

C I T Y

C O L L E G E

(HARLEM
UNIVERSITY)

DISORIENT
A

NO IT A
guide

Disoriented? So are we.

Unfortunately on this campus, you get more questions than answers. The purpose of this zine is to keep you up to date with what's going on, as well as to invite you to contribute your knowledge to the campus populace.

Students for Educational Rights has been on this campus since 1989, winning victories on behalf of the students with the idea that the students, staff, and faculty should have a say over what affects us, rather than administrators getting \$\$\$ for screwing us over. We never have enough money, always citing budgets (and advocating for tuition increases) rather than their \$1000+ lunches, or personal drivers that cost over \$100,000 of our tuition money. When they raise our tuition, the ceilings keep leaking, the writing center's hours still get cut, and they still take away student space, so where does the money go? Into the pockets of corrupt administrators. Certain people get an on the books salary and an off the books salary. They hire certain staff and pay them handsomely to do nothing, while the people who have to deal with students get paid \$9 or \$10 with barely any raises. Here's some tips to help you deal.

- ☞ Record and write down everything administrators tell you. They have lied in the past and they will lie to you.
- ☞ Ask them for concrete solutions to your problem, a follow up email, or a council will not do. That's their way of getting you to shut up and feel satisfied without really doing anything.
- ☞ Know your rights and do your homework. Has anyone else had an issue? What was their experience?
- ☞ You have a student advocate, use them. They're called the Student Ombusperson. Their office number is (212) 650-5065 and their email is carlos@gtest.cuny.edu.
- ☞ It's really important that you make friends at this campus, they will be able to help you and go with you when you need something. There is always strength in numbers.
- ☞ If you are having trouble, join the Student Mental Health Initiative (<http://www.smhi.squarespace.com/>). The counseling center unfortunately is ill-equipped to help most students, and these students are fighting for awareness and advocating for increased services for students who need support and counseling

Reasons why CUNYFirst is terrible

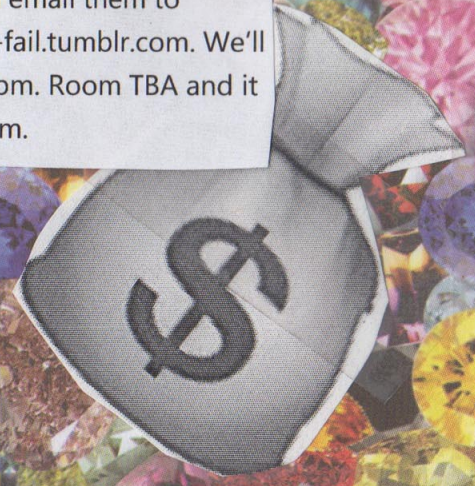
By Students for Educational Rights, with submissions and information from many disgruntled administrators, staff, and faculty.

- ☹ The cost of CUNYFirst is \$800+ million dollars.
- ☹ City College implemented CUNYFirst despite many protests from faculty, staff and students.
- ☹ President Lisa actually fast tracked CUNYFirst, even with knowledge on how the college wasn't prepared, to gain favor with CUNY Central.
- ☹ CUNYFirst fired adjuncts, seeing them as a redundancy in the system if they've taught past semesters. This glitch meant that the time adjuncts had to prepare classes was wasted on trying to navigate CUNYFirst. Some professors will be getting their first paycheck this month because the system is so backed up.
- ☹ Students are unfairly getting billed for "non-allowed" electives, which is why some students might be missing \$500+ dollars of financial aid. That is the system rejecting one of your credits.
- ☹ Degreeworks has declared 1200 students ineligible for financial aid, due to a glitch.
- ☹ Grading mistakes that used to be reversible are not. F replacements and FINs are not showing revised grades on transcripts.
- ☹ There are substantial financial penalties for students who take too long to change majors, or take too many electives.
- ☹ You declare a major at 60 credits or face the wrath of a CUNYFirst system scorned.

Do you have horror stories? We're collecting them. You can email them to russ.weissirwin@gmail.com, submit them to our blog, cuny-fail.tumblr.com. We'll be having a forum to address the issue on November 6th, 5pm. Room TBA and it will be announced on our blog, citycollegeser.wordpress.com.

Fully Integrated Resources & Services Tool

CUNYfirst



Consent tips

By CCNY alumna and former Director of the Morales Shakur Center
LeeAnn McCurry

Consent do's and don't's :

Do:

- Do VERBALLY ask for your partner's consent.
- Do look for non-verbal signs that your partner is enjoying themselves
- Do check in with your partner if they seem scared, quiet, unsure or hesitant

- Do ask for consent when trying something new, or before taking the next step sexually

Don't:

- Don't assume you have your partner's consent without asking
- Don't pressure your partner
- Don't use drugs, alcohol, or any other substance in order to gain consent from your partner
- Don't assume that since you had consent once, you will always have consent. Consent needs to be given each and every time.

Tips on how to ask for consent:

- Communicate with your partner before engaging in sexual fun times. Ask your partner what they are comfortable with. Tell your partner what you find fun, exciting and sexy, tell them what you are not comfortable doing.
- There are many ways to ask for consent such as "Do you like this?", "Do you want to stop?", "You seem to not be enjoying this, would you like to do something else?" "How does that feel?", "How far would you like to go?" or "Is it ok if I touch this"
- Asking for consent is an ongoing process. Gaining consent once, or for one activity, does not guarantee consent for anything else. Consent MUST be given each time and at every step from your partner.
- If a person is pressured, drunk, drugged, unconscious they are unable to give consent.
- An absence of a "no" is NOT consent, in order to have consent your partner must give a verbal, enthusiastic "YES", anything less is not consent.

Many students are fighting for a Gender Resource Center on campus. If you're interested in this struggle, please like our Gender Resource Center page on facebook. (<https://www.facebook.com/mgrccny/>) or join our listserv city-college-womens-center@googlegroups.com.

1969

Open

Admissions

Strike



FAQ on the Guillermo Morales Assata Shakur Student and Community Center
By Alyssia Osorio, member of Students for Educational Rights, Director of Guillermo Morales Assata Shakur Student and Community Center.

How does the closure of the Morales Shakur Center affect me?

Do you print? We won free printing for students when administration wanted to implement fees.

Do you pay tuition? We've been apart of many successful coalitions against tuition hikes, advocated for increased TAP and PELL for students, hosted workshops on how to avoid student debt, and have given scholarships to students who needed help with tuition.

Are you going to graduate? A former President of Students for Educational Rights got really riled up at a graduation ceremony when he noticed that only people with honorary degrees (mostly people who give tons of \$\$\$\$ to the school) were being recognized at graduation ceremonies. Through his advocacy, now all students are recognized in graduation ceremonies, making it a more democratic and fulfilling experience for everyone involved.

These are only a few examples of how students out of the center changed City College, and I'm learning new things about what Students for Educational Rights has won in the past. The Center has history of students serving other students since 1989, and we have been very successful despite having midterms, finals and subway service to worry about.

Why did they close the center?

Your guess is as good as ours. We know that the center was involved in lawsuits with the school, which helped keep it open as long as the lawsuits were pending. The last one was dropped in 2011, which means the school gave enough space between the last lawsuit and the raid so they couldn't be charged with retribution. We also know that we were facing a lot of moneyed interests that would have loved for the diffusion of the work coming out of the center. Right after it was closed, Colin Powell made HUGE contribution to City College so it could be a response to the anti-war protests. We were also calling out the school on a lot of new initiatives that we didn't agree with, like the closure of the Marshak library to make room for student space, even though they haven't given us the 1st floor of the NAC, which was supposed to be ALL student space.

Can you just occupy a space on campus and call it yours?

Many people have been asking why the center's closure was illegal. Through the 1989 occupation for the center, we made a contract with the Student Services Corporation ensuring the space was ours as long as Students for Educational Rights was a chartered club. It still is a chartered club, going through all of the paperwork and proper protocol, but they confiscated our personal belongings

and archives that date back to the Center's founding in 1990, over TWENTY years ago and they STILL won't give us back our stuff and tell it where it is. Our legal paperwork was in there, all of it. If you can help us out in some way with this, PLEASE CONTACT US.

Why are y'all so mad?

The center was a really special place on campus, and a lifeline for some people. To the best of our ability, we made it a radical safe space on campus for people of color, women, queer and transgender and working class folks. It was a neutral space in gang territory. People's safety on campus relied on that center, because the school and public safety did not step up to deal with sexual harassment and assault on campus, we took it up ourselves. We were JUST on the cusp of doing a free health clinic for people in Harlem out of that space, ran by professionals who wanted to donate their time and skills to folks who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford or attain healthcare. The center had a soup kitchen that fed 500 people a month, and we were active in addressing needs of the community and students when asked, doing food drives, school supply drives, clothing drives and fundraising. We had a book Xchange, made in the legacy of Malcom X, where we

had students name the price of their book, we tacked on a couple of dollars, and we sold the books for way cheaper than the bookstore, while putting more money in the students' pockets. We saw that textbooks prices were an issue and did something about it. We worked HARD maintaining the center, and contrary to popular belief, organizers aren't lazy people. We manage and budget our time, making time for school, family, work and life on top of all these campaigns and services we do. We don't do it because we have nothing better to do, we do it because it's important, necessary, and we care a lot about our future. We're mad because we see people suffering without this space and administrators refuse to give it back without telling us why.

I want to help but I'm not a (insert radical political ideology here)

The great thing about the center though, was that there were a vast amount of ideologies represented (out and proud libertarians, anarchists, socialists, communists...whatever) and they felt welcome and supported in that space. If you don't like what one group is saying, then don't be a part of that group, but also don't think every single one of us is the same. There isn't one vision on how the world we live in should run, there isn't one kind of social justice organizer, so don't try to box us into what other folks tell you about us, talk to us yourselves. Through serving with the public, many people see the downsides of capitalism and become anti-capitalist because of that. You're welcome to join us as long as you come into this with an open mind and a willingness to respect other people.



What about an Urban Center, or a Student Union space?

No. We've ALWAYS maintained that we want our center back, because the apprehension of it was completely wrong. It was wrong because administration didn't notify any of the 20 organizations that worked out of the center, and didn't follow due process for taking away the space. The Urban Center is not a suitable compromise because it would not have Student and Community directorship, it would be controlled by administration. The Urban Center also would be funded by military interests, which completely warps what it means to be of public service to the people we work with. There would be no community programming, no alternative classes, no democracy. All you had to do to get the center reserved was put your event on the calendar and check in with a keyholder. Without bureaucracy, our work was successful because we spent more time focusing on the needs of people rather than the paperwork, the money, and "acceptable" ways of advocacy. Learning from experience and talking to people is the way we've always done things and it also makes new people feel like organizing isn't some exclusive clique, but something they can take part in because they know what's up.

What's going on? How can I help?

You can help by going to events we're hosting on this page, sharing your experiences with the center, getting us in contact with folks who might be able to help us get it back, coming by our table, telling your classes what's up, or dropping off some of our flyers some place. Please let us know how you want to get involved, what you feel comfortable doing, and what you need (whether it's information, or training on how to be comfortable canvassing or flyering). We're having a direct action everyone can be a part of October 20th, 2014 in the afternoon, go to defendmorales-shakur.org (a website controlled by community members and students) or email harlemuniversitystudentunion@gmail.com for more information.



SAVE
MORALE
le SHAKUR CENTER
AT CITY COLLEGE
WWW.DEFENDMORALESSHAKUR.ORG

Education for the masses, justice for the working classes.

We will fight we will dream, we're not cogs in your machine.

There's one thing that's clear to me, the people here have unity. In our schools and in the streets, together we'll fight to free CUNY.

Corporate greed, we must fight. Education is a right!

Why CUNY Students should care about Ferguson

By Alyssia Osorio

If you've been on social media lately, you probably have seen the events in Ferguson, Missouri trending. Celebrities such as Janelle Monae, John Legend, Jesse Williams and many more have expressed dismay over the death of Michael Brown, and the police brutality in relation to protesters demanding answers and respect from the police. For those of you who aren't in the know, Michael Brown was a 17 year old black man who was just about to start his first semester of university. He was shot 10 times by St. Louis police. The police first claimed it was over stolen candy, which was later debunked by the convenience store owner, then they claimed Brown had been jaywalking which was also debunked. They later claimed there was a struggle over the officer's weapon. Many eyewitnesses say that no such struggle ensued. His body was left in the street for 4 hours, they never called an ambulance, and he was put in a Black police SUV. His mother was not allowed to identify his body. People, naturally shocked and outraged, lay flowers on where his body had been and began protests. The media coverage was incredibly biased in favor of the police at this time, but through social media, many people began consciousness raising and exposing lies the police were telling, as well as the repression the protesters faced. Protesters faced dogs, rifles, tear gas, riot gear and tanks, yet the media chose to focus on rioting and looting as if private property is more important than a loss of life. The police were also calling the protesters animals for demanding justice, yet the officer who shot Mike Brown is on paid administrative leave and the police haven't interviewed eyewitnesses that have come forward. The state senator, Maria Chappelle-Nadal, was tear gassed by police, reporters from Al Jazeera were tear gassed and after they run away, their cameras get dismantled. Wesley Lowery, a Washington Post reporter, and Ryan Reilly, a Huffington Post reporter, were arrested and assaulted by police.

What is happening in Ferguson, Missouri is incredibly relevant to CUNY students. Not only have activists in New York City shut down Times Square to show solidarity to the residents of Ferguson, CUNY has a very big problem with police brutality. In November of 2011 a member of the College of Staten Island's



Auxiliary Services died from cardiac arrest after a member of NYPD put him in a chokehold (which can happen after using excessive force). This man's crime? He was smoking weed in the bathroom, a nonviolent offense. Also in November of 2011, students, faculty, staff and community members protested the impending tuition hikes in the CUNY system, citing the unfair practices implemented by college officials who are more concerned with turning CUNY into a business than the needs of the students they serve. When the students tried to get into the Board of Trustees meeting where the vote was happening, police brutalized the protesters. 15 were arrested, and a student reported that one protester's head was bleeding as they were taken away. In September of 2013, 6 CUNY students protesting the appointment of former CIA director General David Petraeus were brutally beaten and arrested during a peaceful assembly in front of Macaulay Honors College. In November of 2013, a protester was peppersprayed while handcuffed while protesting the apprehension of the Morales Shakur Center, a student and community space where 21 groups met and organized across many different issues.

Unfortunately, things are looking worse for CUNY students. At City College, club storage space in the basement was taken over by public safety with no input from club leaders and no accountability from the Office of Student Affairs, even though space is a recurring need on campus. The English Lounge is being converted into a classroom. The budgets for student life and activities are cut while the budget for public safety and administration increases, shaping CUNY as a system where students are controlled rather than cultivated. NYPD tables on campus regularly to recruit students into the cadet program, without giving them the full facts (that if you decide not to become a police officer, you must pay back all of the assistance they give you.) The NYPD has been caught spying on Muslim students, going as far as attending paintball trips with the Brooklyn College Muslim Student Association undercover, and now their prayer space in the Marshak building is being taken away.

So what do we do? Document everything, spread the word, and resist resist resist. When we have a campus environment that frightens students rather than welcomes them, we all lose. When we live in a city where unarmed people are being killed, we are obligated to stand up and do something, especially as students who benefit from the college's past history of resistance to police

brutality. Our tuition is lower because people were brave, our schools are diverse because people were brave, our institution engages with the community because people were brave. We pay the tuition so we should have a say on what happens with our money. So in turn, we need to be brave. We need to vocal when something is wrong, we need to find our voices to fight injustice, not only for the betterment of ourselves, but for the betterment of people all over who stand up and fight against oppression.

A run down of events for October 20th 2014:

10a – Call the administrators to ask for accountability in regards to the removal of the Morales Shakur Center. Call President Lisa Staino-Coico 212.650.7285 and ask where our stuff is. Call Chancellor Milikien 646.664.9100 and ask why the decision from CUNY Central was

honored despite there being a legal contract between Students for Educational Rights and CUNY. Call Diedre Hill 212.650.5310 and ask her why the school lies in it's press statements. Call Juana Reina 212.650.5426 and ask her why she pretends to know nothing about the center despite meeting with club leaders in there numerous times. I would also ask her why her office doesn't want to report sexual assault and harassment, saying it's a "NYPD and Hospital" problem, rather than a campus one.

We will also be tweeting under the hashtag #savemsc

11a – Press Conference at the Harlem State Office Building on 125th St and Adam Clayton Powell

12p – Assemble at the State Office building to March to City College.

1p – City wide Student and Community Protest Rally

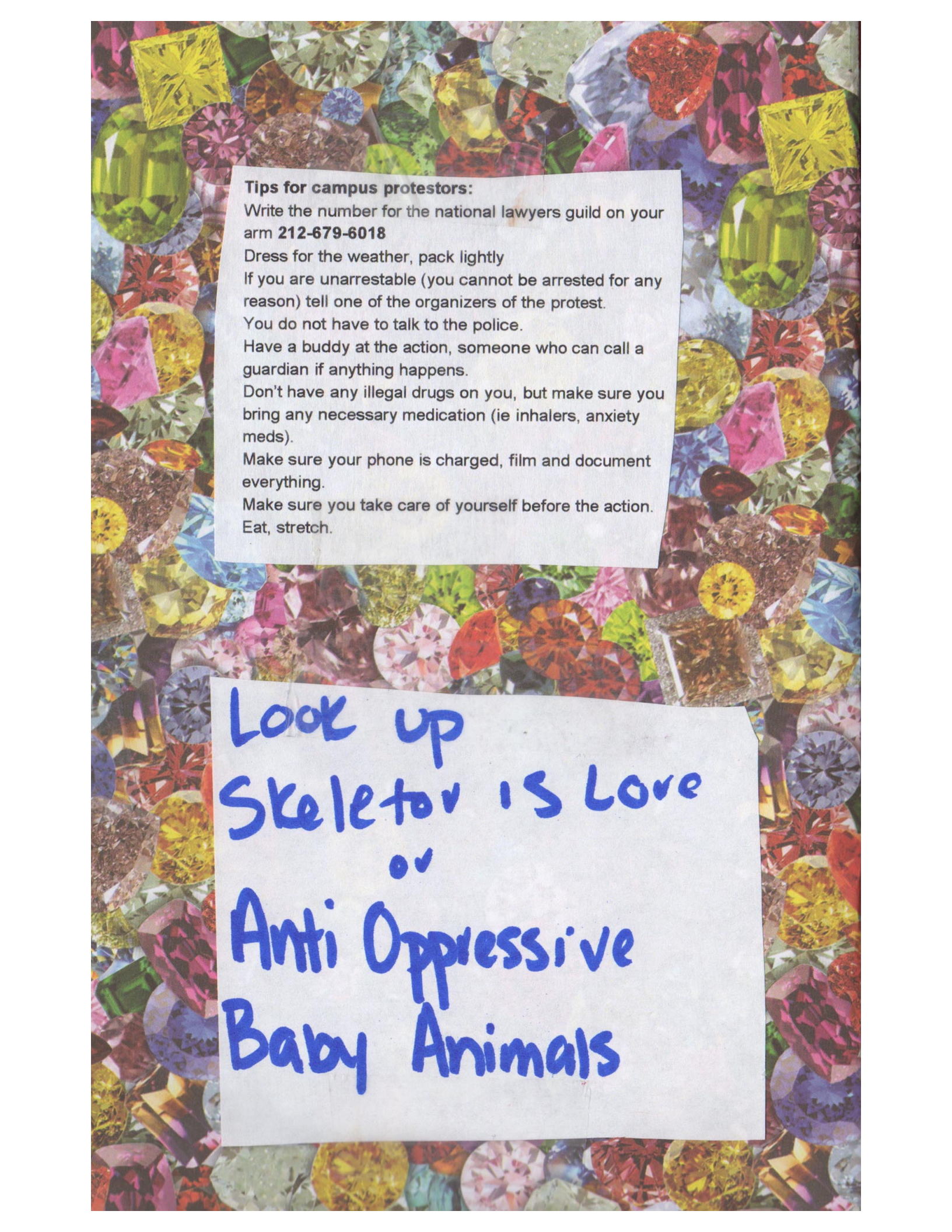
3pm – 5pm Campus wide protest action

Can you help us? At all? Take photographs? Lend us your phone for calls? We need all the support we can get. PLEASE. Email us at harlemuniversitystudentunion@gmail.com

L A S T
Y E A R



S A V E
M S C C



Tips for campus protestors:

Write the number for the national lawyers guild on your arm **212-679-6018**

Dress for the weather, pack lightly

If you are unarrestable (you cannot be arrested for any reason) tell one of the organizers of the protest.

You do not have to talk to the police.

Have a buddy at the action, someone who can call a guardian if anything happens.

Don't have any illegal drugs on you, but make sure you bring any necessary medication (ie inhalers, anxiety meds).

Make sure your phone is charged, film and document everything.

Make sure you take care of yourself before the action. Eat, stretch.

Look up
Skeleton is Love
or
Anti Oppressive
Baby Animals

Reccomended

Reading

1969 Student Strikes

- "Open Admissions: A Case Study in the Politics of Race in Higher Education" – Allen Ballard
- April 22, 1969 – Some Memories – Ron McGuire
<http://cunyunderground.proboards3.com/index.cgi?board=history&action=display&-thread=1080602040>
- The Struggle At CUNY: Open Admissions & Civil Rights – Ron McGuire
<http://cunyunderground.proboards3.com/index.cgi?board=history&action=display&-thread=1086628844>
- Demands of the Black and Puerto Rican Student Community of Harlem University (Formerly the City College of New York) – BPRSC April-May 1969
<http://cunyunderground.proboards3.com/index.cgi?board=history&action=display&-thread=1080095416>

1976 The Battle for Hostos Community College

- "Hostos Community College: Battle of the Seventies" - Ramon J. Jimenez
<http://cunyunderground.proboards3.com/index.edi?board=history&action=display&-thread=1083607504>
- "Save Hostos: Politics and Community Mobilization to Save a College in the Bronx, 1973-1978" - Gerald Meyer *Centro Journal* Volume XV Number 1 Spring 2003 (Found in El Centro, Hunter College)

1989-1991 Student Strikes:

- I Don't Want to be a Biscuit babe: 'The CUNY Strike' – Paul R. Loeb

1995 and Beyond

- A Brief History of SLAM! – Christopher Day
- The Struggle of the CUNY Student Movement 1969-1999 – Christopher Gunderson
- A Perspective on Mayor Giuliani's Relationship with the City University of New York – Akara Alleni Holder a.k.a (*Master Thesis Spring 2004 Queens College*)

Open Admissions

- CUNY 1969 Open Admissions Resolution – N. Michael Carfora (Secretary of the Board of Education) July 9, 1969
- Video "Closing the Open Door" – Ellie Bernstein
- Open Admissions in CUNY: A Major Victory for the Oppressed – Freedom Road

[*means that these documents were available at the Assata Shakur Guillermo Morales Center, however, because our center and its property have been illegally confiscated, you can find these sources on the world wide web/internet]

Brought to you by the Student Liberation Action Movement (SLAM!)
& www.CUNYunderground.org



Thank you for reading our zine. If you're interested in helping out the organizers and activists involved in this project, go to tinyurl.com/joinSER and we'll add you to our email list.