

M BUILDING CRUMBLES

Monday, December 10: Boiler broken, no heat in M Building all day. Evening classes cancelled.

Thursday, December 13: Fire alarm system being installed, to be operational "within 4 weeks." When asked what we would do if there was a fire before that, installer said, "What have you done for the last 3 years?"

Monday, December 17: Boiler broken

again, no heat in the M Building. Afternoon and evening classes cancelled.

Thursday, December 20: At approximately 2pm, all lights in the entire M Building began to flicker like strobe lighting, causing immediate eyestrain, headache, and general pandemonium. Some classes dismissed before the problem was corrected. Cont'd p. 3



TIGER PAPER

manhattan community college

vol. 3 no. 3

jan. 1974

ADJUNCTS LOSE JOBS- STUDENTS LOSE OUT

EVEN THOUGH 1700 students and faculty signed a petition in protest, the administration is dead set on firing many of MCC's part-time teachers (adjuncts). Such a move spells disaster for Open Admissions--packed classes, cancelled courses, and long lines of angry students closed out of required subjects at registration.

The Speech Department, for example, has fourteen adjuncts this semester teaching 25 classes; next semester there are positions for only four, teaching five classes. Fewer adjuncts means seventeen fewer sections of Fundamentals of Speech, a subject necessary for graduation. Once again, students come out the losers.

English, another department hard-hit by the firings, is cutting its part-time staff from 39 teachers to 19. With fewer adjuncts to teach courses in basic skills, the department plans to drop the number of 091 sections from 45 to 35 while projecting a still heavier cutback in Comp I classes.

Classes are already much too large this semester. English 091 sections currently average 20 students per class, five more than the maximum agreed on by the faculty union (Professional Staff Congress) and the Board of Higher Education. To satisfy the 15-student limit, the college should have added fifteen 091 sections. Instead, it is dropping ten sections next semester.

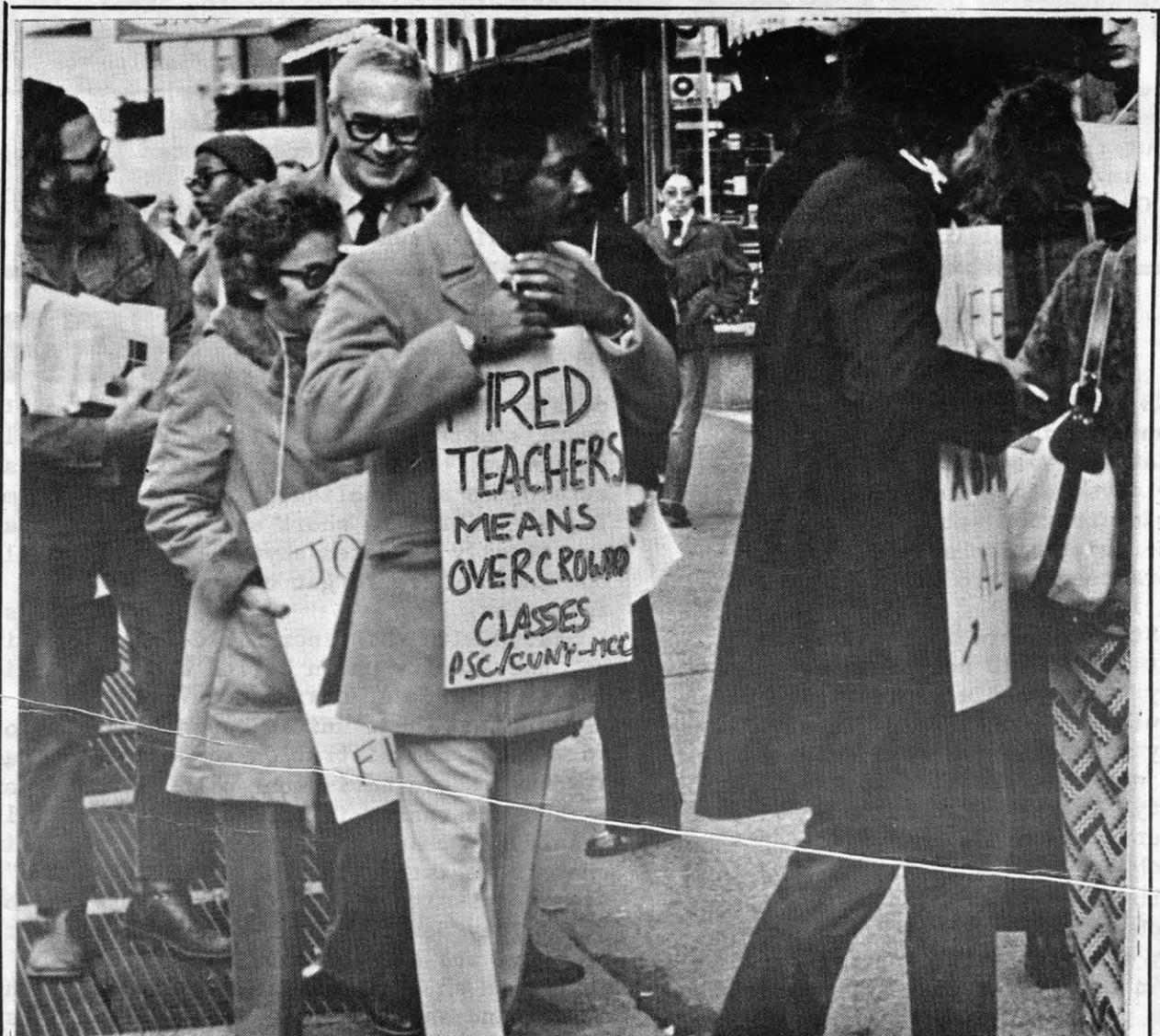
When part-time teachers organized to win back their jobs, the administration responded with a month of evasions, delaying tactics, phony promises, and outright lies.

First, in an unsuccessful attempt to stop a union picket line in front of the M and B buildings on December 6, President Draper promised more money to hire adjuncts. The talk of more dollars was just that--talk.

On December 18, a union committee of adjuncts met with George Fowler, Draper's man in charge of labor relations. He offered to arrange a conference with President Draper on Wednesday, January 2. When the adjuncts went as scheduled to Draper's office, his secretary told them that there was no such meeting. Then, after setting them up for a phony appointment,

Fowler had the gall to send the adjuncts a memo telling that they had not arranged the meeting through channels!

Adjuncts are angry and are meeting this week to plan the next step in the fight to save their jobs. The rest of us, students and faculty, have an important stake in supporting them.



THE FACULTY UNION organized an informational picket line in front of the "B" building on Thursday, December 6, to protest the firing of adjuncts.

U.S. THE ENEMY IN P. R.



THE U.S. ROLE IN PUERTO RICO has been exposed in the United Nations. An overwhelming majority of the General Assembly has declared that the U.S. operates as a colonial power on the island.

The 104-5 vote came on a resolution of the U.N. Decolonization Committee reaffirming the "inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence." The resolution called for the U.S. government to cease any activity that interferes with the political, social and economic rights of the Puerto Rican people.

For years the U.S. and its puppets in Puerto Rico have been claiming the island is a "free associated state" living under U.S. rule voluntarily. But the evidence gathered by the Decolonization Committee uncovered the role of the U.S. in assuring the election of governments friendly to its interests, repressing pro-independence activities, exploiting the island's wealth for the benefit of U.S. investors, squashing workers' struggles, and taking over land for U.S. military bases.

The Decolonization Committee's report showed that the role of the U.S. in Puerto Rico is no different from Portugal's colonial oppression in Angola and Mozambique.

But news of the important vote and its meaning hasn't reached people in the U.S. Newspapers and TV maintained a near-total blackout on the question, and on recent pro-independence actions in Puerto Rico.

Why the blackout? If scandals like Watergate, Nixon's tax dodges, and the dairy industry's bribe to get White House approval of a hike in milk prices make the front pages, why is there a conspiracy of silence about the U.N. vote on U.S. imperialism in Puerto Rico?

Could it be that the unmasking of U.S. control of Puerto Rico is a big-



PRO-INDEPENDENCE DEMONSTRATION, WASHINGTON, OCT. 30, 1973

ger threat to ruling-class power than all the dirt rolling out of the White House?

Watergate court actions and even impeachment moves remain inside the structure of things-as-they-are; a Gerald Ford administration would be as useful a tool for the big corporations as the Nixon crew--perhaps even more useful, since it would start out "cleaner." And the exposure of Nixon is itself turned around and offered as proof of the "health of the system."

The question of Puerto Rican independence is a different matter. It can't be whitewashed. The UN vote in effect said, "U.S. out of Puerto Rico, now!" But the giant

corporations, which determine U.S. government policy, and also control the media, do not want to give up their fifth largest market, and a key source of cheap labor. And they don't want to strengthen pro-independence forces in both Puerto Rico and this country by publicizing the fact that 104 nations in the world have branded the U.S. government as the enemy of the Puerto Rican people.

That's why the U.N. vote was more "sensitive" news than the Nixon scandals. The ruling-class media can fearlessly call for a government clean-up after Watergate, but they are not about to promote the break-up of the U.S. imperialist system.

REGISTRATION'S HERE AGAIN

ONCE AGAIN, it looks like registration is going to be a mess.

At the very last minute, just a few days before Christmas recess, the administration set up a system of pre-registration advisement that was guaranteed to produce total chaos. And it did.

Students were informed by mail that they could not register unless they had a special form signed by a faculty advisor before January 11. They were referred to a department, but not to a specific advisor. Faculty, in turn, had not been briefed about advisement. Many did not know which students they had been assigned to counsel, or lacked addresses, which meant that they could not notify students about appointments.

An even more disastrous aspect of this plan to "help" students was that the administration took no steps to prepare faculty to do proper advisement. Most faculty don't know the

details of curriculum and graduation requirements in fields outside of their own. And no wonder. School catalogues are published infrequently, are always in short supply, and are quickly outdated anyway. And no one knows where to get current information.

Faced with this incredible foul-up, the faculty union called a meeting of department chairmen on January 2, and their united opposition forced the administration to scrap its unworkable advisement plan.

And now there is more confusion than ever. Many students still think that to register, they need the special forms signed by a faculty advisor. They don't. Those students, however, who already have an appointment with an advisor, can get counseling and should.

But what about the rest of the students - the majority? They can now only get advisement at registra-

tion. Does this mean more endless lines, or will the administration see to it that the academic advisement department provides for speedy and competent counseling, as it should have in the first place?

As always, it is the students who suffer the most from the unbelievable incompetence of many of MCC's administrators.

One night student, who took time off from work to keep an afternoon appointment with a faculty advisor, exploded when he was told that he no longer needed a special form to register. His comment summed it all up: "They treat the animals in the zoo better than they treat students in this damn place."

Registration doesn't have to be a horror - even this one. There is still time for the administration to foresee and prevent some of the worst problems that students will face.

They can do it. Will they?

M CONDITIONS WORSE

cont'd. from p.1

Friday, December 21st: Heavy rain caused severe flooding on the 10th floor of M Building, with seepage as far as four floors below. On the 6th floor water was seeping through the outside walls of some classrooms and cracks appeared in the ceilings. Afternoon classes were cancelled.

Monday, January 2: No heat in M Building all day - reading lab temperatures approached Antarctica. Elevators out of service for the evening classes.

Caught between a crumbling building, angry faculty members and students, and public exposure on NBC News and WPIX-Channel 11, the MCC administration seems to be trying to play Nixon's game of "lay low and keep cool." For example, nothing has yet been heard of Dean Willis' "professional analysis of the M Building to determine the advisability of any action by the College." (from Draper's letter of November 5.)

What are they waiting for? For the old Board of Higher Education to go out of office so they can claim inability to do anything and continue to pass the buck? For the present group of students to move on into new classes next term and eliminate the present threat of student unity in the

M Building (over 1000 names were collected on an M Building petition)? For M Building faculty to be distracted by the academic responsibilities and pressures of the end of this term and the beginning of another one?

Such delaying tactics will not work. The demand made at the beginning of the semester was to close the M Building as an "educational" facility of MCC and to provide good, comfortable, adequate facilities. That demand still stands,

and it will not be satisfied by promises that "space" (what space??) will be provided in the A or E buildings, or in the Uris Building for the library (just what everyone needs, two libraries downtown).

The MCC administration really has no choice. It must close the M Building--or it will be closed for them--and find a decent location suitable for classes.

NOTE: Still no fire alarm system as paper goes to press.



CUTBACKS GROUP WINS VICTORY — STRUGGLE CONTINUES

STUDENTS TO FIGHT CUTBACKS, a newly formed group at MCC, has taken its first successful action.

After a "visit" to the MCC administration, the anti-cutback group won the following demands:

- 1- Three more payment windows to be installed in the office where checks are handed out, to shorten waiting time.
- 2- More staff to be assigned to handle check distribution.
- 3- Nursing students' checks to be available on Wednesdays instead of on hospital-assignment days.
- 4- Students not to be penalized for missing classes on check days. (Instructors should already have received a letter from the administration on this point.)
- 5- Loan repayments to be arranged with students through the financial aid office (previously the whole of a loan might be deducted from an aid check, leaving a student without enough to live on for the next two weeks.

With these gains, students can now focus on the main problem--more money for more students.

Because of inadequate financial aid--or none at all--many students are forced to drop out of school; others are forced to miss classes or fall behind for lack of carfare and

book money or because their jobs interfere with their schoolwork. Increasing inflation is biting deeper every month into checks that were too small to begin with.

Open Admissions is empty rhetoric without adequate financial aid. Even administrators at MCC and throughout CUNY will agree to that. Yet they keep putting out the rhetoric and not doing a damn thing about financial aid. Why?

The administration's unwillingness to act is part of an emerging nationwide policy to keep higher education and better jobs out of reach of most Third World and working-class students. Financial aid cutbacks are simply part of a conscious and deliberate plan that calls for:

--Four-year higher education for some, two-year "post-secondary" training (mainly deadend vocational and manual training) for the majority.

--Tuition hikes at four-year state colleges to raise costs to the level of elite schools like Harvard and Columbia and put four-year college degrees out of reach of most Third World and working-class students.

--Cutbacks on special programs for Third World and working-class students.

--Imposing tuition at free colleges like CUNY.

--Administration of aid funds direct from Washington rather than via the colleges themselves, to better control who gets into, and stays in, what kind of schools.

This strategy is already being applied. Aid has been cut back, and is being controlled from Washington; Third World Studies and special aid programs have been dropped or reduced (see October Tiger Paper); tuition at state schools is going up; and tuition at CUNY is a yearly threat. And this spring three Rockefeller men will be sitting on the new Board of Higher Ed that will decide such questions.

It is obvious that students, especially at MCC where so many people need aid to survive in school, have got to move on the problem themselves. The only way to stop this strategy is through organized and militant opposition to it. At MCC, Students to Fight Cutbacks can be the form for organizing effective action. It has already won some victories, but it must grow bigger to deal with the MCC and CUNY administrations. Every student who needs aid to survive in school should take an active part in the fight against cutbacks. At MCC that's a lot of people and a lot of power.

Watch for notices of Students to Fight Cutbacks meetings at the beginning of the second semester.

CHILD CARE DIRECTOR FIRED WITHOUT CAUSE

THIS SEPTEMBER THE MCC Child Care Center was moved to the "M" building--a building known by everyone to be a fire-trap, with faulty heating and plumbing.

Also in September, David Miller, "acting" director of the Child Care Center, appeared on the scene. Dorothy Randall, director of the Center, and her assistant, Jeanette Williams, worked for the next three months under the assumption that their contracts would be renewed. David, supposedly, was to handle the "business" while they continued working with the children.

In December they were fired, without reason or notice.

The Child Care Center is administered by the Student Government Association. David Miller, now director of the Center with a salary of \$10,000, was the campaign manager for Students for a Better Government last Spring.

"I expected a smooth transition," he told one of the parents whose child goes to the center. How was his "transition" carried out? This is what one of the parents had to say in an interview with Tiger Paper:

"On Tuesday, Dec. 4, in the evening, David told Dorothy and Jeanette that two teachers were coming in the next day to replace them. He told them not to try to enter the building, or he would call guards and have them barred from the building.

"The next morning they came anyway. The threat couldn't be carried out because there was no one there but the kids. After David came in late, a meeting was called, and they were

told they'd have to see President Draper. Then the locks on the doors to the Center were changed, and their keys were taken away from them.

"Dorothy and Jeanette were victims of a campaign to make them seem incompetent. Since September, while David was there 'handling the business,' they've ordered supplies, but the requisitions were always lost, or not signed. A plumber was supposed to hook up the sink in the kitchen, but he waited for three hours and David didn't show up. Now David can sit back and say, 'they didn't keep up equipment, or order supplies.'

"The whole thing was totally underhanded and degrading all the way down the line. Dorothy and Jeanette were used for three months while plans were carried through to get rid of them.

"The scene up there now is poor. Parents stopped bringing their children for a while, and this is very bad. It looks like we don't need the center--but we do!

"We feel there was no reason to fire Dorothy and Jeanette. They were there for two and a half years with no complaints. We question David's capability and his status there. He's not qualified for the job--he only has an Associate degree and doesn't really relate to the children at all.

"And we, as parents, have the right to know why Dorothy and Jeanette were fired. We also have the right to interview candidates for the jobs they had. They're our children, not pieces of furniture.

"The whole thing has been very upsetting for the children. They

were fond of Dorothy and Jeanette, and it's traumatic for this to happen in the middle of the semester."

Another parent said that it was affecting her school work. "With Dorothy and Jan there I used to go to classes knowing my kids were being taken care of. Now I'm worrying about them, and can't really pay attention in classes."

The MCC administration has never wanted the Child Care Center to exist. It was one of the demands agreed to in 1969 after mass student action. After months of foot-dragging and faced with almost daily confrontations by students, the administration finally agreed to allocate the space for the Center in 1970.

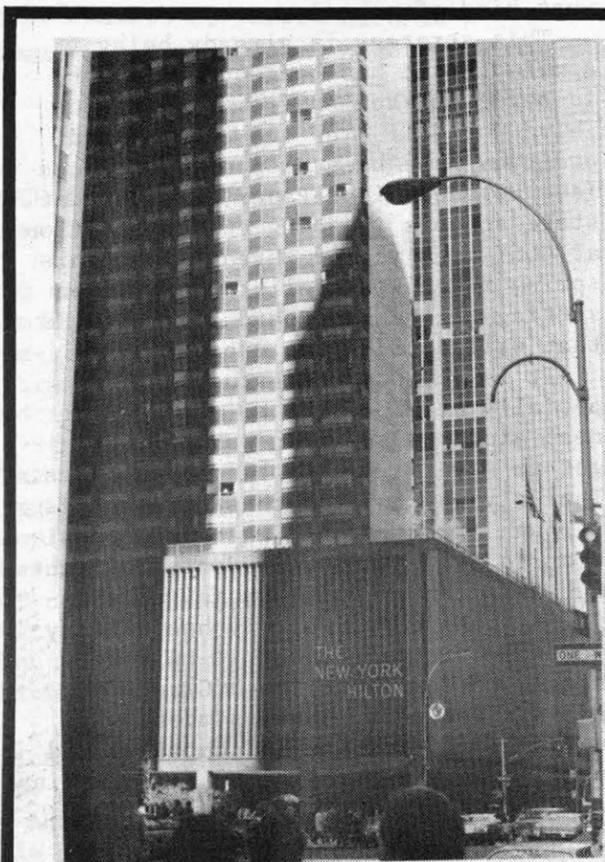
Now once again, the functioning of the center is being undermined. Students for Better Government, along with the administration that was so anxious to see them elected, is trying to make it seem that the Center is unnecessary--by throwing the place into such confusion that parents say "who needs this?"

But we do need the center. We need better facilities for the children, and qualified people to take care of them.

This is yet another example of how Open Admissions is being attacked: not openly, but by hitting the services without which it cannot be a reality--like adequate day care and financial aid.

* * * *

A hearing date was set for Dorothy and Jeanette for Dec. 21 before the Board of Directors, to appeal the Student Government's action. The meeting was cancelled when Student Government failed to show up. The meeting has been rescheduled for Jan. 11. People concerned about the Child Care Center can contact Tiger Paper, c/o Naomi Woronov, H343.



IS IT THE new MCC campus? The administration evidently thinks that it is. It frequently hires expensive ballrooms for meetings in posh hotels and then claims that it has no money for finan-

cial aid or to rehire part-time teachers. Pictured above is a faculty meeting in the Sutton Room at the Hilton.