CUNY EXPLODES
Demonstration Turned Disastrous

By Michael Garofalo

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

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

Police with mace and billy-clubs pushed students back, 11 police officers hospitalized for injuries and nine for students. Demonstrator Steve J. Pauzolis comments, “During the fight, for the most part, I was carrying people who were maced back to the stage.”

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

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

Governor George Pataki, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and Cuny officials all deny any responsibility for the violence that occurred at the rally. Giuliani states, “They’re supposed to be in school today.”

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

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

President of Student Government Lori Seggio replies, “If these cuts go through it will be very bad for CUNY next year. We’re underfunded as it is.”
TO COMBAT CUTS

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

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

For Release:
Immediate, Thursday
March 23, 1995

Statement By Governor
George E. Pataki

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

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

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

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

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

Student brought many signs with them denouncing Pataki

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

"Students and workers unite...Fight! Fight! Fight!"
SEEkIng RESTORATION IN ALBANY

By Jennifer Valle

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

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

The budget proposed by Pataki, if passed, will result in the complete loss of SEEK, as well as Graduate TA and Aid for part time study (APTS), and leave Financial Aid drastically cut. College funding for CUNY will be decreased by 27.5% ($156.1 million), funding for SUNY decreased by 32% ($269.5 million) and Independent colleges decrease by 4% ($6 million).

If the budgets go through as planned, it will result in the loss of thousands of jobs for SEEK advisors throughout CUNY and SUNY, roughly half of the adjunct teachers, and CUNY colleges will be forced to raise tuition by $1,000 in order to make up for the cuts (SUNY to raise tuition approximately $1,500), leaving no choice but for SEEK and working class students to take out loans or drop college.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Assembly representative Mr. Jaffe did mention afterward that Mr. Marchi was one of the founders of SEEK in the early 1960's and considered, "Senator Marchi will do all he can for SEEK." He concluded "we will try to soften the cuts and make the situation more equitable to the contingency."

Chancellor Reynolds commented, "The legislatures and assembly members have been thoroughly impressed by our students." Professor McPherson commented that the fight wasn't over yet stating, "We should keep the pressure on until we get restoration to CUNY."

SOLIDIARY AT MANHATTAN

by Jennifer Valle

Solidarity was the key at the March 16th rally as approximately 10,000 students swamped the streets and caused a forty-five minute traffic jam in the streets of Manhattan in hopes to get restoration for CUNY and SUNY.

The rally began outside of Lehman College and Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC). Thousands of students from Lehman, LaGuardia, and other CUNY schools marched. "Pataki says cut this, cut that," as they marched towards BMCC where they joined with another rally already in progress at BMCC. Hundreds of police officers lined the streets in fences formation as the students marched down Chambers street towards Liberty Avenue and Trinity Avenue. "If they (the rally) get out of line, they will lock 'em up" stated Police Officer Alonza as he watched for any signs of rioting.

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

The rallyists, blanketting approximately five blocks, shouted in agreement as the Honorable Larry Seabrook took the mike and shouted, "We're fired up, we can't take no more." He persisted, "Today we show a sense of unity...but we also show a sense of solidarity. We protest peacefully but we will also show that we have a right to protest. We are all from different countries...we may have come here on different ships but we're on the same boat now." Honorable Seabrook spoke of the one hundred students who were arrested from Hunter College on March 15th stating, "We will stand up for those students of Hunter. They didn't go to jail for selling drugs, they went to jail for standing up for education."

Students responded as they continued to rally for three hours.

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

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

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

The rally began to break up at 5:00 pm as students returned to classes.川rn Bowshock from the Professional Staff Congress/CUNY Union of Professional Staff commented. "When he [Pataki] restored capital punishment, we didn't think he wanted a death sentence for us. We won't stand for it."
They immediately assembled into a mock bake sale in front of Senator Marchi's district office on March 16th in order to gather student support. Governor Pataki's request that CUNY students seek private funding sources to make up for the 29% state aid cut which he proposed for the fiscal year of 2000 was purchased. "Maybe we should try again on pay day," stated student John Kim as he sarcastically continued. "Without a successful bake sale to offset the governor's cuts, CUNY may be forced to raise tuition by $1,000." Project leader with the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) and CUNY student Laura Miller commented, "The Pataki plan for CUNY really seems half-baked. The Governor should know that the ingredients of a college education cannot be bought, tuition, and more tuition. This is not a recipe that the working poor and middle class students of CUNY can easily swallow."

SECURITY LEARNS SIGN LANGUAGE

Security has been working in conjunction with the Resource Center for the Deaf to train peace officers to communicate with deaf and hearing impaired students and faculty on campus. "This is our second session of sign language," explained Director of Security Eugene Martinez. He continued, "We began the training last semester. We discussed this with Carol Lazarius and we felt that this training will help the peace officers communicate a lot better with the students who are deaf and hard of hearing." With approximately 60 students on campus who are hearing impaired and an expected double of that number in September, arrangements were made for Faculty member Gina L. D'Appolito to train security officers in two fifteen minute sessions once each week. Martinez commented, "With training, we will be able to service the students even more."

FUNERAL HELD FOR CUNY

Approximately 20 students held a mock funeral for CUNY on Monday, March 20th. Students gathered at 1 C-campus center with cardboard tombstones and a makeshift black coffin. They dressed themselves in "funeral procession" style and proceeded to "grieve" the loss of CUNY by the hand of Pataki and his proposed budget. "I'm going to really be affected with the financial aid cuts. I'm getting low Tat assistance now and now it's going to be gone." She continued, "There's nothing else for me. I'm supporting this funeral process in hopes to save my education." The mourners, dressed in black, carried the coffin to the front of the library where a short ceremony was held. Student Government President Lori Seggio commented, "It's appropriate that the funeral be held in front of a building that symbolizes the quest for knowledge." Seggio then called for a moment of silence. Director of the SEEK program, Gloria Garcia, commended the students for making the truth about the cuts known. NYPIRG Project Coordinator Michelle Gibbons commented, "This tragedy can still be prevented. The State Legislature still has the power to reverse the cuts." Mourners and CUNY student Stephanie Rogers commented, "There's no reason for high school students to stay in school when they know there won't be a college to go to." Gibbons ended the ceremony by encouraging students to call their Assemblyperson and Representatives stating, "There is still hope for the life of CUNY. We must keep calling on legislators to restore cuts so that we won't have to bury our education."

WSIA: BIG SIGN... BIG PROBLEMS

WSIA suffered a broken neon sign when 3 students were playing football in front of the campus center and accidentally hit the yellow neon tubing with the ball on Thursday, March 16. Director of Campus Center Mike Daniels expressed, "We are calling local people to get estimates in order to make the repairs." Although no one is sure as to the cost to fix the sign, Director for Student Services Allan DiBiase commented, "Why should students play football there (in front of the campus center) when they could injure someone." He continued, "It was irresponsible behavior and I strongly feel that the students responsible should pay for the damages." For now, the WSIA sign still is operable although it is missing an entire line of yellow neon within the red lining under the letters WSIA. Greg Adamo offered an idea to prevent further damage stating, "We will be looking intoplexiglass." DiBiase further commented on the situation stating, "You broke it, you pay for it."

MULTIPLE CAR THEFTS / BREAK-INS / TIGHTENS SECURITY

Along with major parking problems on campus, a rash of car break-ins and car thefts have occurred since January, five incidents of which occurred in the month of March. Within the third week of March (3/20 - 3/22) two cars were stolen and another three were broken into on the Willowbrook campus. According to reports, one 1986 Monte Carlo was damaged on March 20th. Aased budget. "I'm going to really be affected with the financial aid cuts. I'm getting low Tat assistance now and now it's going to be gone." She continued, "There's nothing else for me. I'm supporting this funeral process in hopes to save my education." the mourner dressed in black, carried the coffin to the front of the library where a short ceremony was held. Student Government President Lori Seggio commented, "It's appropriate that the funeral be held in front of a building that symbolizes the quest for knowledge." Seggio then called for a moment of silence. Director of the SEEK program, Gloria Garcia, commended the students for making the truth about the cuts known. NYPIRG Project Coordinator Michelle Gibbons commented, "This tragedy can still be prevented. The State Legislature still has the power to reverse the cuts." Mourners and CUNY student Stephanie Rogers commented, "There's no reason for high school students to stay in school when they know there won't be a college to go to." Gibbons ended the ceremony by encouraging students to call their Assemblyperson and Representatives stating, "There is still hope for the life of CUNY. We must keep calling on legislators to restore cuts so that we won't have to bury our education."

PEER SUPPORT: DO DROP IN

Over 50 students and staff members gathered at the Park Cafe when the Peer Drop-In Center held a reception to celebrate the opening of the new support center at 4:00 pm on March 22nd. First started February 6, 1995, the program began "slow, but has been picking up" explained Supervisor of the Peer Group and Wellness Coordinator Carol Brower. "This is a way for students to give back something to the school." explained Ms. Brower. With 16 students already trained as "peer educators" and participating in the program, the support center is open for calls from students who need information, referral to support agencies, or a person to talk to. "All of the peer educators took 2 days of training in January and each of them voluntarily work 3 hours each week," explained Brower. She continued, "The phone calls are all confidential and students are welcomed to come to the center to speak to our educators." The Peer office, located in 1C-112F, is open from 9 am - 5 pm from Monday - Friday, with the exception of Wednesdays when the office is open until 6:30 pm. All students seeking a friendly voice and support are encouraged to call the group at 982-3123.

SORRY 'BOUT THAT

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

By Aliaa A. Hemmer

Lately, I have been noticing just how much of the world is. People seem to have little respect for each other. There are few of us who have good morals. We need to raise our standards and teach our children to do the same. I have noticed that children are very impressionable. They like sponges; they soak up everything around them. If we want our children to be morally sophisticated from an early age, we must teach them the right things and make them believe anyone one is born bad. I think that people learn how to be born bad. In society today there are too many of us who are irresponsible and have no code of ethics. It’s a shame, but in my opinion the world has led us to this. The more we do to change, the more messed up the world is.

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

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

Now down to business. See that. She’s Hemmer.

There is no reason to continue in who may summon her secret service right. In your photo I have expected a more lively reaction especially at CSI. I can understand the desire of the administrators to maintain order within CSI that’s understandable. However, not for me it seems like we have a surplus of campus security here. I mean a classic example was the way the college handled security for Chancellor Reynolds and her visit. I mean her car was driven up to 1C with a security escort (keep as if a wild gunmen was on a roof and was going to shoot at her. I mean that’s ridiculous I can’t drive my car up to 1C why should she. In addition a security patrol escorted her on and off the campus. What the hell, she’s not the President of the United States also there were about twenty uniformed guards outside the Campus Center and a whole bunch of security in plain clothes inside the cafeteria. I suppose this was her secret service right. In your photo in the March 6 ed. of the Banner there is Borough Hall and you can clearly see the large number of protesters fighting the budget cuts and there is 10, 20, 30, or 40 cops guarding it only two. Now if two cops is enough to block a doorway for Guy Molinari all the security for this campus is. Oh the way she came on a Friday morning, on Fridays there is like not a soul to be found on campus. Good thing she didn’t come on a busy day like Monday, who knows we might have had to call out the National Guard for her.

As for this new unit and the liberal policy which has been adopted in no way’s damn it we just have to this to say, you may quell the protests against budget cuts however it does the people that have requested them to subordinate students are just hurting the effort to secure our education and their lamesess. You see they’ll suffer just as much as we will.

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

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

Well it looks as if the Banner has set up an elaborate penal system. But hey, if you keep writing letters we’ll keep printing them. Also we appreciate you taking the time to do. But as you say... We worked a reality check oneself.

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

This is why I respect our college’s president. You will see Springer eat lunch in the Campus Center like anyone else. And no, security preventing themselves along the rotunda to secure the president from a possible uprising.

As for the borough hall rally, there were 10-15 police officers for 50 to 60 protesters, depending on which newspaper you read. Since I was at both events I think it’s safe to say, you dramatized the scenario a little bit. Although, I feel that I have to agree with you on the fact that Reynolds’ appearance was paralleled with a security overkill. Guy Molinari quietly left for the day using the back entrance with none of the protesters aware of that fact till it was too late.