

## GRADUATE CENTER NEWSLETTER ON THE CUNY CRISIS 5/9/91

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**ANNOUNCEMENT:** A teach-in will be held on **Monday, May 13**. The topic is "**Maintaining the Struggle After the Occupations**," The speakers will include **Barbara Omolade**, Assistant Professor at the Center for Workers' Education at City College; and Martin Eisenberg, a longtime community organizer and a student in the Graduate Center Sociology program. Also speaking will be a former member of the Black Panther movement and students from the CUNY-wide struggle. The teach-in will begin at **6:00 p.m., in room 732**.

### **REPORTS:**

A group of concerned Graduate Center faculty members, students and administrators are organizing efforts aimed at putting pressure on the New York State legislature. Volunteers are needed to help run a phone bank which will contact every Graduate Center student, asking him/her to telephone the relevant assembly persons and state senator about the CUNY crisis, and providing all pertinent information needed to do so. Furthermore, plans are underway to send students to lobby various legislators from the City, and volunteers are also needed (especially from outer-boroughs.) **Steve Gorelick**, Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs, is coordinating this. Call him at **642-2828**.

The **Emergency Committee to Save CUNY**, a committee of concerned CUNY faculty, is currently focusing on: attempting to get their union, the Professional Staff Congress, more involved in the struggle to save public higher education; working with lawyers to help defend those CUNY students who are facing severe disciplinary measures as result of the strikes; and working to galvanize the faculty community throughout the university system. A meeting was held on Thursday, May 2 for all interested Graduate Center faculty; **Graduate Center faculty should contact Professor Frances Fox Piven of the Political Science Department at 642-2385**. Any **CUNY faculty** members interested in participating should contact **Jean Weisman** at The Center for Workers' Education, City College, **650-5300**.

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**CUNITY**, the CUNY-wide coalition of students struggling against the budget cuts and tuition hikes, in which the Graduate Center participates, continues to meet and work. It is currently involved with lobbying efforts (an informal meeting was held with Mel Miller, Speaker of the Assembly, on April 25.) It is also planning for a large rally in Albany, and is bringing our struggle to communities and unions, to solidify our efforts with others fighting the budget cuts. The coalition is particularly active in attempting to gain amnesty for those students facing disciplinary and legal action as a result of the strikes.

On Tuesday evening, May 7, Chancellor Ann Reynolds participated in a ceremony at the Graduate Center honoring students who had participated in an internship in Government program. Wishing to avoid a group of graduate students seeking to question her about 80th St.'s response to the crisis, the Chancellor entered the third floor studio through a back staircase. However, a few concerned students who happened to be walking downstairs at the time ran into her there; and after a brief but substantive discussion, the Chancellor agreed to meet with students before the semester's end.

**FIGHT THE BUDGET CUTS! TAX THE RICH INSTEAD!**

**CALL VICE-CHANCELLOR JAY HERSHENSON AT 80TH STREET AND TELL HIM TO TELL CHANCELLOR REYNOLDS TO GRANT AMNESTY TO ALL CUNY STUDENTS! 794-5317**

CURRENTLY 50 CUNY STUDENTS FACE DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS, AND 31 FACE LEGAL CHARGES. SUPPORT THE STUDENTS AND HELP GET AMNESTY.

THE CITY COLLEGE DAY STUDENT GOVERNMENT HAS SET UP A LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER. TO GET INVOLVED CALL DAVID MIRTZ AT 650-5024.

GET ON THE PHONE! CALL **1 800 222 2567** AND SPEAK WITH: MEL MILLER, ROGER GREEN, JIM TALLON, ED SULLIVAN AND MAURICE HINCHEY. THEY ARE IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF THE NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY.