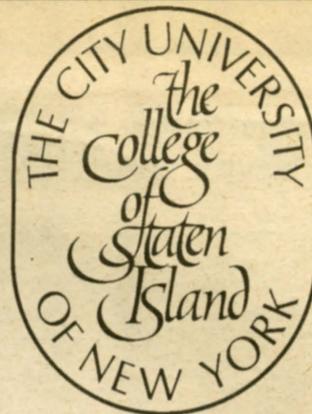


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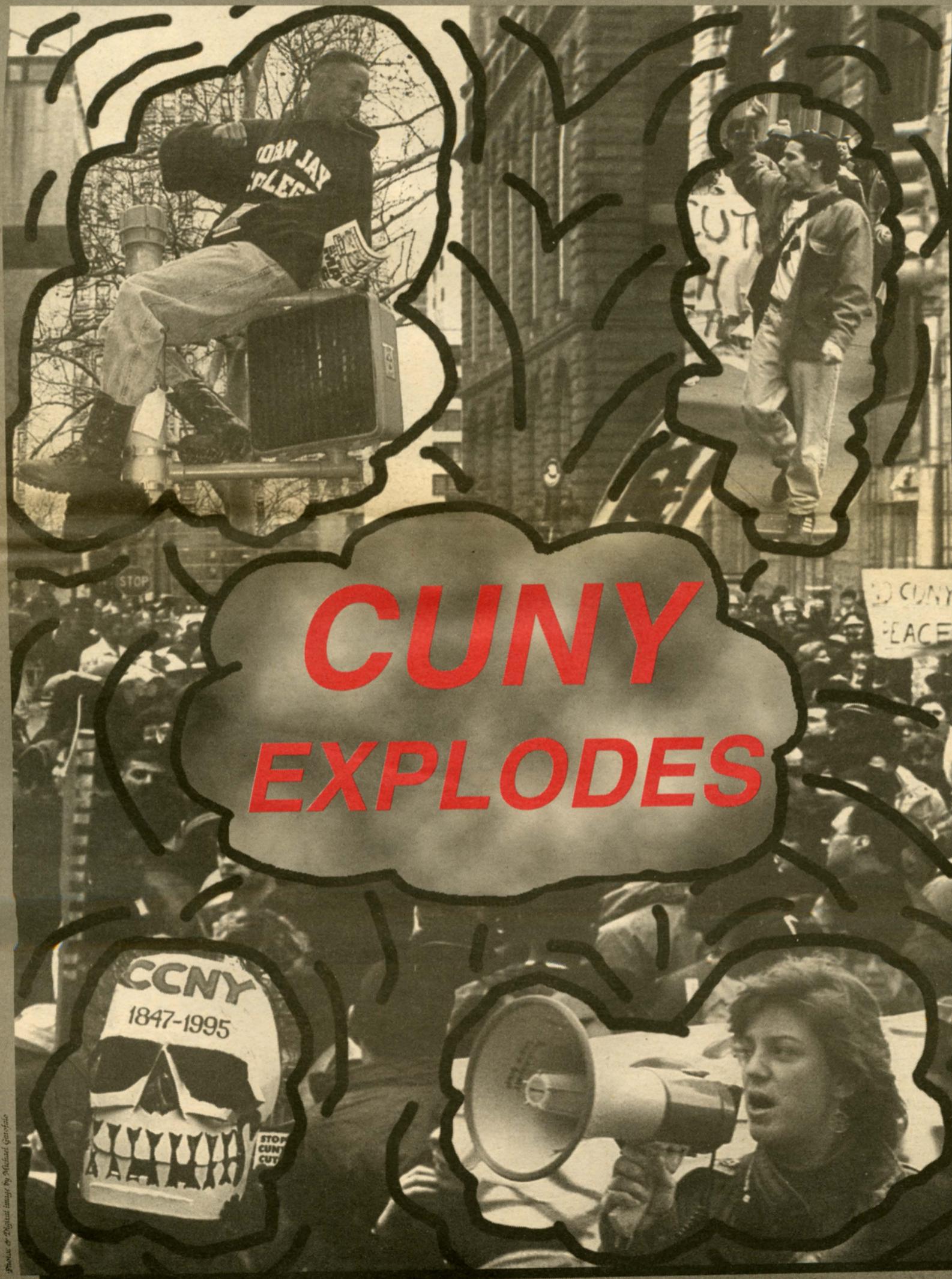
BANNER

CSI'S STUDENT PUBLICATION



VOLUME II, ISSUE XII

MARCH 30, 1995



CUNY EXPLODES

Photos & Digital Images by Michael Garofalo

CUNY CUTS CLASS



Photo: Michael Garofalo

John Paul Patafio give a friendly wave to a police officer while on route to the rally



Photo: Michael Garofalo

Police prepare for war with barricade...



Photo: Michael Garofalo

...and large numbers

Demonstration Turned Disasterous

By Michael Garofalo

Thousands of CUNY students protested in a citywide rally last Thursday, March 23, in an effort to stop Pataki's proposed 25% cut in funding towards education. The demonstration became violent when demonstrators clashed with cops.

Scores of students were arrested and issued summonses after the brutal battle with the police was over. Demonstrator Marco Sainte states, "Everybody thinks the students started it [the fight], but when the cops moved in is when it got ugly."

Police with mace and billy-clubs pushed students back, 11 police officers hospitalized for injuries and nine for students. Demonstrator Steve J. Puzolis comments, "During the fight, for the

most part, I was carrying people who were maced back to the stage."

The demonstration was generally peaceful until students decided to march on Wall Street. Matters became worse when communication with the crowd ceased; microphones on the mobile stage blew out. The last message heard was, "Don't march...Don't march..."

"We wanted to march on Wall Street because that is the center of political and economic power," states Protester John Paul Patafio. Patafio was issued a summons for possessing an amplification device at the rally.

Governor George Pataki, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and CUNY officials all deny any responsibility for the violence that occurred at the rally.

Giuliani states, "They're supposed to be in school today."

President Marlene Springer states, "Though I know students' concerns are valid the march and rally last Thursday was not sponsored by the College or the University and our students were not encouraged to leave classes to attend this rally."

With an increase of tuition of \$1,000, the largest increase ever, and budget cuts that would eliminate programs such as SEEK, students were highly motivated to protest.

President of Student Government Lori Seggio replies, "If these cuts go through it will be very bad for CUNY next year. We're underfunded as it is."

TO COMBAT CUTS



Photo: Michael Garofalo

Student brought many signs with them denouncing Pataki

**State Of New York
Executive Chamber
George E. Pataki,
Governor**

Press Office
518-474-8418
212-417-2126

For Release:

Immediate, Thursday

March 23, 1995

**Statement By Governor
George E. Pataki**

New York is facing a \$5 billion budget deficit for the upcoming fiscal year. We must close this deficit and bring desperately needed fiscal sanity to the budget process.

In my budget proposal, I asked SUNY and CUNY to help the taxpayers close this deficit by cutting their bureaucracy and instituting a number of sensible reforms. Unfortunately, they chose to wage a diverse campaign of fear-mongering and distortion to scare both students and parents.

Professors have cancelled classes so students could participate in protest rallies. Administrators have used their taxpayer-funded resources to engage in partisan politics during working hours. It is an outrage to observe such unprofessional and partisan political behavior by professors and administrators who should know better.

If SUNY and CUNY increased their student-faculty ratio by one student, to 20.5 to one, it would save taxpayers \$18 million a year. If professors increased their average teaching load by a mere one hour to 15.5 hours a week, it would save taxpayers \$25 million a year. If sabbatical leave for faculty were eliminated, taxpayers would save \$17 million a year.

I have suggested specific steps that can be taken by SUNY and CUNY to help New York get its fiscal house in order. I hope they will make a good faith effort to help our taxpayers and forego the type of behavior that poisons the climate for an honest debate.



"Great day to rob a bank," says spectator while looking at all the police.



"Students and workers unite...Fight! Fight! Fight!"

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Thursday, March 30, 1995 • BANNER

SEEKING RESTORATION IN ALBANY

By Jennifer Valle

Over 2,500 Seek students and faculty from various CUNY and SUNY campuses travelled to the legislative office building and Capitol at Albany in order to rally and lobby against George Pataki's budget cuts, on March 14th. SEEK paid for the buses that shuttled the students to the sight.

Professor and SEEK Advisor, Charlotte McPherson, stated, "The students were very articulate and were able to bring the point across." Angry students shouted in protest such things as "Hey Hey! Ho Ho!, Pataki's cuts have got to go" as they swarmed on the front steps of the capitol. Other student and faculty lobbyists spoke with Assembly members, Senators and Representatives about the effect that the elimination of the SEEK program would have on them.

The budget proposed by Pataki, if passed, will result in the complete loss of SEEK, as well as Graduate Tap and Aid for part time study (APTS), and leave Financial Aid drastically cut. College funding for CUNY will be decreased by 27.5% (\$158.1 million), funding for SUNY decreased by 32% (\$289.5 million) and Independent colleges decrease by 4% (\$6 million). If the budgets go through as planned, it would result in the loss of thousands of jobs for SEEK advisors throughout CUNY and SUNY, roughly half of the adjunct teachers, and CUNY colleges will be forced to raise tuition by \$1,000 in order to make up for the cuts (SUNY to raise tuition approximately \$1,500), leaving no choice but for SEEK and working class students to take out loans or drop college.

SEEK Advisor Eugene Dudley commented, "This (the proposed budget) has served as a wake up call to the people, we have to tell the story of SEEK and remind Seek students that this is a political program." He continued, "People are so overwhelmed with a sense of powerlessness (at the sight of these cuts), but we will teach them, they will learn. You guys (students) have the power."

Spokespersons explained to lobbying students that cuts will most certainly be made but also commented, "we will try to soften the blows of these cuts."

At a press conference on March 16th, Chancellor W. Ann Reynolds explained, "We are pushing to save SEEK, it is an excellent program which helps thousands of our students throughout CUNY. I don't think the SEEK program will be eliminated, I am quite confident that there will be SEEK restoration." She further commented, "It is funny how in the midst of all of these rallies, the Governor has found an extra \$300 million dollars within the budget."

Students were told by Spokeswoman Ms. Weinberg that Ms. Connelley will try her very best to soften these cuts but it looks like budget cuts will still be made." She explained, "A lot of Republicans like the budget and they are going to vote for it as is."

The rally outside continued as the students waved banners in protest and shouted in protest against the tremendous cuts.

CSI student and SEEK recipient Liz N. George expressed "I depend on SEEK to help me economically and academically. If SEEK gets cut, it would not only affect me but a lot of SEEK students and faculty. I also think it is the best program that helps students academically because the staff, faculty and tutors are always there for the students."

Representative Mr. Jaffe did mention afterward that Mr. Marchi was one of the founders of SEEK in the early 1960's and confided, "Senator Marchi will do all he can for SEEK." He concluded "we will try to soften the cuts and make the situation more equitable to the contingency." Chancellor Reynolds commented, "The legislatures and assemblymembers have been thoroughly impressed by our students." Professor McPherson commented that the fight wasn't over yet stating, "We should continue to keep the pressure on until we get restoration to CUNY."

SOLIDARITY AT MANHATTAN

by Jennifer Valle

Solidarity was the key at the March 16th rally as approximately 10,000 students swamped the streets and caused a forty-five minute traffic jam in the streets of Manhattan in hopes to get restoration for CUNY and SUNY. The rally began outside of Lehman College and Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC).

Thousands of students from Lehman, LaGuardia, and other CUNY schools chanted, "Pataki says 'cut back' we say 'fight back'," as they marched towards BMCC where they joined with another rally already in progress at BMCC. Hundreds of police officers lined the streets in 'fence formation' as the students marched down Chambers street towards Liberty Avenue and Trinity Avenue. "If they (the ralliers) get out of line, (we will) lock 'em up" stated Police Officer Alomar as he watched for any signs of rioting.

As the ralliers stopped marching at Liberty Avenue, USS Chairman Anthony Giordano addressed the students from a makeshift podium, congratulating them and encouraging them to "keep up the fight." Giordano then handed the microphone over to Assemblyman Perry who commented on the proposed cuts, "The only person who could support these cuts is someone who lives at home and has no heart." He continued, "These budgets are being pushed by people with blindfolds on."

The ralliers, blanketing approximately five blocks, shouted in agreement as the Honorable Larry Seabrook took the mike and shouted, "We're fired up, we can't take no more." He persisted, "Today we show a sense of unity... but we also show a sense of solidarity. We protest peacefully but we will also show that we have a right to protest. We are all from different countries... we may have come here on different ships but we're on the same boat now." Honorable Seabrook spoke of the one hundred students who were

arrested from Hunter College on March 15th stating, "We will stand up for those students of Hunter. They didn't go to jail for selling drugs, they went to jail for standing up for education." Students cheered as they continued to rally for three hours.

At a town meeting on March 15th, President Springer explained, "If the budget cuts go through, we are going to have to cut about 500 sections, we are going to have to lay off 65 - 70 faculty, 65 - 75 staff, about half of our adjunct teachers will be laid off." Although summer school looks grim at the face of these cuts, President Springer commented, "We will try our best to save summer school."

In light of the drastic cuts, The President has set up a Retrenchment committee in order to review the classes and the budget. The committee will decide, along with Springer, which programs and sections from CSI will have to be cut. She explained, "We (the retrenchment committee) will put everything on the table and look at all the programs. The budget will be released on April 1st, and we need to have a retrenchment plan completed by June 30th." She continued, "I will consult as widely as I can but the bottom line is that my name will be on the bottom of that page (the budget plan for next semester)."

In a press conference on March 16th, Chancellor Reynolds commended the students rallying stating, "Our students have been polite, well behaved, and informative. Everyone I have spoken to has been very impressed with our students, but we have to keep this up. The real target right now is the legislature."

The rally began to break up at 5:00 pm as students returned to classes. Irwin Polishook from the Professional Staff Congress/CUNY Union of Professional Staff commented, "When he (Pataki) restored capital punishment, we didn't think he wanted a death sentence for us. We won't stand for it."

These budgets are being pushed by people with blindfolds on.

MOCK BAKE SALE LEAVES PATAKI PROPOSAL LOOKING "HALF-BAKED"

By Jennifer Valle

Approximately five students from CSI held a mock bake sale in front of Senator Marchi's district office on March 16th in order to mock Governor Pataki's request that CUNY students seek private funding sources to make up for the 25% state aid cut which he proposed.

The sale, featuring CSI cookies for \$5 million dollars a piece and CUNY cake for \$10 million dollars a slice went well considering the fact that none of the baked goods were purchased. "Maybe we should try again on pay day," stated student John Kim as he sarcastically continued, "Without a successful bake sale to offset the governor's cuts, CUNY may be forced to fire hundreds of tenured faculty and raise tuition by \$1,000."

Project leader with the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) and CSI student Laura Milling commented, "The Pataki plan for CUNY really seems half-baked. The Governor should know that the ingredients of a college education cannot be tuition, tuition, and more tuition. This is not a recipe that the working poor and middle class students of CUNY can easily swallow."

SECURITY LEARNS SIGN LANGUAGE

Security has been working in conjunction with the Resource Center for the Deaf to train peace officers to communicate with deaf and hearing impaired students and faculty on campus. "This is our second session of sign language" explained Director of Security Eugene Martinez. He continued, "We began the training last semester. We discussed this with Carol Lazorisak and we felt that this training will help the peace officers communicate a lot better with the students who are deaf and hard of hearing."

With approximately 60 students on campus who are hearing impaired and an expected double of that number in September, arrangements were made for Faculty member Gina DiBart to train security officers in two-fifteen minute sessions once each week. Martinez commented, "With this training, we will be able to service the students even more."

FUNERAL HELD FOR CUNY

Approximately 20 students held a mock funeral for CUNY on Monday, March 20th. Students gathered at noon in front of the campus center with cardboard tombstones and a makeshift black coffin. They immediately assembled into "funeral procession" style and proceeded to "grieve" the loss of CUNY

by the hand of Pataki and his proposed budget. "I'm going to really be affected with the financial aid cuts. I'm getting low Tap assistance now and now it's going to be gone." She continued, "There's nothing else for me. I'm supporting this funeral procession in hopes to save my education."

The mourners, dressed in black, carried the coffin to the front of the library where a short ceremony was held. Student Government President Lori Seggio commented, "It's appropriate that the funeral be held in front of a building that symbolizes the quest for knowledge." Seggio then called for a moment of silence.

Director of the SEEK program, Gloria Garcia, commended the students for making the truth about the cuts known. NYPIRG Project Coordinator Michelle Gibbons commented, "This tragedy can still be prevented. The State Legislature still has the power to restore the cuts." Mourner and CSI student Stephanie Rogers commented, "there's no reason for high school students to stay in school when they know there won't be a college to go to." Gibbons ended the ceremony by encouraging students to call their Assemblypersons and Representatives stating, "There is still hope for the life of CUNY. We must keep calling on legislature to restore cuts so that we won't have to bury our education."

WSIA: BIG SIGN... BIG PROBLEMS

WSIA suffered a broken neon sign when 3 students were playing football in front of the campus center and accidentally hit the yellow neon tubing with the ball on Thursday, March 16. Director of Campus Center Mike Daniels expressed, "We are calling local people to get estimates in order to make the repairs."

Although no one is sure as to the cost to fix the sign, Director for Student Services Allan DiBiase commented, "Why should students play football there (in front of the campus center) when they could injure someone." He continued, "It was irresponsible behavior and I strongly feel that the students responsible should pay for the damages."

For now, the WSIA sign still is operable although it is missing an entire line of yellow neon within the red lining under the letters 'WSIA.' Greg Adamo offered an idea to prevent further damage stating, "We will be looking into plexiglass." DiBiase further commented on the situation stating, "You broke it, you pay for it."

MULTIPLE CAR THEFTS / BREAK-INS TIGHTENS SECURITY

Along with major parking problems on campus, a rash of car break-ins and car thefts have occurred since January, five incidents of which occurred in the month of March.

Within the third week of March (3/20 - 3/22) two cars were stolen and another three were broken into on the Willowbrook campus. According to reports, one 1986

Monte Carlo was damaged on March 20th. Afterwards, on the same day, another 1986 Monte Carlo was stolen from parking lot #1. Following these two incidents, another car was tampered with in parking lot #6 on March 21st which left the auto lock broken. A few hours afterwards, another car was stolen from the loop road. One car was taken from parking lot #4 and deposited in parking lot #6 minus the car radio on March 22nd.

Security personnel Robert Yurman commented on the issue stating, "All of our patrols are currently concentrating on the parking lots." Yurman further explained, "Security is looking into The Police Department Anti Car Theft Unit. We are just waiting for the 'okay' from President Springer." If implemented, the Anti Car Theft Unit would feature plain clothes police officers on campus to patrol the parking lots and look for suspicious activity. In addition to these thefts, Head of Security Eugene Martinez urges all students to be alert for any suspicious activity in parking lots and report any such activity immediately. In a letter to the CSI Community, Martinez says, "Staten Island has the highest rates for stolen autos in New York City... In recent weeks, we have experienced a marked increase in reported auto thefts at our Willowbrook campus." Martinez further announced, "The Campus Security Department is taking certain steps to reduce the risk of auto thefts on campus."

Among the constant patrolling of parking lots and awaiting approval for police back-up, security personnel Dennis Casey stood at the front gate on March 24th, randomly checking cars for marks of tampering. Yurman concluded, "We've made the parking lots our number one priority."

PEER SUPPORT: DO DROP IN

Over 50 students and staff members gathered at the Park Cafe when the Peer Drop-In Center held a reception to celebrate the opening of the new support center at 4:00 pm on March 22nd. First started February 6, 1995, the program began "slow, but has been picking up" explained Supervisor of the Peer Group and Wellness Coordinator Carol Brower.

"This is a way for students to give back something to the school" explained Ms. Brower. With 16 students already trained as "peer educators" and participating in the program, the support center is open for calls from students who need information, referral to support agencies, or a person to talk to. "All of the peer educators took 2 days of training in January and each of them voluntarily work 3 hours each week." explained Brower. She continued, "The phone calls are all confidential and students are welcomed to come to the center to speak to our educators." The Peer office, located in 1C-112F, is open from 9 am - 5 pm from Monday - Friday, with the exception of Wednesdays when the office is open until 6:30 pm. All students seeking a friendly voice and support are encouraged to call the group at 982-3123.

SORRY 'BOUT THAT

In the BANNER Volume II Issue X, I made a mistake and reported that Loop Bus #190 sprung a gas tank leak. Upon further investigation, it was found that the Loop Bus actually had a fuel filter leak. Upon recognizing the source of the problem, the bus was immediately repaired by Gateway Personnel.

BANNER

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Has Morality Died, And, Can It Be Resurrected?

By Alisa A. Hemmer

Lately, I have been noticing just how messed up the world is. People have little respect for each other. There are few of us who have good morals. We need a reality check! Some of us have forgotten that morals and good values are learned. Parents need to raise their standards and teach their children right from wrong as soon as their offspring learn how to walk. Some parents do not want to be bothered taking the time to talk to a child about problems he or she might have, or just to find out what is on their son's or daughter's mind. This has got to stop; our children are our future.

Environment plays a major role in children's lives. They learn from

their surroundings; children are very impressionable, they're like sponges; they soak up everything around them. If youngsters are taught morality from an early age, they will grow up with morals, therefore becoming well rounded adults. I do not believe anyone is born bad. I think that people learn how to be born bad. In society today there are too many of us who are irresponsible and have no code of ethics. It's a shame, but in my opinion lying and cheating have become a way of life for a lot of people. Why can't we just be honest? Most of us are decent hard working people who are just trying to live our lives and get by the best we can.

We should all try to be a little kinder to each other. All you have to do to make someone feel good is to

smile at him or her or say a kind word. A little wave or a simple "Hello, how are you?" can make a person's day a little brighter. There is no reason to call people names or poke fun at those who are a little bit different from us. The world would be such a calmer, friendlier place if we would all try to be a little nicer and try to respect each other.

It really alarms me the way racism and prejudice have taken such prevalence in our society. A person should not be judged by the color of his skin or his religious preference/beliefs. After all, we are all human beings. We are all born the same way, and we all bleed the same. Treat people the way you want to be treated. Don't be selfish, listen to what other people have to say, and they will

thank you for being a good listener.

Be a good citizen. Do not break the law; not only are you hurting yourself, but you are also hurting innocent people who don't deserve to be punished for your foolishness. There are a lot of people out there. Just live one day at a time, respect yourself and those around you, and be happy.

Teaching young people how to be responsible for their actions is a very valuable lesson; if you aren't responsible for yourself, then how are you going to take on the challenge of raising your own children. Let's all try to make the world a better place to live. Just smiling at someone can make their day. Peace.

Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor-In-Chief,

I must say that was a very evasive response to my letter. I mean that, I had expected a more lively rebuttal however you conducted yourself in a professional manner, calm, cool, and I hope honest with the exception of the AGAIN which appeared in bold print whose intention was probably to annoy me. Well that's fine I laughed when I saw it, besides it reflects some character and cahones on your part, which I respect.

Now down to business. I see nothing wrong or too offensive in the last two issues of the Banner so I have Nothing to say about it. Keep in mind that if I didn't like the Banner I would not even bother to communicate with it at all, take that for what it's worth. However in your March 6 issue you asked for a response to the new SAFE Program so here it is. I think that this whole idea of SAFE is a bit much at least for this campus. It is, I think, overkill and over-reaction especially at CSI. I can understand the desire of the administration to maintain order within CSI, that's understandable. However, not for nothing it seems like we have a surplus of campus security here. I mean a classic example was the way the college handled security for Chancellor Reynolds and her visit. I mean her car was driven up to 1C with a security escort (jeep) as if a wild gunman was on a roof and was going to shoot at her. I mean that's ridiculous I can't drive my car up to 1C why should she. In addition a security patrol escorted her on to and off the campus. What the hell, she's not the President of the United States. Also there were about twenty uniformed guards outside the Campus Center and a whole bunch of security in plain clothes inside the cafeteria. I suppose this was her secret service right. In your photo in the March 6 ed. of the Banner there is Borough Hall and you can clearly see the large number of protesters fighting the budget cuts and there is 10, 20, 30, or 40 cops guarding it only two. Now if two cops is enough to block a doorway for Guy Molinari all the security for Reynolds was unwarranted. Oh by the way she came on a Friday morning, on Fridays there is like not a soul to be found on campus. Good thing she didn't come on a busy day like Monday, who knows we might have had to call out the National Guard for her.

As for this new unit and the liberal policy which has been adopted in who may summon it well I just have this to say. The unit may quell the protests against budget cuts however it does the people that have requested them to subdue us students are just hurting the effort to secure our education and their lame asses. So you see they'll suffer just as much as we will.

As Always, W.Y.L.T.K.

PS. I'm changing W.Y.L.T.K. to J.P. next letter since the pseudonym is not appropriate.

Well it looks as if the Banner has set-up an elaborate pen-pal system. But hey, if you keep writing letters we'll keep printing them. We also appreciate you taking the time to do so. But as you say...down to business.

There is not much I can say to your letter except, I agree. Reynolds came down to CSI to show her support of CUNY and that she was against the cuts. Why would she need to separate herself from students if she's fighting for them? If there was a protest outside, (This is why there was so much security, because a protest was expected.) I would join in if I was the chancellor.

This is why I respect our college's president. You will see Springer eat lunch in the Campus Center like anyone else. And no, security is not positioning themselves along the rotunda to secure the president from a possible uprising.

As for the borough hall rally, there were 10-15 police officers for 50 to 80 protesters, depending on which newspaper you read. Since I was at both events I think it's safe to say, you dramatized the scenarios a little bit. Although, I feel that I have to agree with you on the fact that Reynolds' appearance was paralleled with a security overkill. Guy Molinari quietly left for the day using the back entrance with none of the protesters aware of that fact till it was too late. -ed.

3/20/95

To the Editor:

This letter is a response to the meeting that Dr. Springer held the night of last Wednesday, 3/15.

Dr. Springer and her staff expressed their deep compassion and professional concern about the proposed budget cuts to CSI and the way it will hurt the College's mission, and of course the students.

My class, at Professor Robbin's request attended Dr. Springer's lecture and I am glad that he did, since Professor Robbin's is one of our finest instructors, bar none.

The one comment that disturbed was one made by Dr. Jackson, College Vice President about prohibiting Student organizations to hold off campus meetings since she assumed that alcoholic consumption would happen and was echoed by a staff member sitting in the audience named Alan?

My point: the last time I read the Bill of Rights that to assemble peaceably was not to be interfered with by any official or agency within the US.

My concern, which was expressed earlier by Dr. Springer, was a reactionary trend towards limiting freedoms within America.

This reaction has manifested before by the cashiering of Dr. Volpe, the harassment of Dr. Jeffries and the implementation of the new CUNY police force, all by Dr. Reynolds.

I know that CSI's staff are distracted by the possible dissolving of CUNY, those first principles that this country was founded upon.

That restricting the peaceable assembly of adult citizens is at best, reprehensible and should not be permitted.

Sincerely,

Patrick M. Shaw

What you have to ask yourself is: "What sticks out more in a person's mind; stu-

dents sharing a peaceful afternoon playing a pleasant game of pool, or the game of pool where a fight breaks out and someone gets stabbed in the eye with a cue?" Sound a bit abstract? Well, let me explain.

Back at Sunnyside, pool was played like a religion. One day non-students came on campus to get a game. One thing led to another and a fight broke out. I don't know the exact details (it's before my time), however I do know no one was stabbed in the eye. But if you mention getting a pool table back on campus, staff will refer to the incident as if this occurred. Regardless of the fact that students were not directly responsible for what occurred, pool lovers are now made to suffer for the past.

One might say, "why do we have ping pong tables and not a pool table?" If some got chopped in the neck with a paddle in a ping pong brawl, that game would be phased out as well.

What I'm trying to say is that Carol Jackson and Allan DiBiase, Director of Student Activities are looking out for the safety of the college and avoid potential law suits. When something goes wrong at an event, who do you think gets a call? This is why our administrators are a bit 'shell shocked' when you say off-campus event. No matter what precautions are taken, the college is almost always liable if something goes astray. Even if no legal action occurs, who do you think the parents call if there son or daughter was found dead from an alcoholic overdose. They look for someone to blame. A school is an easy target.

You have freedom to assemble and go where ever you want with your friends, but when you use the school name things become more complicated. Does this mean we as students should give up holding off-campus events? No, but anyone who does want an off campus event with the school should be aware that there is a set of rules and a trail of paperwork to follow. As long as you don't get discouraged in filling out forms and following the rules, you will see that campus staff overall does want to help you with your event. -Ed.



What do you think?
Was the CUNY•WIDE rally beneficial to our cause?
Send your letters to 1C-228