

THE BCC PROPOSAL TO TAKE STUDENT DEMONSTRATION OFF
CAMPUS, AND TO RECRUIT THE WHOLE COMMUNITY IN THE
FIGHT AGAINST THE CUNY TUITION INCREASES

STATEMENT

Cuomo has resisted an increase in the state income tax, saying it would hurt the economy.

Governor Cuomo has attempted to put himself on the side of the angels by taking what looks like a principled stand, based on what will hurt the economy.

The upstate tendency towards resentment against CUNY however is playing an important part in this decision. Witness the arrogant condescending manner he deals with students' concerns over the tuition increase.

Cuomo spokesman Tom Conroy . . . called CUNY, "a tremendous bargain. If it's not the bargain they want it to be, there's no better deal across the street."

[Source: New York Daily News, April 14, 1991, p22]

Obviously the concentration in Albany is on what the state is **giving**.

MY STRATEGY IS SIMPLE: **Change the focus.**

- Concentrate on what the state is **getting**.
- Do a cost benefit analysis.
- Convince the public, and the politicians will follow.

Prove that the proposed tuition hike and budget hike will hurt the economy, and we can hoist Masters Cuomo and Conroy by their own petard.

Attached is a detailed battle plan to achieve this objective.

Note:

Order buttons for supporters that can be used by all students, faculty, administration, and community, citywide. It should be large, white, with green lettering and one word, "ACCESS".

THE BCC GAME PLAN FOR DEFEATING TUITION INCREASES IN THE CUOMO BUDGET(S) NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

Governor Mario Cuomo and the upstate Republicans have turned a deaf ear to CUNY petition and letter writing campaigns opposing the proposed \$500 tuition increases, 96 million dollar budget cuts, \$500 million dollar tuition increases, and \$400 Tap cuts.

We are shooting ourselves in the foot by **limiting** ourselves to the same old tired strategy of occupying campus buildings every time there's a proposed tuition increase. We need to take this issue off campus to a larger constituency.

My strategy is designed to make an end run around Cuomo and the upstate Republicans, we're going to make them an offer they can't refuse, based upon the following theory.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

From 1847 to 1976, tuition for all CUNY Colleges was free, even in 1929, during the greatest financial depression this country and state have ever known. This was not largess, it was an intelligent long range financial investment that paid dividends to the state. From 1847 to 1976, property taxpayers understood that a college education increased the gross municipal product of the city of New York, generated or attracted new business to the city, increased the collection of taxes, levies and fees - from all sources - without an increase on the existing taxpayer, by producing the cash equivalent of one new taxpayer with each graduating student who lived in New York. What is more, this miracle investment decreased the budgetary pressure for tax inflation that is normally associated with a population increase, because it did not require the additional municipal services increases normally associated with a population increase of 30 or 40 thousand new people annually.

In other words, **CUNY IS A REVENUE GENERATOR FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK.** A prosecutable securities fraud was covered up and concealed from the taxpayers of the City of New York and was mislabeled "the Fiscal Crisis of 1974."

[Source: THE STREETS WERE PAVED WITH GOLD]

[Source: THE ABUSE OF POWER, Newfield and Dubrul, The Viking Press, 1977 pgs. 178 - 197]

The residents of the City of New York were defrauded of their system of Free University tuition to coverup that fraud. The Myths of the Fiscal Crisis of 1974 and the racial stereotypes that were part of the disinformation campaign to cloud the public's vision of CUNY's historical role as a revenue generator have gone unchallenged long enough. It's time we removed the cataracts from the eyes of our local politicians and re-educate the public.

We need to prove to the taxpayers that education is still the best investment that the state could possibly make on behalf of the public interest, in order to produce a consensus that it is the last item in the budget that should be touched. In the present climate, its no longer good enough to say that education is a good investment for the state, we must prove it in a dramatic fashion.

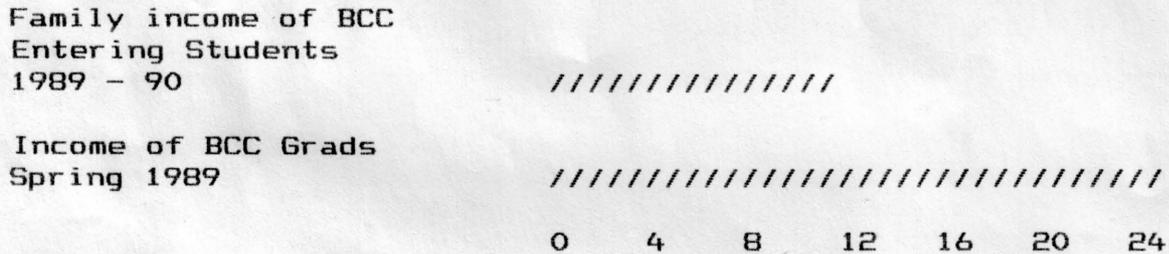
Based upon the aforesaid premise, **BCC STUDENT PROTESTERS FOR AN INTELLECTUAL APPROACH AND A PERMANENT SOLUTION TO TUITION INCREASES AND TAP DECREASES**, propose the following strategy be used in solidarity with all 21 CUNY colleges, and others, for a citywide strike.

1. That every campus demand that the administration provide students with the data on the financial impact of attending their particular college, in order to develop documentary evidence of the fact that **incomes double after graduation.** For example:

Average family income of BCC students in 1989 - 90 was 11,990
[Source: CUNY FINANCIAL AID OFFICE]

Average income of BCC Graduates entering the labor market in Spring of 1989 was \$24,500
[Source: BCC OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH]

The comparison of income of entering students and graduates can be seen on the following graph.



NOTE:

A comparison of the differences in income taxes paid by entering students and graduates must also be developed on the basis of a statistical model size family or families. We should also demand that the Mayor get on board by giving us his "official" estimate of the consequences of operating revenues, since he has declared himself sympathetic with our goals but not with the tactic of taking over buildings.

2. We use the aforesaid data in an intensive (and comprehensive) media blitz, on every talk show, news event, and for every photo opportunity, that we can arrange, taking care to maintain interest by approaching the same issue creatively from different angles or perspectives.

FOR EXAMPLE: Governor Mario Cuomo, former mayors Ed Koch and Abe Beam all graduated and benefited from a TUITION FREE CUNY College. (Get a copy of Cuomo's senior yearbook picture for effect).

NOTES: Research how many other city and state legislators are CUNY Alumni, and how many business leaders, especially those who oppose us and embarrass them into silence, i.e. neutralize them by exposing their hypocrisy.

3. On a target date yet to be agreed upon by the proposed citywide coalition of CUNY protesters, we rally to a central location in Manhattan to provide a photo opportunity for the media to witness a signing of a Petition by the representatives of the Protesters of the 21 CUNY Colleges, and honorary guest speakers, and,

FIRST: we march on the City Council to present our Petition and demand for a legislative declaration that the 21 Colleges of the City University of New York are an important source of new operating revenues for the City of New York (projecting the tax consequences on these double incomes over the life expectancies of statistical models, and adjusting for inflation), and,

SECOND: also require a legislative declaration that the proposed tuition increases and budget and TAP cuts are counterproductive threats to the general welfare, that act as an economic barrier to the city's present and future long range plans to produce sufficient operating revenue to retain decision-making powers over financial aspects of city life, independent of the Emergency Financial Control Board and others.

NOTE: These declarations are predicate actions to provide the means for legal or lobbying efforts to stop the tuition increases in the short run, and, as a predicate for a new referendum of the voters for a system of free tuition in the long run.

4. On a target date as yet to be decided by the proposed citywide coalition of CUNY PROTESTERS, we obtain buses from the college administration, in order to take the City Councils legislative declarations, our data, and the compilation of the Mayor's data to Albany in the format of a State Petition, where we can lobby each and every legislator to defeat the Cuomo budget and restore Free Tuition, on the grounds that Governor Cuomo's budget threats against CUNY are a penny wise and pound foolish approach to budget slashing that will devastate the economy of the state and the subordinate jurisdictions in the State of New York.

5. The University Student Senate (USS) can form committees within its organizational structure to undertake the task to contact each and every public and private college in the state of New York, to urge them to join our struggle, follow our example, and or at least determine the consequences of the TAP cuts, elimination of Regents Scholarships, Abolition of the Empire State Scholarship, etc., on their student body, and on the local economy if it is significant. USS can then make a compilation of all their responses for the trip to Albany or for future litigation, if any.

6. If Cuomo's Budget passes before we finish our process, then we will look for a creative way to file a law suit on behalf of each of the Colleges on whom we have collected data, (so we should agree on a standard format for financial impact data and additional data can be discretionary). We will try to find a legal theory that will allow us to enjoin the enforcement of the provisions of the Cuomo budget that will impact negatively on CUNY. [see page 2(1) ... (taxpayers action to prevent waste?)]

7. By utilizing this unifying strategy, CUNY Colleges that do not want to participate in the tactic of taking over campus buildings but do want to protest the Cuomo Budget, can join this protest movement by just suspending club meetings, and using those hours to work on organizing and compiling their data, and prepare their students for the rally, the march and the lobbying, in Albany, while still attending classes.

This is an ambitious project, but so was building the Panama Canal.

It's time we taught these old political hacks some new political tricks. Students must make a preemptive strike on next years budget, and not wait to react each year or recoil in horror or defeat to these ritualistic annual demands for tuition increases and TAP decreases.

Stress Kills.

CONCLUSION

What we want is a new deal, what we need are legislators who can count and who know how to balance the budget before the money is spent.

We must also reach out and make common cause with the beleaguered property taxpayer, and others, who are tired of hearing once a year that their taxes are going up, and their standard of living is going down because the State or City governments are overdrawn on their respective checking accounts. We don't just want the state to balance the budget, we want the state to live within the means of the average taxpayer.

Until they learn how to live with our means, or until hell freezes over, whichever comes first, CUNY students need a Permanent Long Term Solution to these problems. Let us prepare the ground work now for a NEW referendum to Freeze or (for) Free CUNY tuition.

If East Germany can tear the Berlin Wall down,
East Harlem can send a New referendum up.

The slogans are : "FREEZE OR FREE"
or "ACCESS ... ACCESS ... ACCESS"

The demand is: No tuition increase and no budget or TAP decrease.

This strategy is wholly the invention of:
Ms. Sidney Royce, BCC Senator, Chair,

BCC COMMITTEE FOR AN INTELLECTUAL APPROACH TO TUITION INCREASES

SGA Campus contact number: 367-7474