

HIGH
SCHOOL
ORGANIZING
COMMITTEE



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pledge to serve the people

SLAM!

STUDENT LIBERATION ACTION MOVEMENT



PRISON
PROJECT
ORGANIZING
COMMITTEE

THE CUNY LEGAL
DEFENSE PROJECT

SLAM!

STUDENT LIBERATION ACTION MOVEMENT

SLAM!, Student Liberation Action Movement originated in the Spring semester of 1995 with the announcement of Governor Pataki's and Mayor Giuliani's budget cuts to the CUNY, City University of New York system. A broad range of students, faculty, staff and community people started gathering together at weekly meetings, originally located in The Bronx and eventually ending up in The CUNY Graduate Center. This coalition was aptly named the CUNY Coalition and was more successful than any of its participants could have imagined. In just under two months it managed to organize the largest student demonstration since Vietnam. On March, 23, 1995 over 20,000 people converged at City Hall park to denounce the governments attempt to pilfer the quality and access to education that CUNY provides the working class of New York. This was the beginning of a new era of student and community struggles and activism that have been apart of CUNY since its inception in the 1840's.

In its present state known as **SLAM!**/ A Coalition for Public Education, it is an open and democratically run independent arm of the student movement in New York. Working together in a coalition structure gives its participants the unique experience of confronting the politics that separate and divide us and allows for the maneuverability to recognize these problems in an atmosphere of openness and honesty. **SLAM!** Provides the student movement the opportunity to objectively discuss and strategize around the issues that confront CUNY students, and public education in general. Organizationally, **SLAM!** Maintains a structure that represents our communities: CUNY students, private college students and high school students in a fair and representational manner. During the school semester **SLAM!** meets as often as possible to discuss the latest issues and actions that are facing the student movement and what strategies can be best catapult our message.

In the upcoming year **SLAM!** at Hunter College has taken up three projects:

1. The fight for more adequate student space.
2. The fight for Open Admissions and overall greater access to higher Education.
3. The fight to save the lives of Mumia Abu Jamal and other political prisoners as well as offer information about the prison industrial complex.

If you would like to know more about **SLAM!** or would like to get involved in our organizing efforts please contact us at...

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SLAM! WHAT WE BELIEVE

1. We are fighting for the right of all people to free quality higher education.
2. We are fighting for a University that serves the people. We want full and direct democratic control of the University by the University community of students, workers, and faculty. We call for the immediate transfer of control of the University from the Board of Trustees, which represents the interests of a tiny ruling elite, to democratically elected University Council of students, workers, and faculty.
3. We are fighting for an education that aids us in our struggles for liberation and in the creation of a new society. We call for the democratic reorganization of the curriculum, methods of teaching, and the grading system.
4. We are fighting for unconditional freedom of political expression on campus including free access to the campus by all members of the community and an end to all practices of University administration intended to suppress political activity.
5. We are fighting for the immediate cancellation of all bonds and other outstanding debts that drain money from the University to further profit the rich.
6. We are fighting for the conditions of life that enable us to learn. These include free quality, food shelter, healthcare, childcare, transportation, tutoring, and remediation for all members of the University community.

7. We are fighting for an autonomous University. We insist on the immediate severing of all University ties with corporate, financial, governmental, and military institutions that contribute to the maintenance of the existing oppressive social order.
8. We are fighting for an end to police terror on and off campus. We call for the police to be permanently banned from the University, for the dismantling of the SAFE unit, and for campus security to be placed under democratic control of the University community.
9. We are fighting for a truly democratic society in which all decisions are made by those who are effected by them, a society committed to meeting the basic needs of all people, and to protecting the planet we share.
10. We are fighting for an end to all forms of oppression and exploitation: to white supremacy and all forms of racism, to the oppression of women, to the repression of the full diversity of consensual human sexuality, and to the profit system and the rule of the rich.

WHAT WE DO: SLAM! PROJECTS

I. HIGH SCHOOL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (HSOC)

In January 1999 under pressure from Mayor Giuliani the CUNY Board of Trustees voted to eliminate remedial courses at all of CUNY's senior colleges. The result of eliminating remediation is that the majority of New York City high school students currently planning to attend a CUNY 4-year college will not be admitted! The mission of the High School Organizing Committee is to work with college and high school students to build a movement that will fight for an education system that is accessible and serves the needs of NYC youth.

SLAM! and CUNY students have played a major role in the student and youth movement in NYC. In 1998 we mobilized thousands of students CUNY-wide and succeeded in postponing the elimination of remedial courses at the senior colleges! Our goal for the year is to build a coalition of college and HS students for a city-wide campaign demanding remediation at CUNY's senior colleges. If you get down with HSOC, these are some of the projects you can get involved with.

- Morning education and mobilization campaigns at NYC high schools
- Work with HS students on the Youth Rising Newspaper
- Work with SLAM!'s organizer training class
- Help build a coalition to fight for access to remediation at "ALL" of CUNY's colleges
- SLAM! video series

II. THE PRISON PROJECT

The United States has the highest incarceration rate of any nation on earth. In many states, there are more Blacks and Latinos incarcerated for drug crimes than those who graduate from public colleges. Under the banner "Education not Incarceration!" students are organizing to counter the growing prison industrial complex, human rights abuses and politically-generated sentencing and imprisonment.

SLAM! has been active in mobilizing youth to educate the NYC community about prison-related issues including police brutality and political prisoners such as Mumia-Abu Jamal. In April 1999, Hunter College SLAM! mobilized 400 Hunter Students and 11 buses to rally in Philadelphia for Mumia's freedom. SLAM! is currently looking for folks who want to help develop a strategy for organizing around these issues. You can get down with the following projects:

- Media and activist training for young people around the Prison Industrial Complex
- Build the campaign for Mumia Abu-Jamal at Hunter and city-wide
- Build awareness at Hunter and city-wide on US political prisoners and prisoners of war
- Participate in events and outreach that build the above mentioned work!

III. THE CUNY LEGAL DEFENSE PROJECT

The CUNY Legal Defense Project is a critical component of the CUNY student movement. The project supports litigation by attorneys on behalf of CUNY students on important civil rights or civil liberties issues and in support of CUNY's historic policy of Open Admissions. CLDP provides defense for CUNY activists in criminal, civil or administrative proceedings. The project also provides education and research on issues pertaining to CUNY, in particular to CUNY's policy of Open Admissions. Along with other CUNY activists,

SLAM! members sit on the project's board of directors. As board members SLAMMISTA's play an active role in shaping the vision of the project as well as securing grants, volunteers and serving as spokes people for the project. Folks who are interested in defending CUNY, Human and Civil Rights or public interest law will enjoy and benefit from getting involved with CLDP!