

# DISORIENTATION GUIDE 2008



*another orientation is possible...*

# NYU Disorientation Guide 2008

NYU is a corporation. **NYU Inc.** is a radical publication run by NYU students.

The 2008 DisOrientation Guide is a production of **NYU Inc.**

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## Groups!

Students Creating Radical Change  
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Earth Matters  
Community Roots  
Students for Education on Animal Liberation  
Tuition Reform Action Coalition

Thanks also to everyone who takes the time to read this zine. Hope to see you soon.

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# DISORIENTATION 2008

## AN INTRODUCTION TO STUDENT ACTIVISM AT NYU

Earlier this year, Jessica Roy, one of the many NYU students working 25+ hours a week and taking on thousands of dollars in loans to attend NYU asked university president John Sexton about following your dreams at this dream-school of ours while fighting the burden of sometimes crippling debt. This was President Sexton's response:

*Well, for students in positions like yours, I have to really wonder if you belong at NYU. Is the debt worth being here?*

The Disorientation Guide is a publication for those who believe students from all walks of life belong at NYU. This does not mean it is a publication for the merely righteously indignant – as students, we have power, and it is up to us to defend and use that power to improve the world. Hopefully this Disorientation Guide will be a first step in the road to empowering yourself as a student and human being in your 4 years attending NYU.

NYU is a school in a New York City that stands at a crossroads. The city many know and love as the hotbed for many of last century's cultural revolutions is under withering attack from rising rents, unaccountable police zealotry and the privatization of public space. NYU has a part to play in many of these transformations, and has been a focal point for many of the people trying to fight them. This guide is meant to give you a leg-up on the various ongoing struggles surrounding NYU as an institution.

In the face of these struggles, we believe that students should be at the forefront of changing NYU for the better. Students today are standing on the shoulders of decades of radical activists – from the Columbia building takeovers to the vanguard that spearheaded the 60s and 70s anti-war movement, students have rightfully been at the center of democratic social change. Now, it is up to us to use this historical position to confront contemporary social ills head-on, with radical energy.

Our school remains fundamentally undemocratic. We call this publication 'NYU Inc.' because NYU runs like a corporation, with decisions made on high from a dense and arrogant bureaucracy. From expansion plans to risky international ventures and tuition hikes - all of which directly impact the quality of education students get at NYU - important decisions remain the exclusive domain of President Sexton and the elitist cabal of CEOs and lawyers on the Board of Trustees. Each of the ongoing battles for animal rights, racial justice and environmental sustainability ultimately must confront this lack of student empowerment at the core of NYU.

NYU students should have power at their school. By its own account, NYU needs its students. The administration makes it clear that student tuition (which keeps increasing) makes up the bulk of NYU's operating budget. It also needs its students to supply the intellectual energy that makes NYU the dream school we know and sometimes love today. Students should have the power to determine the conditions of their study and the use of their tuition.

We want this guide to be a source of hope. By understanding the history of social movements at NYU, you can better understand how to change our university in the future. NYU's administration maintains its exclusive hold on power because NYU students feel demoralized about their ability to change their school; resigned to our fates, we shuffle towards graduation without turning an eye to the impact we can make in our few years at Washington Square.

We hope that the struggles documented here demonstrate that not only change is possible, but that a whole new NYU is possible - should we rise to demand it.

### LOVE AND RAGE,

Duncan + Disorientation Crew

# BUILDING CHANGE BUILDING HOPE ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

# NYU's Year of Struggles

## Looking Back at 2007-2008

At this point in your education, you've doubtless been told a great deal about NYU as an academic institution: the classes you can take, the best professors to take them with, and how valuable that NYU diploma will be in 4 years.

Here's a little bit of **catch-up on NYU as a political institution**. Last year the NYU administration kept its reputation of running our school like a real estate corporation, pursuing expansion projects across boroughs and continents while attempting to manage pushback from students and local citizens on issues of social justice closer to home.

### NYU Expansion and Construction: Purple People Eater

NYU's growth in 2007-8 was a series of firsts (and hopefully lasts). Right off the bat as fall classes started, NYU finished up an agreement with the Emirate of Abu Dhabi to establish **NYU Abu Dhabi**, a full fledged university located on an island in the Persian Gulf. Immediately, students and concerned faculty recognized potential problems for the university – building a full campus in Abu Dhabi poses risks to **worker's rights, queer students**, and others who will be subject to the anti-democratic whim of Abu Dhabi's **unaccountable government**. (See Page 20) These issues were raised soon after in a town hall with University President Sexton, who bumbled his way through a rudimentary 'trust us!' response that ended up on YouTube (search [sexton town hall]). NYU Abu Dhabi remains a source of controversy for the administration, spurring negative coverage from major New York City publications and a new activist group **NYU Students for Fair Labor in Abu Dhabi** asking NYU to ensure decent treatment of construction workers at the campus.

Expansion planning was big closer to home. NYU began a multi-year public discussion managed by its PR department called the **NYU 2031 Process**, meant to allow community comment on the next 25 years of NYU's growth in the city. Each meeting triggered different community reactions (generally from mild to irate), with NYU eventually crafting a joint statement with the Manhattan Borough President and the head of Greenwich Village Historic Preservation Society that agrees to non-binding planning principles for the next 25 years. In the mean time, the administration threw away some of that goodwill by threatening to **evict** one of the East Village's last remaining low-cost grocery stores (**Met Foods** on 2nd Ave) and suddenly threatening to demolish the **Provincetown Playhouse** on Macdougal St. Both of these decisions triggered **backlash** from preservationists and anti-gentrification activists.

Other big decisions include NYU's impending move to the outer boroughs. This summer, NYU completed a major acquisition of Brooklyn **Polytechnic Institute**, a move that effectively transforms Poly into an engineering department of NYU, and allows NYU access to all of Poly's real estate (as well as debt, a not terribly-small problem of its own). This provides a foothold for the administration to **move university functions, students and capital across the river**, a prospect that has more than a few long time Brooklynites concerned about the already too-rapid changes befalling the borough. Similarly, NYU opened its first dorm in Brooklyn, Livingston Dorm, for grad students.

The most visible story on campus remains **Washington Square Park**. (See Page 25) This travesty of a park remodeling began in the middle of winter in late 2007 (controversial park remodeling always begins in winter in New York City to deter community protest). Have no doubts: **NYU made the remodeling happen**. The school donated \$1 million to city parks for the renovation, and the Tisch Family provided even more. The Parks Department cleared the final legal hurdle for demolition in late 2007, and went right to work. The plan **cuts down trees, reduces seating space and fences in** much of the park. The net effect will be to eliminate spontaneous interactions and frustrate political gatherings. In March, a group of NYU students staged a protest called the Washington Square



Park Blowjob - community members wrote messages about the demolition on helium balloons, which were then tied up throughout the park, expressing visually the scale of exclusion required to demolish a historic community gathering space.

## Student Life: We are the University!

2007-2008 displayed the vibrancy and difficulties of student activism at NYU. One of the most visible developments last year was the beginning of the **Take Back NYU!** campaign, demanding that NYU's administration **disclose** its operating budget and endowment investments, and place a student representative on the Board of Trustees. (See Page 9) The campaign began in the early fall with the event **What is NYU Hiding?**, calling out NYU on its cagey secrecy that guards numerous policies supporting social injustice. The campaign developed throughout the year through discussions with student government and other student groups, and made news in the spring with a follow up event called **What is NYU Hiding in Abu Dhabi?**, helping instigate more student backlash to the administration's ventures in Abu Dhabi.

On the labor rights front, the **Graduate Student Organizing Committee** continued its battle for the right to represent its constituents. (See Page 12) After breaking the **Grad Student strike** in 2005, NYU established a 'company union' called the House of Delegates. When GSOC organizers won all the House's leadership positions and began making demands for the right to unionize and substantively improve the working conditions of grad students, the Administration balked, and **refused to deal** with the organization.

On the positive side, NYU continued the process of reforming its purchasing policies last year. 2 years after student activists forced the administration to **remove all Coca-Cola products** from campus because of the murders of union leaders at Coke bottling plants, an un-named group of people tried to re-introduce Coke products on campus. Allegedly Coke complied with a demand for a third party investigation of the murders, fulfilling the demands made by the Student Senate as conditions for having Coke on campus. Further investigation by student activists revealed many problems with Coke's claim to comply with the demands, and student senators defeated the proposal to introduce Coke back on campus.

Also, as a result of the efforts of campus **Oxfam**,

NYU continued moving towards sourcing **fair trade** products for sale on campus. After beginning the switch to fair trade coffee, the NYU Bookstore agreed to begin sourcing fair trade cotton for t-shirts sold in the bookstore. An ongoing struggle, Oxfam is considering a push for fair trade bananas in dining halls, as well as other projects on campus.

Late in the spring semester, the Student Senate made a partial concession to the **NYU chapter of Students Taking Action Now: Darfur (STAND)** by passing an advisory resolution asking the NYU administration to review its investments to assess the feasibility of divesting from the Sudan. The result of months of quiet pressure by STAND, the resolution raises the possibility of a divestment campaign in 2008-9.

In the spring, 5 New York City cops were **acquitted of all charges** for the shooting death of **Sean Bell** in 2006. A faulty prosecution and cop-friendly judicial system meant not-guilty verdicts on all counts. In response, the **NYU Center for Multicultural Education, C-Roots, LUCHA, Students Creating Radical Change** and others joined together for a 3-day series of events confronting systemic racism and police brutality in New York.

Finally, the NYU administration gave students a cold send-off heading into the summer break. In the last days of April, students received notification that tuition would rise yet again, **continuing a decade long streak of annual tuition hikes**. The raise was nearly 6% (the average increase) and again came with **little or no substantive explanation** as to where or why the money was being spent. With NYU's tuition, construction and foreign ventures all on the upswing, the **pressure is also rising** on the administration to create a more just and accountable university – a struggle that will be taken up yet again in the 2008-2009 school year.

- Duncan





# Daily Battles: NYU and White Privilege

By Andrés García and Martín Gómez of Community Roots

It is difficult to speak about white privilege in NYU. In an institution which prides itself on being "in and of the city," complaints of white privilege are often looked at skeptically, if not outright disregarded.

As students of color ourselves, we often feel shy of bringing up issues regarding race, fearing accusations of playing "the race card." Such reservations further add to feelings of isolation and alienation that students of color often experience on university campuses. These feelings are completely warranted, especially when one considers that white privilege is, in fact, a reality at NYU.

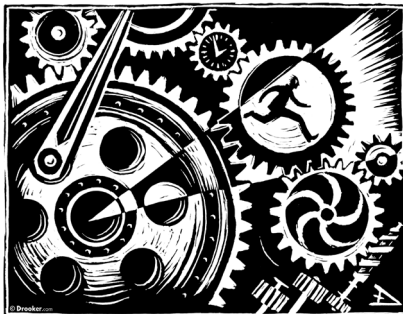
An equal opportunity educator such as NYU, which has a reputation for being fairly liberal, may not exhibit any blatant biases or partial treatment towards whites. Yet, it's important to remember that NYU does not exist in a social vacuum; the privilege manifests itself in the makeup of our student body. Whites significantly outnumber blacks and latinos at NYU. In 2006, out of nearly 41,000 enrolled students, 5.1% and 6.5% were black and latino, respectively. Meanwhile, a whopping 46.8% were white. This is indicative of how the privilege allotted to whites in society in general translates to the realm of higher education.

Entire books can and have been written on the ever present institutionalized racism that plagues people of color in the U.S. So rather than delve into the specifics regarding the societal disadvantages blacks and latinos suffer from, it would be of greater value to analyze what to do with this knowledge. How do we combat this ongoing obstacle, especially when attending a highly regarded and revered university such as NYU, an opportunity many of our black and latino peers do not have the resources to pursue?

While it would be foolish to insinuate we have the fool-proof solution to said dilemma, that should not prevent us from facing the issue of white privilege at NYU and how it manifests itself, i.e. through lack of racial and ethnic diversity, head on.

The aforementioned feelings of isolation and alienation we may experience can be particularly distressing. It is not uncommon to be one of a handful, at most, of black and brown students in your classes. Not surprisingly, this seems to contribute to a noticeable social pattern on campus, that of self segregation.

The "clique-ish" nature of NYU becomes more than apparent if you observe the racial makeup of students interacting with each other on campus. More often than not, you will see whites hanging out with other whites, blacks with other blacks, and so on. For students of color in particular, finding these social niches can potentially make or break our stay at NYU. Being significantly outnumbered can be incredibly intimidating, and being around "familiar" faces can definitely provide comfort.



That said, once again the questions arises: what do we do now? Well, if NYU will not spearhead any initiatives to combat white privilege and attempt to accept more students of color, we have to pioneer the movement ourselves. Of course, letters and appeals can be written to President Sexton and other officials regarding the matter, but substantial change will probably not occur during our stay at the University. That does not render these efforts useless though.

However, in addition to these long term initiatives, short term ones are needed to supplement them. We should try to make the effort to diversify our own circles and be outgoing towards members of different racial and ethnic groups at NYU. Though this will not help bring more minorities into NYU, it will help unify the existing student body. This may not be a viable or a desirable option for some of us. Culture shocks may ensue, as well as uncomfortable encounters. However, it provides some alternative to the seemingly never-ending stalemate in NYU's battle for diversity. At the end of our tenure at NYU, we can at least be with the effort we made to incite change in ourselves, and as a result, in the student body.

Contact C-Roots: [c-roots@lists.nyu.edu](mailto:c-roots@lists.nyu.edu)

Queer Union is NYU's largest student club fighting the multiplicative oppressions of race, class, gender and sexuality. We are the second oldest LGBT student organization in the United States,

founded in 1969 as the League of Student Homophiles by a group of NYU students, including Rita Mae Brown. Queer Union members have participated in historic demonstrations: the Weinstein sit-in organized by Sylvia Rivera, extensive involvement in ACT-UP, and coordination of the first College Queer Leadership Conference in the spring of 2004.

# Queer NYUnity



In addition to activism, Queer Union organizes a number of social events on campus for queers students and allies, including Diva Ball in the fall and Masquerade in the spring.

Queer Union fights to dismantle the multiplicative oppressions of neoliberal capitalism. Advocating with a focus on all students, we aim to increase awareness, build alliances, and actualize positive change. Informed by an intersectional framework, Queer Union interrogates the political economy of visibility through public education campaigns on issues such as immigration, gentrification, and marriage.

This year you can look forward to great events on subjects such as:

- The Law & Language of Identity Politics
- Tourism & the Politics of Desire
- Transgender folks & The Prison Industrial Complex
- HIV & Women of Color
- The Global Gaze: Human Rights & the Gay International

To join our list serve send a blank email to: [join-queer.union@lists.nyu.edu](mailto:join-queer.union@lists.nyu.edu).

For suggestions, co-sponsorships, or media inquiries, email us at: [queer.union.club@nyu.edu](mailto:queer.union.club@nyu.edu).

# feminism is dead.

That's what it seems like, at least. The media has construed feminists as a bunch of crazy man-haters who are hung up on issues that barely affect anyone. Clearly, women have the right to vote and work and all that jazz, what are feminists still upset about?

Originally, feminism began as a fight against patriarchy, a complex web of ideas, everyday practices, and ensconced institutions that systemically privilege heterosexual men. It sounds complicated, but it's not, even though it might be slightly more covert and complex than a conception of Victorian-era masculine domination.

Patriarchy is what is at play every time someone on the street whistles at you, turning you into a piece of meat rather than a thinking and breathing human being, in every assumption that someone's supervisor is a man, in every photograph of a woman's shaved legs, in every doubting inquiry into sexual assault. More than anywhere else, patriarchy is present in the heterosexual relationships so expected in college life. It's in every "walk of shame" ever experienced by a woman, rather than "a tranquil stroll home after spending the night with a lover"; every fake moan, fake orgasm, the very lack of orgasm to begin with; every time a female has told a partner she's on her period and they no longer wanted to touch.

Even in our classes, most of our professors are men, the books we read are written and edited by men, the figures we study are men, and the folks called on most often are men. At the health center, females are given appointments with male gynecologists without being asked if they're comfortable with such a situation. The doctors and nurses ask if we use protection and - making the assumption that women engage in intercourse with males - suggest the pill, the shot, or even Norplants, all of which mess with our hormones and are potentially carcinogenic. They suggest keeping a dose of Plan B around, just in case. They never suggest alternatives to tampons or pads and birth control pills. The very idea of menstrual cups or charting our fertility cycles is - like everywhere else - never mentioned.



Yet feminism is about far more than all this. It's about fighting about all the ingrained assumptions that separate "boy" and "girl" in our minds that at this point, seem completely natural, universal, and eternal - common sense, if you will. While feminism is especially identified with women, at its heart, it is a struggle concerned with smashing the conceptions in people's minds that women are like this and men are like that. It's about creating an egalitarian society where gender is understood as a social construction and allowing folks to create any identity they desire regardless of their physical sex.

The patriarchal system we live in is completely invested in the perpetuation of this model. If individuals rise against this oppression, the status quo pushes them back into their silence by writing them off as insane or by assimilating maxims like "girl power" into their latest marketing campaign. To fight this system, we must begin by understanding the relevance of feminism in our own lives. Whether male or female, girl or boy or in-between, straight or queer, feminism is pertinent to every single one of us. How can't it matter?

- beet





# TAKING NYU BACK

DISCLOSURE, STUDENT DEMOCRACY AND THE FUTURE OF NYU

Take Back NYU! is a campaign that seeks to address many of the problems cataloged in the Disorientation Guide by challenging the administration on the fundamental issue of democracy at NYU. Take Back! gets to the heart of many problems at NYU – a removed, arrogant administration that almost never needs to listen to the people it makes decisions about. Take Back NYU! has three basic demands:

1. Disclosure of NYU's operating budget
2. Disclosure of the school's endowment investments
3. The inclusion of a student on the Board of Trustees

TBNUY! began last fall as the outgrowth of a few different campaigns. Leading TBNUY! are members of the Tuition Reform Action Coalition, which tried to take steps to bring tuition hikes under control, and Killer Coke, a campaign that successfully removed Coca-Cola products from NYU's campus because of its connection to the murder of union leaders in South America. Other participants in the campaign include members of the Immigration Coalition, and members of Students for Education on Animal Liberation.

The various interests of Take Back's organizers demonstrate the broad appeal of the campaign, and the scope of problems associated with NYU as an institution. As shown in the student government article, decision makers at NYU almost never have to see an average student when deciding from on high that (for instance) tuition should increase, that your school is expanding to a foreign country, or that your favorite professor will be denied a raise to pay for another "rock-star" hire in the economics department.

Take Back NYU! wants to ensure that the folks calling the shots know their decisions are subject to public scrutiny and their deliberations require the inclusion of student's voices. Many troubling

decisions at NYU occur without the knowledge and consent of the people they impact. For instance, the negotiations and deliberations over NYU Abu Dhabi occurred almost entirely in secret before they were sprung on the student body last October. Real estate purchases (or decisions to demolish historic buildings) only become public after contracts are signed.

NYU's problems go farther than the public battles you will see before you graduate. Many students would like to know how much NYU spends on animal testing. Or, whether female professors make as much as their male colleagues. Others want to know whether NYU's investment in the sciences (for instance) measures up to our supposed peer institutions. Disclosing NYU's endowment investments would reveal whether NYU supports war mongering dictators in the Sudan, or war profiteers closer to home.

A student on the board of trustees would be another important first step towards democracy at NYU. At best, students now occupy advisory positions, forced to ask nicely for changes at the school they define and finance. Students make NYU an interesting, vibrant and prestigious school; denying them control over basic university decisions betrays the promise NYU made to be a "private school in the public service."

As a student helping organize Take Back NYU, I know that we're making big demands. However, I think this is a struggle we can win, because we hold the high ground. If the administration is truly acting in the interests of students and the community at large, they have nothing to lose from agreeing to our demands. Secrecy only protects corruption and incompetence; democracy can only build NYU into a stronger, more successful and just university.

-Duncan

# NYU'S STUDENT GOVERNMENT IS A SHAM. SO WHY AM I A SENATOR?

BY COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES SENATOR  
CAITLIN BOEHNE

Let's get one thing straight: I love NYU and I wouldn't rather be anywhere else. Allow me to clarify another thing: NYU's got some serious problems. And instead of excusing the way the administration treats its students, faculty and community, I've decided to get my hands dirty and create some change by being on the Student Senate.

There's a massive disconnect between NYU's decision-making structure and most people's idea of a well-run university. Transparency, collaborative decision-making, open meetings, input from those that are most affected— all these ideas are lost on NYU's administration. Decisions are made behind closed doors and doled out from the tippy-top, flowing down to the thousands of students and faculty that make up this university. Seriously, who actually likes to have pronouncements handed to them by some far-removed body made up of economic elites?

With a decision-making structure as undemocratic as ours, it's no wonder that NYU's student government is severely handicapped. Every student, faculty member, dean, and administrator on campus could shout a resounding "YES!" for any given cause at the top of their lungs and it would only take a whisper of "no" from 9 people to put the kibosh on their collective will. These

9 people, the officers of the board of trustees, pop in from time to time for a fancy luncheon with John Sexton, put in some quick votes on some big questions before jetting off in their limos to their high-rolling jobs without ever facing a single student. It's these 9 people— selected for their donations to NYU, not their knowledge about higher ed— who give the thumbs up on each and every decision that's made at our university. And there's no reason to think these rich, old men

**The Board of Trustees have no clue what it feels like to take a full course load and work 30 hours a week. Or to be in debt. Or how it feels to have someone tell them no.**

who are calling all the shots can relate to the majority of students at NYU. They have no clue what it feels like to take a full course load and work 30 hours a week. Or to be in debt. Or how it feels to have someone tell them no. Or to invest in— and make sacrifices for— something

(cough, our education, cough) and not have any say in it whatsoever.

That, in a nutshell, is why I'm a student senator. NYU's decision-making structure is a joke, and drastic reforms are needed to make it functional. So let's move! Let's fix this disaster! We are not just an overwhelming majority, we are the university — the students that learn and work, the faculty that teach, and the staff that run the show — and we deserve the power to determine how our university is run. Coming to a consensus on that won't be difficult, so what's stopping us from succeeding?

## 4TH STREET FOOD CO-OP

Open to the Public

58 East 4th Street

b/w Bowery & 2nd

New York City

212-674-3623

4thstreetfoodcoop.org



Local

Organic

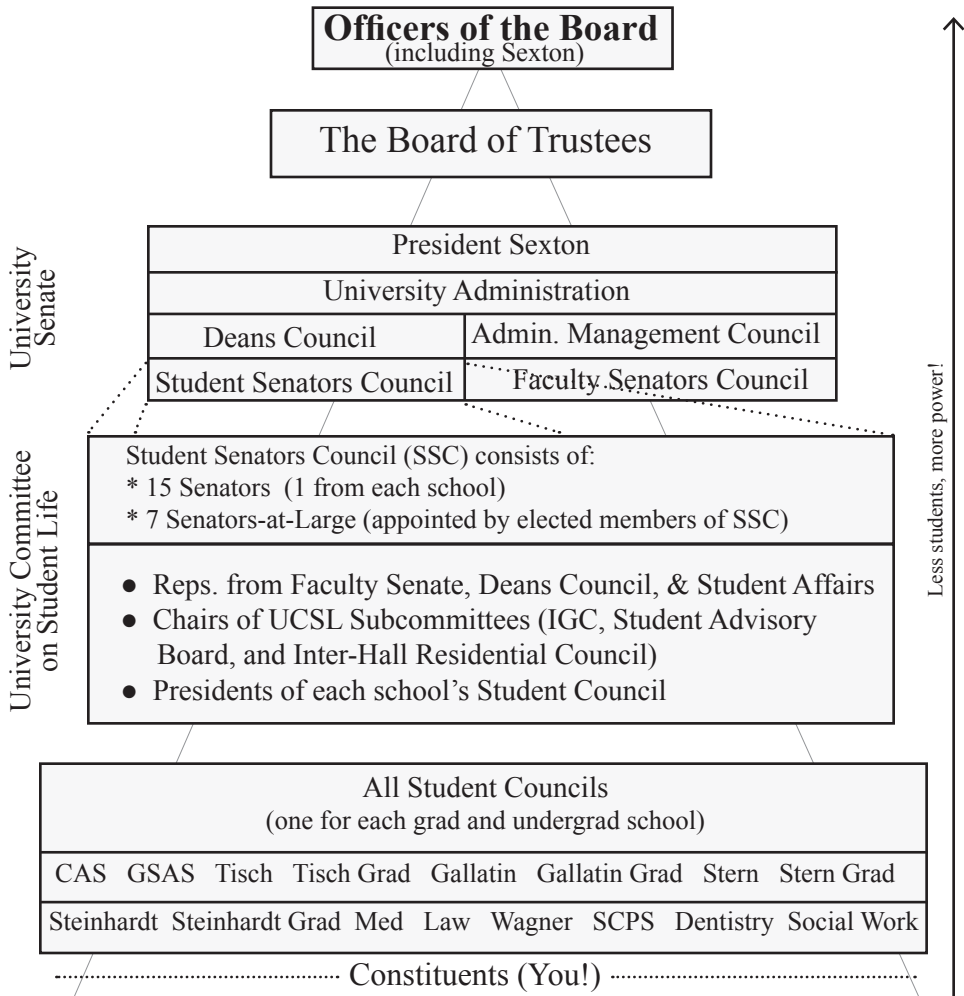
Fair Trade

Sustainable

Food for people, not for profit.

We have a more vested interest in ensuring the quality of our education, our degree and our life than any trustee does. NYU is just a blip on their radar, a check they write for prestige and power. NYU is what we eat, sleep, and breathe. Leave the decisions to us.

Just who are  
the trustees?  
Flip to page 26  
to find out!



**Board of Trustees:** Composed of 46 rich folks who buy their membership. Eight of the richest + John Sexton make up the officers of the board, who make all the important (read: \$\$\$) decisions. They are also the only individuals who have access to NYU's entire operating budget. Many of these dudes have been involved in shady business deals (see Trustee article). Oh, and the officers of the board are 88% white, 100% male, 100% rich, and 100% old. Sweet.

**John Sexton:** presides over the Senate, Cheney-style, and makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees

**All-U Senate:** Made up of student and faculty senators, deans, and some administrators. Actual voting rarely occurs here, it's more a tool the administration uses for information dissemination. Once, though, in 2005, the Senate actually pushed through a university-wide ban on Coke for unethical labor practices in their bottling plants. The most power a student or faculty senator has is the power to make recommendations to John Sexton, who will then relay the message (we hope) to the board of trustees. Senate meetings are closed, unless you can score a guest pass (ask your senator for one!).

**Student Senators Council:** Exclusively student senators. This meeting is also closed.

**University Committee on Student Life:** Student senators + alternate senators + student council presidents + some student life-y admin. This meeting is open, so come and listen to them discuss Strawberry Fest. Most discussion happens in committees, so this is really just an information spread-fest, like USenate.

**Student Council:** This is the base level of student government at NYU. Every undergrad and grad school at NYU has a student council. Student councils manage clubs within their respective schools and advocate for their students to the upper levels of student government, but most focus on building "a sense of community." Anyone can join and the meetings are always open. You can obtain voting rights in your student council if you attend a few meetings. Check here: [www.nyu.edu/stugov/councils.html](http://www.nyu.edu/stugov/councils.html) for info about your school's student council.

# NYU Works Because We Do: An Brief Introduction to Union Struggles at NYU

NYU is a corporation. In addition to “physical” goods (apparel, real estate) it also produces knowledge, ideas, credentials and emotions such as analytic philosophy and collegiality. Producing all this stuff requires multiple kinds of labor from lots of people. People who are increasingly forming unions. Workers form unions to cement their collective power on the shop floor, to protect against managerial exploitation, favoritism, and harmful shortcuts, and, of course, to fight for decent wages, health care, and other benefits.

NYU's graduate student teaching assistants (TA's) and research assistants make up the **Graduate Student Organizing Committee (GSOC)**, which is affiliated with the professional division of the **United Autoworkers (UAW)**. TA's and adjunct faculty do the vast majority of the teaching at NYU and many other universities. Their compensation is far lower than that of their tenured colleagues and they have no job security and little academic freedom, making them more easily replaceable and exploitable. Before



GSOC negotiated its first contract, TA pay scales were unequal from department to department AND within departments, while health care was inaccessibly expensive. Departments with more women and more students of color tended to pay less than the whiter, more male departments, too! TA's began to organize to change this system in 1997. Even after the federal government legally required NYU to negotiate with GSOC, TA's were forced to take to the streets and threaten to strike before the administration agreed to recognize their union and sign a contract with them. The first contract meant a 40% raise for TA's on average. Health care became affordable, and GSOC secured a grievance procedure to deal with problems that arose (faculty demanding TA's run personal errands or work more than the contract stipulates, etc.)



Photo: Gary He

At private universities, graduate employees have had to contend with an administrative strategy that denies that what they do is work—that erases their labor. President Sexton has repeatedly referred to teaching assistantships as not labor, but rather a “calling.” In 2004, Bush administration labor officials reversed precedent and ruled that graduate employees were ‘primarily students’ and therefore not entitled to legal protections. The NYU administration seized on this opportunity and refused to negotiate a second contract with GSOC, since it was no longer legally required to do so.

GSOCers again tried to persuade the administration to negotiate. But Sexton's only response was to declare the union a thing of the past. GSOC set a strike date as a last resort, and after President Sexton rebuffed a last minute entreaty from the faculty to negotiate with the union, hundreds of graduate student workers walked out. Undergraduates came out in droves to support them, and on November 30, 2005, hundreds of undergrads and grad students stormed Bobst library to demand a meeting with administrators, shutting it down in the middle of the day.

Two days earlier, President Sexton had emailed every striker, threatening to fire them from their jobs and blacklist them from future work for as many as three semesters if they did not return by a set date. These threats were ultimately successful in creating a climate of fear and frustration that led many to stop striking. But hundreds of TA's stayed out for over six months, even after twenty-five strikers were targeted for the promised “punishments” and lost their jobs. The strike ended over the summer of 2006 in a stalemate – the university was still not negotiating, but the union wasn't dead either, it was growing. Now GSOC is campaigning for federal legislation, supported by Senator Obama, that would restore their rights as workers under federal law.

**Adjunct faculty** formed a union at NYU in 2002. Exploitation of adjunct labor has been central to NYU's transformation into a top tier research institution over the last fifteen years, and numerous observers have represented this precariously employed lumpenprofessoriat as the dark underbelly of NYU's recent habit of poaching superstar faculty from other institutions. Indeed, in the last decade, NYU has been increasingly replacing TA work with people paid as adjuncts or postdoctoral fellows, creating a job structure in which people may teach less in graduate school, but will be without job security and benefits for much more of their careers. NYU's adjuncts unionized because of concern over the future of the profession as well as very pressing needs for immediate changes in the workplace: low pay, bad benefits, and a lack of office space and support. NYU again stalled in negotiating and a contract wasn't settled until Spring 2004 – after a strike threat. Undergrads organized to support the adjuncts by launching an "I ♥ My Adjunct Professor" campaign. The adjuncts belong to **UAW local 7902**, along with adjunct faculty at The New School, who negotiated their first contract in the fall of 2005. Like GSOC, the adjuncts union has been forced to rely heavily on the grievance procedure to enforce the terms of their contract. They've won many of these grievances, but the administration has been fighting them tooth and nail.

President: Joel Schlemowitz, contact: [nyu@actuaw.org](mailto:nyu@actuaw.org), 212-432-2120



**NYU's 1800 clerical and technical workers** have been members of **UCATS** (University Clerical and Technical Staff) AFT Local 3882 since 1979. Like counterparts at Yale and Columbia, UCATS has had a fraught relationship with the NYU administration, striking several times over its thirty year existence, including a three week strike in 1989 and a one week strike in 1996. The most recent contract between NYU and UCATS was signed in November of 2005 and lasts until 2011.

President: Stephen Rechner, contact: [Ucats@erols.com](mailto:Ucats@erols.com), 646-602-1485

NYU subcontracts its **food service** operations to the industry giant Aramark. Dining hall workers belong to **RWDSU/UFCW Local 1102**, a Long Island-based local that represents workers at H&M, Stony Brook, Ellis Island, and Saks Fifth Avenue.

President: Frank Bail, contact: 516-683-1102

NYU's physical plant workers are members of the **International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 810**, which represents 4,000 members across four states. Besides NYU maintenance workers, Local 810 represents "truck drivers, ambulance drivers, warehouse workers, hospital and university maintenance workers, engineers, lab and manufacturing technicians, auto mechanics, chemical production workers, librarians salespersons, and steel, metal and machine shops."

President Lou Smith, contact: [info@local810.org](mailto:info@local810.org), 212-691-4100

**391 NYU Security guards** belong to their own independent local, unaffiliated with an international union, the **Security Officers Union Local 1**. In the past, security guards have found fault with how NYU assigns overtime and with the university's negotiating strategies.

President: Mike Pidoto

NYU's **custodial and grounds workers and window cleaners** all belong to **SEIU Local 32BJ**, a massive local which includes over 100,000 workers along the eastern seaboard and is the largest building services local in the U.S. Local 32BJ holds citywide contracts with major building services subcontractors and wins strong contracts by mobilizing for citywide strikes. Local 32BJ has five different contracts at NYU.

President: Mike Fishman, contact: 212-388-3800



Why should students care about the union struggles of campus workers? Well, for starters, because students are workers too—and many of us work for NYU. This may sound odd, because most of us don't usually think of ourselves as workers. We see ourselves as college students at a prestigious university—with the exciting lifestyle that entails—who just happen to have a job on the side to earn some extra money. It's no surprise that we think this way because universities, employers, and politicians have a vested interest in college students thinking as little as possible about their place in the larger economy. But if we take a minute to see how we fit into things, it's easy to see that we're getting screwed—and that our complacency about tuition hikes, diminishing financial aid, and our low wage jobs is making life harder for just about everyone else outside the university.

In the United States today about 20% of undergrads don't work at all, 50% work an average of 25 hours per week, and 30% work full-time or more, sometimes holding down multiple jobs while taking classes. This means 10 to 12 million undergrads are in the workforce at any given time.<sup>1</sup> At NYU we work on campus, swiping ID cards and making copies for near minimum wages, and we work off-campus in restaurants and stores. At campuses outside of big cities, students are seen as a prime labor force for warehouse, shipping, and other types of industrial work.

Despite all the time we divert from studying and other activities to our jobs, the money most of us make doesn't even make a dent in the total cost of tuition and living in New York City. We depend on money from our parents, financial aid, and, most importantly loans, loans, and more loans. Why? Because over the past three decades the cost of going to college has been going through the roof for students at public and private schools alike. From 1995 to 2005, inflation-adjusted tuition costs increased 36% at private colleges and 51% at public schools.<sup>2</sup> NYU is leading the pack. Since 2002, NYU has raised tuition by at least 5% every year, meaning you are now paying \$14,778 more per year than a freshman in 1999. NYU claims it is forced to hike tuition to cover teaching costs, pitting undergrads against grad student instructors and faculty in the process. Yet, despite years long campaigns by students, faculty, and campus unions, the administration refuses to disclose any financial information which would prove this. Meanwhile the administration sinks millions of dollars into acquiring new property all over New York

**14** City and building new campuses around the world. Not to mention, giving themselves fat

raises: in the 2003-04 fiscal year, when Sexton raised tuition 5.3%, he gave himself a whopping 16% raise, bringing his personal compensation package up to \$897,139!

Moreover, in a sick, counter-intuitive twist, universities across the country have been raising tuition to attract more students. Recruiters found that raising the cost also raises the prestige of a

school since it implies a better education is being offered. More students, and ones with better grades and SAT scores, then apply, boosting the schools' ranking in *U.S. News & World Report*, and other indexes. This forces others schools to raise

their fees, in order to compete.<sup>3</sup> NYU pioneered this scheme when it transformed its image from a commuter school to a top-flight research institute in the 1970s and 80s. All this is happening as the federal and state governments are cutting their direct subsidies to universities (redirecting funds to the military) as well as their support for financial aid programs, such as the Pell grants, and increasingly offering grants and loans based on "merit" rather than on need.

What does all this mean? Simply put, it is becoming harder and harder for people in the U.S. to go to college, and universities are once again becoming preserves for the white and the privileged (since race and class are so closely linked), like they were before World War II. It's not a coincidence that these changes in higher ed have taken place at the exact same time that the economy of the country as a whole has undergone drastic changes (deindustrialization and globalization)—with a tiny elite becoming disgustingly rich, while wages have declined and job security has evaporated for most working and middle class people. Companies have worked to bust unions, cut back wages, and make jobs part-time and temporary and outsourced, transferring more money and power to owners and executives. ("The share of the national income taken by the top 1% of income earners in the US more than doubled between 1980 and 2000 while that of the top 0.1% more than tripled."<sup>4</sup>)

As student-workers we fit into this increasingly unequal and unjust economy in at least three ways: 1) we serve as a low-wage labor pool in the short term, 2) we reproduce "cognitive" capitalism in the longer term through our studies, 3) all the while becoming accustomed to a state of permanent indenture.

To meet raising tuition, we have to work more. But when we don't think of ourselves as workers, we are more willing to accept mediocre

# WORK STUDY INDENTURE

or bad conditions and pay because it seems temporary. Major companies now count on this and have been moving aggressively to hire thousands of undergrads for this very reason. Marc Bosquet shows, for example, how UPS partnered with local colleges in Louisville, KY, to hire thousands of students to unload trucks from midnight to 4 am, five nights a week, with promises of tuition remission to supplement paltry wages. The majority of students never got the benefits because their jobs lead them to flunk or drop out. Yet the constant stream of "students" has allowed UPS and other companies to avoid hiring permanent employees more likely to fight for a livable wage and sane working conditions. True, NYU hasn't yet sold its students down the river in so blatant a fashion, but its Wasserman Center, like student employment offices at most universities, does essentially function as a temp agency, offering us as low wage and disposable labor to all types of local employers.

But let's be clear: at high-price outfits like NYU, our primary financial relationship is not one of employment, but one of debt. The average student debt upon graduating from NYU in 2008 is \$33,637, the highest of any of the top 50 private schools in the country! This amounts to a new form of indenture: from the age of 18 we learn that we will always be in debt, always struggling to pay off student loans, mortgages, and credit cards. This is how the illusion of the American Dream is maintained; as prices rise while wages stagnate and good jobs become harder to come by, we are encouraged to keep on buying—just on credit. With all that debt hanging over us upon graduation, we're more likely to take the higher paying job working for big-business than the modest-paying one working for social justice and doing what we really love.

Perhaps the hardest thing for most of us to get our heads around is that we are already workers not just when we are waiting tables or shelving book at the library, but when we are sitting through a lecture or writing a paper—when we are being students. In this late stage of capitalism, owners don't just make their profits from people who manufacture things in factories, but also from the production of new knowledge, scientific innovations, and the shaping of how people feel. So in producing us as highly-skilled, highly-trained cognitive workers, capitalism is reproducing itself. Without a new crop of professionals a few years down the line, the system couldn't keep working: like the structurally unemployed, or a parent raising kids to be new workers, we already fill a role in the economy whether we get a paycheck or not. This is easiest to see when we consider internships. Thousands of employers—primarily for-profit corporations—depend on students working unpaid internships to complete day-to-day tasks.

Employers justify the countless hours of free labor students donate to them by labeling the work a learning experience. But what's to differentiate that unpaid training from the training we get in the classroom, especially given the declining focus on humanities and acquiring "knowledge for its own sake" in universities increasingly focused only on producing well-trained workers?

The only question, then, is on who's terms, and for who's benefit, are we going to be student-workers? Our struggles as students to lower tuition, to raise the amount of public funds going to education rather than war, to have better jobs on and off campus, to support affirmative action, to demand gender and ethnic studies courses, and to fight for open admissions, are struggles over distribution of wealth, and therefore power, in our new Gilded Age. They are part of the larger struggle to make sure no one is excluded from the right to a decent living, meaningful work, and, ultimately, happiness. This means our struggles over classes are, actually, part of class struggle. When we don't take on these fights we make life harder for ourselves (and our parents!) now and in the future, and we let down other workers in more dire circumstances trying to win some respect and put food on their families' plates.

So what can we do? French students provided an inspiring example in 2005-2006 when they organized nationwide student strikes, and then took to the streets by the hundreds of thousands, to defeat a bill that exempted employers of college students from important labor laws. In the 1990s students at CUNY organized the Student Liberation Action Movement (SLAM) to fight steep tuition hikes at the New York's public universities. In recent years NYU students have formed a Tuition Reform Action Coalition (TRAC) and a Campaign to Take Back NYU, which have demanded economic transparency and an end to unjustified yearly tuition hikes. Students have power when they form student unions rather than simply rely on student government. How struggles over the economics of higher education unfold over the next four years is ultimately up to you and other incoming students. But the recent experience of student-worker activists has shown the absolute necessity to:

**•DEMAND AN IMMEDIATE MORATORIUM ON TUITION HIKES**

**•FIGHT POLITICALLY FOR MONEY FOR FINANCIAL AID, NOT FOR WAR**

**•SUPPORT OTHER CAMPUS WORKERS IN THEIR STRUGGLES TO ORGANIZE UNIONS AND WIN FAIR PAY AND WORKING CONDITIONS**

(See references on page 21)

# AN ACTIVIST MAP TO MAKE YOU DROOL...



## A Short Lesson in Radical Lower Manhattan History

Follow the numbers to find out where rad events have happened here in the past

### 1. 53 Christopher Street

Site of the Stonewall Inn, where in 1969 riots gave birth to the gay liberation movement in the U.S.

### 2. White Horse Tavern

567 Hudson Street

Gathering place for many members of 60's bohe-

**16** mian culture as well as labor rights leaders.

### 3. 23-29 Washington Place

Site of the TRIANGLE SHIRTWAIST FACTORY FIRE -- the largest industrial disaster in the history of the city of New York, causing the death of 148 garment workers who either died from the fire or jumped to their deaths.

### 4. 1 Bowling Green

Site of the former Fort Amsterdam which

served as administrative headquarters for the Dutch and British up until the end of the American Revolution. It was set on fire by poor whites and blacks in 1741 as part of a supposed plot to revolt and level NYC by fire. It was also the site of the Algonquin Indian massacres.

5. 605 East 9th Street

Formerly P.S. 64 and the Charas/El Bohio Cultural Center. After this school closed down it was established by squatting artists as a radical community center (Charas/El Bohio). The building was recently made a historical landmark.

6. Tompkins Square Park

On August 6-7, 1988, Police battled with “residents” of the park; people who had taken up residence in the park and who refused to abide by the recent curfew restrictions. The police brutality witnessed at this riot was some of the worse people had seen in years.

7. 539, 541 and 545 East 13th Street

In 1995, cops battled squatters at these addresses for twelve hours. Some squatters had been living in these buildings for close to ten years and had worked to make the buildings habitable again. Residents and neighbors participated in peaceful protest in order to keep their homes.

8. 23 5th Avenue

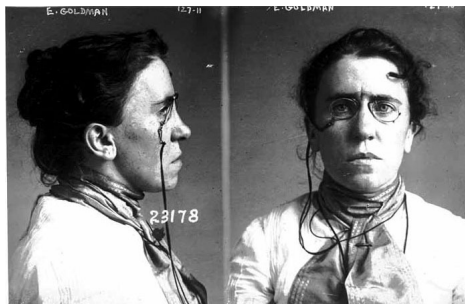
Home of Mabel Dodge, a patron of the arts who held a weekly “salon” at this site. Radicals such as Emma Goldman, Margaret Sanger, “Big Bill” Haywood, Lincoln Steffens, and John Reed, were often in attendance.

9. 18 West 11th Street

Site of the WEATHERMEN HOUSE. The radical group known as the Weathermen, or the Weather Underground, were assembling a bomb to use at Fort Dix when it prematurely detonated, killing three members of the group and destroying the house.

10. 208 East 13th Street

Former home of radical activist, EMMA GOLDMAN.



11. New York Stock Exchange

Hey what's the stock exchange doing on here?! Yes my friends, there have even been radical happenings within the city's greatest center for capitalism. In 1967 Abbie Hoffman declared the death of money and led protesters into the NYSE gallery. They proceeded to throw handfuls of money (mostly fake) at the traders below. After this incident the gallery was enclosed in bullet-proof glass.

12. Five Points

One of the most notable slums in New York History.

## The Brecht Forum

“The Best Place to Start Thinking About the Revolution”

-Village Voice

The Brecht Forum is a radical space promoting social justice, equality and a culture that puts human needs first. Combining cutting edge theory with an activist lean, the Brecht is the home for avant garde music, performance arts and politics.

Featuring: Classes in Spanish, Marxist Theory, theater arts and popular education and organizing.

The Brecht Forum. Building a Movement that Moves.

451 West Street (Between Bank and Bethune)\*212-242-4201\* [www.brechtforum.org](http://www.brechtforum.org)

## Radical Resources in Manhattan (Get off your butt and make your own history!)

### A. Bluestockings Radical Books

172 Allen Street

(212) 777-6028

A co-operative, not-for-profit radical bookstore. One of the few remaining in all of New York City! \$1 coffee and lots of great events to fulfill your radical and literary needs!

### B. Elmer Holmes Bobst Library

70 Washington Square South

(212) 998-2630

Did you know that you have a radical resource right under your nose? The Tamiment Library on the 10th floor of Bobst Library is a great way to learn about radical and labor movements in the US. It is open to the public so anyone (i.e. your non-NYU friends) can get into Bobst if they are (first) going to Tamiment.

### C. ABC No Rio

156 Rivington Street

(212) 254-3697

An Artist Collective, Radical Center and Zine Library among other things. ABC No Rio also hosts a weekly hardcore/punk matinee on Saturday afternoons as well as such radical and activist collectives as Food Not Bombs, Books Through Bars and the Lower East Side Biography project. Also a great zine library (if you're interested in zines, be sure to check out Bluestockings and the Barnard Zine Library at Columbia)!

### D. Judson Memorial Church

55 Washington Square South

(212) 477-0351

Baptist Church devoted to often-controversial social outreach programs as well as art programs and performances.

### E. Lower East Side Tenement Museum

91 Orchard Street

(212) 431-0233

Museum dedicated to the immigrant history of the Lower East Side.

### F. Henry Street Settlement: Abrons Arts Center

**18** 466 Grand St

(212) 598-0400

Progressive Arts Center that offers arts programs and performance to Lower East Siders as well as other NYC residents. Henry Street Settlement also offers shelter, daycare and health services as well as many other programs that enrich the lives of New Yorkers.

### G. Brecht Forum

451 West Street

(212) 242-4201

A center for arts and education dedicated to social justice in the New York cosmopolitan area. The Brecht Forum hosts a variety of events from lectures and classes to movie screenings and art exhibitions.

### H. 4th Street Food Co-Op

58 East 4th Street

(212) 674-3623

The only volunteer-run food co-operative in Lower Manhattan. Join today! If you don't join, no worries, you can still shop anyway!

### I. Culture Project

55 Mercer Street

(212) 925-1806

Theatre that brings talented actors and writers together to put on politically and socially relevant pieces. Tischies take note.

### J. Time's Up

49 East Houston St

(212) 802-8222

Bikes, bikes, bikes. If you have ever wanted to ride a bike or learn how to fix a bike or just learn some more about bikes, this is the place. Time's Up! also hosts events, including some awesome parties after Critical Mass.

### K. Housing Works Bookstore Cafe

126 Crosby Street

(212) 334-3324

Used bookstore and volunteer-run cafe whose proceeds go towards fighting AIDS and helping the homeless and other low-income families of New York.



L. Bowery Poetry Club  
308 Bowery  
(212) 614-0505  
Poetry and Revolution go together nicely.

M. Nuyorican Poets Cafe Inc  
236 East 3rd Street  
(212) 505-8183  
What did I say before about poetry and revolution?

N. LGBT Center  
208 West 13th Street  
(212) 620-7310  
A hub of LGBT activists, organizations, services, and educational materials. If NYU doesn't meet your LGBT needs, be sure to check out

the myriad of services that this 25-year old center has.

O. Saint Marks Church  
131 East 10th Street  
(212) 647-6377  
Like Judson Church, this church is devoted to social activism. Be sure to check out Reverend Billy's satirical Church of Stop Shopping.

P. War Resisters League  
339 Lafayette Street  
(212) 228-0450  
[www.warresisters.org](http://www.warresisters.org)  
An 80+ year old radical pacifist organization. The WRL organizes against war and for nonviolent revolution locally and nationally

## Resources and Organizations Too Rad for the Map

The Independent  
[www.independent.org](http://www.independent.org)  
A free alternative newspaper dedicated to empowering citizens by encouraging them to produce their own media. The "Indy" always has a good mix of local and national radical news, reviews, and a great calendar of social justice events in the city. Pick one up or get involved and write for it!

Left Turn Magazine  
[leftturn@leftturn.org](mailto:leftturn@leftturn.org)  
A volunteer-run activist magazine that serves as a resource to grassroots movements by reporting on and analyzing local and global struggles for justice. Through media, these activists are working towards building a resistance and alternatives to corporate power and empire.

Movimiento por Justicia en el Barrio  
[movementforjusticeinelbarrio@yahoo.com](mailto:movementforjusticeinelbarrio@yahoo.com)  
An Organization inspired by the Zapatista struggle in Mexico to fight the displacement of low-income people from East Harlem. Movimiento also addresses other problems effecting Spanish-speaking immigrants at work and in the neighborhood, such as sexual harassment and police brutality.

Immigrant Justice Solidarity Project  
[www.ijspnyc.org](http://www.ijspnyc.org)  
An organization taking on important support

work for radical immigrant rights organizations such as Domestic Workers United and DRUM.

Audre Lorde Project  
[www.alp.org](http://www.alp.org)  
ALP works to build the power of queer folks of color to fight for safety and equality, with projects focused on problems faced by youth, transgender folks, and immigrants.

Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM)  
[www.drumnation.org](http://www.drumnation.org)  
An organization that empowers South Asian low wage immigrant workers in New York City. DRUM organizes around immigrant rights, racial, economic and social justice.

FIERCE  
[www.fiercenyc.org](http://www.fiercenyc.org)  
An organization focused on the rights of the LGBTQ community. Among other campaigns, FIERCE works "to counter the displacement and criminalization of LGBTQ youth of color and homeless youth at the Christopher Street Pier and in Manhattan's West Village."

Jews for Racial and Economic Justice (JFREJ)  
[www.jfrej.org](http://www.jfrej.org)  
JFREJ engages Jews to pursue and win racial and economic justice in partnership with Jewish and allied people of color, low-income and immigrant communities in New York City.

# EXCHANGE STUDENTS FOR DOLLARS

## NYU'S GLOBAL AMBITIONS

You hear NY, obvi. But maybe you're at NYU because you also have a crush on Paris, Shanghai, or Accra. I came to NYU stoked to take advantage of programs abroad and started plotting where I'd go even as a freshman. The glossy brochures make it well-known how easy it is to spend a semester on a different continent (Credits transfer! Financial aid too!), but what NYU doesn't tell you is what it is gaining from sending you across the globe.

First of all, it's easy to imagine why NYU favors this massive global expansion. NYU had a bad run in the 80s, almost went bankrupt before re-establishing itself as a credible institution. Problem is, we only have a really teeny \$2 billion endowment, compared with awesome Harvard and its awesome \$35 billion. John Sexton is not about to go down in the books as the president of an almost-Ivy. So, instead of measuring figurative dicks in endowment dollars, NYU wants to change the rules of the game and be sized up by its global prowess.

Second, trafficking students overseas also frees up a lot of valuable housing space in a very overcrowded NYC. NYU boasts its very own satellite hot-spots in London, Madrid, Florence, Paris, Prague, Berlin, Shanghai, Buenos Aires, Accra, and Tel Aviv - NYU relies on students to go abroad in order to make its housing ends meet. Did you know that there are actually students who are only admitted to NYU on the condition that they'll spend their first semester in Florence? By 2010, NYU's goal is to have railroaded 50% of its students abroad at least once. Is this borne of a desire to increase students' global knowledge and cultural competence? Perhaps. As an example of potential financial pitfalls of this strategy, NYU has been forced to create an extra, fall-only study abroad scholarship to shuffle students out the door in the less-popular semester (never mind that it stuffs a tuition hike down its students' throats every year and that financial aid sucks ass).

NYU's Study Abroad Empire

So what? NYU gets to brag and I get to spend a semester kicking it without a fake ID. Where's the harm in that? Here's the thing—NYU operates in a world where the interactions between individuals of different nationalities are complicated by histories of colonialism, race, privilege, and differential access to power and resources. The fact that NYU can kick down the door of a country and invite itself in demonstrates how NYU benefits from this history of oppression. Though foreign cities obviously gain certain advantages by hosting a prestigious American university, NYU negotiates with its partners in Buenos Aires or Shanghai on an uneven playing field (Just try and picture the University of Ghana plopping down in the Village and asking a bunch of New York bigwigs to teach its classes).

The concept of study abroad implies some element of cultural exchange, but NYU doesn't do exchange, it does domination. By building our own school at so many sites, NYU gives the impression that the local way of running the show is second-rate. Not only is that just insulting, it's also counterintuitive to the purported aims of study abroad—NYU puts up literal and figurative walls that insulate us from what we're supposed to be learning about.

Even more valuable than learning about other cultures should be the opportunity to think critically about global systems of racism and oppression, and examine your own place within them. For a privileged American, these conversations are unlikely to occur constructively without real institutional support. NYU has little to gain from encouraging students to engage in this sort of critical discussion of power structures because it has a vested interest in maintaining them as they facilitate its global expansion. Instead of helping students acquire the tools they would need to truly tackle global prob-

lems, NYU turns Shanghai and Buenos Aires into cultural theme parks.

## NYU-AD: A Whole New World

Last year, amidst a flurry of secrecy and confusion, NYU unveiled the crowning jewel on its global crown: NYU-Abu Dhabi. This satellite campus is no study abroad site; it's a full-blown, 4-year branch of NYU. Located in the United Arab Emirates and paid for by the crown prince of Abu Dhabi, NYU-AD is a literal manifestation of NYU as a brand name.

Middle Eastern and Asian students will show up on the first day of classes at NYU's private island, and walk out 4 years later with the same NYU degree as you and I, without ever having set foot in New York. What's so "in and of the city" about that? NYU alumni are sought out because of the education we receive living in the classroom that is New York City. Our NYU degree should be a testament to our ability to engage the unique urban-milieu of New York City while still getting shit done. Also, there will be no semblance of academic freedom - crucial to the free-spirited style of education at NYU - because the NYU-AD campus will be tenure-free, which means professors won't have the job security to support free speech.

Whether or not we condemn Abu Dhabi and its governments' ways or whether we endorse some amount of a cultural exchange, NYU is headed into a pretty serious relationship. A relationshit, I might add, that Harvard and Yale turned down first.

Some serious consideration should also be given to the fact that NYU wants to plunk down in the middle of a kingship that forgoes women's rights under Shari'a law, remains hostile with Israel and its citizens, imprisons and deports homosexuals, and allows systemic abuse of migrant workers through unfair labor and immigration policies.

By physically building a campus there, we not only endorse these questionable human rights situations, we may very well involve ourselves in them. The horrific treatment of construction workers in the UAE has been well docu-

mented by Human Rights Watch and, as of yet, NYU has no protections in place to ensure that the workers subcontracted by the crown prince to build the physical institution are working under safe, humane conditions and for a fair wage (for more on this: <http://fairlabornyu.wordpress.com/>).

Besides the phenomenally icky feeling you would get from knowing your school is allowing your new campus to be built by immigrants who work for pennies in 110-degree weather, without medical coverage for falls or the right to organize, the human rights violations NYU commits will tarnish your degree. People (like your future employer) will lose respect for an institution that sells itself to a government that doesn't ensure basic human rights to wide segments of its society.

Studying abroad and creating space for cultural exchange is great, no doubt. Necessary, even, in the increasingly globalized world in which we live. Far more than the majority of students I know that studied at various NYU sites had a fantastic semester, many even life-changing. The point isn't to condemn the opportunities NYU has provided for us: it's to condemn the ways it goes about giving us these opportunities. NYU's motives are to expand, and our experiences abroad are just a byproduct, procured by taking advantage of privilege gaps. NYU keeps building and growing outside of Washington Square, very often in an underhanded, inconsiderate style. A friend once said, "Like the British Empire, the sun never sets on NYU." Let's hope NYU meets better ends.

-Caitlin Boehne

References for Work/Study/Indenture (cont. from page 15)

The thinking in this article was inspired by the following books and essay—check them out!

- Marc Bosquet, *How the University Works: Higher Education and the Low-Wage Nation*, (New York: NYU Press, 2008)
- Monika Krause et al., eds., *The University Against Itself: The NYU Strike and the Future of the Academic Workplace*, (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2008)
- Nick Dyer-Witheford, "Cognitive Capital and the Contested Campus" available at: <http://www.data-browser.net/02/DB02/DyerWitheford.pdf>

## Footnotes:

- 1 Bosquet, *How the University Works*, 150.
- 2 Green, *The University Against Itself*, 84.
- 3 Green, *The University Against Itself*, 88-92
- 4 David Harvey, *Limits to Capital*, xi.

# Activism Shmactivism

By Nate Maton

Pop culture presents a stereotyped image of an “activist” like it does of every other social type: biker, cheerleader, gangster, etc.. But being an activist isn’t just about marching through the streets screaming or creating the non-profit to save the world. It requires understanding that different people have different roles to play in creating change.

Making a systemic impact on any social issue requires a gigantic collective commitment. There’s no way one activist can end poverty, save the environment, and create an egalitarian society. To prevent burn out, an activist has to be practical, actively working on one or two campaigns, while supporting others. Here’s a rundown that expands the connotations of the term activist and summarizes different ways to create change:

On one level there are activists who circulate petitions, show up to protests, and do volunteer work with plenty of heart but too little strategy. These are the activists the media love to portray because they are so easy to mock: the screaming hippie, the whale saver, and the soup kitchen volunteer. There is nothing wrong with their actions, but often they fail to analyze the underlying causes of the specific problems they identify and to organize others to act against.

Then there are organizers and long-term change makers working in progressive institutions such as non-profits, community groups and political campaigns. They are vigilantly pursuing sustained campaigns and exerting pressure at a variety of strategic points to accomplish specific objectives. These organizers set the stage for the activists described above to flood in and do what they enjoy, the touchy-feely and dramatic stuff. They shape the ideas and goals that others pursue in day to day struggles.

In addition, there are lifestyle activists. They embody Gandhi’s instruction to “be the change you

want to see” by making daily decisions in accordance with their beliefs. This could include unlearning sexist ways of interacting, eating vegan, boycotting Nike and other exploitative companies, or riding a bike instead of owning a car. The individual might not even know that millions of others are making the same choices. However, danger lies in thinking social change is simply about making consumer choices: then you’re not an activist, you’re a profitable new marketing niche. To effectively create change, lifestyle activism usually requires the other two types of social change work mentioned above to support it. At the same time, it supports the other two types by creating financial incentives for systemic change and modeling new ways of living.

While some might not consider each person in these three categories an activist, I do. Although they use different methods and perhaps some demonstrate more commitment, ultimately their goals are the same. To condemn any of these people dilutes all other choices you will make, such as when a sense of indignation sparks a snap judgment: “They’ll just yell about anything,” or, “oh that’s just liberal bullshit.” These comments simply alienate and divide groups that need each other to work towards the same goal. By actively discouraging people who are changing the world for the better instead of getting over their crazy dress or setting aside your differences, you kill momentum for the achieving the goals you care about. Your choice of action works against you, preventing the very thing you want.

If as a group we radicals can’t create space for differences to coexist between those working toward the same end, how can we ever hope to grow our efforts? Consider which means make the most sense and accept differences instead of inflaming them. Indignation is part of our trade but can also be a quick path to alienation...

So choose your weapon wisely.







# ECO-ACTIVISM AT NYU

**Earth Matters** works to create an environmental community within NYU. It caters to those who want to learn more about the environment and those who want to push for environmentally-friendly change at NYU. During weekly meetings, EM members plan events to raise awareness of the environmental impact of NYU community members' daily lives. Fun trips like hiking, adventuring to thrift shops, and visiting local environmental events are a cornerstone of the EM experience. One of the oldest clubs at NYU, EM is also known for helping ban Coke products on campus because of human rights abuses attributed to the company. For more info check out [www.nyu.edu/clubs/earthmatters](http://www.nyu.edu/clubs/earthmatters) or [nyu.earthmatters@gmail.com](mailto:nyu.earthmatters@gmail.com).

**The Green House** is a residential living community developed by and intended for environmentally-minded students who want to live more sustainably. This is the Green House's first year, but a speaker series and a lending library are already in the works. Those interested in living in the Green House can apply through residential education in Spring 2008. To get involved contact Imani Movva at [ism222@nyu.edu](mailto:ism222@nyu.edu).

**The Sustainability Task Force** is an administrative body composed of students, faculty, and administrative staff officially sanctioned by the university administration to investigate and recommend environmental projects. Though the Task Force is undergoing some restructuring this year, in the past work was parceled out among seven different subcommittees: academic initiatives; green grants; outreach and engagement; energy & water; food & purchasing; recycling & transportation; data-communications & technology; and green building & campus planning. These subcommittees submit recommendations via an annual report, and projects generally begin the following academic year. If interested, contact Project Administrator Jeremy Friedman: [jeremy.friedman@nyu.edu](mailto:jeremy.friedman@nyu.edu).

**Green Arch Panther** is a student led group that facilitates communication between different environmental organizations on campus. Panther is the new face of the "Green Arch Initiative," the student group that successfully lobbied the administration to form the Sustainability Task Force. When Green Arch dwindled to a listserv, new students took on the group's resources to revitalize student environmental advocacy at NYU. For more info see [www.greenarchpanther.org](http://www.greenarchpanther.org).

**Environmental Studies (ES)** is a new academic program not officially affiliated with an NYU school, but most closely aligned with CAS. The program offers both majors and minors. ES faculty are generally accessible and willing to work with students from Gallatin and other schools. For more info on ES requirements, see the ES website: <http://environment.as.nyu.edu/page/home>

**The Bare Energy Frolic** is an annual "image event" hosted by campus environmental groups in April. This clothing optional biking/walking/rollerskating/skateboarding event promotes Earth Week and other environmental happenings on campus.

-Maggie Craig and Kate Fritz



# Vivisection at NYU:

## A Hidden Nightmare

### The Awful Labs of Lynne Kiorpes

Once upon a time, in a land not so far away, there lived a wicked, wicked woman that went by the name Lynne. Lynne was a mad scientist bent on finding out more about the human eye and its abnormalities. She knew that using live humans would be the most effective for her research, but there were laws that prevented her from cruelly experimenting on, killing, and then dissecting her fellow humans. In her time of need, NYU was there for her, providing some monkeys, money, and a laboratory to carry out her cruel experiments then shield the torture and bloodshed from the public eye.

For the past fourteen years Lynne Kiorpes has been fruitlessly carrying out experiment after experiment on monkeys that she mars at birth in order to observe how their optics develop. She wrests infants away from their mothers and surgically damages at as young as ten days old. She varies her tests - the defects she artificially induces range from defocused vision (maintained by hard plastic contact lenses—remember, the kind that aren't produced anymore because they hurt?-that are left in for seven to ten months), to taking a scalpel to their optical nerves and creating artificial crossed eyes. Some of the infants die during this process. She continually drugs the ones who live, and keeps them in restraints to keep them placid. She then drills holes into their head, penetrating the skull, and shoves electrodes into their delicate newborn brains. After that some of them are submitted to a minimum of 18 hours straight of electrophysical recordings, and then killed and dissected.

The problem with this - besides the obvious cruelty - is that these are artificial maladies - that is to say, they have little to do with real diseases of the eye. In the science world, the tiny bit of data she has collected in the past fourteen years is a **24** very short step away from being entirely ir-

relevant. Worthless. So all those monkeys were killed and all that money wasted for next-to-nothing. NYU spends \$1.5 million dollars a year on experiments like these.

### **"No More Lab Lies! No More Compromise!"**

In 1999 In Defense of Animals (IDA), a nonprofit pro-animal rights organization, decided to take on the Kiorpes lab. They sent two men dressed like construction workers to the top of Silver Center (then called Main Building) to unfurl a 20x30 foot banner. Their plan went off without a hitch; when they made it to the edge the NYU security guards standing on the sidewalk below tepidly warned passersby to watch out for the workmen.

No one gave them a second glance until the banner began to unravel. In bold letters it read "NYU LABS ARE MAKING A KILLING."

A protest ensued directly after the banner dropped. People stormed the square chanting, "Nothing to hide? Let us inside!" and "No more lab lies, no more compromise!" The momentum from that protest echoes weakly today, but we, the students—the heart and soul of NYU—can rebuild

it. Since then, the group Students for Education on Animal Liberation have carried the banner of animal rights at NYU, at one point chaining themselves to the desk of University President Sexton to demand more support for vegans in on-campus dining options. Only sustained direct action such as this will undermine the institutional support for Animal Testing - based in financial investments and a basic disregard for the dignity of non-human animals - a campaign of direct action that continues in the actions of groups such as Stop Huntington Animal Cruelty, and that will hopefully return to NYU soon. We need to stand together against vivisection.

-Ashleigh Lewis





Washington Square Park is world famous for the art, culture, music, politics, and community that has transpired there in its over 150 years as a public park in New York City. For NYC government under Mayor Bloomberg, its importance has become magnified because of its location in the midst of prime real estate in Manhattan's Greenwich Village. New York University owns much of (close to all) the real estate that surrounds the Park. The University rarely misses an opportunity to feature the historic Washington Square Arch in its advertising and promotional materials.

In more recent years, due to neglect by the New York City Parks Department, Washington Square Park -- while remaining vital to music, politics, art, students, tourists, people of all ages and from all backgrounds -- was looking a little rough around the edges. That didn't stop it from being a place where people gather in unique ways. A national organization called Project for Public Spaces did a study of Washington Square Park in 2005 and said, "As a neighborhood park and civic gathering place, it may be one of the great public spaces in the world."

The New York City Parks Department is presently in the midst of a redesign of Washington Square Park. Currently in Phase I (of three phases), this "renovation" is really a complete overhaul of this historic, beloved space. The redesign will: align the Fountain with the Arch (after 137 years unaligned) at Fifth Avenue which entails moving the Fountain 23 feet east, level the unique 'sunken plaza' around the Fountain, reduce dramatically the public gathering space around the fountain, add more lawn, reduce the width of the pathways and areas

at the corners of the Park, move the two dog runs, lose the small alcoves (sitting areas) on the northern and eastern sides of the Park, and basically move close to every piece of the Park into a different location.

Washington Square Park has been a counter-balance to the upscale, glossy gentrification of New York City. It's a place where you never know exactly what will happen next. People walk in, and conversations flow, music saturates the air, people gather, speak outs occur. It's all a bit magical.

From Bob Dylan to Joan Baez to Peter, Paul & Mary to more recent years Whoopi Goldberg and Dave Chappelle getting their start there, Washington Square Park has played a role in key moments in culture and history. Henry James, Mark Twain, Eleanor Roosevelt, William Glackens and more all were influenced in some way by the charm of Washington Square Park.

The Greenwich Village community has almost overwhelmingly been against the drastic changes being made to their Park. However, due to a lack of transparency and accountability by the New York City Parks Department, and the political climate, thus far, the City has been able to push through their plan which "prettifies" and sanitizes the nature of the Park.

NYU has given \$1 million towards the redesign but has stated they are not involved. Due to their real estate holdings around the Park and the direction the University has been going in, many people link NYU to the redesign plan. The Tisch Family gave \$2.5 million to the City towards the renovation and moving of the Fountain which gave them naming rights with a plaque on each side.

There are still pieces of the plan that could be challenged - increasing the public space around the fountain, keeping the alcoves (sitting areas) around the north and east sides, saving more trees from being unnecessarily destroyed (14 have been chopped down thus far in Phase I of the plan), and more. Having NYU students plan activities in the Park highlighting and protesting the changes, coming to Community Board meetings, talking to other students and the community, and using imagination - all are key. There's still time to perhaps have some influence. You can take part in making Washington Square Park whatever you want it to be and preserving its uniqueness.

-Cathryn Swan

<http://washingtonsquarepark.wordpress.com>  
& Washington Square Community Improvement District

# DEMOCRACY AND IMPERIALISM ARE MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE. WE CHOOSE DEMOCRACY.

Sometimes studying history is useful for more than passing a test. This is one of them. In 1969, opposition to the immoral war against Vietnam was nearing its height on the streets and college campuses of the United States. In Vietnam itself, U.S. troops were losing ground, even as they deployed vicious chemical weapons such as Agent Orange on the people and countryside of the small country in southeast Asia. Despite his campaign promise to end the conflict, President Nixon's response was to expand the war by launching bombing raids against Cambodia, a neighboring country accused of harboring that era's political bogeymen, communist insurgents.

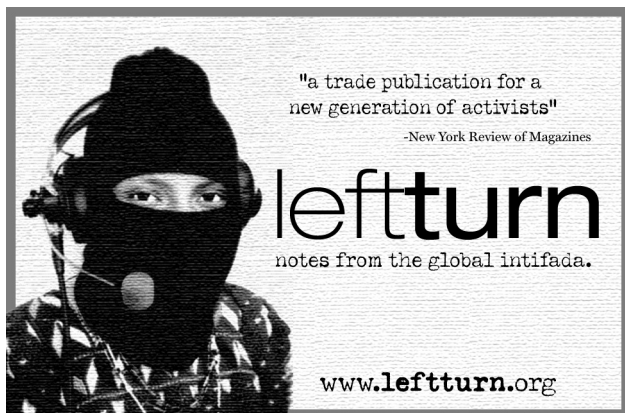
Having passed the 5-year anniversary of the war in/occupation of Iraq, the need for effective, sustained, and massive resistance is urgent. We cannot wait out Bush's term, expecting the war to end if Barack Obama manages to win control of the White House. Look how much good Democratic control of Congress has done in the last two years. Furthermore, just as Nixon inherited a war begun by Democrats, so too is the Bush administration expanding a campaign of economic sanctions and bombings maintained by Clinton and the Democrats since the first Gulf War.



The most relevant historical question is: what did those U.S. citizens who opposed the Vietnam War -- after years of peaceful marches and voting for nominally anti-war candidates -- do in response to Nixon's escalation? They set their country, our country, ablaze, literally and metaphorically. The expansion of the Vietnam War into neighboring countries resulted in massive resistance that shut down college campuses through student strikes -- often punctuated with incendi-

ary blasts targeting ROTC buildings and the laboratories of professors paid by the government to research more effective ways to kill or repress people -- and turned out spirited protests in cities and towns across the country. Having taken each of the actions allotted for citizen participation within the liberal democratic system (voting, writing to Congress, circulating petitions, marching) without meeting their goals, they were still culpable for the massive, daily violence enacted by their government. The war's expansion necessitated an immediate and unequivocal response, even if that meant taking actions considered illegal by that same government.

By recounting this history, we are certainly not calling for armed insurrection or random acts of property destruction. Most people in the U.S. oppose the war in Iraq -- and remain bitterly divided on other key issues of political significance, including immigration, abortion and environmental protection. The frustration with the war should not be confused with an anti-imperialist majority; most people do not oppose empire. But with grassroots organizing, their frustration could be channeled to broader social justice commitments. When joined with a strategic priority to shutting down the system that thrives on war, such organizing can go a long way toward making all edifices of the country -- military, schools, businesses -- ungovernable until the war ends.



## Making Connections

We have the opportunity now, in this generation, to affirm a new, democratic critique of empire -- a radical anti-imperialism that fully affirms human rights, equitable distribution of resources, ecological sustainability, and grassroots democracy without being mired in the repressive anti-humanism of Stalinism, as previous generations of the left have been. Such a hybrid political platform, a new way of political mobilization, was slowly taking shape in the United States through the global justice movement but was derailed by the Sept. 11 attacks and subsequent military adventures. We have the opportunity for a reinvigorated mass movement capable of turning Orwellian America into the America Langston Hughes called for, one that has never existed.

A '60s slogan suggested that "the issue is not the issue"; today we have the Zapatistas



NYC SDS members occupying a military recruiting office in lower Manhattan 3/7/07.

encouraging us with "points of convergence" based on "one no, many yeses." This energy should serve as the catalyst for a 21st century radical political imagination. Every action defending the environment or immigrant rights is an anti-war action. Every anti-war rally, a stand against patriarchy and growing economic inequality. In theory and practice, U.S. foreign policy -- in Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Guantanamo, and elsewhere -- is rooted in a racialized and gendered attempt at global conquest, leaving dead bodies and environmental catastrophe in its wake. Organizing against the war, therefore, must be equally wide-ranging.

We must fight to replace state- and media-enforced obscurity with a radical democratic vision -- ways of organizing and living in the world that allow no place for racist wars fought to control resources and demonstrate irresistible dominance. It will require visionary thinking that seeks to understand how the Bush administration does at gunpoint -- out of panic, rage, and hubris -- what preceding administrations did through economic policies to people around the world. Visionary thinking that recognizes the millions of people streaming across borders, proclaiming their right to survive, have been put in motion by the

same policies and rifle barrels that continue to obliterate Iraq. Visionary thinking that connects the dots between oil wars and agribusiness, between a flooded New Orleans and a snowless New England.

## Moving forward

The challenge, as we see it, is to pledge allegiance to humanity rather than to any single nation: that is, to dedicate oneself to ideals -- of liberty and equality on a global scale -- and commit to the mechanisms of enacting such a radical political vision. Such a promise means being proud to fight in the name and tradition of those who have advanced those values, rather than making a blind commitment to a country marked by a history of dispossession, exclusion, and genocide, both within its own borders and on a global level.

What it means to be politically relevant, to take responsibility for the tremendous violence being done in our names, will differ from place to place. But the responsibility to act strongly and im-

mediately is universal, even as it finds different expression. Thus, the anti-war movement has a responsibility to support this range of options strategically deployed to not only stop this war but overturn the social and economic policies that make war such a defining feature of U.S. society. That the entire world opposes the war in Iraq is abundantly clear. What is needed now is an audacious and strategic anti-war movement committed to stopping it. The reformed SDS is one national organization leading that movement.

[www.studentsfordemocraticsociety.org](http://www.studentsfordemocraticsociety.org)

-Dan Berger and Andy Cornell

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# Meet the Trustees!

**A few of the fine folks runnin' your school**

## Ken Langone

Among the world's richest people and namesake of NYU's Medical Center thanks to a \$200 million dollar donation, Ken Langone was the subject of legal prosecution for providing a \$190 million dollar pay package to fellow Trustee Ken Grasso while Grasso was CEO of the New York Stock Exchange, and Langone the head of its board. Langone also founded Home Depot and Choicepoint Inc, which sells private data culled from credit card records and non-disclosed sources to the Department of Homeland Security, and takes government contracts to spy on citizens suspected of terrorism. Choicepoint also has been sued for allowing the unauthorized release of government records to its customers.



## Catherine Reynolds

A pioneer of "social entrepreneurship", Catherine Reynolds is the CEO of student loan company EduCap, which provides loans for students at private colleges. Despite EduCap being a non-profit, Reynolds owns a \$30 million Gulfstream Jet and has been paid millions of dollars in annual compensation, enough to donate \$38 million to the Smithsonian in 2003. Reynolds can afford such excess partially because EduCap has been caught issuing loans at rates substantially above those of for-profit companies. For that, and for potential kickbacks issued to universities, the IRS opened an investigation into EduCap in late 2007. Reynolds has made a fortune off of putting students like you in debt - and she helps call the shots on NYU's tuition hikes.



## Others You Might Want to Know...

**Marc Bell** CEO of the fine progressive magazine Penthouse who has donated thousands of dollars to the GOP.

**Larry Silverstein** As the CEO of Silverstein Properties, leased the World Trade Center for 99 years beginning in 2001, and attempted to profit off the deaths of thousands by demanding two payouts from his insurers - one for each of the towers.

**Daniel Tisch** Heir to the Tisch fortune, which was based on the family's ownership of Lorillard Tobacco, the manufacturers of Newport cigarettes, and pioneered the strategy of marketing menthol cigarettes to African Americans.

**Martin Lipton** A lawyer that made a fortune running mergers and acquisitions in the Reaganomics 80s, Lipton has since become vocally opposed to ethical investment policies and activist shareholders. Larry Silverstein and Ken Langone's lawyer.

**Anthony Walters** Executive Vice President of UnitedHealth, a health care company whose top brass were under federal investigation for backdating stock options. The NY Attorney General opened an investigation on UnitedHealth for shortchanging its customers on insurance compensation for medical procedures, including those covered by United Health.



# ==RADICAL READING LIST==

## Race and Racism

*The Angela Y. Davis Reader*, edited by Joy James  
*This Bridge Called My Back*, edited by Cherrie Moraga and Gloria E. Anzaldúa  
*Orientalism*, Edward Said  
*The Cost of Privilege*, Chip Smith  
*Racial Formation in the U.S.*, Winant & Omi

## Anarchism

*Hegemony or Survival*, Noam Chomsky  
*Days of War and Nights of Love*, Crimethinc.  
*The Society of the Spectacle*, Guy Debord  
*Pacifism as Pathology*, Ward Churchill  
*Anarchy, A Graphic Guide*, Clifford Harper  
*One-Dimensional Man*, Herbert Marcuse  
*Vegan With A Vengeance* (cookbook), Moskowitz  
*Anarcho-Syndicalism*, Rudolf Rocker  
*Civil Disobedience*, Henry David Thoreau

## Feminism

*The Sexual Politics of Meat*, Carol Adams  
*The Second Sex*, Simone de Beauvoir  
*Feminist Theory*, bell hooks  
*Under Western Eyes and Feminism Without Borders*, Chandra Mohanty  
*Cunt*, Inga Muscio and Betty Dodson

## Philosophy

*Monolingualism of the Other*, Jacques Derrida  
*Cyber-Marx: Cycles and Circuits of Struggle in High-Technology Capitalism*, Nick Dyer-Witheford  
*The History of Sexuality*, Michel Foucault  
*A Moral Equivalent of War*, William James  
*The Politics of Experience*, R.D. Laing  
*Four Arguments for the Elimination of Television*, Jerry Mander  
*On the Genealogy of Morality*, Friedrich Nietzsche  
*Animal Liberation*, Peter Singer

## Auto/Biographies

*Memoirs of a Revolutionist*, Vera Figner  
*Cold War Fugitive*, Gil Green  
*The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, Alex Haley  
*Mountains Beyond Mountains*, Tracy Kidder  
*Soon to be a Major Motion Picture*, Abbie Hoffman

## Radical History

*Detroit, I Do Mind Dying*, Georgakas & Surkin  
*War at Home*, Brian Glick  
*Horizontalism*, Maria Sitrin  
*A Promise and a Way of Life: White Anti-Racist Activism*, Becky Thompson  
*We Will Return in the Whirlwind*, M. Ahmad

## Fiction

*Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Z.N. Hurston  
*The Awakening*, Kate Chopin  
*The Little Prince*, Antoine de Saint Exupéry  
*Howl*, Allen Ginsberg  
*Catch-22*, Joseph Heller  
*As the World Burns*, D. Jensen and S. McMillan  
*Homage to Catalonia*, George Orwell  
*The Golden Compass* series, Philip Pullman  
*Black Boy*, Richard Wright

## Current Struggles

*Infection and Inequality*, Paul Farmer  
*Endgame*, Derrick Jensen  
*No Logo*, Naomi Klein

## Zines/Pamphlets/Magazines

Said the Pot to the Kettle; Hot Pantz; Left Turn; Doris; Cometbus; Earth First! Journal; Slingshot; Super Happy Anarcho Fun Pages; Secret Files of Captain Sissy; Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack; Memories of Freedom

...and this list is just the beginning.



# RADICAL FACULTY

NYU IS CHOCK-FULL OF RAD PROFESSORS AND T.A.S. SO WHY ARE YOU SETTLING FOR BORING LECTURES? THIS IS BY NO MEANS AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST, LET US KNOW ABOUT THE ONES WE MISSED!

## Gallatin

Sinan Antoon – orientalism, the middle east  
 Bill Caspary – democratic community education  
 Stephen Duncombe – cultural resistance, media  
 Antonio Lauria-Perricelli – militaries, globalization  
 Patrick McCreery – queer politics  
 Kim Phillips-Fein – labor  
 Rene Poitevin – gentrification, organizing  
 Aarti Shahani – immigrants, race, deportation  
 George Shulman – race, communication studies  
 Alejandro Velasco – Latin America, revolution!

## Sociology

Vivek Chibber – socialism, globalization  
 Jeff Goodwin – social movement theory  
 Michael McCarthy – labor, socialism  
 Rene Rojas – marxist

## Social and Cultural Analysis

Lisa Duggan – gender and queer studies, feminisms  
 Jennifer Morgan – African-American studies, feminisms  
 Crystal Parikh – race, queer studies & feminisms, post-colonialism  
 Andrew Ross – labor studies  
 Gayatri Gopinath – transnational feminism, queer diasporas, race  
 Josie Saldana – Latin America, latino/a culture, post-colonialism  
 Nikhil Pal Singh – race and black radicalism  
 Andy Cornell – fuckin' worked on this disorientation guide

## Politics

Christine Harrington – neoliberal fallacies, community politics  
 Bertell Ollman – marxism

## Journalism

Craig Wolff – police brutality

## Comparative Literature

Kristin Ross – radical history and theory of France

## History

Manu Goswami – postcolonialism  
 Greg Grandin – Latin America, American imperialism  
 Mary Nolan – European women's history, post-WWII world order

## Performance Studies

Jose Munoz – queer theory  
 Tavia Nyong'o – race, sexuality



## Law

Amy Adler – GSOC, feminist  
 Jerry Lopez – community issues, race

## Steinhardt

Pedro Noguera – urban schools  
 Lisa Stulberg – race, urban schooling

## Tisch

Randy Martin – marxism, political performance  
 Elizabeth OuYang – civil rights attorney, community activism

# A free paper for free people

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# ACTIVIST CLUBS @ NYU

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(NOW)  
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nyu.earthmatters@gmail.com  
www.nyu.edu/clubs/earthmatters

ACLU@NYU  
Aclu.club@nyu.edu

Campus Antiwar  
Network (CAN)  
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Free Culture  
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Informed Democracy  
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meredithmeyer@gmail.com

Socialist Alternative @ NYU  
Socialists.club@nyu.edu  
Kate Kornblum: krkornblum@yahoo.  
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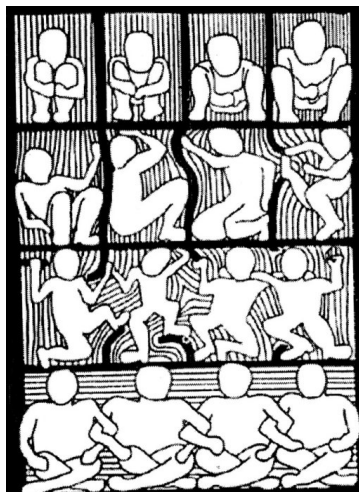
World Health Initiative  
Whi.club@nyu.edu

Access Health  
acchealth@gmail.com  
http://www.nyu.edu/clubs/access.  
health

Students for Education on Animal  
Liberation (SEAL)  
Seal.club@nyu.edu

Students Creating Radical Change  
(SCRC)  
scrc.club@nyu.edu

Students Taking Action in Darfur  
(STAND)  
Stand.club@nyu.edu



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Voicesforchoice.club@  
nyu.edu

Journal of Human  
Rights  
Journal.humanrights.  
club@nyu.edu

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NYU Journal of Global  
Affairs

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Students for Justice in Palestine  
justiceinpalestine.club@nyu.edu

