

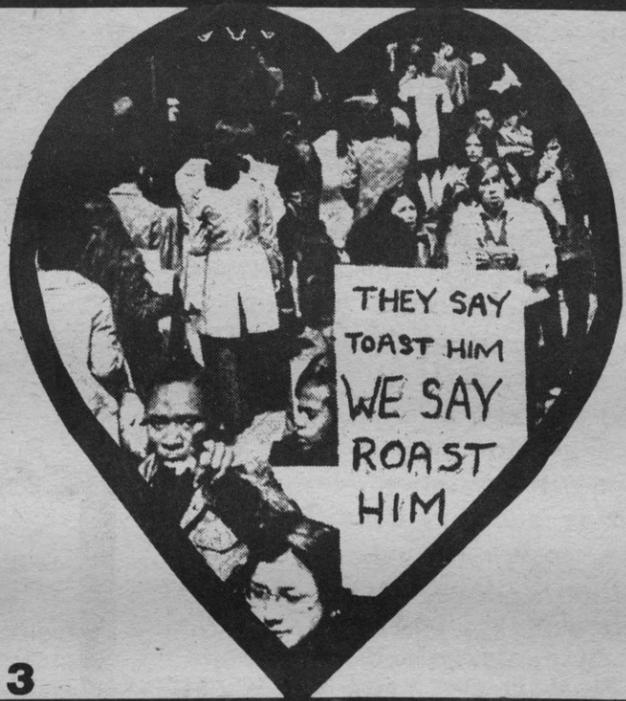


manhattan community college

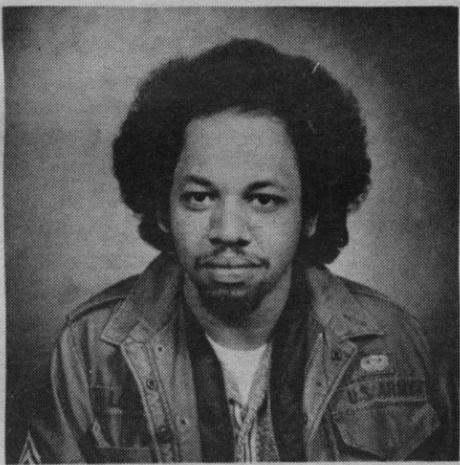
vol. 3, no. 4

march 1974

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"I LOVE ME" DINNER  
- Let him eat  
picket signs!**



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# VICTORY ! THE M BUILDING TO CLOSE

The M Building will be closed. It will not be used for MCC classes after the end of this semester.

This announcement from President Draper's office marks a tremendous victory for the faculty, staff, and students who waged a continuous battle with the administration last semester over M Building conditions. It is obvious to all concerned that without backing the administration against the wall as they did, M Building occupants could have changed nothing.

The M Bldg. had been used by MCC for over 3 years. Then last semester the new Dept. of Developmental Skills (ESL & Reading) was moved into it. Their reaction to the terrible teaching conditions in the M Bldg. led to a building-wide faculty action.

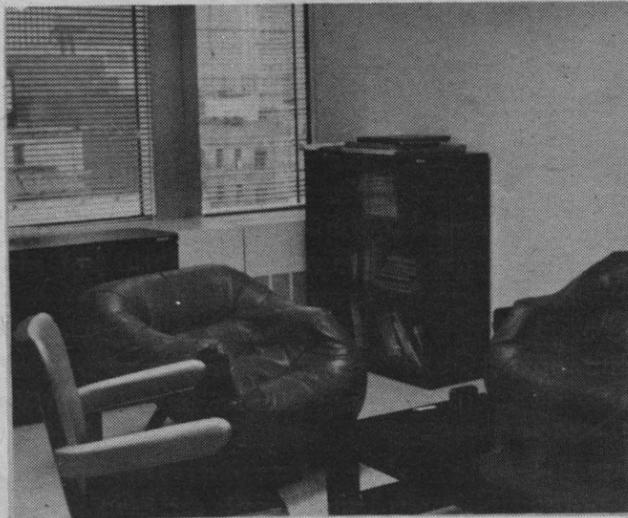
The faculty stated that it was impossible for students to receive a decent education in a building with slow and often out-of-order elevators, poor sanitary conditions, bad lighting, no ventilation, sometimes no heat or too much heat, and many other inadequate and unsafe conditions. Students joined the action and put over 1,000 names on a petition, and a building-wide strike was threatened.

The administration now seems to be hastily making some necessary improvements in the building: a fire alarm system was installed (although it still does not work on the upper floors); the roof was redone to prevent the flooding that occurred last semester; and building coordinator Rick Davis makes constant checks to determine temperature levels on different floors.

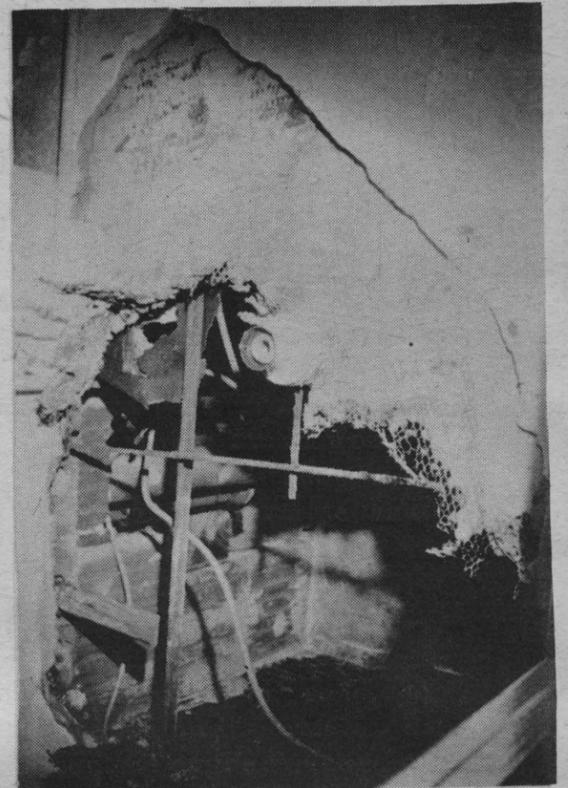
But the major achievement is that the building will be vacated, because no amount of "improvements" could ever make the M Bldg. a good place for learning.

Now the question comes: Where will the programs, especially Developmental Skills, be moved to? Will Developmental Skills, on which the entire college career of many Open Admissions students depends, be given appropriate facilities? Is the decision by the administration to get rid of the M Bldg., in fact, a commitment to providing a good education to MCC students? Or will this move just make it even more difficult for Developmental Skills to function, i. e. simply another way for the college administration to show what it showed through its use of the M Bldg. in the first place—its lack of concern for Open Admissions students.

Students and faculty who won this first victory over the M Bldg. must not sit down and assume the struggle is over. This college administration puts up a new obstacle around every corner.



(Top) The administration buys itself fancy office space and furniture. (Left) Students and faculty face scenes like this at every turn in the "M" bldg.



## verdelle garnett woman of integrity

Faculty and students are deeply saddened by the death of Professor Verdelle Garnett, a counselor in the Student Life Department. Because she refused to give in to her illness, many of us did not know how sick she was—but this courage was typical of Verdelle during her entire career at Manhattan Community College. We remember her integrity when faced with harassment from the administration. We remember how firmly she stood up for what she believed: the necessity of a genuine open admissions program.

Verdelle Garnett not only fought for open admissions in the first place, she fought to keep it and to make it work. She steadily opposed the administrators who tried to cut down on services and cut back faculty lines. At the beginning of open admissions—in November of 1970—when the M.C.C. administration fired Irma Leifer, Jerry Solk, and Mel Daus, Verdelle wrote in protest: "At a time when sensitive and experienced counselors are desperately needed . . . it is especially distressing that people who have always had excellent rapport and success with our students are the very ones subject to dismissal." (As a result of this and other protests, Prof. Daus was rehired.)

Her colleagues remember Verdelle stopping them in the hall time after time to ask if they were making sure their students were getting enough help. If she found a student having trouble in a certain subject, she would tutor that student herself.

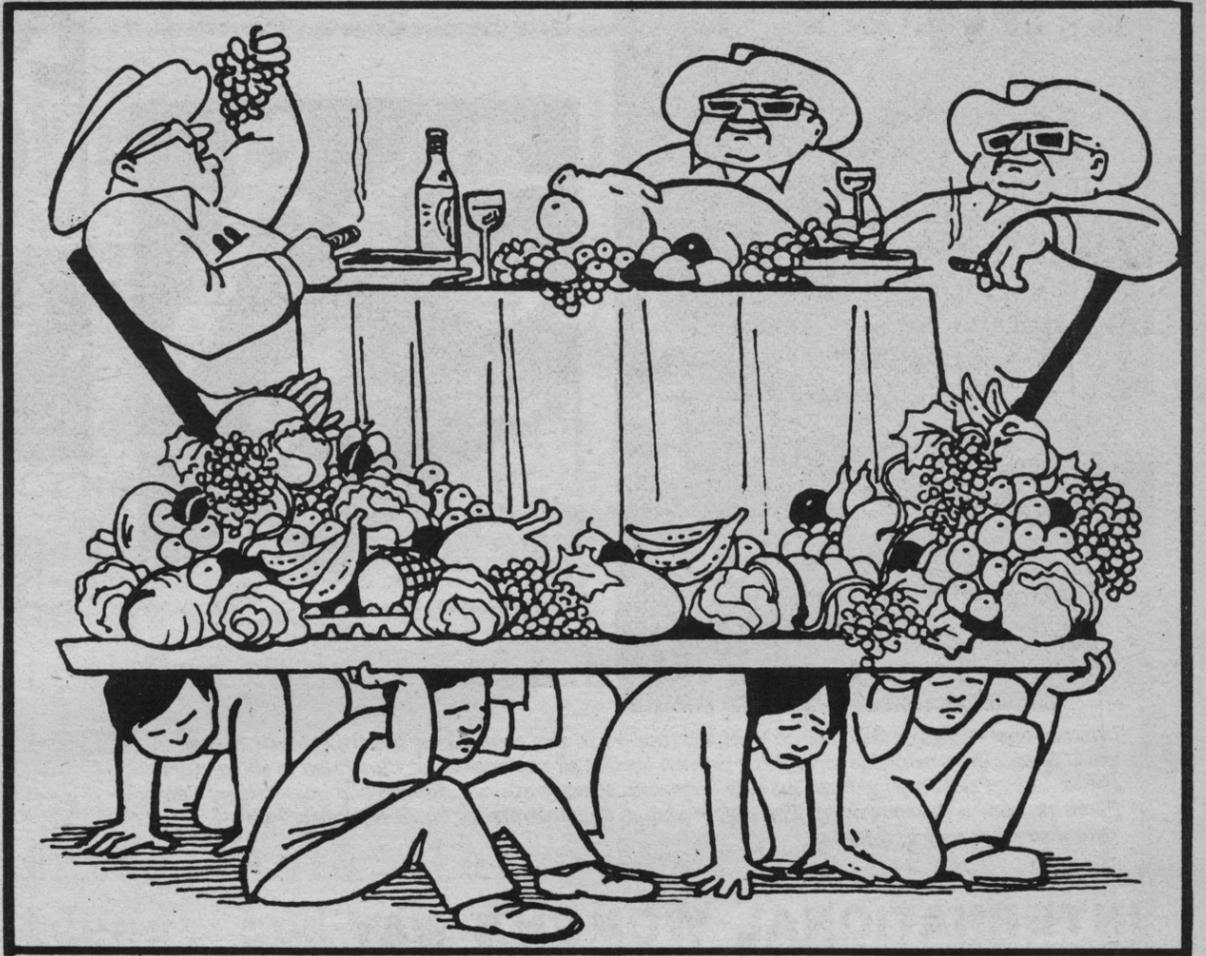
In the spring of 1971 when Dean Pittman was on the rampage, arresting at least one student a day and creating havoc in the Student Life Department, Professor Garnett grabbed the microphone at a meeting of 1000 students and strongly denounced him. Because of this, and all the other times she took a courageous stand, she was harassed, transferred to another office, and denied a promotion year after year. But this never stopped her from getting up and saying what she believed.

Verdelle Garnett was one of the most popular and respected faculty members at M.C.C. Tiger Paper talked to some of her colleagues: "Uncompromising," is what they said: "Independent," "Courageous," "Verdelle could always cut through the befogging elements and get right to the core of an issue."

Professor Garnett was one of the first faculty members at this college to join the teachers' union, the UFCT, and was one of the first officers. She served on the Open Admissions Task Force, the Faculty Council, and the Personnel and Budget Committee of the Student Life Department. She chaired the faculty's Committee on Committees and the Student Affairs Committee.

We miss her very much. Her integrity is an example for us all.

# BANQUET FOR DRAPER -- BUT NO BREAD FOR STUDENTS



On Friday, March 29th, at the Americana Hotel, the Administration of BMCC is planning to hold a \$20-a-plate testimonial dinner for President Draper. The Administration is organizing the dinner at the urging of the President to try to make him look good before the Board of Higher Education and other City bigshots. They want to make it look as if he has the confidence of the students, the faculty, and the staff at BMCC. The question is: does he deserve to win what the Administration has set up as a vote of confidence?

There is clearly no outpouring of sentiment to honor the President. One group of students (Students to Fight Cutbacks) is planning to picket the dinner to protest cuts in financial aid and other attacks on Open Admissions. At the recent well-attended faculty union meeting, there was an overwhelming vote calling for a boycott of the dinner, and to look into the possibility of a faculty picket line. And, as one secretary put it, "What has he ever done for us?"

A QUICK LOOK AT THE RECORD SHOWS WHY THERE IS NO SUPPORT FOR THE TESTIMONIAL DINNER.

Students, staff, and faculty continue to be housed in the now famous M Building, which for years has been condemned in many reports to President Draper as physically unsafe as well as educationally unsound. Because he has been pushed hard this year by strong protest actions by those forced to use the building, Draper now says he will close it next year. But he took no initiative all those years in spite of his knowledge of the intolerable conditions there.

Last Spring, Draper's Administration conducted a behind-the-scenes campaign to get rid of the duly elected student government, the Third World Coalition. The TWC had mobilized large groups of students and won important victories for all of us, like the beginning of the Child Care Center (which Draper never sup-

ported), and the beginning of the Black and Puerto Rican Studies Program.

Three years ago Draper brought in Sample Pittman to be the Administration's policeman. Many students and faculty have been arrested (the cases were usually thrown out of court) and harrassed in other ways.

Draper has done nothing to fight the serious cutbacks in financial aid for our students. These cutbacks are slowly but surely driving third world and white working class students out of BMCC. (This does not upset the Administration at all.)

Last Spring students and faculty approved a new governance plan for the College. Draper did not present the plan as approved to the BHE, but rewrote it first. And even so, there has been no action on his "substitute

proposal".

Under Draper's administration part-time teachers have often been fired at the last minute, and rehired only when strong student and faculty actions have made it clear that we would not accept the crowding and cancelling of classes that would result.

Draper cooperated enthusiastically with the BHE's two major attempts to impose tenure quotas on the faculty.

Last Winter, Draper stopped a probable vote of no confidence in him by getting a court order (on a technicality) to stop the Honest Ballot Association from opening the ballots.

The Tiger Paper urges every one in the BMCC community to support the faculty boycott of the testimonial dinner, and to join the student picket line on March 29th.

## COMMENTS ON DINNER

TIGER PAPER ASKED a number of students, staff and faculty what they thought about the president's testimonial dinner.

### STUDENTS

(Some students said that they did not know who President Draper was. Others said that they did "not care one way or the other." Many opposed the dinner; no students we talked to supported it.)

He must be joking. He hasn't done anything to deserve a testimonial dinner. He's done more to cause anger than happiness among the students. What makes him think that students will go.

Where I am I going to get twenty bucks to go to his dinner. Anyway, what's he done for us? What's he done about the "M" building?

Wow! I'm trying to get some finan-

cial aid and he wants \$20 for a dinner. If I had the money, no way I'd spend it on that.

Yeah, I'll go if he accepts food stamps.

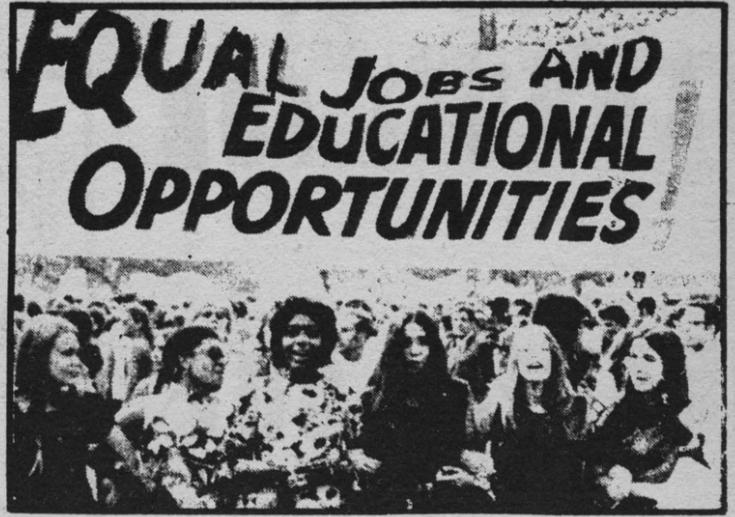
### A SECRETARY

He doesn't even know that the secretaries are alive. He's not interested in our welfare. We are just cogs in the wheel.

### FACULTY

He wants a vote of confidence from the faculty. That's what the dinner is all about. On the basis of his record, he doesn't merit it.

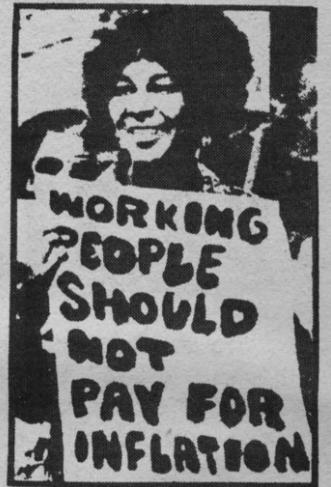
It's an attempt to shakedown the faculty. To be honest I'm scared. I'm going not because I want to, but because if I don't, I might not get tenure or a promotion.



International Women's Day, March 8, builds support in this country for the struggles of women in the U.S. and the worldwide struggle of women against all oppression—as illustrated in the pictures above. Left—Palestinian women take up arms, join struggle against Zionism and imperialism; Center—Farah strikers in the southwest; Top right—women demonstrate for equality; Lower right—demonstration against inflation.



Lolita Lebron



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

# VICTORY *at* FARAH : WOMEN FIGHT *and* WIN

ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, March 8th, people around the world commemorate the struggles of women against all exploitation and oppression, and their participation in the great revolutionary movements, past and present.

This year, we have a special reason to celebrate: a new page in American labor history has been written by the victorious struggle of the Farah workers in the Southwest, 95% of whom are Mexican-American, 85% women.

Working-class women have been responsible for some of the finest hours in American labor history. Their long tradition of militancy is clearly reflected in the great Farah victory where the 4,000 striking workers have won their 2-year fight for a union, a decent wage, and their basic democratic rights as Mexican-Americans and as women.

Perhaps most important, the victory at Farah will spark the unionization of all workers in the South and Southwest. This will stamp out "runaway" shops and raise the wage level of all American workers, especially in the garment industry! No longer will bosses be able to blackmail their workers into accepting low wages by saying they will run away to a cheap labor source in the south.

The women at Farah carry on the tradition begun by the 102 women cotton workers who walked off the job with their male co-workers in Pawtucket, Rhode Island in 1824. This

is the earliest known strike of women factory workers; the years following, up to and including the present, are filled with bloody strikes and courageous organizing efforts.

Sometimes women have led the way. The women in the Weaver's Union in Fall River, Mass., for example, trusted themselves more than the male members of the union. In 1873 the men voted to accept a 10 percent wage cut; but the women held their own meeting and voted to strike. The men then followed their lead and victory came after three months of bitter struggle against factory owners.

Between 1895 and 1905, working women took part in over 1200 strikes. The real turning point in their organizing, however, did not come until March 8th, 1908, with the "Uprising of Twenty Thousand"—the struggle which spurred an international socialist congress in 1910 to declare March 8th around the world as International Women's Day.

The shirt-waist makers of two New York shops had been on strike for a month when a mass meeting of women garment workers was called. As the meeting began to degenerate into speech-making, a teen-aged girl named Clara Lemlich, who had already had several ribs broken by police attacks on the picket lines, stood up and said:

I am a working girl and one of those who are on strike against intolerable conditions. I am tired of listening to speakers who talk in

general terms. What we are here for is to decide whether or not we shall strike. I offer a resolution that a general strike be declared--now!

Between 20 and 30 thousand women went out the next day. This was a fierce blow to the city's bosses, and a potent answer to the threadbare arguments about women's innate weakness. The women held out through three bitter winter months and many arrests.

Today, even with a growing understanding of women as fighters in revolutionary struggles on every continent in the world, too many women and men still cling to the idea that women are weak, and dumb, and cannot or should not be militant freedom fighters.

Like racism, these myths divide us and weaken all of our struggles in the work places, in schools or in other growing anti-imperialist movements in the U.S.

When we grasp the truth of our history which is systematically hidden from us, we will join together in a unity of men and women, student and worker, Black, brown, Asian and white--a unity which will finally defeat all forms of exploitation and oppression.

## BLACK WOMEN - HEROINES OF AMERICAN HISTORY

While white women workers were beginning to organize to free themselves from being factory slaves, Black women and men were fighting back against their own slavery.

Born a slave, Harriett Tubman was eleven years old when the 1831 Nat Turner rebellion inspired so much struggle for freedom. A few years later she herself helped a slave escape to the North--the first of over 300 slaves she helped to free.

Her people came to call her "Moses" because she led them to freedom on the underground railroad, through swamps and forests, to the North. Armed with a revolver she defended her passengers and never lost one of them. To the slavemasters, "Moses" was a crafty, dangerous man who was making off with thousands of dollars' worth of human "property." They offered \$40,000 for "his" capture.

Sojourner Truth was another ex-slave who spent most of her life working for an end to slavery. She travelled across the country speaking at Abolitionist meetings, and she also supported the movement to get voting rights for women.

At one women's rights meeting after a male minister had preached about the superiority of men, Sojourner got up and gave this unforgettable response:

"That man over there say that a woman needs to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helped me into carriages, or over mud puddles, or gives me a best place..."

And ain't I a woman? Look at me. Look at my arm! I have plowed and planted and gathered into barns, and no man could head me..."

And ain't I a woman! I could work as much and eat as much as a man when I could get it, and bear the lash as well..."

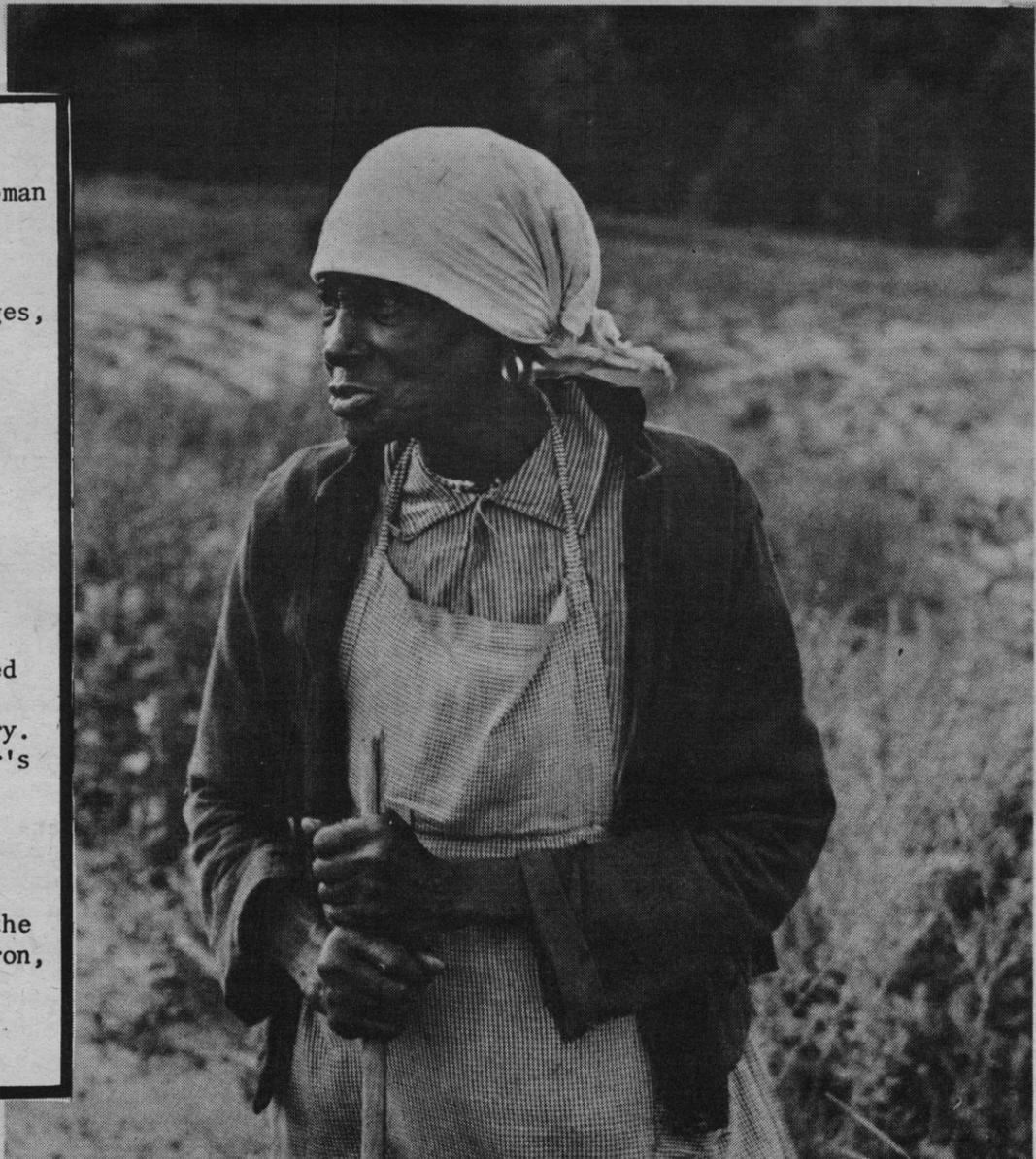
And ain't I a woman? I have borned thirteen children and seen them most all sold off into slavery. And when I cried out with a mother's grief, none but Jesus heard... And ain't I a woman?"

Sojourner Truth: Speech before the Women's Rights Convention at Akron, Ohio in 1851.

## Victory Celebration at MCC

MCC will join the world-wide celebration of International Women's Day and the victory of the Farah workers with a program on Women in Revolution Around the World. The program, sponsored by the Attica Brigade, will have films, slide shows, and speakers on women in revolutionary struggles in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Mideast and the U.S.

JOIN US: Wed., March 6th  
12-3 p.m.  
"B" Lounge



Ex-slave with a long memory, Alabama, 1937

A LOT OF US wonder what happens to MCC students after they graduate, and what effect MCC had on their lives.

Mark LaFontaine, a Vietnam vet, entered MCC before Open Admissions started, and graduated in 1971. In June 1973 he got his B.A. from Grinnell College, a small (1200 students) liberal-arts school in Iowa.

Born in Haiti, educated in Jamaica, Mark came to the U.S. in 1964, aged 21. "I had no special plans," he told us, "I wanted just any kind of job." Drafted that same year, he decided to enlist in the paratroopers, and thus became one of the 6-7 million men who served in Indochina in 1964-72. Five months after he arrived in Vietnam, he lost an arm. As a wounded veteran, he found new doors opened to him; unable before to get into college or to afford to go to one, now suddenly the path was cleared.

TIGER: Did your experience in the army, before you came to MCC, change you in any way?

ML: No. While I was in, I believed in all that garbage. In the service everything is simplistic. You know, good and evil, right and wrong, diddle-diddle-straight-up-the-middle, red, white and blue forever, God and country, that whole shebang. It wasn't that I was into the idea of defending freedom and democracy, no; it was more like I thought I was a soldier, and that it was a profession, and you stick together, play the game and all that.

TIGER: While you were in the army did you ever question what the U.S. was doing in Vietnam?

ML: No, that was not my business, my business was to have a good time and do my job. Even after I was wounded, when I was in the hospital, I didn't question. The army reinforced that. They'd come around in the hospital and tell us about the "hippies," the anti-war people, and say "they do this, they believe that." It used to bother me to hear about the protesters. I had friends who died in Vietnam, guys as close as a brother to me, and I didn't want to believe they died for nothing.

TIGER: But by the time we met you at school in 1970, you thought differently about Vietnam. Do you remember that Vietnam Vets Speakout Against the War? You were the strongest speaker there, not only about Vietnam, but about U.S. imperialism generally. What changed your thinking?

ML: It was being at MCC. I started reading and finding out about things. I took courses in history and political science and African studies, then I started to branch out from there, or to go deeper. And I began to talk to people who had all different kinds of views.

Ninety-nine percent of what you learn in the classroom or from books

# MCC GRAD: "IT WAS EDUCATION IN R



IN VIETNAM

is just pure garbage. It's that other one percent that counts. You have to learn to discriminate and get that one percent. At MCC there are students and professors who help you to see that one percent. You can really get something out of MCC, more than you will ever get at a place like Grinnell. At Grinnell, you learn to do 30-page papers on what is considered a high intellectual level, but they don't have anything to do with reality.

One of the big things that made me understand what was going on was realizing that, there I was, the same person I'd been in '64 when I went into the army, only at that time it was impossible for me to get into a school. Then all of a sudden, because I'd been hurt and so forth, the world is open to me, they'll pay for me to go to school, and I can go on to Grinnell, which is called one of the top schools, whereas before I couldn't.

It hit me that I was supposed to serve as a sort of example to people, to be a showpiece, so people would say, "Look, they really took care of him." Guys who were maybe thinking of going the same route I did, into the army, etc., would see me as a positive example. But I began to feel that people shouldn't have to pay an extra price like I did to get an education.

Another thing that speeded up the change process was that when I came to MCC, a lot of students were searching for change too, and there was a lot of protest going on--for example, over the threat of tuition (you know, that threat is always there), and they also wanted more Black faculty, and to open the school to more people--what we now call Open Admissions. They wanted to make the school more accessible to folks in the community.

Well, we got Open Admissions. Student protest brought it about. But, see, we also got took. The people who run things had to open up the schools somehow, to make people believe in the system. Folks were getting restless, and Open Admissions was supposed to cool them down, pull them off the streets. But once they were in school, there wasn't enough money provided to help them make up for the lack of preparation, the mis-education, in the NYC school system. There were a few remedial programs, but not enough. No, we got took, and we got Draper.

TIGER: President Draper? What's Draper's special role in all this?

ML: Oh, he's just a good fellow, just a good old fellow. He smiles a lot. His job is exactly what he's doing--nothing. But I don't really want to talk about him. There's another angle on Open Admissions we should look at. MCC is like a holding pen. If you don't have the Black and Puerto Rican students there, what are you going to do with them? There are no jobs out there to put the 10 million college kids into. It's like a holding pen that's set up in the hope the economy will catch up.

TIGER: Do you think the economy will catch up?

ML: No. Because it's not the kind of system that can catch up. It's like a sponge that can hold but so much water. Or, it's like a pyramid. A pyramid must have a base, and the base is us. The ones at the top are on our backs.

TIGER: Who are "the ones at the top"?

ML: You know. The ones who rule America, and their counterparts in

# AS AN REALITY"

other countries. Call them the international capitalists. They have no allegiance to any nation. They live off our labor, exploit us, try to control our lives and how we think. Their game is to keep things as they are, because they don't have to sweat, they don't have to toil.

TIGER: So that's some of what you learned through reading and talking to people at MCC. Was there any other way you changed?

ML: Well, after a while I became convinced that if I wanted to get something from the school, I should put something into it. I saw that we should be helping to make a lot of decisions that affect how the school is run, instead of having them made for us. There should be student input into everything from

and the administration's basic thing is to keep the situation as it is; for the administration, if everybody is cool, there's no problem. And as long as everybody just comes in off the A train or the D train and just goes to class and then goes home, nothing will ever happen.

People have to make up their minds about what they want out of life. But first of all, you have to understand the world you live in, and who you are. Find out where you fit into the schemes of the people who run things; find out what plans they have for you. Once you do that, if you decide to go along, fine. But you should at least demand things from MCC that will help you toward your goal, toward a job, for instance.

As it stands, people are more or less programmed for servitude. But if you see through that and decide you don't want to be a happy slave, well, then, by that same process, you'll learn what part you want to play in bringing about basic change.

I myself intend to go to Africa. That's where I want to work toward building something. My wife and I feel this is not our country, never was and never will be.

legal independence but they're controlled by the very same people you described before, the international capitalists who exploit other people's labor.

ML: Right. They've got the symbols of independence, a flag and so forth, but they have overseer-type governments, overseers for that faceless bunch at the top. The places in Africa that attract me are, say, Guinea and Tanzania, because they're socialist countries. They're a step or two ahead, they're in the self-determination phase.

TIGER: What would you say to students who see their future here in the U.S.?

ML: Keep on struggling for change, the best you know how. But always look back, so you don't lose sight of what you are. That's the trouble with the so-called intellectuals and the ones who are making it--they forget where they came from, what's behind them.

I myself wouldn't feel like I had done anything worthwhile if I managed to reach the heights, and my brother--meaning the guy like me--could not move there with me. And within this system that's impossible. I have to be concerned with how the kid next door is doing, how he's living, because the only way I can take care of my own kid is if I'm also concerned about the kid next door. But this system here teaches you to step on the guy next door, step on the guy who's working beside you, try and cut down the student who might get one of those five A's to be handed out in this or that class.

You have to ask yourself, what's the design behind me having to compete with somebody else, or cut him down, instead of both of us trying to help each other get as much as we can, at nobody else's expense? You have to understand the role of competition, who really benefits from it. It's not us. It's the people who run the system we're living under.

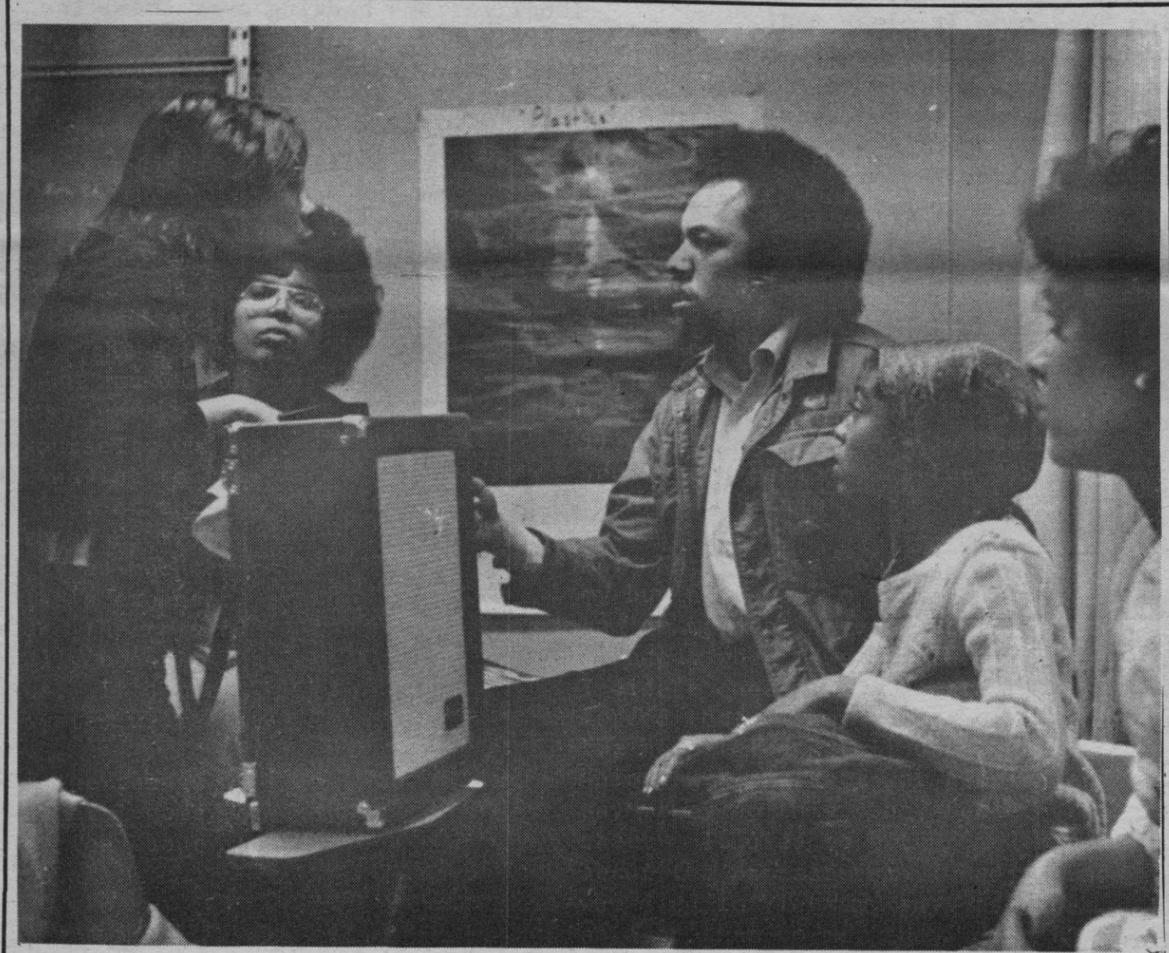
These are some of the things my eyes got opened to after I came to MCC. It was an education about reality.

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Mark LaFontaine has been back in NY since he graduated from Grinnell in June. Like several hundred thousand other Vietnam vets, and like six percent of the total labor force, Mark is unemployed--actively seeking a job but unable to find one. (Those who have given up trying to find work are not counted among the jobless. So the actual unemployment rates are much higher than the official ones.)

This is discouraging news for students at MCC who are struggling to make it through college. But having illusions about the system doesn't help anybody except the ones at the top.

If the system doesn't function well enough to enable its people to survive, what's got to go--the people or the system???



AT MCC

curriculum to the budget to the day-to-day running of the school, because after all we are the people being affected. And I mean input from all students, not just a few chosen by the administration.

TIGER: Is that likely to happen?

ML: Not as long as students sit on their butts and think all they have to do is attend classes.

TIGER: Do you think the administration wants the students to be in on things?

ML: No, because people want change,

TIGER: Because you're Black, you mean.

ML: That's it. I'm not suggesting that every Black man, woman and child feels like we do and should get up Monday morning and say, "Well, let's go on home to Africa." It's just that that's the only way I personally can grow and have the peace of mind that will enable me to grow.

TIGER: Where in Africa? Most of the countries in Africa are what you could call neo-colonized, for instance Kenya, or Zaire, or Ghana now, or Uganda. They've got their

## Energy crisis:

# WE CAN FIGHT BACK!



MOST AMERICANS UNDERSTAND what's behind the energy crisis.

"Profit, pure and simple."

That's how one MCC student put it. She continued: "It's the same old story. These guys rob us blind. First the oil and gas guys hit us. Then the landlord wants his cut--more rent because his heat bills have gone up. The bastard. He didn't give us any heat last year, and it's the same no heat this year. So what's he complaining about? Then Con Ed wants more money from us because they're losing money with everybody saving energy. They got us coming and going."

She's right. Profit is at the heart of the energy crisis. Reduced to its simplest elements, the energy story goes something like this:

Finding it more and more difficult to turn superprofits overseas, the oil companies are now trying to make up their losses at the expense of American workers, consumers and taxpayers. They are using the energy crisis to (1) cut out what little competition still threatens their monopoly control, and (2) get their most important ally, the government, to work harder for them. Let's see how this works.

Under capitalism, profit rather than need determines what is produced. So it is profit that determin-

es when and where oil is taken from the ground, when and where it is refined, and when and where it is marketed.

What the energy giants care about most is their rate of profit (that is, how much they make on every dollar they invest). Until recently, it cost 35 times less to drill oil in Saudi Arabia than it did in Texas or Louisiana. So the big oil companies invested billions in the Mideast where the rate of profit was high, and shut down 500 wells in the Gulf of Mexico where the rate of profit was low.

In the United States, the oil monopolies have made it clear that their rate of profit comes before decent wages, an unpolluted environment and the need for more gas. Because labor costs and environmental restrictions have cut into their profits, they refuse to build new refineries or explore for large new deposits of oil.

The oil companies now want to take advantage of cheap labor and the absence of tough environmental laws to build huge refineries as part of a super-port complex in Puerto Rico. What big oil did not bank on was opposition from the Puerto Rican people who do not want their island turned into an environmental wasteland and their economy further col-

onized by U.S. monopolies.

### FIGHTING BACK

And now, what happened in Indochina is beginning to happen in the Mideast. People are fighting back. Nations are taking control of their natural resources. A revolutionary government has been established in southern Yemen. In neighboring Oman, a liberation army is about to take power. Many oil rich countries have demanded a greater share of the monopolies' profits; others have nationalized their oil fields.

With their rate of profit falling, and with the threat of further nationalizations hanging over them, the petroleum corporations began pulling back their Mideast investments long before the recent Arab oil embargo.

The petroleum industry can no longer count on billions of dollars in profit from the production of oil overseas. So it is now trying to increase its take from the sale of petroleum--in the U.S., in Europe and Japan. That means what they once took out of the hides of exploited Mideast labor, they are now trying to take from us.

### SHAKEDOWN

The name of the game is shakedown. Until last year, one fourth of all the gas in the U.S. was pumped by small independents--like Merit Safeway. Since these companies sold gas without frills (advertising, credit cards, games) they sold it for less than the brand name stations. Without competition from the independents, the major companies would have raised their prices long ago.

There's a catch though. The independents are not really independent. They get their gas from the brand name companies. Now that profits are threatened at the production end of the business, the monopolies are using the freeze to ice their competition at the sales end. By withholding supplies of gasoline, the big guys are forcing the small ones to raise their prices or go out of business. Ten per cent of the gas stations in New York State folded last year--many of them independents. By squeezing the independents and dumping their less profitable brand name stations, the big companies are consolidating their monopoly control over sales.

### BLACKMAIL

For the monopolies the issue is quite simple: no profits, no oil. As Alan Hamilton, the treasurer of Exxon put it in April, 1972: "Unless profit levels become such that the

## gangster for capitalism

WHAT FOLLOWS IS a statement that was made by Major General Smedly D. Butler of the United States Marine Corps. It makes clear the relationship between the government, the military and corporate interests like the oil companies.

There isn't a trick in the racketeering bag that the military gang is blind to....

It may seem odd for me, a military man, to adopt such a comparison. Truthfulness compels me to do so. I spent thirty-three years and four months in active military service... And during that period I spent most of my time being a high class muscle man for Big Business, for Wall Street and for the bankers. In short I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism.

I suspected that I was just part of a racket at the time. Now I am sure of it. Like all members of the military profession I never had an original thought until I left the service. My mental faculties remained in suspended animation

while I obeyed the orders of the higher ups. This is typical with everyone in the military service.

Thus I helped make Mexico and especially Tampico safe for the American oil interests in 1914. I helped amke Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of a half a dozen Central American republics for the benefit of Wall Street. The record of racketeering is long. I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1902-12. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for the American sugar interests in 1916. In China in 1927 I helped see to it that the Standard Oil went its way unmolested.

During those years, I had as the boys in the back room would say, a swell racket. I was rewarded with honors, medals and promotion. Looking back on it, I feel I might have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate his racket in three city districts. I operated on three continents.

oil industry is confident that its investment will bear fruit, the supply of oil will not be forthcoming."

It's blackmail. In return for astronomical price increases, more tax benefits, outright government subsidies, and rollbacks of progressive environmental legislation (enforcement of which costs the industry \$1 billion a year), these thieves tell us they will do us the favor of drilling for more oil, building new refineries, and increasing petroleum supplies.

## OIL COMPANIES, NIXON, & YOU

PERCENTAGE OF INCOME PAID IN TAXES - 1972

AVERAGE WORKER	20%	TEXACO	2.7%
NIXON	1.5%	GULF	5.2%
STANDARD of CALIF.	5.8%	MOBIL	2.9%
ARCO	7.6%	EXXON	won't
		OCCIDENTAL	tell

To an extent, their strategy is already working. The government has okayed the building of the Alaskan oil pipeline over the strong opposition of the ecology movement. The rate of profit for the oil companies is up a significant 16% in the past year; Gulf's net profit is up a whopping 153% for the past three months.

### GOVERNMENT'S ROLE

None of this should surprise us. For years, the government has been legalizing the plunder of the oil monopolies, granting them billions of dollars in special tax breaks. In the mid-sixties, congress passed a law permitting the petroleum industry to buy other sources of energy as "reserves" and to write off the expense on their tax returns. As a result, the oil giants now control all the major sources of energy in the U.S.--oil, coal, natural gas and uranium (for nuclear power). By capping natural gas wells in the south and limiting coal production, they can and have manipulated the price of oil.

Even the new tax plans proposed by "presumably anti-oil company" politicians "would not cost the oil companies a single penny in additional income taxes," one expert pointed out.

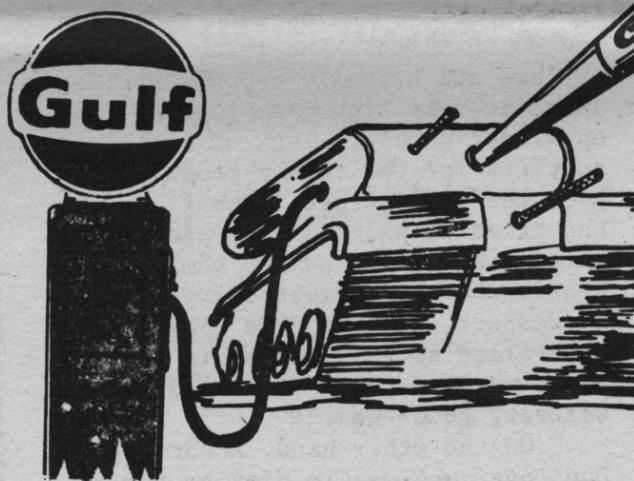
The wind in the windfall profits tax is mostly hot air. Under this "reform" proposal, the government would tax excess profits, that is, unless the oil companies ploughed them

back into exploration for new wells, drilling, and construction of new refineries. For this, they would get huge tax writeoffs. That's not a plan to curb windfall profits, but to increase them at our expense. Somebody must make up the taxes that the oil companies never pay. The average taxpayer gets stuck with the bill.

U.S. foreign policy also serves the oil interests (see accompanying box). At present, the government is trying to prepare American public opinion for an invasion of the Mideast. Last summer it conducted large scale war games in the Utah desert; in October it put the sixth fleet on alert in the Mediterranean; in January it spread outrageous rumors that premier Quaddafi of oil rich Libya had concocted a mad plan to assassinate Henry Kissinger; and now it falsely claims that the Arabs are responsible for the energy crisis. (To make up for the small loss of embargoed mideast oil, the American based multinational oil companies have simply diverted shipments of other foreign sources of petroleum to the U.S.)

### NO MORE VIETNAMS!

But after Vietnam, the American people are not about to give the green light to U.S. military adven-



tures overseas. We built a people's movement to get U.S. imperialism out of Indochina. Now we must build an even larger movement to keep it out of the Mideast, and to stop its offensive at home-TO DEMAND MORE JOBS, MORE HEAT, MORE GAS; TO FIGHT ALL ATTACKS ON OUR LIVING STANDARDS.

The profit system is at the root of the energy crisis. The enemy is capitalism and we must mobilize to fight it.



"I Hear The Americans Are Suffering A Fuel Shortage"

The U.S. government sends 23,000 barrels of oil a day to South Vietnam's military government.

## happy days for big biz

FOR THE MONOPOLIES, it's progress through catastrophe. They try to turn crises, like the energy freeze, to their advantage by applying the screws to whatever competition remains by cutting labor costs.

DuPont can survive an energy crisis in the oil-based plastics industry. Its smaller competitors can't.

The crisis hurts small business, but it is the workers who bear its real costs. The Nixon administration has stated that an "acceptable" amount of unemployment is necessary to fight inflation. Big business agrees since it was their idea in the first place and since they are not about to fight inflation by cutting their profits.

This is where the energy crisis comes in. The automobile industry, for one, has seized on the crisis to (1) layoff several hundred thousand workers, (2) increase speedups for those who remain, and (3) re-tool idle factories so that they can produce more small cars.

The trend toward compact cars started long before the energy crisis. Volkswagen, Toyota, and Datsun have moved into the American market and taken billions of dollars in business away from GM, Ford, and Chrysler. The energy freeze, then, has very little to do with massive layoffs in the automobile industry; profits and foreign competition have everything to do with it.

The airlines, in turn, have used fuel cutbacks as an excuse to drop unprofitable flights, to fire 155,000 people, and to squeeze more work out of those who stay on the job. The head of American Airlines laid it out very clearly: "If it hadn't been for the fuel crisis, we would have had to invent one."



# VIETNAM: peace only on paper

A cornered rat is still a dangerous animal. More than a year ago the U.S. Government, driven into a corner by defeat on the battlefields of Vietnam and by world-wide support for the Vietnamese people, signed a peace treaty: the bombing of the PRG (the Provisional Revolutionary Government, the government of the liberation forces in south Vietnam) villages was to stop; the refugees were to be allowed to return to their homes; the hundreds of thousands of political prisoners in Thieu's jails were to be released; there were to be free elections and a coalition government so that the conflict could be resolved politically, rather than militarily.

More than a year later it is clear that the U.S. imperialist rat never had any intention of keeping any part of the agreement. It has intended all along to keep a foothold in South East Asia. In the words of U.S. News & World Report (April 4, 1954): "One of the world's richest areas is open to the winner of Indo-China. That's behind the growing U.S. concern...tin, rubber, rice, key strategic raw materials are what the war is really about. The U.S. sees it as a place to hold - at any cost."

And so for the past year, the U.S. Government has used the same method it used to defy the Geneva Agreement on Vietnam in 1954: it has poured in the money and arms and supplies necessary to support a vicious military dictator whose job is to sabotage the peace agreement. The U.S. Government now has more than 20,000 soldiers in Vietnam in civilian clothes. The U.S. ships 23,000

## pittman rides again

EVERYONE IS FAMILIAR with what we can politely call a time-lag in the duplicating room. If you need something in a hurry (a week?) you have to go see Dean Pittman for his magic signature, which isn't easy to get.

What everyone doesn't know is that the people who work in the duplicating room have been fighting for better working conditions, both individually and through their union. They have been demanding more machines, more personnel, and a supervisor who knows duplicating procedures.

At the moment, although one of the people who has been working there for years has passed the Senior Office Appliance Operator exam,



STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION CONTINUES THROUGHOUT INDOCHINA

barrels of oil a day to Thieu. And more and more is needed: Nixon's proposed budget for next year asks for \$1.45 billion in military aid for Thieu, nearly twice as much as this year's \$800 million.

Thieu has continued to arrest even more political prisoners. Almost every family in south Vietnam has a relative or a close friend in one of Thieu's jails. According to Frances Fitzgerald in the N.Y. Times, "President Thieu's control over south Vietnam (even in the absence of Northern troops) rests on his ability to maintain American aid at a level at which he can keep the majority of the population in the army, the jails, the cities, and the refugee camps."

In the Saigon-controlled areas the wage scale is among the lowest in the world -- below even Hong Kong and south Korea. The Thieu regime outlaws and brutally opposes strikes. There is very high unemployment, and an almost complete lack of social services for the common people. Even the Wall Street Journal, which has tried to paint a rosy picture of Thieu's situation had to admit recently that "in almost every economic respect, nothing here (Saigon-controlled south Vietnam) is as good as it was two years ago. And nothing was very good then."

On the other hand, according to Don Luce, who was in Vietnam for a month last Fall, "There is a kind of pioneer atmosphere in the PRG areas. In Dong Ha city there is the excitement and enthusiasm of a frontier town as well as the hardships." The PRG areas have made amazing progress

in rebuilding their homes and roads (all the liberated areas are now connected by road) under extremely difficult conditions, including as many as 200 to 600 bombing raids against them a day by Thieu's forces, because the PRG represents and mobilizes the people. The PRG gives land and assistance to the peasants. The farmers in the PRG areas have harvested more rice this year than ever before.

Now, with U.S. support, Thieu is stepping up his attacks on the PRG areas. According to one PRG official, "Thieu must have a war to make the people forget the economic problems that exist in Saigon." There is serious and urgent discussion in the higher offices of U.S. Imperialism about the possibility of direct re-intervention in Vietnam. The American people do not want this to happen and we must not let it happen. Even more, we must demand that the peace agreement be enforced.

## ADJUNCTS WIN

A YEAR AGO, the administration fired 100 part-time teachers (adjuncts). Last semester, they tried to do it again. This time they didn't get away with it.

The difference between last year and this is that adjuncts organized to save their jobs. They reached out to other faculty and to students, making it clear that if part-time teachers lost their jobs, the rest of us would pay with overcrowded classes. On Thursday, December 6, they mobilized thirty to forty faculty to walk on the first union picket line ever organized at MCC. Over 1700 students signed petitions in their support.

The administration was not necessarily impressed by the obvious justice of the adjuncts' case. What did make an impression, however, was the large numbers of faculty and students who supported the adjuncts and fully understood the issues that were at stake. That's why, in early January, the administration scrapped its plan to lay off large numbers of part-time teachers.

The adjuncts got their jobs back because they organized, because they were militant, and because they unified many faculty and students on an issue that affected everyone at MCC.

It is a victory not just for adjuncts, but for all faculty and all students.

The MCC Childcare Center has had a very difficult history, mostly because the college administration never wanted it to exist in the first place and has never made any commitment to it.

Now located on the second floor of the M Bldg., the Center was created in 1970 after the student government at that time, the Third World Coalition, led a long and bitter student struggle to make the college administration more responsive to student needs. (Another result of this struggle was the establishment of Black and Puerto Rican Studies.)

The Childcare Center provides free daycare and meals for children of MCC students while they attend their classes. This is a very important service, especially for women students who might otherwise have to give up their own educations to take care of their children.

The Center is financed from the \$47 fee for labs, library and activities paid by each MCC student at registration. The activities portion of the money, \$27 per student, goes to what is called the BMCC Association. For the 1973-74 school year this totaled about \$239,000.

The BMCC Association consists of 12 representatives of the college administration and 12 student representatives of the student government.

# CHILDCARE CENTER

Basically it is the administration which controls the BMCC Assoc. money. The student government can either struggle over the use of the money, or it can just be good friends with the administration. And the administration has always preferred to spend money on things like fancy inaugural dinners for the college president than on students' needs.

The administration was also completely opposed to the Third World Coalition because of its militancy, and has constantly sought to undermine whatever was won through TWC leadership.

In Spring '73, Students for Better Government won control of the student government. And when the student government changed hands, so did representation on the BMCC Assoc. and so did control of the daycare center. David Miller, who had been the campaign manager for Students for Better Government, was named Director of the center, a \$10,000 a year job. The two previous teachers, Dorothy Randall and Jeanette Williams, were dismissed and a new head-teacher, Antoinette Brown, was brought in. This was done without consulting any of the parents of the children in the center, and many parents removed

their children because of the upheaval. (See January Tiger Paper.)

This kind of confusion could have played right into the hands of the administration, giving it an excuse to simply close the center completely.

Fortunately things seem to have settled down now. The Center is open and operating Mon-Fri., 8 am-6pm, with about 50 children presently enrolled. Parents who have put their children in the Center recently feel pretty satisfied with it. One of them said she leaves her two children there from 10am to 6pm three days a week, and said, "I couldn't take my classes if I couldn't leave my kids here."

Also there is an active parents' association, with Judy Smith as president. Their efforts and attention should be able to prevent such a disruption from occurring again. They may even be able to successfully pressure the college administration to make a commitment to MCC daycare, and to provide for adequate daycare facilities in another location when the M Bldg. is scrapped. The victory over the M Bldg. must not become an opportunity for the administration to just scrap the childcare center.

## COLUMBO



TV IS PUBLIC relations for capitalism. Advertising sells the products; the programs sell the American public a line on how good the system is.

If we were to believe television, the medical profession always puts the patient before the buck. TV doctors never present a patient with a bill, never perform unnecessary or expensive operations, never experiment on the poor and never refuse to make a house call in the middle of the night. Only TV knows such dedication.

For every doctor on TV, there are three cops. These aren't ordinary cops, but supercops who are super-good at (1) catching criminals and (2) covering up the real role of the police.

The corporations that buy TV advertising and pay its bills don't want us to understand that the law serves them much more than it serves us. That's why we have programs like Columbo.

Columbo is a supercop trying to pass as a creep.

He slouches, walks in a shuffle, squints (he has a glass eye), wears a crumpled raincoat, drives a beat-up old car and talks like he had two dollars' worth of wooden nickels in his mouth.

Columbo is supposed to be the real thing--no frills, no props, nothing fancy. He's the people's cop.

He's engaged in a constant battle of wits with wealthy, white-collar criminals who are always trying to set him up as a fall guy. In each episode, a prominent, respected citizen of the community (a U.S. Senator, a publisher, a think tank president) commits a serious crime, usually a murder, and then leaves a trail of false clues for our supposedly unsuspecting hero.

In the end, these big shots are shown up as no more than high class punks and no match for one hell of a smart detective.

Columbo is fighting a people's war against the rich--TV style. He not only exposes the high and mighty as evil schemers, but uses every opportunity to show them up as stuffed shirts and phonies.

For example, Columbo meets an important publisher and an editor for lunch in a fancy French restaurant. The conversation goes something like this:

Publisher (obviously trying to impress Columbo): Let me recommend the Boeuf Bourguignon although I must say the Tripe à la Mode de Caen is quite good.

Columbo: Nah! I'm really hungry. I want something more fil-

ling. Waiter, get me a bowl of chili and some saltines. And don't forget the catsup.

Score one for Columbo.

Columbo is good fun, but it has nothing to do with reality.

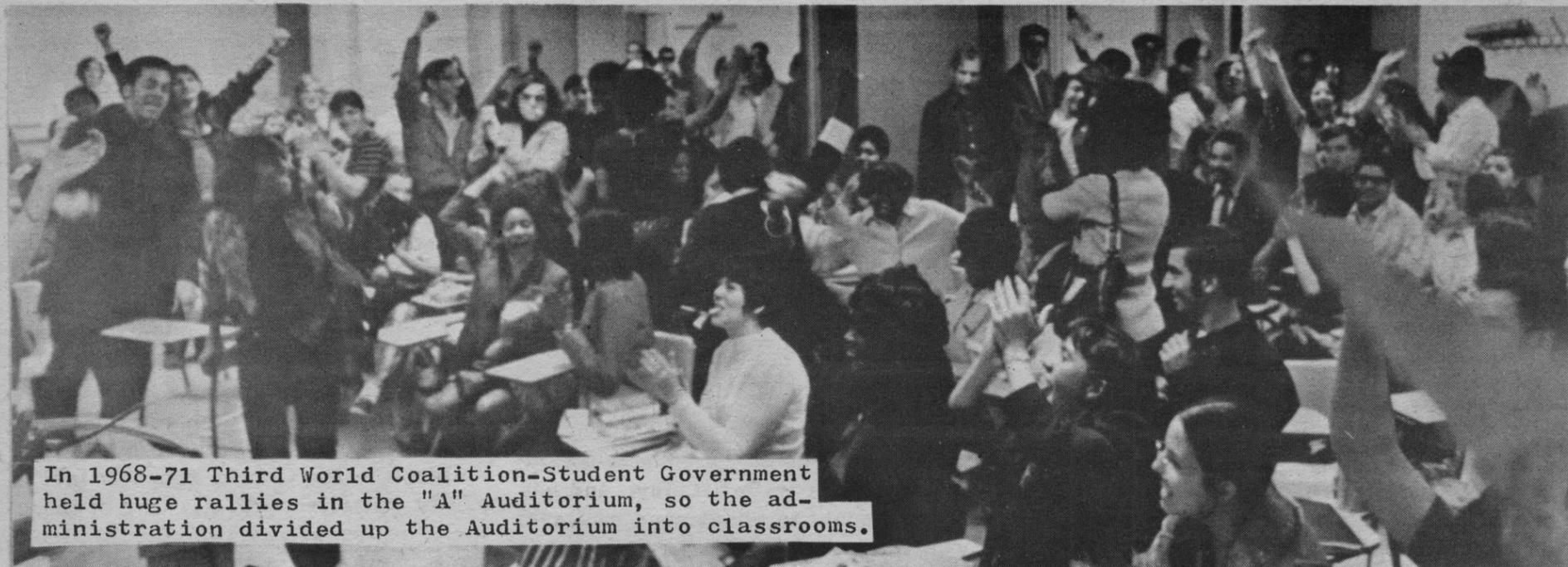
Cops, even honest ones, aren't in business to protect us from the people at the top. It's just the reverse.

The police won't bust Nixon for major crimes against the American people. But they did beat up scores of demonstrators at a recent "Throw the Bum Out" rally in New Jersey.

You won't ever see Columbo or Kojak arresting the president of Exxon for price gouging. But when anybody threatens corporate profits, the police get tough. They used dogs to attack strikers, mostly Mexican-American women, at Farah plants in Texas; they clubbed migrant farmworkers when they organized against California agribusiness and fought for a union; they roughed up a striking postal worker last month in New Jersey and threw him in a ditch. They have fired on picket lines and killed hundreds of workers over the past century of labor's struggle.

The list is endless and it tells us a lot more about the role of the police than do shows like Columbo.

As make believe, we like Columbo because he identifies with the people and against the fat cats. But as a model for our own lives--forget it! People--relying on themselves and one another--can take care of business a lot better without the help of supercops, even when they are disguised as one of us.



In 1968-71 Third World Coalition-Student Government held huge rallies in the "A" Auditorium, so the administration divided up the Auditorium into classrooms.

## 1973 STUDENT ELECTION WAS RIGGED -- WHY??

IN THE SPRING OF 1973 the MCC administration engineered the student government elections in order to get rid of Third World Coalition, which had been the elected student government for three years.

The election was planned and run by the administration with the help of certain faculty members who had been the target of student protests in the past. These self-appointed managers of "Students for Better Government" enlisted candidates, helped to write, type and distribute leaflets, and unearthed and publicized issues which would discredit TWC.

There's something truly rotten about the idea of administrators meeting behind closed doors to rig a student government election. But from where they're sitting, it was a necessary act. Let's look at why:

TWC had a long history of standing up against the administration in the interests of students, especially Black and Puerto Rican students. They also united with faculty to protest unwarranted firings, and helped to mobilize faculty against attacks on Open Admissions.

The administration has never given students or faculty anything. Everything--from a child care center, to the reinstatement of progressive Black and Puerto Rican teachers who have been fired--has been demanded, fought for, and won from the administration. TWC played a leading role in these battles, and others: for Black and Puerto Rican Studies, against threats of increased tuition, for more work-study money, for autonomy of the Black and Puerto Rican Studies programs.

TWC made mistakes too. Because they didn't involve enough students in certain struggles, long lasting gains could not be made on some issues. And they were liberal in al-

lowing certain people into their ranks who were only out for their own personal good.

The administration fought back against TWC, but not because of their mistakes (which they later piously aired through the leaflets of "Students for Better Government"). They fought back because TWC was effective in organizing students to fight for their needs.

First the administration used the tactic of mass arrest--jailing 56 people in the Spring of 1970. With the arrival of Dean Pitman in 1971 a new tactic was put into practice--pulling in students one at a time. Several dozen students were arrested in this period, mostly on phony "criminal trespass" charges, and tied up in lengthy court cases.

But these tactics were not successful. And President Draper found that he was having very little success in cooling things out and putting the lid on student and faculty protests, which has been his main task since coming to MCC. This is his job, not just because a nice, quiet ship is easier to run, but because he is under pressure from the Board of Higher Education, which in turn has to comply with city, state and federal policies. As Jack London said, "everyone is chained to the machine, but some are chained to the top of it."

Since other tactics failed, Draper had to get rid of TWC by rigging the election. It worked. SBG is a genuine do-nothing government. Its record: one abortive dance which cost thousands of dollars, two bland issues of BMCC Press, an attack on the child care center, little money for clubs, no real student-sponsored activities, and a mini-bus service which can only serve a few students (and cost \$17,000). In addition, control of student funds has been regained by the administration through

the BMCC Association (which includes three members of student government

And meanwhile, financial aid is being cut, enrollment is being cut, programs are being eliminated, and students have to go to classes in a building which is a recognized fire-trap, and others which are simply slum-like.

People are fighting back against these conditions, but a strong student government would be of great help to the students, faculty and staff who have to work and study here.

"We know through experience that when we confront a common enemy together, in greater numbers, we get better results than when we make the attempt as individuals" (from a statement made by TWC in Oct., 1973). The administration, on the other hand, has always found its interests are best served by isolating people and keeping them from united action.

We should start seriously thinking about the next student government election, and about the manipulating practice of the MCC administration. We should start thinking about what's needed around here, who the school is for, in whose interests it is run--and on the basis of this thinking determine who we should rely on.

