. "I don't like this president," he says. "It's kind of hard to fight the war if you don't think it's just." He describes a documentary he saw recently about the first Gulf War: Iraqi children dying, US veterans suing over radiation exposure. "Kind of sad and depressing stories," he says. But he's not a protester. "Politics is not really my thing," Ciara explains.

His first name is Polish, his surname Italian. With one parent from each country, Ciara grew up in both. He came to New York City at age 24, and at Hunter he met Grace Park, from Korea. The two have been married for three years.

What he's been doing to get ready to leave? "Not much," Ciara says. There is a pause. "I have a will," he says, "in case I die. I have life insurance with the military, in case I die. I've got a power of attorney for my wife."

But the uncertainty of a reservist's life can cut in both directions. To go overseas Ciara must take a new physical exam – which he fails. "I was surprised, to tell you the truth," he later tells *Clarion*. "But I don't regret it."

Now he's back at Hunter, hoping that he can finish his last semester.

Gary Schlichter

Prescriptions and your dollars

Q&A on the transition to Medco

By STEVE LONDON

PSC First Vice President
Welfare Fund Executive Officer for Planning
and Member Relations

The Welfare Fund staff has been working to smooth the transition to Medco, our new pharmaceutical benefits manager (PBM). With any transition of this size and scope, there are bound to be some problems, and the fact that the Welfare Fund changed some of its own policies at the same time has caused confusion. This article responds to some issues that have arisen.

Q: The last time I went to the pharmacy the co-pay seemed high. How much is it supposed to be?

A: Before the Fund changed its co-pay structure, members paid \$5 or 20%, whichever was higher. Now this rate only applies to generic drugs. For brand-name drugs on the "preferred" list, the co-pay is now \$15 or 20%, whichever is higher. But for non-preferred drugs the co-pay is now \$30 or 20%, whichever is higher.

These should be the only increas-

es in your co-pays (though if you are paying the 20%, that amount might go up because of inflation). Please remember that it is always cheaper to buy generic or preferred drugs. This decision, of course, should be made in consultation with your physician.

Q: I recently bought a medication and had to pay \$65 out of pocket. That doesn't make sense.

A: Are you retired?

Q: Yes.

A: One of the key changes in the Fund is the new \$50 per family annual deductible for retirees. When retirees buy their first round of drugs each year under the new policy, the out-of-pocket cost of the drugs includes the \$50 deductible. Unfortunately, this new policy was not adequately explained by Medco staff and it seems to many of our members that the extra \$50 is part of the price of the drugs under Medco. This is not the case; the \$50 deductible is a one-time annual payment and is not a result of Medco's pricing.

The \$50 per family retiree deductible and the higher co-pays for

YOUR BENEFITS

non-generic drugs were separate decisions of the Welfare Fund. They did not happen because we switched to Medco. In fact, switching our pharmaceutical benefits manager is projected to save the Fund close to \$1.8 million.

Q: I use asthma medication, and it was always paid for under NPA. I tried to buy it with my Medco card, and was told it is not covered.

A: Asthma medication is covered under the City-sponsored PICA (psychotropic, injectables, chemotherapy, and asthma) program. Prior to January, both Welfare Fund and PICA medications were seamlessly paid through our single NPA card. As of January, the City issued a new NPA PICA card – to be used only for PICA drugs. This was done independently of the Welfare Fund's switch to Medco. So, even if we had stayed with NPA, each member would still need two cards.

Many of our members, not under-

standing the new arrangements, have tried to purchase PICA-eligible drugs on the Medco card. When they learn that City-sponsored PICA drugs are not covered by the Fund-sponsored Medco, they sometimes think the medication is no longer covered at all. But if you learn that a medication is not covered by Medco, you should check to see if it is covered by PICA.

Q: I was going to fill a 30-day prescription by mail order, but another Welfare Fund member told me I would have to pay a \$60 co-pay. Is this right?

A: If used the right way, Medco mail-order is a good deal. Make sure your doctor writes the prescription for a 100-day supply with four refills.

Medco mail-order allows for 100 days of medication with a co-pay of \$10 for generic, \$30 for preferred, and \$60 for non-preferred or 20%, whichever is higher. This structure is better than NPA mail-order in two ways: it allows for 100 instead of 90 days of drugs and it charges a two-month co-pay instead of three.

Your doctor has to write a pre-

scription for 100 days in order to take advantage of this pricing structure. This was in the instructions sent to members' homes, but some have sent in mail-order prescriptions written by their doctors for 30 days. Medco has to fill what the doctor ordered, but it routinely charges the double co-pay minimum since Medco assumes the order will be for at least three months. This has resulted in some members being overcharged, and when we know about this we have arranged for refunds. We are working with Medco to change their default charge to account for special circumstances.

Remember that the Welfare Fund now requires use of mail order starting with the second refill (third use of a prescription).

Q: Who do I call if I have a problem?

A: If you have questions about pricing or the new benefit structure, please call the Fund office at 212-354-5230.

For questions on pricing, preferred and non-preferred drugs, and some other issues, you will be referred to Medco – or you can call them directly at 866-386-3797. Medco has been very cooperative in resolving problems during the transition, and Medco is training a special 40-person PSC/CUNY customer relations team to better respond to our members.

Pension roundup

Check your paycheck, & other matters

By CLARION STAFF

Under the present PSC contract, members of the Teachers Retirement System (TRS) or Employees Retirement System who have 10 years of service should no longer have the formerly-required 3% contribution deducted from their paycheck, starting with the check for January 30. In addition, money deducted after October 2000 should be returned to the individual with interest.

If you have not had the contributions stopped, and/or have not received your check from the retirement system, please contact Clarissa G. Weiss at 212-354-1252 or by e-mail at cweiss@pscmail.org. When calling, please have your pension and social security numbers available.

In particular, adjuncts who teach on more than one campus should check to make sure that each campus has stopped taking out the 3% contribution.

APRIL DEADLINE: VARIABLE A & B

TRS Tier I or II members interested in switching their accounts in or out of the Variable A, Variable B or Fixed Annuity Programs must do

YOUR BENEFITS

so in April – or wait until 2004.

Forms may be obtained online at www.trs.nyc.ny or by phone at (888) 869-2877. In-service members who want to switch will need to file a "QPP Investment Election Change Form" (code MA7). Retired members should file a "Retirees' QPP Investment Election Change Form" (code RP8).

MAY DEADLINE: TDA INVESTMENTS

May is the quarterly filing period for changes in investment choices for TRS Tax-Deferred Annuity (TDA) participants who are still in active service. Retired members who have elected to defer their TDA may also change their investment choices at this time.

If you like, you can now make these changes online at the TRS Web site. Go to www.trs.nyc.ny.us and click on "TDA Filings" in the list at left. If you'd rather file a paper form, call (888) 869-2877 and

request the "TDA Investment Election Change Form" (code TD45). If your request for a change is filed by May 31, it will take effect on July 1, 2003.

GOBBLEDEGOOK EXPLAINED

Pension terms can be confusing. QPP, TDA, MRD – what

do they all mean? The TRS Web has a very useful page of "Frequently Asked Questions," which explains these acronyms and a lot more. The page also explains how to tell which pension tier you're in, how to take out a TRS loan, what you need to know about power of attorney, and answers dozens of other questions.

If you want to see the TRS Web site's "Frequently Asked Questions" page, go to www.trs.nyc.ny.us and click on "FAQs" at left. (It's one acronym you'll be glad you know!)

TIAA-CREF COUNSELOR

Anyone interested in meeting with a TIAA-CREF representative at the PSC should call Jenny Rosa at (800) 842-2733 x7288 to schedule an appointment. The counselor will be able to discuss retirement options, asset allocation, tax-deferred annuities, etc.

Members who wish to discuss after-retirement health benefits should call either the PSC/CUNY Welfare Fund at 212-354-5230 or the PSC Pension Office at 212-354-1252.

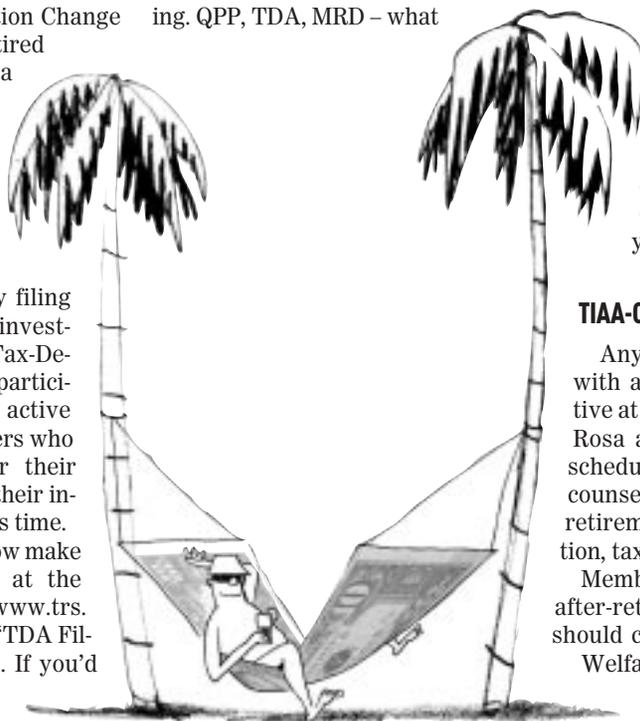
CUNY NEWS IN BRIEF

CUNY hiring freeze

Chancellor Goldstein announced a University-wide hiring freeze on February 3. The action came in response to Governor Pataki's recent state budget proposal (see pp. 8-9). The freeze includes all non-teaching positions, except positions "critical to health and safety, or essential to . . . operations." Teaching faculty positions will not be affected. The freeze comes just after 530 people at CUNY, 311 of them faculty, opted to participate in the recent Early Retirement Incentive.

CCNY opposes surveillance

On March 6, CCNY's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Faculty Council passed a resolution opposing new federal surveillance of international students. The Council objected to a new federal computer system, SEVIS, which reports on international students (see p. 5); a USA-PATRIOT Act provision that allows the secret monitoring of library patrons' records; and the "special registration" program requiring reporting of males over age 16 from Muslim countries. These policies "undermine the free and open atmosphere of our campus and . . . create fear and intimidation among its international students," the resolution states.





Faculty, staff and students from across the city come to City Hall on January 22 to demand a sensible and fair state budget.

Another budget is possible

By CLARION STAFF

A broad statewide coalition is challenging Governor George Pataki's proposed cuts to education, health, transportation, food, the environment and other state services. The PSC is among over 275 labor, community and religious organizations that have endorsed a set of principles for a "common-sense budget" for New York State.

The organizations not only oppose the cuts but also offer a program for closing the State's huge budget gap through new taxes on corporations and the wealthy. The key proposal is a temporary surtax of 0.7% on the portion of an individual's income over \$100,000 and an additional 0.7% on income above \$200,000. "The proposal has been pushed by Fiscal Policy Institute (FPI) for a year, and the idea is gaining traction" in Albany, the *Daily News* reported in February. FPI estimates that this surtax would raise about \$3 billion.

CORPORATE LOOPHOLES

The coalition also calls for closing corporate tax loopholes to raise an estimated \$1.5 billion. Since 1977, corporate taxes have fallen from 10% to 4% of New York's budget.

Together, these two measures would raise about half of the \$10 billion budget shortfall the governor projected for next fiscal year.

The PSC Executive Council has endorsed the coalition's program, and has formed a committee to develop its own proposals as well. "We support the coalition effort and we will be part of it," said PSC University-wide Officer Stanley Aronowitz, a member of the committee. "But we also want to put forward a more ambitious fiscal plan."

One option the committee is look-

Revenue changes needed

ing at would involve a larger income tax surcharge on high-income earnings. The Working Families Party (WFP) has floated the idea of a 2% surcharge on income above \$200,000.

"The overall US tax structure is very regressive," noted Aronowitz. "One of its worst elements is the federal Social Security tax, which currently exempts all income over \$87,000. A State surcharge that picked up where the Social Security tax leaves off would move the system towards being more progressive." If New York imposed such a surcharge at 2%, it would raise over \$6 billion.

The committee is also looking at restoring the sales tax on stock transactions, which until 1981 was five cents per share. The Budget for a Livable NYC Coalition, whose members include City Project, NY Immigration Coalition and Transport Workers Union (TWU) Local 100, is calling for a tax of a penny a share. WFP supports a higher tax of 2.5 cents per share; both groups call for splitting the proceeds between the City and State.

FIVE CENTS

The old rate of five cents would raise as much as \$12 billion. Stock sales taxes exist today in dozens of countries; Britain, France, Switzerland and Hong Kong all charge rates higher than New York's old rate.

At the City level, the PSC supports bringing back the commuter tax, an action that requires State approval. The Budget for a Livable NYC Coalition calls for a 1% commuter tax to raise \$900 million, about twice what the old tax produced.

Despite opposition from Gover-

nor Pataki and Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno, press reports indicate that some form of commuter tax might be able to command a majority in the State Legislature. Support from three or four upstate Republican State Senators, whose constituents would not be affected by the tax, could put the measure over the top. But Bruno has not yet indicated whether he will let the measure come to a vote.

While opposing taxes on the wealthy and refusing to slow or repeal scheduled income tax cuts, Gov. Pataki has endorsed tuition hikes at both CUNY and SUNY. The PSC, TWU Local 100 and the NYC Central Labor Council have opposed both transit and tuition hikes as the equivalent of tax increases for workers only.

HEAD IN THE SAND

Two of New York's largest unions with a combined membership of over 300,000, the United Federation of Teachers and SEIU/Local 1199, have announced plans to run TV ads attacking Pataki's head-in-the-sand stance on taxes. UFT President Randi Weingarten, whose union supported the governor's reelection bid, termed Pataki's budget a "betrayal." In early February she told columnist Jack Newfield, "I can feel a mobilization coming on that has never been seen before. We are creating a big tent for all of labor to join."

"This budget crisis may prove to be a once-in-a-generation opportunity for working people to get out our own tax agenda" said PSC Executive Council member Bob Cermele. "We need tax equity, so that New York's wealthy pay their fair share and the people of this state get the services they need."

BUDGET

By PETER HOGNESS

Governor Pataki's proposed New York State budget for 2003-2004 is full of spending cuts. Cuts to health care, cuts to cultural programs, even cuts in aid to the disabled. But the executive budget singles out education for its deepest wounds.

Overall, the executive budget proposal would trim state spending by 2.9%. But the knife cuts deeper for aid to local school districts, which take an 8.5% hit. For CUNY the news is even worse: Pataki proposes to slash State aid by 12.5%.

Under the governor's proposal, State funding for CUNY's senior colleges would drop from \$663 million

to \$581 million, an \$82 million decrease (12%). This includes a \$1.06 million cut in funds for hiring new full-time faculty.

City University's community colleges would get whacked even more severely: Pataki has targeted them for an astonishing 15% cut in State aid to \$114 million. More than half of the decrease comes from a \$345 reduction in base operating aid of per full-time-equivalent student, or FTE.

Some of Pataki's cruelest cuts are imposed on opportunity programs, such as SEEK and College Discovery. Statewide, opportunity programs are slated to get cut by \$27 million, which represents half of their total funding. Over \$7 million

Time for action

By PETER HOGNESS

"What we have to do is produce so much heat that these cuts to CUNY become untenable," says PSC President Barbara Bowen. "And business as usual is not going to do it. We need to think about building a movement, because that's what it will take to overturn this budget."

Long before the arrival of spring, PSC members were already marching, faxing, phoning, planning, printing postcards and heading north to lobby in Albany. As the weather warms, the pace of activity will quicken.

March 26 and May 3 are key dates in the PSC's campaign for CUNY, with plans in the works for campus actions and the largest demonstration that Albany has ever seen.

MARCH 26: A CUNY DAY OF ACTION

March 26 will be a "CUNY Day of Action" at every campus in the University, with each school's event taking a different shape. LaGuardia is planning a speak-out and poetry jam, while BMCC will stage a rally with music followed by a march to City Hall. At Bronx Community College, faculty, staff and students will fill a "Testimonial Wall" with the reasons CUNY is worth fighting for.

PSC members at Brooklyn College have put together a slide show – with sound track – on the history of activism at the college. They'll show it at an "Action Fair" in the school's Gershwin Theater, with "action stations" all around the room that offer different ways to get involved.

Make our num

A common sight on many campuses will be tables full of colorful postcards to send to Governor Pataki. With bold, simple graphics, the cards show how New York lags far behind other states in support for public higher education. "We also want people to take postcards to their department meetings, distribute them in their classes," says Executive Council member Nancy Romer. "Our goal is to get thousands of postcards signed and delivered by April."

Computers will also be set up in public places so that faculty, staff and students can send letters to their state legislators.

The PSC Web site's new "ACT NOW" feature makes this easy – and it can also be a learning experience. "If your students have no idea who their State legislators are, they'll find out when they use ACT NOW," says Cecelia McCall, chair of the PSC Legislative Committee. (See "15-Minute Activist" on p. 20 for more about "ACT NOW.")

The PSC Web site (www.psc-cuny.org) offers a wide variety of resources for the day's events. You can download posters, flyers and talking points on the budget crisis. There's a sample letter asking department chairs to help mobilize for March 26, and there's information on how war on Iraq affects the CUNY budget. For those who want to bring the "CUNY Day of Action" into their classrooms, curriculum

T BATTLE

of this would be taken out of SEEK financial aid at City University.

CUNY would also be affected by the governor's proposed 22% cut to the Tuition Assistance Program, or TAP. This \$161 million reduction is accompanied by Pataki's revival of a plan he first put forward last year, to hold back one-third of each student's TAP grant as a "graduation incentive." Opponents have dubbed this a "reverse student loan," where financially hard-pressed students are, in effect, compelled to lend part of their financial aid to the State.

Along with TAP cuts, Pataki's budget calls for a tuition increase that would be as much as \$1,200 at CUNY. Combined with the TAP re-

ductions, this would force many students to drop out of school, triggering further losses in CUNY's revenue and State funding in the future.

In testimony and in lobbying in Albany, the PSC has pointed out that these proposed cuts come after CUNY's State funding was cut by over one-third in the 1990s, when adjusted for inflation. If Pataki's budget is adopted, the decline in State funding since 1990 would add up to 41% in constant dollars.

Since CUNY's State funding has already been cut by so much, the union has argued that even a minimal commitment to public higher education requires increases, not cuts, in State support for CUNY.

on is now

members count

materials are available.

Campus events will be preceded by a breakfast for City Council members, at which this year's "Friend of CUNY" awards will be presented.

"By the time the sun sets on March 26," says Romer, "thousands of people will have stepped forward to say that Pataki must not gut CUNY's budget to pay for tax cuts for the rich." But that's just the beginning.

LOBBYING: A SUSTAINED CAMPAIGN

The PSC's lobbying campaign got started as soon as Pataki announced his assault on CUNY's budget in January, and the effort will reach full steam this spring. Teams of PSC members lobbied legislators in Albany on February 25 and March 11.

"One of the best ways to lobby your legislators is to visit them at home, in their district offices," says Legislative Committee member Eileen Moran. "This kind of neighborhood action is very effective – but it takes people to make it work."

"If we're going to reverse these cuts, we need a stronger effort than anything we've done before," notes McCall. "We're asking everyone to join local lobbying teams and go on two district visits during the spring." For information on district visits in your area, e-mail Cecelia McCall at cmccall@pscmail.org, or call her at 212-354-1252.

The union is also organizing buses for lobbying trips to the State capital on April 8, 15 and 29. If you can go on any of these dates, contact McCall at the e-mail or phone above.

MAY 3: BIGGEST ALBANY PROTEST EVER

How do you get the State Legislature's attention? How about the biggest protest that Albany has ever seen?

"On May 3 we will be part of a mass rally for education in Albany," says Bowen. "We'll be there to oppose all the proposed cuts to education, from kindergarten through grad school."

"We're going to have to do something that's very dramatic," says Tom Hobart, president of NY State United Teachers, the PSC's state affiliate. At the February 27 Delegate Assembly, Hobart reported that the largest rally in memory in the state capital drew about 8,000 people. But NYSUT is aiming for something far larger, working with a statewide education coalition to put tens of thousands of people on Albany's streets.

"The two closest highway exits aren't large enough to handle the traffic that this thing will generate," Hobart said. "So this is not going to be convenient for Albany. But it will definitely get their attention."

"The agenda in this budget is an attack on everything we have spent our lives training for, everything we hope for our students," Bowen told *Clarion*. "We need to do more than we can now imagine. This is a time for us to flex our muscles."



March 26 – CUNY Day of Action

COLLEGE	TIME	LOCATION	Contact
BARUCH	12–2pm 4pm	Vertical Campus 2nd Fl Lobby Rm 14-270, Vertical Campus	Howard Ross 646-312-3457 howard_ross@baruch.cuny.edu
BMCC	2–4pm	2nd Floor Lobby	Jane Young 212-220-8299 Jane.Young@aol.com
BRONX CC	12–2pm	Schwendler Auditorium	Marianne Pita 718-289-5690 marianne.pita@bcc.cuny.edu
BROOKLYN	12–2pm	Gershwin Theater	Nancy Romer 718-951-5015 nromer@brooklyn.cuny.edu
CITY	11–2pm	Outside Cafeteria	Larry Hanley 212-650-5875 hanley@bway.net
CSI	2:30–4pm	Rm 2N001	Vasilios Petratos 718-982-2900 petratos@postbox.csi.cuny.edu
GRADUATE CENTER	3–5pm	Rm 9205	Julia Wrigley 212-817-8771 jwrigley@gc.cuny.edu
HOSTOS CC	11am–2pm 5:15–7pm	Rooms C 390 & C 391	Lizette Colon 718-518-4261 lcolon@hostos.cuny.edu
HUNTER	1–3pm	714 HunterWest	David Winn 212-772-5110 dwinn@hunter.cuny.edu
JOHN JAY	2–4pm	Student Cafeteria	Gerry Markowitz 212-237-8458 gmarkowitz@jjay.cuny.edu
KINGSBOROUGH	10:30am– 1:45pm	MAC Conference Center	Rina Yarmish 718-368-5921 rina20@juno.com
LA GUARDIA	9:15am– 12:45pm 1–5pm	Atrium Poolside Cafe	Joan Greenbaum 718-349-4048 joang@lagcc.cuny.edu
LEHMAN	1–3pm	Carmen Hall, Rm B08	Helene Silverman 718-960-8176 hjsilverman@aol.com
MEDGAR EVERS	12–1:30pm	Norman & Miriam Johnson Lecture Hall	Ed Catapane 718-270-6203 catapane@mec.cuny.edu
NYC TECH	All day 2–5pm	Various locations on campus President's Conference Rm	Bob Cermele 718-260-5009 rcermele@citytech.cuny.edu
QUEENS	12–2pm 6–8pm	Rosenthal Library, Rm 230 Rosenthal Library, Rm 230	Tony O'Brien 718-997-4634 ajobrien@bway.net
QUEENSBOROUGH	1–3pm	M136	Jay Appleman 718-631-6361 jappleman@qcc.cuny.edu
YORK	11am–6pm	Atrium	Janice Cline 212-254-7238 ClineJan@aol.com

Organizing against a tuition hike

By TOMIO GERON

Hunter College freshman Crystalina Rosario has plans for the future – but they are threatened by Governor Pataki's budget proposal. Rosario, a psychology major and SEEK student, could face both a \$1,200 tuition hike and cuts to financial aid if the governor's budget goes through.

"Students who are in SEEK benefit from the program because they get academic support and counseling," she says. "If there is a tuition hike and a TAP cut and SEEK cuts I wouldn't be able to go to CUNY. There would be no option for me anymore."

Rosario was one of dozens of students who came to speak out against Pataki's proposed budget for CUNY at a packed hearing of the City Council Higher Education Committee on January 31.

When Council member Margarita

Lopez asked students who would not be able to continue at CUNY if the tuition hike goes through, the room went silent and virtually every student in the crowd of over 100 raised a hand. After CUNY raised tuition in 1995, the University lost 8,000 students.

PSC POSITION

The PSC has opposed a tuition increase, arguing that it would not solve the basic problem of massive cuts to CUNY's State support. "Tuition increases are an unstable base on which to fund a public university," President Barbara Bowen told the State Legislature in February. "In the 1990s, [CUNY] tuition was raised twice, and the net result was a decline – \$159 million less in total CUNY funds."

Pataki's budget would authorize CUNY's Board of Trustees to raise

college tuition by \$1,200. The budget proposal boosts the tuition revenue target at senior colleges by 29%, which would require a tuition increase of \$900-\$1000.

The tuition issue has sparked a variety of student protests. On February 10, Hunter College students held a demonstration that contrasted Pataki's deep budget cuts with the billions suddenly available for a war with Iraq, and slammed the proposed tuition hike as part of a "war budget."

Students across the state joined in a 561-mile "No Tuition Hike," a relay walk organized by the NY Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG). The PSC helped organize a 1,500-person rally to greet the "No Tuition Hikers" at NYC's City Hall on February 26. The crowd's chant – "We must graduate!" – gave voice to students' concerns about their future, as did a BMCC student's hand-lettered sign: "Gov. Pataki: tuition hike = job-killing tax hike!"

Hunter sophomore and NYPIRG board member Cail Casserly walked 250 miles from Stony Brook to Albany, where her group converged with the other leg that had started out in Buffalo. "Today is our first big snow day," she told *Clarion* by cell phone as she neared Kingston on March 6. "The first day was rain. We had a day of minus five degrees, we had a mud day. We've been in every kind of weather and we're not going to give up."



Hunter student and SLAM member Suzan Hammad speaking at a February 10 demonstration against a tuition hike.

Gary Schonicher

GENDER

Women, work and the university

As most of Clarion's readers may know, March is Women's History Month. The following is adapted from a talk given at a PSC reception for the Center for Worker Education's conference on "Women and Work."

By **CECELIA MCCALL**
PSC Secretary

I suppose I don't have to say to any of you working women that it was not Betty Friedan's lament in the '60s that brought women into the workforce.

Those of us who are women of color and working class had to remind her that we have always been working. We have been in the fields, both our husband's and our master's, as unpaid labor. We gave birth to children in the fields, swaddled them, stood up and continued to hoe.

When the sun set, we worked by candlelight in the homeshops. We were the seamstresses who, after spinning thread and weaving cloth, hand-stitched every garment worn by man, woman and child; every blanket, sheet, pillowcase, towel, napkin and tablecloth. We were servants – maids, cooks, housekeepers, laundresses. We were the first to enter the factories and mills of New England when industrialization began to rage on these shores.

For women with any form of higher education, the professions open to us were the caring and nurturing professions, nursing and teaching. We are and will be the caretakers of our families, children and parents.

While we have been participating in one form of labor or another since the beginning of time, our relationship to work has been evolving over time just as it has for men.

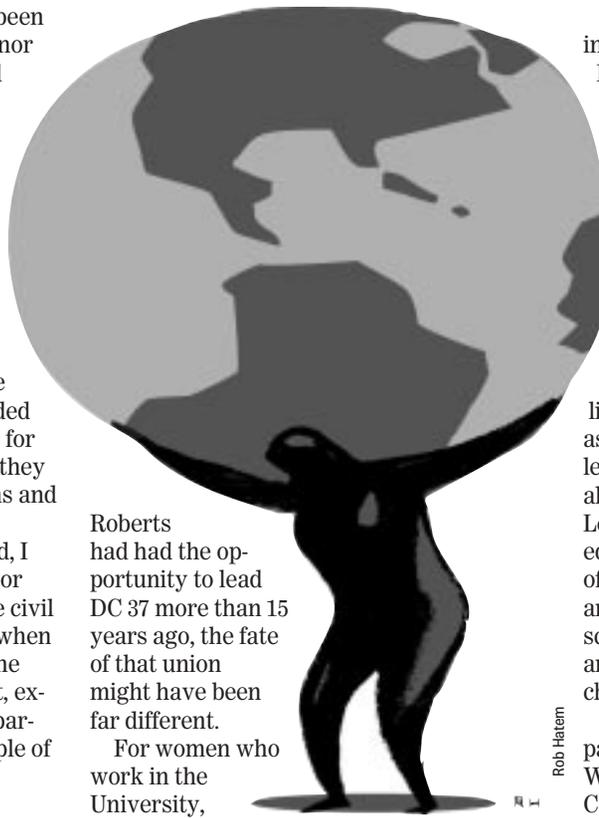
With few exceptions, women have not been the owners of the means of production nor had access to capital, though privileged women of the ruling class have reaped the benefits of relationships with men who owned the means of production and other human beings – slaves.

It was the women's movement, however, that raised the level of consciousness about the kind of work that women were doing and underscored that whatever it was, it was low paid and valued less than men's work. The movement put a spotlight on the nature and conditions of our work and demanded change. We told the men to make room for us in the professions and places where they labored – law, medicine, the boardrooms and academe.

When I'm in a particularly dark mood, I sometimes think that the organized labor movement has in many ways defied the civil rights and women's movements. Even when working-class men organized against the bosses and management, they were not, except perhaps for the Knights of Labor, particularly welcoming to women and people of color.

MEN STILL LEAD

As we look around this city and the nation, we see that men are still chiefly in the leadership of the labor movement. In New York City we have seen some breakthroughs, with women leading the UFT, the PSC and now DC 37. Would it make a difference if more women were in leadership in labor movement? Of course it would. We have a different sensibility, we organize differently and we fight for other women. If Lillian



Roberts had had the opportunity to lead DC 37 more than 15 years ago, the fate of that union might have been far different.

For women who work in the University, there is still much to be achieved. There is a salary gap between male and female professors at all levels. Today women are just 36% of full-time faculty, and only 48% of full-time women are tenured. We are overrepresented in the lower ranks of instructor, lecturer and lower-paid staff positions. Women are underrepresented in research and doctoral-granting institutions but make up 50% of faculty at two-year institutions.

Childbearing and caretaking are at issue in higher education as they are elsewhere. Female academics are penalized for bearing and raising children. Giving birth interrupts the career of a higher percentage of professors than any other type of "physical disability" or family obligation.

The American Association of University Professors (AAUP) concludes that women will not achieve equality in academia as long as the ideal academic is defined as someone who takes no time off for child rearing. It has proposed guidelines for policy and practice changes such as paid pregnancy leaves and paid family leave of more than 12 weeks, which is now allowed under the Family and Medical Leave Act. The AAUP also calls for extended leave for child rearing with consideration of salary increments, insurance coverage, and retirement annuities, modified teaching schedules, flexibility on the tenure timeline, and, above all, convenient and high-quality child care.

The PSC has committees to address the particular needs of our constituents – the Women's Committee and the Diversity Committee among them. We are studying how to revise the contract to provide assistance to younger women who want both tenure and families. Child care for faculty and staff would be an important step forward for women in the University.

It is no longer an either/or world, either work or family. It is both work and family and women will do both. To change the conditions of women's work life, however, it is up to women like us, our union and organized labor.

WAR & PEACE

Organizing a "learn-in"

By **INEZ MARTINEZ**
Kingsborough Community College

By the time these words are printed, we may be formally at war. How should educators respond?

Through bombing and sanctions, we have long been in an unacknowledged war with Iraq. Most students are unaware of this or of any detailed history of the Middle East. What they know are the images of the World Trade Center towers collapsing before their eyes. They know that America is threatened, that their President seeks support in taking America to war. For people feeling helpless and threatened, automatic support for their leader is an obvious, easy response – much like trusting a parent to take care of the outside world. More, this response feels patriotic.

What it lacks is knowledge.

As educators, we are charged with bringing knowledge to our students so they may analyze the threats they feel, may evaluate what policies should be followed.

Teach-ins with a series of speakers are a proven method of offering facts and analy-

ses, but they tend to educate only those already sympathetic enough to attend.

At Kingsborough Community College we began with the assumption that our students are inured to authority figures lecturing them. Feeling duty-bound to present facts, questions and analyses missing from the corporate-owned media, we constructed a "Learn-In."

AWARENESS

Because we ourselves had become politically aware by exposure to different analyses, we decided to present our students with problems and various answers rather than with a preordained solution.

Since we identified Bush's proclamation of the doctrine of preemptive war as central to the crisis, we selected "Iraq: Should the U.S. Launch a Preemptive Attack?" from Educators for Social Responsibility for distribution. This teaching guide included pro and con readings together with discussion questions and projects requiring writing and critical

thinking skills. We sent copies to faculty who requested them prior to the learn-in and distributed copies – along with an annotated list of Web sites for further study – at the learn-in itself.

We used both personal and electronic outreach to invite faculty to bring their classes. For example, the chair of the English department joined me in a memo explaining the educational values of the project and inviting over 130 instructors to bring their writing classes. A total of about 500 students attended, most brought by their instructors.

We invited Franklin Siegel of the CUNY Law School to discuss Bush's policy of preemptive war in terms of the legal issues it raises and asked Professor Molly Nolan of NYU to address its international implications. Prof. Siegel opened the first of our two one-hour sessions and Prof. Nolan the second, each with thoughtful and illuminating presentations.

After each spoke, the stage filled with drama students. Assuming the characters of

Putting students center-stage

Bush, Cheney, Blair, CIA analysts, American bishops, the president of Iran, newspaper reporters and antiwar editors, they presented a script consisting of quotations from world leaders and commentators. Meanwhile, images, including the presidential seal and pictures of diverse groups of American citizens, were flashed on a stage screen. A student playing the role of "American Citizen" stood spotlighted in the aisle, responding to each declaration, articulating the conflicts in fact and opinion implicitly being raised and asking questions. "American Citizen" got the last line: "The question is, what do I think?"

STUDENT DRAMA

During the student dramatization, the audience was riveted. Clearly, having students voice the issues got their attention. Students then asked the speakers penetrating questions. They wanted more discussion of the sanctions, of economic consequences, of war motives.

As educators, we have the opportunity to offer knowledge that puts Bush's rhetoric and policies in context, enabling students to analyze and evaluate them. Putting students center-stage, literally, in a learn-in, is an effective beginning.

For more information on the KCC learn-in, including the script used for the readings or other materials, call Inez Martinez at 718-368-5162.

BUDGET

This year is different

By **BARBARA BOWEN**
PSC President

As I write this in the cold early days of March, the country is edging into a war that may already have begun by the time *Clarion* reaches you. It's a terrible time to face our toughest battle yet for restoration of CUNY funding, with many of us feeling alternately angry and frightened, alienated and over-committed. Of course the proposed cuts to CUNY are not unrelated to increased military spending, nor perhaps is the deeper agenda of hostility to our students that lies behind them. But the Governor's budget proposal means that more will be demanded of us this spring than ever before. The union has launched the most intense budget campaign in its history.

The depth of the cuts proposed for CUNY is astounding. Chancellor Goldstein has been firm in his refusal even to consider re-trenchment – and we applaud that – but there's no getting around what the numbers would mean if translated into jobs. The \$100 million reduction in annual funding proposed by the Governor is the equivalent of 2,000 faculty and staff jobs. No one needs to be told that a loss on that scale would be devastating for CUNY; I don't think we could recover from a second exodus of full-time faculty and staff, after the 5,000 positions we've lost since 1975. And perhaps that's the idea.

BREAKING THROUGH

But New Yorkers consistently support education as the first or second priority for public spending, and that support potentially carries some political weight. How do we make the argument that CUNY's budget should be restored in a year when the State faces a revenue shortfall of well over \$10 billion? And how do we break through the ritual of cuts and partial restoration, more cuts and even more partial restoration that has left CUNY with a 35% decrease in its public funding since 1990?

The case for CUNY is strong and simple. The cuts proposed to our budget are wildly out of proportion with other proposed reductions, even in a year of major budget gaps. While overall spending in the Governor's budget decreases 2.9 percent, higher education as a whole would be cut by a staggering 11.1%. CUNY's cut is even more searing – 12% at the senior colleges and 15% at the community colleges. The cut proposed for City University, then, is almost

five times greater than the overall rate of reduction in overall state spending.

If this were the first time funds had been cut, maybe that would be an explanation for the hit CUNY takes this year in the governor's budget proposal. But as we know – because we live it every day – this is not the first year of decreased state support. The 2003 proposal for sharp reductions comes on top of fully thirteen years of underfunding. It may be hard to believe, given the state's myths about itself, but New York ranks 47th among the 50 states in improvements to higher education funding since 1990.

MOMENTUM

The PSC's response has been to mount a budget campaign that is both forceful and imaginative. Starting early last month when I testified in Albany, we have been building momentum behind the argument that the answer to the shortfall is increased state

enough to restore the insidious cuts to TAP, the major form of student aid. TAP provides no additional operating funds for CUNY and it would fail to cover the tuition increase for thousands of our students.

BUDGET BLITZ

There's no substitute for public funding for a public university. That's the message of the campaign that will unroll in the coming weeks: postcards to the Governor, systematic letters and visits to legislators, advertisements in Albany and New York City, the CUNY-wide Day of Action on March 26, and a mass march in Albany on May 3. Rather than make the familiar plea for your participation (how could you *not* participate if you have any stake at all in the health of the University?), I want to make an observation.

The PSC is a big union. Many of us seem to have absorbed the idea that the PSC is

small or minor – because academic, but that is a fiction created by those who don't want us to realize our power. The truth is that representing 20,000 people makes the PSC a major public union in New York and one of the largest higher education unions in the country.

It's time we started using those numbers. Don't underestimate the impact of even time-honored

forms of political pressure, especially in the relatively small world of Albany. If each of us took even five minutes to fax our state legislators, as this month's "15-Minute Activist" recommends, we could start to turn the budget proposal around.

With this kind of breadth and depth, the union's budget campaign might reveal new forms of political action. As we begin to use the real force of our numbers, we may be able to put the politics of supplication behind us for good.



revenue, not deeper cuts, and that CUNY must become a priority for restoration of funds. Increasing tuition – the Governor's idea for covering the shortfall – is no substitute for adequate operating support. Quite apart from the immorality of forcing up to 10,000 students out of college, a tuition increase is a chimerical way to balance the budget. When tuition was increased in 1995, CUNY's overall budget declined by over \$150 million; increased tuition became an excuse for decreased state support. Nor is it

An intense, historic budget campaign

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 20 / 6 pm: People's Lobby for a Fair Budget. Join the NYC Central Labor Council, ACORN and the Working Families Party, in the struggle for a fair and equitable budget. At the CLC, 31 W. 15th St., ground floor auditorium. Call Ed Ott at the CLC, (212) 604-9552.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22 / 12 pm: NYC March Against War in Iraq. In Midtown Manhattan. United for Peace and Justice has applied for a permit to march. Download bilingual leaflet at www.unitedforpeace.org. For info or to pick up posters or stickers, call 646-473-8935 or go to UFPJ office at 330 W. 42nd St.

TUESDAY, MARCH 25 / 12 – 1 pm: Commemoration of the Triangle Fire. Join UNITE and the NYC Fire Department in its annual event to remember the tragic fire. Corner of Washington Place & Greene Street, just east of Washington Square Park. Call Sandra Mendoza at (212) 265-7000 for more information.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26: CUNY Day of Action. PSC members on every CUNY campus will be holding educational actions to press for restoration of funds to CUNY. Contact your local PSC representative or the PSC central office at (212) 354-1252.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MARCH 28-29 / 6:30 pm: "Fiscal Crisis through the Lens of Class." A conference sponsored by the Ctr. for Study of Working Class Life – SUNY Stony Brook and Ctr. for Study of Culture, Tech. and Work, CUNY Grad. Center. Speakers include Stanley Aronowitz, Barbara Bowen, Jeff Faux, Hector Figueroa, Frances Fox Piven, Roger Toussaint, Bill Scheuerman, Michael Zweig. At the Graduate Center, 34th St. and 5th Ave., Manhattan. To register, call (212) 817-8215 or email continuinged@gc.cuny.edu.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1: Civil Rights March to the Supreme Court. Join demonstrators from across the country in Washington, D.C. on the day the University of Michigan affirmative action case is heard by the Supreme Court. The PSC is sponsoring a bus to the rally. To reserve a seat, call Amanda DeJesus at the PSC office at (212) 354-1252, ext. 221. Many unions, including the UAW and HERE internationals have endorsed the rally. For general information, contact Adam Lerman adamlerman@hotmail.com or go to www.bamn.com.

MONDAY, APRIL 7 / 1 pm: Retirees Chapter meeting. Speaker: Geroqe Lankevich, Prof. Emeritus at BCC, "Times Squire: Then and Now." At the Graduate Center, 34th St. and 5th Ave., Manhattan. Rooms 9206-9207. All PSC members welcome.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11 / 6 pm: Labor Goes to the Movies presents "Clerks" by Kevin Smith (1994). Sponsored by the PSC. This hilarious comedy about working for chump change at a New Jersey convenience store was made for \$27,000. At the Center for Worker Education, 99 Hudson Street, between Franklin and Harrison.

SATURDAY, MAY 3: March on Albany. The PSC joins thousands in a demonstration against proposed CUNY budget cuts. To sign up to attend, contact your local PSC representative or the PSC central office at (212) 354-1252.

Clarion MARCH 2003

Newspaper of the Professional Staff Congress/City University of New York, collective bargaining representative of the CUNY instructional staff. Vol. 32, No. 2. PSC/CUNY is affiliated with the American Association of University Professors, the American Federation of Teachers (Local 2334), AFL-CIO, the New York City Central Labor Council and New York State United Teachers. Published by PSC/CUNY, 25 West 43rd Street, New York, NY 10036. Telephone: (212) 354-1252. Web site: www.psc-cuny.org. E-mail: plogness@psccmail.org. All opinions expressed in these pages are not necessarily those of the PSC.

PSC OFFICERS: Barbara Bowen, President; Steven London, First Vice President; Cecelia McCall, Secretary; John Hyland, Treasurer; Stanley Aronowitz, Blanche Cook, Frank Deale, Susan O'Malley, Sheldon Weinbaum, University-wide Officers; Michael Fabricant, Vice President, Senior Colleges; Robert Cermele, Janice Cline, Nancy Romer, Senior College Officers; Anne Friedman, Vice President, Community Colleges; Lou Alpert, Samuel E. Farrell, Ingrid Hughes, Community College Officers; Iris DeLutro, Vice President, Cross Campus Units; Steven Trimboli, Robbi Weaver, Cross Campus Officers; Marcia Newfield, Vice President, Part-Time Personnel; Irwin H. Polishook, President Emeritus; Israel Kugler, Deputy President Emeritus; Peter I. Hoberman, Harold Wilson, Vice President Emeriti, Cross Campus Units.

STAFF: Deborah Bell, Executive Director; Mary Ann Carlese, Associate Executive Director; Faye H. Alladin, Coordinator, Financial Services; Debra L. Bergen, Director, Contract Administration & University-wide Grievance Counselor; Mary Crystal Cage, Director, Public Relations; Barbara Gabriel, Coordinator, Office Services and Human Resources; Diana Rosato, Coordinator, Membership Department; D. Nicholas Russo, Director, Legal Affairs; Clarissa Gilbert Weiss, Director, Pension and Welfare Benefits.

Editor: Peter Hogness / Assistant Editor: Tomio Geron / Designer: Margarita Aguilar / Intern: Tanvir Raquib
© 2003 Professional Staff Congress/CUNY

(Advertisement)

THREE YEARS OF NEW CAUCUS PSC LEADERSHIP

A VISION OF RENEWAL:

- Fostering a democratic, living union that bases its strength on members' knowledge and participation
- Rebuilding the City University as one of the great resources of New York City, a center of scholarship, teaching and learning for the city's diverse population
- Fighting to restore competitive salaries and professional working conditions for CUNY's entire faculty and staff
- Representing the interests of all PSC members across campuses and constituencies, in full-time and part-time positions
- Building increased political support for CUNY—in the City Council, the State Legislature, the labor movement and the community
- Strengthening alliances with students and community groups to support CUNY
- Contributing to the growth of a strong, progressive labor movement that will fight for the interests of all working people

A RECORD OF SUCCESS:

- Negotiated a contract with across the board increases each year and no zeros, with equity increases for traditionally underrepresented titles, reassigned time for new untenured faculty, professional development funds for staff, adjunct office hours—along with separate contracts for the EOC and Research Foundation
- Organized thousands of new PSC members, from part-time staff to employees of the Research Foundation
- Supported successful leadership at the chapter level in building strong, effective and active chapters
- Created an effective political support network in the City Council, resulting in reversing \$9.6 million in proposed cuts for community colleges in November 2002
- Won increased support for higher education from our state and national union affiliates
- Aggressively enforced the contract and trained dozens of new grievance counselors
- Protected the Welfare Fund by negotiating new funding and restructuring benefits

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT IN APRIL: VOTE NEW CAUCUS

JOIN THE NEW CAUCUS! The New Caucus is an organization of PSC members dedicated to progressive trade unionism and defense of public higher education.



I would like to join the New Caucus. Enclosed is my \$25 dues for one year.

I would like to donate to the New Caucus. Enclosed is my check for \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other

I would like to be informed of New Caucus activities and events.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please tear off and send to New Caucus, Park West Finance, P.O. Box 20678, New York, NY 10025

**PSC NEW
CAUCUS**
PROFESSIONAL STAFF CONGRESS · CUNY

THE NEW CAUCUS

A VISION OF RENEWAL, A RECORD OF SUCCESS

Three years ago, you elected the New Caucus to the leadership of the PSC. We promised to make the PSC a fighting union, one that could stand up against the attacks on CUNY and erosion of our professional lives. We have kept our promises.

Think about where the PSC was three years ago: a pattern of zero-percent increases in successive contracts, widespread hostility to CUNY in the media, diminishing professional support on the job, and a union marked by apathy, disengagement and silence. Now we have won a contract with real salary increases every year; we have gained new support for CUNY among the public; we have added contractual features that specifically support professional life; we have created a union with life. Six hundred people wrote letters to the Chancellor to support our collective bargaining agenda; hundreds more have attended rallies and mass meetings; three thousand people have joined the union since we took office; and tens of thousands signed the postcards to the legislators we produced in 2001. A significant power has begun to emerge.

Structural Breakthrough in the Contract

We were accused of dreaming when we said CUNY faculty, at community and senior colleges alike, should have a semester of full-paid research time before tenure. Then we won that in the last contract. We were accused of seeking pie-in-the-sky when we said part-time faculty should be paid for office hours. Then we won the paid professional hour for thousands of adjuncts. We were accused of naiveté when we said Higher Education Officers and College Laboratory Technicians should receive support for professional development or that lower-paid employees should receive an equity increase or even that retirees should have campus library privileges. All of this we won because we had the imagination to try and the organization to succeed. CUNY is far from a professional utopia, but in three years – battling a very difficult economic climate – the New Caucus leadership has begun a transformation many believed impossible.

Success in Preserving CUNY Funding

The transformation in the public sphere has been equally dramatic. When we took office, CUNY had been subjected to years of bashing by the media and City politicians. Now most of the attacks have subsided, a majority of New Yorkers support our students in their need for affordable tuition, and City funding has increased. Much of this change is due to the informed and nuanced advocacy by the PSC. Under New Caucus leadership, the union took a new strategic approach to supporting candidates for City Council: our members helped to elect a Council that includes ten CUNY graduates, one of whom is a PSC member, and that has offered unusual support for the University. In 2001 we were instrumental in gaining an increase in City funding, and last fall we averted nearly \$10 million in proposed City budget cuts. That was despite the sharp downturn in the City's economy and at a time when almost all other City agencies had been asked for cuts.

At the state level, we have a tougher battle to fight, because any cuts now come on top of years of starvation budgets. But under New Caucus leadership, the PSC has succeeded in preventing state budget cuts to CUNY during two successive years, and has helped to win back TAP funding for students. We have also gained support for important legislation on such issues as pensions, TransitChecks, and unemployment insurance for adjuncts, and won rapid passage of legislation granting fair tuition for immigrant students.

National Leadership

Nationally, the PSC has also become increasingly visible, as we have worked within our parent union, the American Federation of Teachers, to step up organizing efforts in higher education and increase financial support for higher education programs. The PSC is largely responsible for the AFT's agenda on the federal Higher Education Act, which will

come before Congress for reauthorization. Our proposal to advocate for increased federal funding for a new category of institutions – those that serve large numbers of immigrant students – was incorporated into the AFT agenda, as was our opposition to linking college test results with federal funding. Within both the AFT and the American Association of University Professors, the PSC under New Caucus leadership has been a strong advocate for affirmative action, adding our support to our national organizations' for the plaintiffs in the University of Michigan case.

Union Democracy

Closer to home, the New Caucus has invigorated the traditional work of the union with competence, energy and honesty. In a political and economic climate especially difficult for unions, we have shown that we can offer leadership that is both visionary and steady. Democracy in the union is our bedrock commitment, and we have kept our promise to open the union's books and provide complete transparency in the PSC budget. Rank-and-file members have a say at every level of the union, with scores of active committees helping to shape policy on everything from a cultural program to our approach to grievances. Hundreds of faculty and staff are now directly involved in the union's work, and thousands of new members have joined since the New Caucus took office. Thanks to a vigorous, systematic approach to organizing, the PSC has become one of the leaders nationwide in union growth, signing up hundreds of full-time faculty and staff and thousands of adjuncts. Union chapters are newly alive, engaging members in both political action and democratic discussion of such issues as the position the PSC should take on war.

Under our leadership, the PSC has taken a newly aggressive approach to grievances and litigation, using every possible forum to advance our members' interests. We tackled a crisis caused by the skyrocketing cost of health care nationwide and protected our Welfare Fund benefits, making hard choices about restructuring only after months of open discussion with the members. In *Clarion*, we have produced a beautiful union newspaper that won first place in every state and national competition it entered last year. Most important, the PSC has become the union of all its members – faculty and staff, full-time and part-time, community college and senior college, active and retired. The New Caucus has lived up to its promise of revitalizing the union and building its strength through democracy.

The New Caucus slate of candidates for Executive Council and delegates to our affiliate conventions combines experience with freshness. To consolidate the successes of the past three years and derive the benefit of experience, we propose returning to office the four top union officers. In the other Executive Council positions, we introduce some of the next generation of union leadership while retaining many of our seasoned leaders. The slate of Executive Council and delegate positions mirrors the diversity of the membership – in race and age, academic field and position, history and location within the University. The New Caucus slate is a slate for the whole membership.

Support for a Challenging Future

National and global political configurations have changed since 2000 in ways none of us could have anticipated. The trauma of September 11th was followed by a deepening economic downturn; both were compounded by the loss of public revenue after years of tax cuts that disadvantaged working people and public institutions. Now New York faces the worst revenue crisis in a generation. Invigorated by New Caucus leadership, the PSC this spring will mount its most intense budget campaign ever. We will be tested as never before, and our success depends on one thing: the participation of the membership. You will see postcards for the Governor, calls for local lobbying, a mass education rally in Albany on May 3 and a CUNY Day of Action on March 26. We will need your force – intellectual as well as political – if we are to succeed in reversing the disastrous budget cuts and tuition hikes proposed for CUNY.

Many of us didn't realize it at the time, but the New Caucus victory in 2000 sent ripples through the labor movement and within political circles. Mounting a successful insurgent campaign is still fairly rare within organized labor, and a victory by an insurgent caucus in one of the country's largest education unions attracted considerable attention. Now more than ever, city, state and even national unionists and politicians will be watching to see if the PSC leadership has strong support.

Even if we don't face an organized opposition slate, it's critical that you show your support by voting New Caucus. The University faces an unprecedented budget crisis, and the union is mobilizing to meet it.

A vote for the PSC leadership is a vote of support for our campaign for restored CUNY funding.

A vote for the PSC leadership is a vote of support for our visionary, winnable agenda for collective bargaining.

Strengthen us to fight for you; strengthen us to fight beside you.

Use your vote to show your support for a strong, democratic union.

Vote for the New Caucus in April.

FOR PRESIDENT

Barbara Bowen, President of the PSC since 2000, has led the transformation of the PSC into a fighting union. Her commitment to revitalizing CUNY and democratizing the union is visible in the PSC's newly aggressive approach to both the contract and the budget. Barbara was the union's chief negotiator for the current contract – the first in more than a decade to provide salary increases every year, and a blueprint for renewing the University. Bowen has become a respected voice in Albany and City Hall, critical in winning restorations to the University's budget and legislation increasing access to CUNY. She has also been influential within the city's labor movement, gaining support for our members and students. Barbara has been elected a Vice President of the Municipal Labor Committee, a Director of New York State United Teachers, and a Vice President of the American Federation of Teachers, the PSC's parent union. In her other life she is Associate Professor of English at Queens College and the Graduate Center, and a nationally known scholar of African American and English Renaissance literature.



FOR FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Steve London is Associate Professor of Political Science at Brooklyn College. Currently PSC First Vice President, he has a long history in academic unionism and faculty governance. He was elected three times as Brooklyn College's Chapter Chair and University Faculty Senator and was a founder of the New Caucus. As Welfare Fund Trustee and Executive Officer, Steve has led the effort to preserve Welfare Fund benefits; revitalizing the Welfare Fund Advisory Board and involving hundreds of members in dialogue. Steve serves on the Negotiating Committee, has primary responsibility for the PSC contract survey and chairs the Intellectual Property and Contract Enforcement Committees. As a New York State United Teachers Board Director, he has increased visibility of the higher education agenda and gained more resources for the PSC. Steve is also a Political Action Coordinator and member of the Legislation and Finance Committees. Coeditor of *The Re-education of the American Working Class and of People, Power, Politics*, Steve brings his expertise to union work.



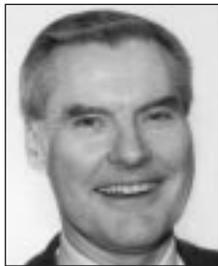
FOR SECRETARY

Cecelia McCall is Associate Professor of English at Baruch College. Seemingly since time began, she has been an activist in support of CUNY. She is the elected Secretary of the PSC and serves on the Negotiating Committee and as the union's Director of Legislation. In the latter capacity she chairs the Legislation Committee, the political advocacy group of the union. She is also an officer-at-large of the Collective Bargaining Conference national and state AAUP. She is a member of the Government Relations Committee of AAUP. She is particularly proud to be the chair of the Legislation Committee, which has done so much to heighten the union's image and actions among local, state and federal politicians. She has also completed a novel, *The Hill*, that depicts the African American community of Roxbury, Massachusetts, during and after World War II.



FOR TREASURER

John Hyland is Professor of Sociology at LaGuardia Community College. As Treasurer of the PSC for the past three years he has initiated an outside review of the union's financial system and is guiding changes that will strengthen its financial situation. With the union staff and an active Finance Committee, he has revised the PSC budget's format to improve transparency, and published and explained the annual budget in the *Clarion*. John has been a member of Negotiating Committee. As co-chair of the PSC Solidarity Committee, he has worked to develop the union's power through coalition building with other labor unions, community organizations, and students. He lobbies in Albany and at City Hall, focuses on community college issues through a statewide conference of community college labor unions, and has served on several NYSUT committees. He looks forward to building on this experience to further solidify the union's financial resources and to deepen members' participation in the union.



FOR UNIVERSITY-WIDE OFFICERS

Stanley Aronowitz is a Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Urban Education at the Graduate Center. He formerly taught at Staten Island Community College, the University of California-Irvine and Columbia University, and was an adjunct at NYU, the New School and Union Theological Seminary. He is author or editor of 21 books. A former steelworker and union organizer, Stanley is a University-wide Officer and member of the PSC Negotiating Committee.



Jonathan Buchsbaum is an Associate Professor of Media Studies at Queens College and the Theatre Department at the Graduate Center. His scholarly work has concentrated on political filmmaking and more recently on the political economy of French film. He is PSC Chapter Chair at Queens and has served on the Executive Committee there since 1996. As head of the "Labor Goes to the Movies" Committee, he has organized and run the PSC film series since its inception in 2002.



Robert Carter is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Hunter College. His areas of interest are Law, Social Theory, Social Policy, Religion, Race and Ethnic Relations. He has served as Affirmative Action Officer and Special Assistant to the President of Hunter College, as well as Acting University Director of Affirmative Action for the CUNY system. He recently completed a book *Law, Race, and Personal Life: Reflections on Growing Up in the Mississippi Delta*. Robert is a member of the PSC Delegate Assembly.



Susan O'Malley is a Professor of English at Kingsborough Community College and Professor of Liberal Studies at the Graduate School. Currently she is the Chair of the University Faculty Senate and a trustee ex officio of CUNY. She has been a University-wide Officer of the PSC for the last three years and has been active on the Legislative, Editorial, and Women's committees. At Kingsborough she served as Chapter Chair.



Sheldon Weinbaum is a CUNY Distinguished Professor of Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering at City College. He has been a University-wide Officer in the union since 1999. He was lead plaintiff in the 1992 CUNY lawsuit charging state officials with racial discrimination in funding of CUNY and initiated the 1995 faculty march over the Brooklyn Bridge. He is one of only eight living individuals to be elected to all three National Academies: Sciences, Engineering and Medicine.



FOR VICE PRESIDENT OF SENIOR COLLEGES

Michael Fabricant is a Professor and Executive Officer of the Doctoral Program in Social Welfare and is PSC Vice President for Senior Colleges. Mike has a long activist history on issues ranging from housing and homelessness to resisting interventionist US foreign policies. In his roles on the Negotiating Team, Executive Council and Delegate Assembly of the PSC, he has argued that the basis for building the power of the union is to make greater investments in organizers and organizing.



FOR SENIOR COLLEGE OFFICERS

Robert Cermele is an Associate Professor of Mathematics at New York City College of Technology. He is the Chapter Chair at City Tech and a member of the PSC Delegate Assembly. He was elected a Senior College Officer in 2000. He serves on the Budget Committee at City Tech and on the Budget Advisory Committee and Status of the Faculty Committee in the University Faculty Senate. He has been a PSC member for more than 30 years.



Janice Cline is a Lecturer in English and Cultural Diversity at York. She is a member of the PSC Executive Council, acts as an in-house grievance counselor, and serves as Chapter Chair at York, where she has taught since 1972. She has been a delegate to the AFT and NYSUT conventions and has lobbied in Albany. She helped organize the first CUNY delegation to the Labor Day parade in 1999.



Nancy Romer is a Professor of Psychology at Brooklyn College. She presently serves on the PSC Executive Council as Senior College Officer, is Vice-Chair of the Brooklyn College Chapter, Co-coordinator of the PSC Contract Campaign, Co-coordinator of the PSC Anti-war Campaign, and a member of the Research Foundation organizing drive. She is Director of the Brooklyn College Community Partnership, bringing college faculty and students into schools and community organizations that serve adolescents.



FOR VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Anne Friedman is a Professor of Developmental Skills at Borough of Manhattan Community College and currently serves as PSC Vice President for Community Colleges. She is a member of the Negotiating Committee, initiated the Community College Network, chairs the Workforce Development Committee and the Ad-Hoc PSC/UFS Committee on Basic Skills. She acts as Executive Council liaison to CLIP teachers. In addition to her union roles, Anne serves on the University Faculty Senate Executive Committee.



FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE OFFICERS

Andrew McInerney is an Associate Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science at Bronx Community College. He is a member of his chapter Executive Committee and a member of the PSC Delegate Assembly. Prior to joining the CUNY faculty part-time in 1994 and full-time in 1996, he worked as a health care workers' union organizer in central Pennsylvania.



Shirley Rausher has been an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Education and English at Borough of Manhattan Community College for 12 years; before that, she taught at Kingsborough, Baruch, and full-time at Brooklyn College. Shirley has published and spoken on women's issues and academic freedom. She is presently a PSC Delegate and a New Caucus Co-coordinator, while serving on the Legislative, Constitution Revision, International, DA Part-timers, and Community College Conference Committees. She was a founding member of CUNY Adjuncts Unite.



FOR VICE PRESIDENT OF PART-TIME PERSONNEL

Marcia Newfield, poet and author of books for children, has been an Adjunct Lecturer in English at Borough of Manhattan Community College since 1988. In Fall 2003, she was elected PSC Vice President for Part-Time Personnel. She is an Adjunct Grievance Counselor and BMCC chapter Executive Council representative to the PSC Welfare Advisory Board. She serves on the PSC Women's Committee and the Negotiating Committee.



FOR OFFICERS FOR PART-TIME PERSONNEL

Susan DiRaimo started working at City College in 1981 in the English as a Second Language Department as an Adjunct Lecturer; she has since taught at Lehman College and Bronx Community College. She chairs the CUNY ESL Council and co-chairs PSC Open Access Committee. Susan is finishing her doctoral dissertation and is also the volunteer director of the NorthWest Bronx Committee for The Homeless.



Diane Menna has been an Adjunct Lecturer teaching English across CUNY, primarily at Queens College. She has been an Alternate Delegate to the PSC Delegate Assembly and presently serves on numerous committees, including Part-Time Instructional Staff Affairs, Constitutional Review, Elections, and Health and Safety. Recently she became one of the New Caucus Co-coordinators. She is proud of her work on last year's "Strength In Numbers" campaign, which helped to triple part-time membership in our union.



Vinny Tirelli, a PhD candidate in the Political Science Program at the CUNY Graduate Center, is writing a dissertation on academic labor politics. In 1998 he was instrumental in the founding of the Coalition of Contingent Academic Labor (CO-CAL), an international association of part-time faculty labor activists. He has been active on the PSC International Committee and helped to organize the 2002 "Globalization and Education" conference. He is an Adjunct Lecturer at Brooklyn College.



FOR VICE PRESIDENT OF CROSS-CAMPUS CHAPTER

Iris DeLutro has worked at Queens College since 1984 for the Queens College Labor Education and Advancement Program (LEAP). She is the Acting Vice President of the PSC Cross Campus Unit and serves as Vice-Chair of the PSC HEO Chapter. During the past year, Iris has been spending time visiting campuses to explain the new contract gains for HEOs, as well as helping to establish HEO Labor-Management Committees. She has done extensive research on Puerto Rico's political destiny.



FOR CROSS-CAMPUS OFFICERS

Arthurine DeSola is a Higher Education Assistant at Queensborough Community College. A CUNY employee for more than 25 years, Arthurine works as a Counselor in the Department of Student Affairs. As the chapter HEO representative, she is a member of the Executive Committee for Labor/Management. She is a member of the PSC



Health and Safety committee. Her goal as a Cross Campus Officer is to represent the concerns of all professional staff members through collaboration and consensus.

Steve Trimboli is a Senior College Laboratory Technician in the Department of Biological Sciences at Lehman College. He currently serves as a member of the PSC Negotiating Committee, the Executive Council, the PSC Delegate Assembly, and as Grievance Chair for the College Laboratory Technicians chapter. He has been an active member of the CLT chapter and the PSC since the early 1980s. Steve has been influential in achieving significant gains for cross-campus members during his many years with the PSC.



Vera Weekes is the Assistant Director of the Caribbean Research Center at Medgar Evers College. She is a HEO member of the PSC Delegate Assembly, Grievance Policy Committee, and is a Grievance Counselor. She recently lobbied for and won a national law for adjustment of status of Montserratians with Temporary Protection Status who were displaced due to ongoing volcanic activity on the island since 1995. Before migrating to the US, she was Secretary-Treasurer of the Montserrat Union of Teachers.



New Caucus Candidates for Delegates and Alternates to New York State United Teachers and American Federation of Teachers Conventions

DELEGATES							
NAME	CHAPTER						
Anthony Andrews	(York)	William Freidheim	(BMCC)	Marianne Pita	(BXCC)	Leonard Dick	(BxCC)
Jacob Appleman	(Queensboro)	Anne Friedman	(BMCC)	Shirley Rausher	(BMCC)	Susan Farrell	(Kingsboro)
Stanley Aronowitz	(Grad. Ctr.)	Joan Greenbaum	(LaGuardia)	Nancy Romer	(Brooklyn)	Michael Frank	(LaGuardia)
Cassandra Bellabe	(BxCC)	Lawrence Hanley	(City)	Julius Rosenthal	(Kingsboro)	Joshua Freeman	(Queens)
Michael Blitz	(John Jay)	Wayne Harewood	(Kingsboro)	Wendy Scribner	(NYCCT)	Shah Jayman	(Staten Island)
Barbara Bowen	(Queens)	David Hatchett	(Medgar Evers)	Sharon Swacker	(NYCCT)	David Kazanjian	(Queens)
Jonathan Buchsbaum	(Queens)	Ronald Hayduk	(BMCC)	Miriam Thompson	(Queens)	Glenn Kissack	(Hunter HS)
Robert Carter	(Hunter)	John Hyland	(LaGuardia)	Vincent Tirelli	(Brooklyn)	Janice Kydd	(LaGuardia)
Harry Cason	(Staten Island)	Cindi Katz	(Grad. Ctr.)	Steven Trimboli	(Lehman)	Akhil Lal	(BxCC)
Robert Cermele	(NYCCT)	David Kotelchuck	(Hunter)	Mark Ward	(Lehman)	Gerald Markowitz	(John Jay)
Janice Cline	(York)	Stephen Leberstein	(City)	Vera Weekes	(Medgar Evers)	Eileen Moran	(Ret.)
Jim Cohen	(John Jay)	Penelope Lewis	(BMCC)	Sheldon Weinbaum	(City)	Geoffrey Moss	(York)
Lorraine Cohen	(LaGuardia)	Steven London	(Brooklyn)	Jean Weisman	(City)	Warren Orange	(City)
Susan Dicker	(Hostos)	Cecelia McCall	(Baruch)	Jane Young	(BMCC)	Terry Parker	(LaGuardia)
Iris DeLutro	(Queens)	Andrew McInerney	(BxCC)	ALTERNATES			
Arthurine DeSola	(Queensboro)	Diane Menna	(Queens)	NAME	CHAPTER	Norma Peña De Llorenz	(Hostos)
Susan DiRaimo	(BMCC)	John Mineka	(Lehman)	Nkechi Agwu	(BMCC)	Edward Pita	(Ret.)
Jacqueline DiSalvo	(Baruch)	Joyce Moorman	(BMCC)	Jack Arnow	(Kingsboro)	Peter Ranis	(Ret.)
Tibbi Dubois	(Brooklyn)	Gregory Munna	(Baruch)	Ann Batiuk	(Grad. Ctr.)	Seth Rosenberg	(BMCC)
Gregory Dunkel	(Central Off.)	Immanuel Ness	(Brooklyn)	David Bloomfield	(Brooklyn)	Patricia S. Rudden	(NYCCT)
Michael Fabricant	(Hunter)	Marcia Newfield	(BMCC)	Roslyn Bologh	(Staten Island)	Jonathan Scott	(BMCC)
Michelle Fine	(Grad. Ctr.)	Anthony O'Brien	(Queens)	Brent Buell	(York)	Thomas H. Smith	(Queensboro)
Jason Finkelstein	(BxCC)	Susan O'Malley	(Kingsboro)	Kyle Cuardileone	(NYCCT)	Ellen Steinberg	(Hunter)
Shirley Frank	(York)	Philip Pecorino	(Queensboro)	CarolAnn Daniel	(Brooklyn)	Teresa Tobin	(NYCCT)
		Jim Perlstein	(Ret.)			Alex Vitale	(Brooklyn)
		Vasilios Petratos	(Staten Island)			David Winn	(Hunter)
						Robert Wurman	(Ret.)

INDIVIDUAL CANDIDATE

FOR UNIVERSITY-WIDE OFFICE

Louis Alpert, Professor of Mathematics, Bronx Community College
As a currently elected member of the PSC Executive Council (CC Officer), I am seeking higher office as University-wide Officer. As the chair of the PSC University-wide Pension Committee for three years, my interest is to serve the needs of both the junior and senior colleges of

CUNY. For example, in the February 2001 *Clarion*, in the article "TIAA-CREF Pension Credit for Overload Teaching Won by PSC," I am credited as the one individual "who first proposed the suit." This victory has enhanced (and will continue to enhance) the pensions of several thousand faculty throughout CUNY. The University-wide nature of this victory in which I played such a key role is explained in the following quote from this article: "This shows the importance of solidarity between the senior and junior

colleges," said Alpert. "We wanted a settlement that was encompassing as possible, and we've won a permanent gain for all members of the PSC." A second reason for seeking this position is based on the fact that the New Caucus slate includes only one CC member out of the five, a gross inequity for the Community Colleges. We deserve at least two, and my successful candidacy would provide this.

[Alpert did not submit a photograph.]

CUNY: a family affair

The University, the city & the Mullings

By TOMIO GERON

A photo of a diverse class of smiling Lower East Side kindergarteners hangs in City Hall. It is a fairly typical picture for New York City.

But the picture was not taken by a professional photographer. It was taken by a local resident who was part of a community research project headed by Leith Mullings, Presidential Professor of Anthropology at the Graduate Center.

"This is a compelling picture of 40 beautiful little children from various ethnic backgrounds in a kindergarten class," says Mullings. The text, provided by the Lower East Side resident who took the photograph, explains that with cuts to public assistance, more children are attending pre-K and kindergarten. They end up in large, under-funded classes.

The picture is a good example of Mullings's scholarship, which often involves community participation in research. But Mullings, who lived on the Lower East Side in her early years, also sees herself and her family in that picture of young children working to make it in public school.

"My entire family was able to take advantage of a good system of public education and this generation of children should have the same opportunity to fulfill their potential," she says.

REWARDS

As anyone who has tried to schedule a meeting with 10 people knows, involving community residents in research can be difficult, but for Mullings it is worth it. "Participatory research can be very time consuming and labor intensive, but it's also very rewarding," she says. "When done correctly, community participation can provide the researcher with a broader and more objective picture of the community."

Mullings, who did her graduate work at the University of Chicago, also does traditional academic work—she has won numerous awards and has written or edited seven books on topics such as mental health in Ghana, urban anthropology, medical anthropology and race, class and gender.

But her recent studies of New York City have used participatory research as a model—as in a recent examination of the societal causes of infant mortality in Harlem. "From the outset we involved community residents in the research design, process, analysis and dissemination," says Mullings. "A subcommittee of the Community Advisory Board read and commented on the report to the Centers for Disease Control and the subsequent book manuscript." She also helped organize a community meeting and



At the CUNY Graduate Center, left to right: Sandra Mullings, a professor at Baruch, Leith Mullings, Presidential Professor at the Graduate Center and Pansy Mullings.

press conference with City Council member Bill Perkins that focused on ways to address the problem.

Creating bridges between academia and the city is a concern for Mullings. "I feel that as an intellectual I have the responsibility to help to make knowledge accessible, available and useful," she says.

"There need not be an unbridgeable chasm between the academy and society."

Mullings has also been active outside the academy, working on the high incarceration rate of African Americans in the U.S. and its relationship to the decline of public education. "Between 1988 and 1998 the budget for the Department of Corrections increased by over \$700 million," she notes, "while state allocations for CUNY and SUNY declined by more than \$600 million."

Community engagement seems to run in the Mullings family, and Leith and her siblings have no doubt that their public education played a role in that. Mullings, her three sisters Pansy, Pauline and Sandra, her brother Paul and her parents all attended CUNY when it was tuition-free, and all strongly support CUNY and its mission of access. "If it wasn't for CUNY, I wouldn't have been able to go to college," says Pauline Mullings. "There's no way our father would have been able to afford to send all five of us to college at the same time."

Their father Hubert Mullings attended City College, now Baruch, at night while supporting his five children. After graduating magna cum laude, he went on to teach accounting at Baruch and Bronx Community College. Their mother, Lillieth, graduated from Queens College while raising five children.

"I think we felt in some way we should pay back society for having provided us with a good education," says Pansy Mullings. Pansy, who attended Hunter College and NYU Law School, worked as a defense attorney for the Legal Aid Society and spent the next 20 years in various areas of government. She is now Director of Enforcement at the City's Department of Consumer Affairs.

LAW PATH

Sandra, a professor of law at Baruch, also pursued her interest in education, getting a B.A. and M.A. in education at Queens. She then taught at a public elementary school for seven years in Yonkers. But she was talked into applying to law school by her sisters Pansy and Pauline, who were in law school at the time. It turned out to be good sibling pressure—she excelled, going to Yale Law and becoming a partner at a Wall Street firm. "Part of the reason I went into private practice was because my father said no major firm would have considered

making a black person a partner," she recalls.

Sandra reached that milestone. But wanting more time to spend with her 8-year-old son, she decided to return to her love for teaching at Baruch. "It was the best job move I ever made," she says today. For Sandra, the best thing about teaching is the hard-working students. "Many are working part-time. They have family obligations," she says. "They deal with many obstacles to their studies, but amazingly, they keep their eyes on wanting to get an education and wanting to make something of themselves."

The five Mullings siblings attended CUNY during the upheaval of the late 1960s, which helped shape their future career and life choices. "I remember Hunter being draped in black after the students were shot by The National Guard at Kent State," Pansy Mullings recalls. "I remember we had a sense of power, and felt that if we worked against the war we could change things."

CUNY's professors had a strong impact on the Mullings siblings as well. "They were excellent teachers," Pauline Mullings recalls. Pauline says that at Baruch she learned critical analytical and communication skills, as well as a commitment to helping people. After graduating, she became a social worker. "I was looking for something that involved working with people and making life better for poor people," she says.

She soon decided she wanted to become a lawyer and then got her law degree at Columbia. She worked as a defense attorney with Legal Aid in the south Bronx for 19 years, eventually rising to the position of Deputy Attorney-in-Charge. She also taught law at Lehman College for six years, at the same time. These days, instead of speaking before a judge, she wears the robe herself as a Criminal Court judge in Queens. She hears the gamut of criminal charges everyday, all while trying to "look at all the parties as people and not just as numbers."

FAMILY TIME

The sisters, who all live in New York City, are very close, often seeing each other every other week. They often have big family dinners together at Leith's apartment. "We have similar goals and interests," says Pauline. Their brother Paul, the only sibling who no longer lives in New York, received his masters in public health from the University of Michigan after his undergraduate work at Baruch and Queens. Today he is chief operating officer of Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona.

"We all went to CUNY when it was free and have become productive citizens, who are hopefully making a contribution to the city" says Leith, whose daughter is now a graduate student in sociology at the CUNY Graduate Center. "Education has always been the central avenue through which disadvantaged groups have gained access and opportunity in society. The promise of CUNY lies in excellence and access. It is in the public's interest that CUNY be a well-funded, strong university, accessible to all the people of this city."



15-MINUTE ACTIVIST

NOW hear this

Think you don't have time to lobby for CUNY? With the PSC's new ACT NOW program, it's a snap. You can lobby your City Council members, the Mayor, the Governor and your state legislators. Just log on to www.psc-cuny.org and click "ACT NOW." Then select which letter to fax to your politicians. If you don't know who your representatives are, ACT NOW will figure it out for you. In just a couple weeks of operation, over 800 faxes and emails have already been sent. So take a minute and act now.