



TIGER PAPER

manhattan community college

vol. 3, no. 6

may 1974

TIMES SMEARS MCC

MCC students have been slandered in a front-page story in the New York Times under the headline "Wide Deficiencies Seen at Manhattan Community."

The May 17th article is said to be based on a confidential CUNY report and Times interviews. While focusing on CUNY's charges against President Draper for mismanaging the school, the Times is really broadcasting a false and damning image of MCC students that will be used to undermine Open Admissions and devalue an MCC degree.

The so-called "objective" reporting of the Times depicts all MCC students as dumb and corrupt, ripping off grades and credits to get

THE MASSES MUST BE EDUCATED
TO SERVE THE SYSTEM!



THEY'VE BEEN EDUCATED.
NOW THEY WANT TO
CHANGE THE SYSTEM. STOP THE
EDUCATION!



STUDENTS SPEAK OUT

"The Times avoids everything that's really going on. Getting rid of Draper won't solve the problems."

"What's wrong with this school? It's a slum school. The first thing we need is more financial aid. Then we need better buildings, a bigger library, a better remedial program. We don't even have a cafeteria."

"Sure there's a lot wrong here. But at least attack the system behind it--not the students!"

"They make it sound like teachers are throwing out A's left and right. That an A at MCC equals a C somewhere else. I work for my grades. If I get an A does that mean I earned it, or do they think we're stupid?"

"We have special problems--because of where we're coming from and where we are now, with our families and jobs and all. But what they're doing is downgrading us because of them."

"This isn't just a problem at MCC. It's a national problem."

degrees they're incapable of earning, and misusing funds for non-educational purposes. And faculty supposedly aid and abet them in creating "debased standards" by hushing up money rip-offs and handing out high marks for what the Board of Higher Education implies is low-grade work.

Smear articles like the one in the Times are part of the problem, not the solution. What are the problems that have to be solved at MCC? An insufficient school budget, constant slashes in financial aid, slum conditions, overcrowded classes, inadequate equipment and facilities, sudden cutbacks in technical programs, not enough sections of required courses. These conditions are not even mentioned by the Times--nor, presumably, by the BHE report. The main problem as they see it is that too many students are getting through college--and they're holding Draper responsible.

Draper has mismanaged the school, by consistently failing to serve the real needs of students, faculty, and staff. He does not deserve our sympathy.

However, what the BHE totally and deliberately ignores is its own central role in producing MCC's problems--those it mentions and those it doesn't.

It is the BHE that sets priorities for the City University, determines how money is distributed among CUNY schools, and approves school budgets. It is the BHE that has failed to provide a centralized campus with good buildings for MCC; it is the BHE that has permitted the appointment of do-nothing deans at \$40,000 a year while the tutoring program remains badly

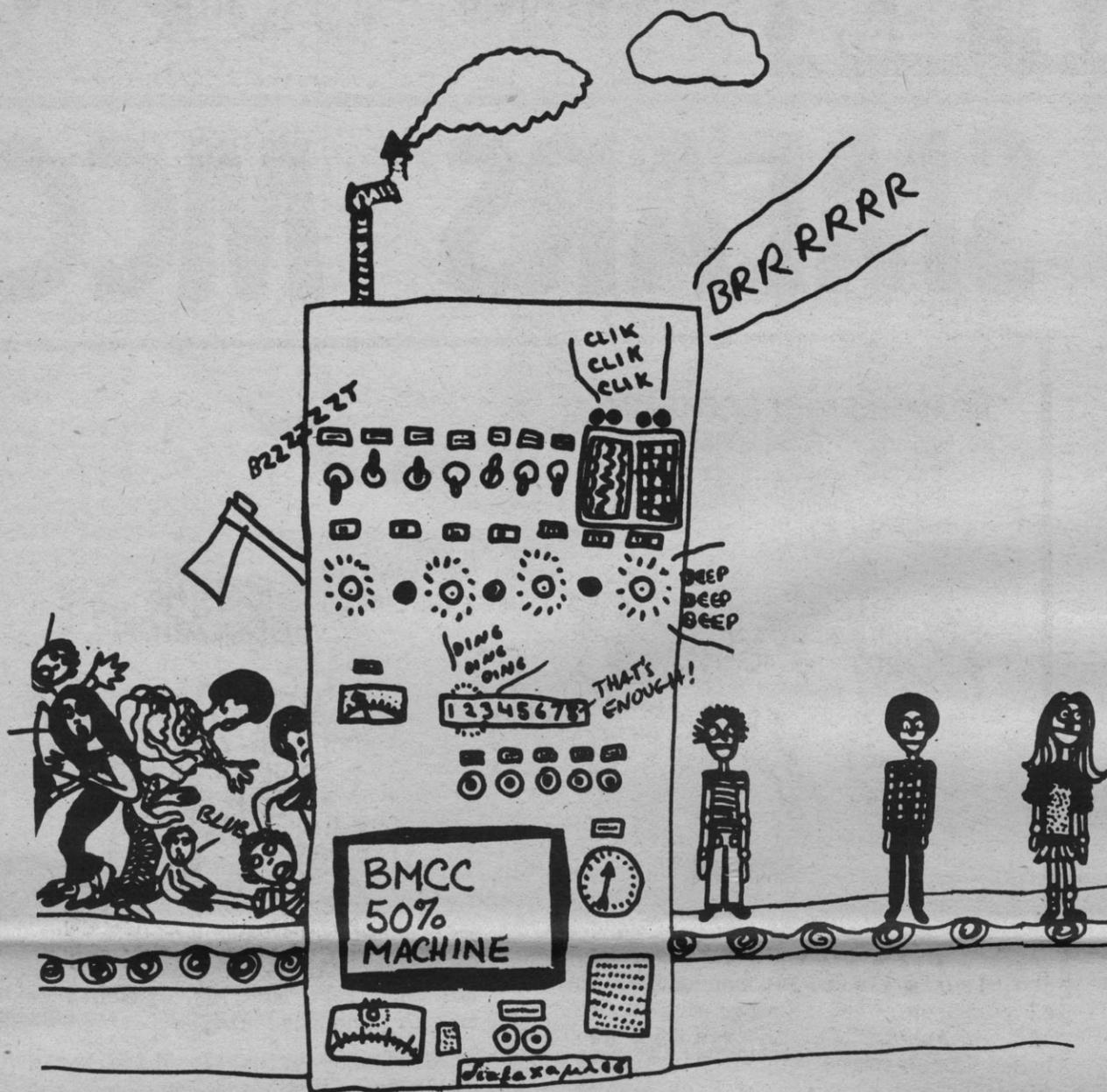
understaffed; it is the BHE that has not made sure that MCC students get enough financial aid.

Students--primarily Third World students--fought and won the right for all high school graduates to go to college under Open Admissions. Now, because of their struggle, the BHE has no choice but to let in any student who wants to go. But the BHE never really intended to let so many people get out of CUNY with a degree. Draper is getting hit right now because, from the BHE's point of view, he's allowed too many people--especially Third World people--to actually graduate, go on to four-year schools, and compete in the narrowing job market.

From kindergarten to college, schools are used by the corporate ruling class and bodies like the BHE to serve the economy--and the economy serves the ruling class. Today the American economy is in deep trouble. So it is no surprise to see a front-page Times attack on a predominantly Third World and working class community college. Both public spending and the job market are shrinking, and the "last-hired, first-fired" rule operates in the schools as well as the workplaces. The Times's racist slanders against MCC students can and will be used to justify community college budget cuts and continued neglect of students' needs.

One clear lesson comes out of the Times attack and all that it signifies: it is not enough to have won the right to an education, we must constantly fight to defend what we have won--and boldly demand more.

students beware! POLLACK'S PARTING SHOT



BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER 1974, new rules go into effect limiting course withdrawals and the number of semesters allowed for getting a degree.

The "50-percent/6-semester" rules (see box) are a last gift to the college from soon-to-depart Dean Myron Pollack, who brought them up for a vote in the Faculty Council after they'd been rejected by the FC's own Academic Standing Committee for reasons Pollack claimed not to know and was obviously not interested in.

The FC dropped some of Pollack's most blatantly repressive language, and turned down provisions relating to part-time students, but left plenty of sting in Pollack's parting shot.

Pollack aimed his shot at students described as having attended MCC "for many years with the apparent intention not of proceeding toward educational objectives but rather of participating in the extracurricular life of the College..."—fancy language to single out political students and others who have stood up to the administration over the past few years.

The FC cut this part of the motion for the record. But it's likely that Pollack's point stuck in their minds, as did references in the discussion to financial-aid cheaters who supposedly register

for a full-time program and then drop the majority of their courses.

Neither Pollack nor anyone else offered facts and figures of any kind to show that excessive withdrawals or slow progress toward a degree were a genuine problem at MCC. (Questioned later, the Registrar said that 13 percent of all grades in the Fall 1973 semester were W's and WP's—a small percentage in our opinion, considering registration hassles and the kinds of academic, financial, and personal problems faced by many students at our school.)

Whatever Pollack's original aim, the sting of his parting shot will mainly be felt by students who have the most difficulty in coping with full-time course loads—students who have been shortchanged by the high schools or who have serious money or personal problems which interfere with their school work. Within three semesters, they could be forced either into academic dismissal or into becoming part-time students ineligible for financial aid or work-study.

Given the situation at MCC, this is more than just a "shape up or ship out" policy—it's literally sink or swim. The support services needed by these and other students simply don't exist. There isn't enough financial aid, the tutoring program is starved for funds, coun-

50% - 6 semesters

NEW REGULATIONS passed by the Faculty Council, effective September 1974, are essentially as follows:

1. Every full-time student has to complete (earn a grade in) at least 50 percent of the credits he/she registers for. "Earned grades" include A, B, C, D, F, I, R, and WF. W (withdrawal) and WP (withdrawal passing) are not considered "earned grades."

Any student who doesn't earn a grade for 50 percent of his/her credits goes on probation the next semester; a student who in that next semester again fails to earn a grade in at least 50 percent of the courses registered for can be academically dismissed.

2. Full-time matriculated students have to complete all degree requirements within 6 semesters of full-time enrollment; if they don't, they are open to the same process of probation and dismissal mentioned above.

3. "Any student so dismissed may appeal to the Committee on Academic Standing and submit whatever documentary evidence he/she wishes in support of the appeal, and/or a recommendation from a College counselor or adviser."

selling is not yet adequate, academic advisement is a joke (there are three advisers to deal with 10,000 students!), and the remedial program is still in the developmental stage. Without effective support services, the new rules are just another means of limiting the number of students who can actually succeed under Open Admissions. What is more, the blame for not succeeding will fall on the students, as it always has, instead of on the system.

A lot of FC members who voted for Pollack's measure may have thought they were helping the students by tightening up the rules. But in the overall context, they have actually lined up with the conservative forces who still think of education as a privilege instead of a right.

CHALLENGE GRADE ERRORS!

If you think any of the grades on your semester reports, present or past, are not what your instructor actually gave you, be sure to go to room A249 or H461 and file a challenge form. There are many grade errors in student records, and they will not be corrected unless students themselves request that specific grades be checked.

THE HONEST BALLOT ASSOCIATION has thrown out the results of the student government elections because of irregularities and violations of democratic procedures.

The administration and student government (Students for Better Government - SBG) denied the Third World Coalition (TWC) and Students for Unity and Democracy (SUD) the funds and access to duplicating machines and mailroom facilities necessary to run an effective campaign. SBG on the other hand was able to finance a campaign blitz of parties, coffee hours, newspapers, leaflets and home mailings that cost several thousand dollars.

At a meeting earlier this month with Dean Harriet Van Sickle and SBG, both TWC and SUD were promised \$175 a piece to run their campaigns plus use of college mimeograph machines. This agreement was not honored.

According to unofficial results, the SBG ticket received the largest block of votes--871. That means that despite their well financed campaign, SBG got support from barely 9% of the student body. The result can only be interpreted as a resounding vote of no confidence in SBG.

The TWC ticket came in second with 646 votes and SUD third with 183.

Only 22% of the student body bothered to vote. Obviously, one reason for this is that TWC and SUD were severely handicapped in putting out literature and reaching students. Tiger Paper, however, feels that there are several other reasons:

1) SBG was a do nothing student government. It did not deal with the most pressing problems facing students. A month before the election, however, it started to make a lot of noise and launched a massive public relations campaign combining outright lies with exaggerated claims of achievement. Students, though, were hip to the fact that SBG's sudden interest in them was because of the election and nothing else.

2) TWC, in the process of reorganization and despite its history of struggle, did not really establish itself this year as a force that day in and day out fought

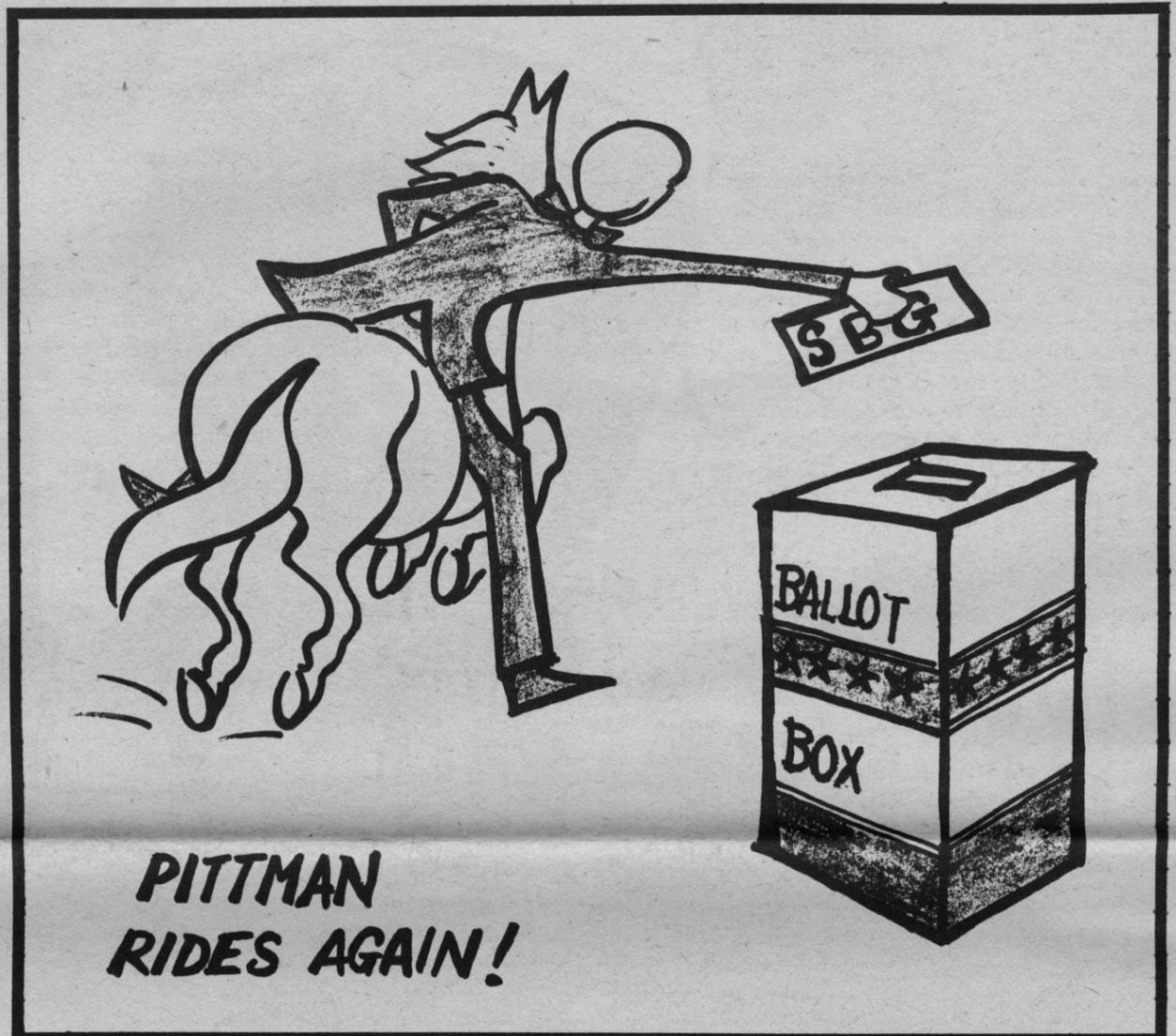
Tiger Paper

Tiger Paper is published whenever possible by an editorial collective of Manhattan Community College faculty and staff.

Tenured members of the collective: Kathy Chamberlain, Bill Friedheim, Mary Kellogg, Naomi Woronov.

Untenured members: anonymous to protect them against administrative harassment.

STUDENT VOTE THROWN OUT



for students' needs.

3) The main issue in the election was lost in a flood of charges and counter-charges about mini-busses and student cars. Most students did not understand that the real choice was between a group (SBG) that supported the administration in return for petty privileges and one (TWC) that had a history of relying on students and mobilizing them so that they could win important victories--like Black and Puerto Rican Studies in 1969 and a child-care center in 1970.

4) It is difficult to organize for an election when students attend classes in 5 different buildings spread over 25 blocks.

The campaign of Students for Better Government was characterized by lying from beginning to end.

An analysis of just one of SBG's lies - about the "M" building - is all we need to see which side it is on.

When 1,000 students and faculty signed petitions protesting slum conditions in the "M" building, SBG was nowhere to be seen. Because of the pressure mounted by "M" building faculty and students, the administration agreed to close this firetrap

by the end of the summer.

But SBG now tells us that it is responsible for bringing classes downtown next semester. That is nonsense. What SBG does not tell us is that the administration was planning to move uptown classes to a building at 31st Street and Eighth Avenue. That is downtown alright -- a mile downtown from the "A" and "B" buildings! (Negotiations for the building, however, fell through a day or two after the elections).

What is even more annoying is that SBG has been boasting all year that it moved the child-care center to safe, new quarters - the "M" building!

When the administration said that the "M" building was good, SBG said that the "M" building was good. When the administration decided to move classes to 31st Street, SBG also said that was good. But when it comes to fighting for students' real needs, SBG is too busy hiding behind the administration's coat-tails to do anything.

The issue in the new election, then, is not only SBG's conduct in the first vote, but its relationship to the administration and what that means when it comes to meeting the needs of students.

AFRICA: LIBERATION IS CERTAIN



**AFRICAN LIBERATION DAY — MARCH ON WASHINGTON
MAY 25**

for bus information, call 636-9400

DEFEATS IN AFRICA TOPPLE FASCISTS IN PORTUGAL

ON APRIL 25, a military junta seized power in Portugal and ended 5 decades of fascist rule. It was people's wars against Portuguese colonialism in Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique which led to the overthrow of the world's longest fascist dictatorship.

Portugal's military efforts to keep its colonies weakened it internally. Fifty percent of those inducted into the Portuguese army have refused to serve, including more than 100,000 draft resisters now living abroad. The war has devastated the Portuguese economy, creating skyrocketing unemployment and a rate of inflation that is the highest in Europe.

In spite of spending 40% of its annual budget on its colonial wars, Portugal was unable to defeat the people's movements. Last September, Guinea-Bissau declared independence and recently people's armies have made spectacular advances in Mozambique and Angola.

These successes by African liberation forces sparked new resistance in Portugal itself. Workers defied the government with wildcat strikes; students in the face of police repression agitated both on and off campuses and spread the resistance; a growing underground successfully carried out acts of sabotage; and enlisted men and junior officers in the military put pressure on the generals to move against the government.

The generals, convinced that they could not successfully fight the resistance, decided to join it so that they could try to turn around its revolutionary direction. By making a few democratic reforms at home and pushing phony independence plans in the colonies, the military junta hopes to maintain Portuguese control in Africa. The junta is already negotiating semi-independence with handpicked groups of white settlers and Africans (like GUM-The Group for the Union of Mozambique) while continuing without let-up its war against the liberation forces.

General Antonio de Spínola, the head of the junta, let the cat out of the bag when he said that "self-determination should not be confused with independence." The junta and groups like GUM have maintained that Portuguese troops should remain in Africa to fight until the rebels "lay down their arms" and join negotiations for some kind of semi-independent (meaning semi-colonial) status, like that of Puerto Rico in relationship to the United States.

While Portugal is much too weak to maintain its colonial empire, it has lots of reactionary friends who are ready to help her do the job. The United States government, the real power behind the scenes, continues to provide money and arms for Portuguese military operations in Africa so that it can protect the in-

terests of corporations like Gulf Oil, which has big investments in Angola. The new Portuguese government is now calling on its allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO—the U.S., Canada and western Europe) to help save its African empire. Racist regimes in South Africa and Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) are ready to send troops to neighboring Mozambique, knowing that it provides the key to southern Africa.

Rebel forces in South Africa and Zimbabwe have used liberated territories in Mozambique as sanctuaries, and staging areas for military activities. Landlocked Rhodesia must maintain access to deep water ports in Mozambique for almost all of its exports and imports. South Africa uses the same ports for diamond shipments.

The recent moves by colonialists in Portugal, the imperialists in the U.S. and NATO, and the racist white settlers in Zimbabwe, South Africa and the Portuguese colonies come out

of weakness rather than strength. Liberation forces have vowed to continue the struggle knowing that victory is near and that only Africans themselves can determine what political, economic and social forms their independence and their destiny will take.

The growing strength of the revolutionary movement in the Third World and the corresponding decline of imperialism is the single most important historical trend in the world today. Successful struggles for national liberation, whether they be in Indochina or Africa, weaken imperialism overseas and make it more difficult for it to rule at home. Africa was a turning point for Portugal and Vietnam was a turning point for the United States.

The lesson in all of this is that part of the fight against oppression at home is support for liberation struggles overseas. The people of world are learning that there is strength in their growing unity.



AFRICAN LIBERATION STRUGGLES IN ANGOLA (ABOVE) AND GUINEA-BISSAU (BELOW RIGHT)



Southern Africa.





MCC students and banners at Washington

10,000 go to Washington to THROW NIXON OUT

THE FRONT PAGES of every newspaper are filled with all the latest developments in the impeachment proceedings against Nixon. Every word of every politician and every inch of tape is laid out for public examination.

What the papers don't cover is the people's movement against Nixon. Working people have organized workers committees around the country to "Throw the Bum Out". They've written pamphlets and newsletters. They put on skits, hold rallies, and demonstrate in the major U.S. cities. But we don't hear about that.

And when 10,000 people go to Washington, full of anger against Nixon and the system he represents, the press pretends it never happened.

Many people who went to Washington think that getting rid of Nixon alone will solve the country's problems. But many others, including the 50 MCC students who made the trip, understand that Nixon is not the one, but just a front man for the imperialist system. The "Throw the Bum Out" contingent to the rally called a second demonstration later in the day to make perfectly clear that the target of the people is the system as a whole and not just Tricky Dick.

The march and rally was a good beginning, and exciting because of the large number of people. However, many of the speakers failed to make clear links between Nixon's actions and the whole nature of the imperialist system. In addition, several speakers suggested we should place our reliance on politicians who are part of this same system.

But most people know that Nixon is part of this system, and that

we cannot rely on politicians.

Because of this, people were anxious to go to the second demonstration, which focused their anger against the true enemy. More than 2,000 people participated in this action which attacked the Justice Department—symbol of U.S. imperialism, the system behind Nixon, the courts and Congress.

The U.S. Justice Department provides justice only for the rich, while condoning nation-wide campaigns against Black activists in particular, and all people's movements in general.

Before the march moved out, speakers talked of the latest example of U.S. "justice"—the police harassment of Black people in San Francisco on the pretext of looking for "Zebra Killers."

The anti-imperialist contingent, led by the Attica Brigade, organized this demonstration—to show that people must organize to fight against the imperialist system in order to win real and long-lasting gains.

Although some felt that the anger of the marchers could have been expressed more sharply and in a more disciplined way, most people felt that the demonstration was a success—especially in that so many people were willing to take a risk and put into action what they know to be right.

Looking at the entire day, people agreed about two things: that we must throw Nixon out, and that we must use the strength we develop in this struggle to fight against the real enemy—the system he represents.

students said...

"This was the first demonstration I ever went on. I was thinking on the way down, 'What am I participating in?' And I came up with an answer. This is my country, and I have a stake in it.

I didn't know how many people would be there. But when we got there, and I saw the view out the window, I was pretty jubilant. When I saw the great mass of people, that made me feel good. You know, when there's a mass of people doing a thing—you know you're not the only one. And you know you're right.

The march on the justice dept. was really enthusiastic—it was a drive, a spearhead. The only thing is, I don't know if we made enough impact. It wasn't angry enough.

The march was good in itself. But I'm looking for results."

"One main aspect of the day was the unity of the people. It was the first time, on the subject of Nixon, that the people had a chance to voice their feelings.

But the one positive point of the day, which focused on the real issue --why everyone went to Washington,-- was the march on the justice dept. It was a necessary thing to do. The Impeachment groups which planned the rally wanted to keep everyone in the park, like a picnic. The course the planners took was peaceful and accomplished nothing. The justice dept. action highlighted the day--because the majority of the people who went there wanted to make their point--that Nixon and the whole system he represents have to be attacked."



We'll go through Nixon to the whole system!

THE SUMMER WILL BE HOT— LET THE GRAPES & LETTUCE ROT!



The imperialist ruling class doesn't take a vacation, so neither do we. Students in the Attica Brigade will be on picket lines in front of groceries and supermarkets all summer, spreading the boycott of scab grapes and lettuce in support of the striking farmworkers. Help build the boycott. Join the Brigade summer farmworker project!

A heavy battle is being waged in the grape and lettuce fields of California.

Thousands of farmworkers are fighting for a decent living standard and for their right to be represented by the United Farmworkers, the union they won in 1970 after five years of strike and boycott actions against the grape and lettuce growers.

Now these same bank-controlled agribusinesses which were defeated in the 60's are again trying to smash the farmworkers' movement. The struggles of the farmworkers, and their tremendous 1970 victory, set an example for non-unionized workers all over the country, especially for Chicanos in the Southwest (the Farah strike) and Blacks in the South (the Oneita strike and others). The farmworkers won higher wages, overtime pay, paid holidays, health and safety controls, job security, medical care, pensions, and collective bargaining rights. Now the big corporations want to rob them of their victory and smother their movement before its example spreads further.

In April 1973 when UFW contracts expired, the growers were ready with their new strategy—replacing the UFW with a union they could control. Helped by Nixon's pal Charles Colson, they made a deal with the corrupt leadership of the Teamsters Union to take over the UFW membership. In return the Teamsters signed "sweetheart" contracts with the growers that stripped away all the earlier gains.

Like the oil companies with their "energy crisis" and the rest of the ruling class, these growers are always trying to squeeze more out of the people. They've used the courts, the police, the government, liberal politicians, and Teamster goons to try and break the militant farmworker movement. But the farmworkers are fighting them, to stop the growers from super-exploiting thousands of mainly Black, Chicano and Filipino workers.

help build the boycott!
call 280-5113 (day)
663-4927 (eve.)

THE STRIKE AND THE BOYCOTT ARE KEY WEAPONS IN THIS STRUGGLE. THE NEXT FEW MONTHS ARE CRUCIAL—THE GRAPE HARVEST IS COMING IN. NOW IS THE TIME TO GO ALL OUT IN SUPPORT OF THE FARMWORKERS AND TO BUILD THE BOYCOTT OF GRAPES, LETTUCE, AND SCAB-GRAPE GALLO WINES.

ATTICA BRIGADE

NEW WOMEN'S COURSE



WOMEN IN OUR SOCIETY are kept in ignorance about their own bodies, their own sexuality, and the effects of the female social role on physical and mental health.

A new 3-credit elective course on "Health Concerns of Women" will be given by Norma Verdiner of the Health Ed Department starting next fall, to deal with women's need to know about their biological and psychological functioning and related medical problems.

Getting this course into the curriculum was not easy. Male chauvinism on the part of many members of the Faculty Council almost prevented



it from being offered. When first introduced at the Council, it was rejected—amidst jokes and putdowns—as not needed and not justified. But the chairman of the Health Ed Department called for a re-vote at the next meeting, where several teachers and counselors reported that women students very frequently brought up troubling health questions and that the course would serve a real need at MCC. The re-vote was successful.

Students interested in "Health Concerns of Women" should see next fall's course schedule, under Health Education.



ATTICA: ATTACKS CONTINUE

61 prisoners have been indicted for their participation in the 1971 rebellion at New York's Attica State Prison.

That rebellion ended with an assault by the N.Y. State Police (under orders from Gov. Rockefeller) which was, in the words of a special investigating commission, "the bloodiest one-day encounter between Americans since the Civil War." 39 people were killed and 80 others wounded.

The special investigation afterwards also confirmed the legitimacy of the prisoners' demands and the previous lack of response from prison officials to their complaints. It clearly placed the responsibility for the massacre which occurred at Attica on the state officials.

But in the three years since Attica, little or nothing has been done about prison conditions, and no state troopers or prison or state officials were named in the indictments.

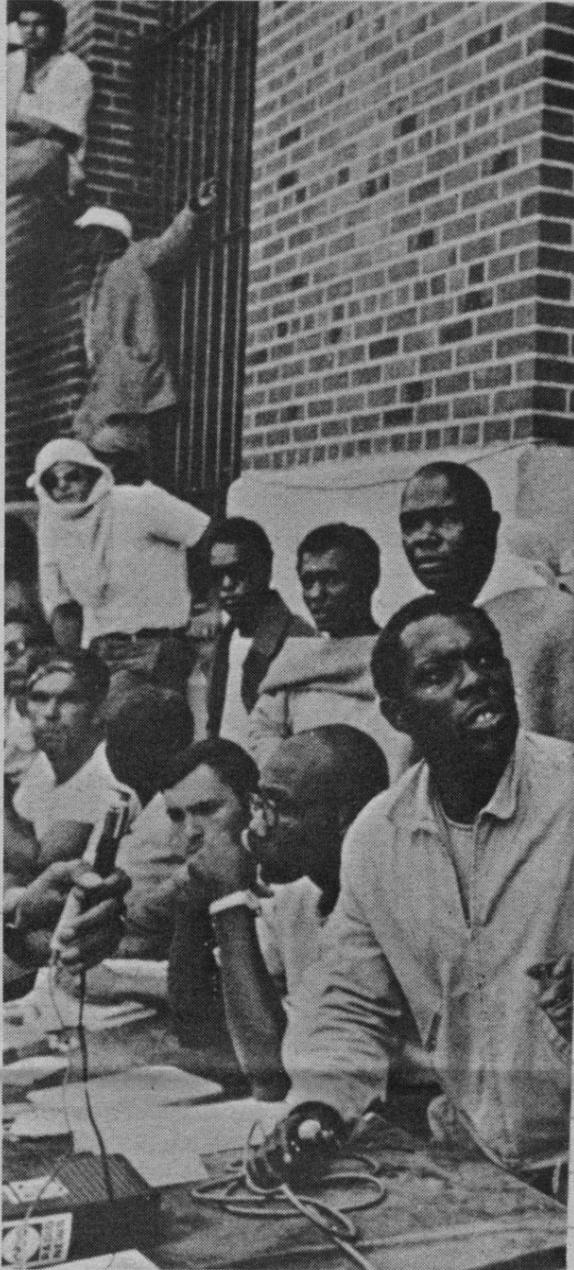
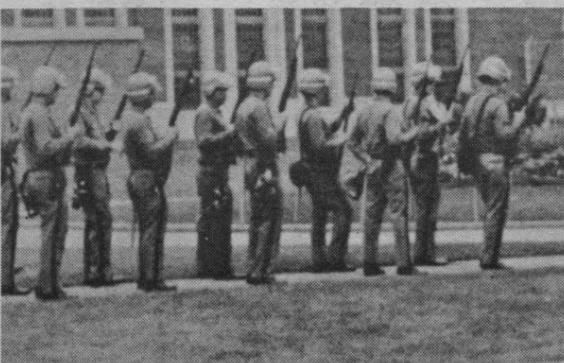
A few weeks ago a documentary film "Attica" played at a New York movie theatre. Most people didn't hear about it since it didn't get much coverage, but two BMCC students Raul Domingo and Roudi Munro went to see it.

"I was in the Phillipines when Attica happened," said Raoul Domingo, "and I read about it in Time and Newsweek. They really gave the state's side - that the government was brilliant, really brought about law and order, etc. - with maybe a short sentence about the poor conditions in the prison."

"That film really made you think," said Munro. "It had a lot of information in it. The film showed headlines from newspapers like the Daily News saying, 'Convicts Slit Hostages' Throats.' But afterwards they found out that everyone who died, died of gunshot wounds and the only ones with guns were the state troopers."

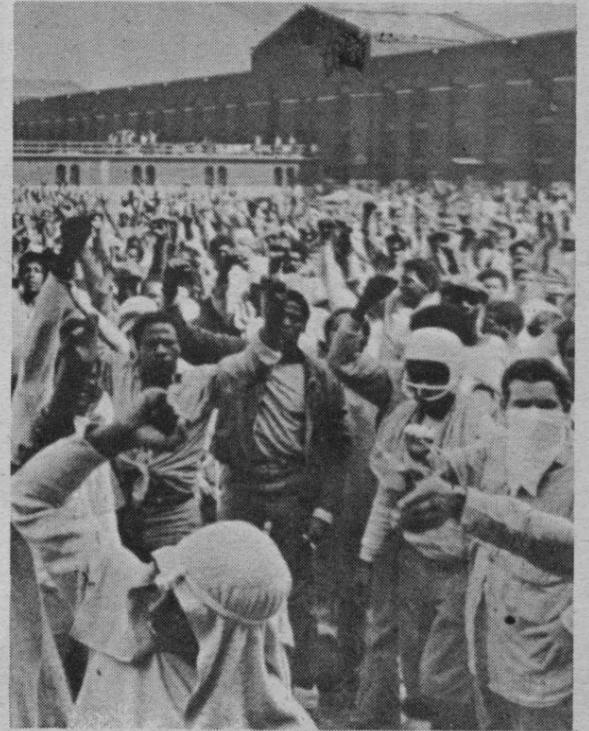
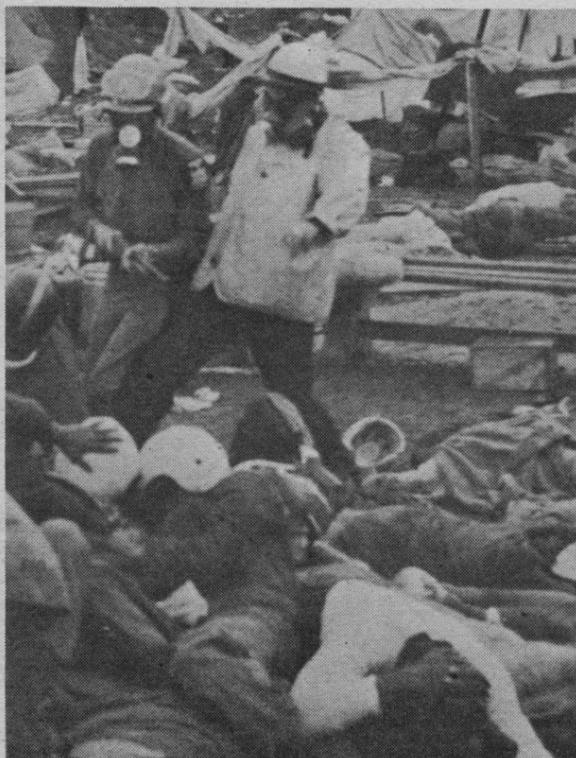
The Attica rebellion brought on such severe repression from the state because it was a definite threat to the whole U.S. prison system and the social system which it supports.

The unity of the black, white and Spanish-speaking prisoners and their resistance to inhumane and racist prison treatment was a direct attack on racism and the class system in the U.S. overall. The prisoners had identified the entire U.S. social system as responsible for the conditions in prisons, not just a few officials or a few regulations. Their actual concrete demands were later



viewed as reasonable; it was their organization and their political awareness that was the threat the state had to crush.

And the state is still doing its best to crush that threat through its prosecution of the 61 Attica defendants. Millions of dollars, including the entire funding for a task force against organized crime, has been allocated to the prosecution of the Attica case.



The film "Attica" is an important reminder of the courage and bravery of the Attica prisoners. The events at Attica are an example that people can unite in struggle. But the film is also a strong reminder that after all the outrage and the investigations and the reports, the government is hoping that people will have forgotten Attica so that it can continue along its same old road of repression. The events at Attica and what is happening today show us that we cannot expect real change until all issues are connected and all the oppressions and injustices are attacked at their source - the unjust economic and social system which we have today in the U.S.

In the words of one of the Attica participants, we all have to "wake up, stop hiding. . . stop saying you don't understand. . . wake up, deal, wake up. . . because nothing comes to the sleeper but a dream."

BMCC students Domingo and Munro are checking to see about the possibility of showing the film "Attica" on the BMCC campus next fall.

Meanwhile, funds are needed for the Attica defense and contributions can be sent to: Attica Brothers Legal Defense, 1370 Main Street, Buffalo, N.Y. 14209.

