

President Responds To FC Podium Takeover; Answers 18 Demands Of 'Students' Coalition'

BY BARBARA TESSLER

PRESIDENT GEORGE A.



...for those who will not voluntarily accede to the demand for legal behavior the college has no recourse but to apply the law. The college has the right to sue any individual or group who is found to be a party to any group or individual resorting to violence or illegal acts for any purpose.

Yester evening, the students, who had been in the lobby of the quad entrance and near the main entrance, gathered at the Boylan Auditorium. President Charles Rotman defied the demands of the students and supported the Boylan Auditorium. In response, over 1,000 students marched to President Rotman's office and presented him with a memorandum.

The Student Council Meeting, which was moved to Boylan Auditorium after it became apparent that the room in Boylan could not accommodate all the students who wished to attend the meeting, had been participating

in the protest.

**PUERTO RICAN
ALLIANCE**

april 18th 12:30pm - 2pm West Quad
(rain location: amersfort lounge in SUBO)



**FEBRUARY
3RD 1961**

Local New York City civil rights leaders and members of the NAACP and CORE organized The School Boycott. More than 450,000 students boycotted their New York City public schools to protest school segregation and overcrowding.

#OA50STRIKE

1966

Under mounting pressure from city and nationwide unrest, CUNY Board of Higher Education adopts policy to “expand opportunities for poorer minority students” and SEEK Search for Education, Elevation, and Knowledge Program is established. It is the largest program of its kind in the country.

#OA50STRIKE

1968

The Board of Higher
Education announces
“100% Open Admissions”
guaranteeing *some form* of
higher education to high
school graduates.



Only the top 25% of graduates
are guaranteed full college
admission; effectively
punishing students of color
for their poor secondary
educations.

#OA50STRIKE

1961-68

3000 SEEK students enrolled.

Brooklyn College
remains more than
96% white.
Only 13 courses
relate to
ethnic
studies.

image source:
cuny digital
history archives

1968

Black student activism is
exploding nationwide.

Students in every division of
CUNY rise up in protest.



#OA50STRIKE



University of Harlem



Representative Adam Clayton Powell facing students. *The Campus*, May 6, 1969, p. 5. City College of New York Cohen Library Archives and Special Collections.

#OA50STRIKE

image source: cuny digital
history archives

MARCH 1969

BLAC (Black League of Afro-American Collegians) draft 18 demands to address quality education at Brooklyn College for students of color including: open, automatic admission to all Black and Puerto Rican high school graduates in the city, the hiring of Black and Puerto Rican professors, and the creation of ethnic studies programs.

Black Panther Party NY Chapter



#OA50STRIKE



BLAC PRA 1969-19

APRIL 1969

BLAC organizes with the Puerto Rican Alliance (PRA) and Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) to formally present the 18 demands by interrupting a faculty meeting. BLAC leader Askia Davis takes control of the microphone to declare,

Brooklyn College belongs to us, not you!

#OA50STRIKE





Lobby of Boylan Hall, April 23, 1969



Reply From Black and Puerto Rican Students

To Pig Peck:

Peck we realize that you are once again bringing out the ~~of~~pressive forces to stop the legitimate attempt of the students to try once again to restore humanity to Brooklyn College.

We will not bow to your threats. We will not be intimidated by the nigger and white Pigs you have called on campus. You have once again broken your promise made to the students, in October 1967. You have demonstrated your pigdom, you have called the Tactical Pig Force.

Pig Peck you cannot demand anything. We have not threatened any individual on this campus. You have goons walking around threatening Black sisters with machetes, and your goons beat up two members of S.O.S.

The Black faculty supports us, white faculty members support us, the masses of the people who are suffering from pigs of your kind support us. By calling the Pigs to encircle the campus, B.C. students will learn as Harvard's learned, that you do not have any love for humanity.

Power to the People
All Power to All People
OFF THE PIGS

#OA50STRIKE

#OA50STRIKE

'All-American'



Kingsman

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Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11210

389

Friday, April 25, 1969

President Responds To FC Podium Takeover; Answers 18 Demands Of 'Students' Coalition'

Peck closes FC meeting

By BARBARA TESSLER

As a result of Tuesday's incident at Faculty Council, in which approximately ten students supporting the 18 demands of the Concerned Students' Coalition seized the microphone from BC President George A. Peck and ordered that no one be allowed to leave the room, the President has issued a statement to the "college community" stating that the college "will not tolerate illegal acts on this campus."

The President's statement reads as follows:

Not Negotiable

"Recent events on this campus must make it clear to everyone that the college cannot endure and will not tolerate illegal acts on this campus. I demand that all students and all members of the faculty comport themselves in legal and civilized fashion. This demand is not negotiable."

"I am confident that the vast majority of the members of the college community share with me the conviction that an institution of higher learning cannot survive in an atmosphere of direct or indirect threat to any individual or to any group. Certainly such terrorism as the illegal takeover of yesterday's meeting of the Faculty Council impedes the changes and reforms which can or should take place. I compliment the vast majority of the community which has exercised civilized restraint and has relied on legal means for change—cumbersome though they appear to be."

"As for those who will not voluntarily accede to the demand for legal behavior the college has no recourse but to apply the force of a court order in restraint of illegal acts. This measure will henceforth be applied to any group or individual resorting to violence or illegal acts for any purpose whatsoever."

Yesterday, after burning a pig's head in the middle of the quadrangle and hearing Student Body President Charles Reilly's defense of Student Government's failure to support some of the 18 demands, a group of students marched to President Peck's office and demanded to be allowed to present him their reply to his memorandum.

The Faculty Council meeting, which was originally scheduled for room 1310B was moved to Gershwin Theater after it became apparent that the room in Boylan could not accommodate all the students who wished to attend the meeting, most of whom had been participating in the sit-in in Boylan Lobby. (See story, this page.)

Walk-On

The council was in the process of discussing the possible role of student evaluations in the reappointments and tenure process, when a group of ten students walked up onto the Gershwin stage, sur-

(Continued on Page 4)

Gov't sit-in attracts 300

By CHERYL MENDELSON

Student body President Charles Reilly termed Tuesday's sit-in sponsored by student government, which drew over 300 students to Boylan lobby, "one of the most widely supported sit-ins ever held at BC." The sit-in was called to pressure Faculty Council, which was scheduled to meet in 1310B at 3 p.m. that day, into transferring certain of its powers to student government.

During the peaceful, non-disruptive sit-in which lasted six hours, participants ate, sang, chanted and discussed the issues which had brought them to Boylan Lobby.

Members of the student government wearing white arm bands were designated to keep order in the lobby, according to Representative Paul Schickler. Part of their job was to keep an aisle clear at all times so that students could get to their classes.

Throughout the day, attempts were made in order to get more students to join the sit-in. Representatives of the Student Assembly visited classrooms requesting teachers to permit them to address the students about the issues involved in the sit-in.

Student Government supplied free refreshments, including ice cream and candy bars to the sit-in participants. Students with guitars led the BC'ers in many folk

(Continued on Page 4)

Assembly okay's twelve

By CHERYL MENDELSON

At a special meeting called by student body President Charles Reilly Wednesday evening, the Student Assembly voted to support twelve of the "18 Demands," presented to President George A. Peck, April 16, by the Concerned Students' Coalition.

The meeting which lasted six hours opened with a report by Mr. Reilly, who urged consideration of these demands. He declared that "student government is not an academic club, fraternity, political organization or religious organization." "As a result of the actions in Faculty Council, Tuesday, which expanded the powers of the student government," Mr. Reilly explained, "we now have the power to bring about real changes on this campus." He asked the legislature to implement those demands over which it had control.

After much discussion about the procedure for voting on these demands, a motion to support the whole 18 demands as one package was defeated by a vote of 11 for, 15 opposed with 4 abstentions.

It was then decided to consider each demand separately. The first demand which called for the blanket acceptance of all Black and Puerto Rican students who apply for admission to BC, was defeated by a vote of 11 for, 15 opposed with 4 abstentions.

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Candidates for student government office may pick up petitions beginning Monday in the Elections Commission Office, 0100 LaG. Petitions for President-Vice President require at least 500 students' signatures, and candidates for Assembly Representative require 100. Petitioning will end 4 p.m., May 6.



Faculty Council Besieged.

'Kingsman' Photo by Al Polansky

By BARBARA TESSLER

BC President George A. Peck replied, Friday, to the 18 demands posed by the Concerned Students Coalition, after approximately 300 students marched on the President's office to receive his answers to the demands which were originally presented to him the previous Wednesday. Approximately 100 students were able to enter the President's office to hear his replies.

President Peck handed out a prepared statement with his answers to the demands. Ray Alvarez spoke for the students. Also present in the office were Dean of Students Louis Breglio, Dean of Teacher Education Louis Rosenzweig, Director of College Relations Duncan Pardue, Professor Martin Lean, chairman of the Committee of Seven, Professor Benjamin Rivlin of the Political Science Dept., Vice Chancellor of the City University

prexy search

Student recommendations for the next president of the College are being sought by Gary Hayden, student member of the BC Presidential Search Committee. Suggestions should be left in the Presidential Adviser's mailbox, La Guardia Hall lobby. Students who desire further information from Mr. Hayden should include their name and phone number.

Charles Birenbaum, BC Business Manager Donald Hume, Special Consultant on Community Affairs Herman Paterson, CLAS student body President Charles Reilly and SGS student body President Martin Markowitz.

Demand One

The first demand requested that "all Black and Puerto Rican students who apply for admission be accepted regardless of their acquired scholastic record."

President Peck replied that "this is something with which I have a great deal of sympathy." In his printed response he stated that "BC cannot solve this alone. The City University is working to admit by 1975 every graduate of every high school in the city. In the meantime, we are doing all that is within our means to expand educational opportunities for Black and Puerto Rican students."

Mr. Alvarez replied that "we cannot wait until 1975," and that this policy must be implemented by next semester.

Demand Two

Demand number two reads: "We demand that a free tutorial program and basic skill courses be instituted to aid and assist students in order to fulfill their scholastic potential."

"Although several such programs are presently in operation," the President replied, "the college recognizes this as an area of deficiency and is actively seeking resources to staff and finance expansion of these programs." He added that the college is presently seeking funds outside the college's budget for such programs.

Demand Three

"We demand," number three reads, "that no course be designated as required and mandatory attendance be abolished."

The President revealed that a recommendation would be presented to the Faculty Council on Tuesday that will pro-

(Continued on Page 2)

MAY 12TH
1969

NYPD raid the homes of 19 Black and Puerto Rican students and forcefully arrest them after increased police presence in response to mounting rallies, demonstrations, and small acts of arson on campus in support of the 18 demands. They face 250 years each.

#OA50STRIKE

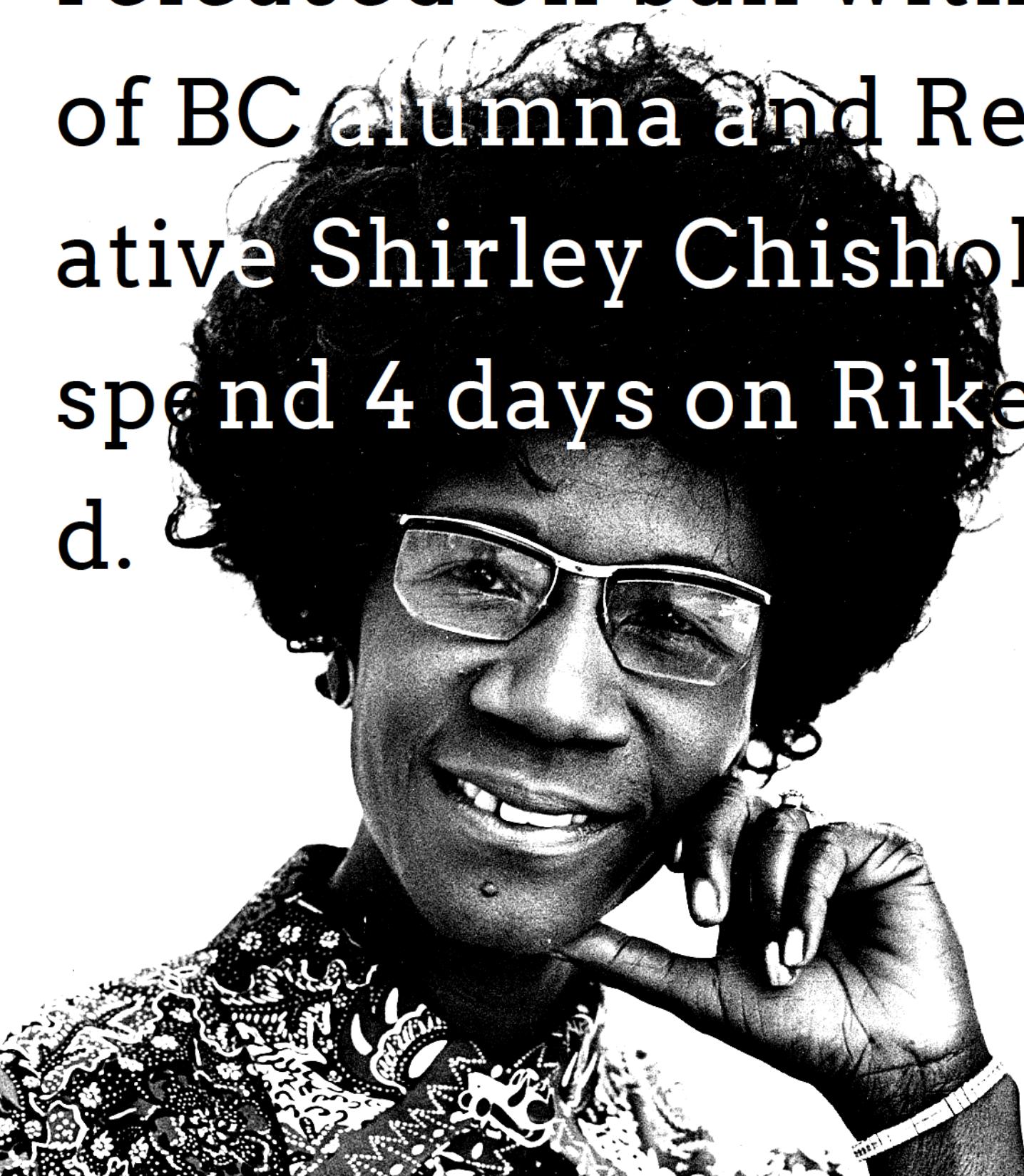
MAY 14TH
1969

Students and concerned faculty go on strike and picket at the three gates to Brooklyn College to demand the removal of police presence on campus, the dropping of charges against the arrested students, and the implementation of the 18 demands.

#OA50STRIKE

MAY 1969

The arrests backfire with increased student support for the 18 demands, and city-wide outrage in Black communities. The BC19 are released on bail with the help of BC alumna and Representative Shirley Chisholm. They spend 4 days on Rikers Island.



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1969

#OA50STRIKE

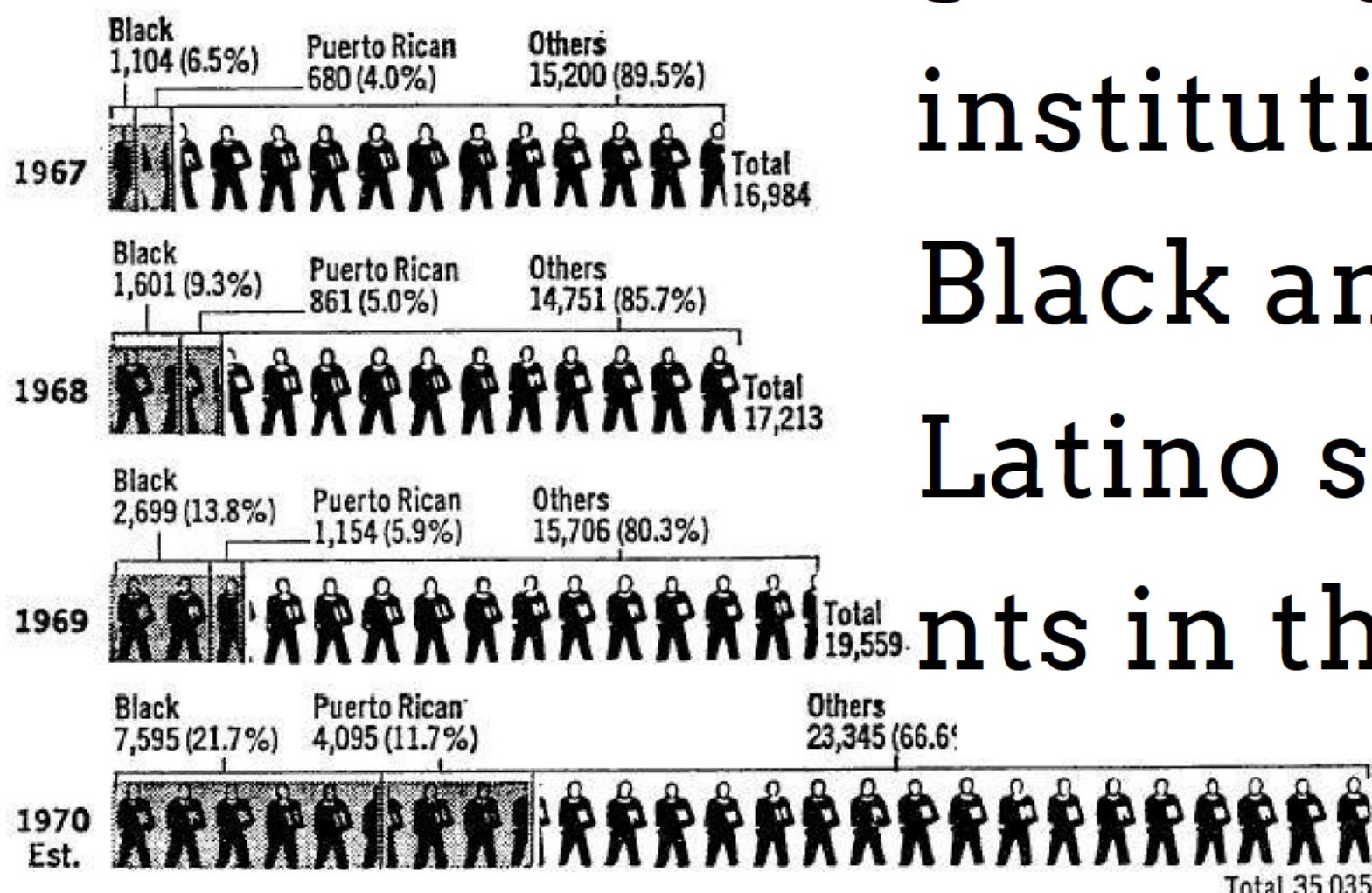


1970

City-wide open admissions battles are won and ethnic studies programs instated, redefining access to higher education as a right of citizenship. CUNY becomes the single largest degree-granting institution for Black and Latino students in the US.

Open Admissions Policy at CUNY Increases Percentages of Blacks and Puerto Ricans

Entering Freshmen



1914-15

The fiscal crisis allows big business interests to essentially end open admissions and institute tuition for the first time in 129 years through the Emergency Financial Control Board.



#OA50STRIKE

M BUILDING CRUMBLES

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

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

Monday, December 17: Boiler broken again, no heat in the M Building. Afternoon and evening classes cancelled.

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

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ADJUNCTS LOSE JOBS- STUDENTS LOSE OUT

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

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

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

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

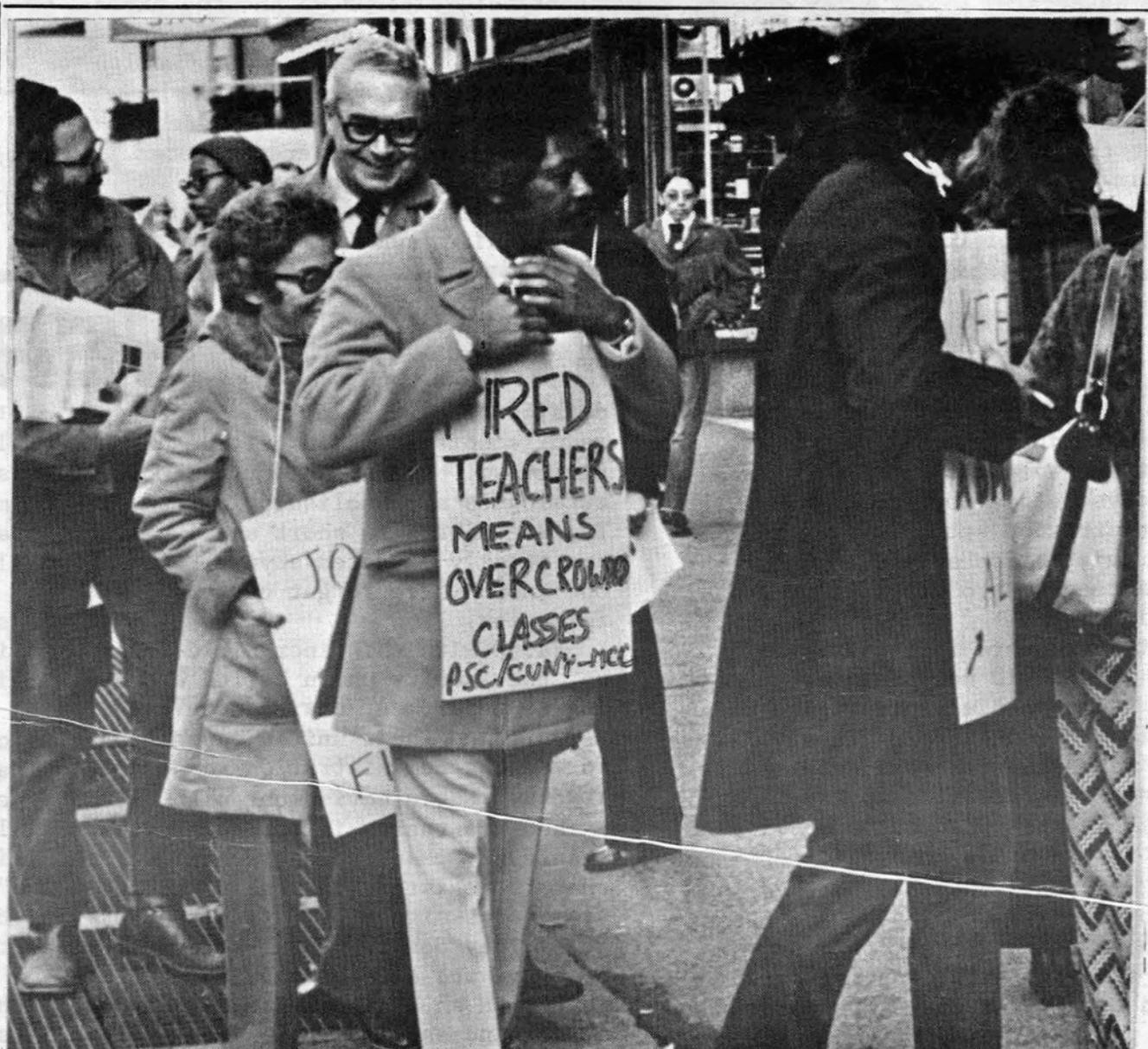
When part-time teachers organized to win back their jobs, the administration responded with a month of evasions, delaying tactics, phony promises, and outright lies.

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

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

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

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



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

1-800-399-991

Strike and occupation waves sweep CUNY against the first Governor Cuomo's proposal for tuition hikes and service cuts.

Although gains are won, tuition hikes persist.

#OA50STRIKE

1989 + 1995

STRIKES AGAINST TUITION HIKES



1950s

CUNY Board of Trustees vote
to eliminate 'remedial'
classes and remove the
final remnant of Open
Admissions – a central
commitment to affirming
public college should be an
apparatus for reparation of
unequal primary and
secondary education.

#OA50STRIKE

2019

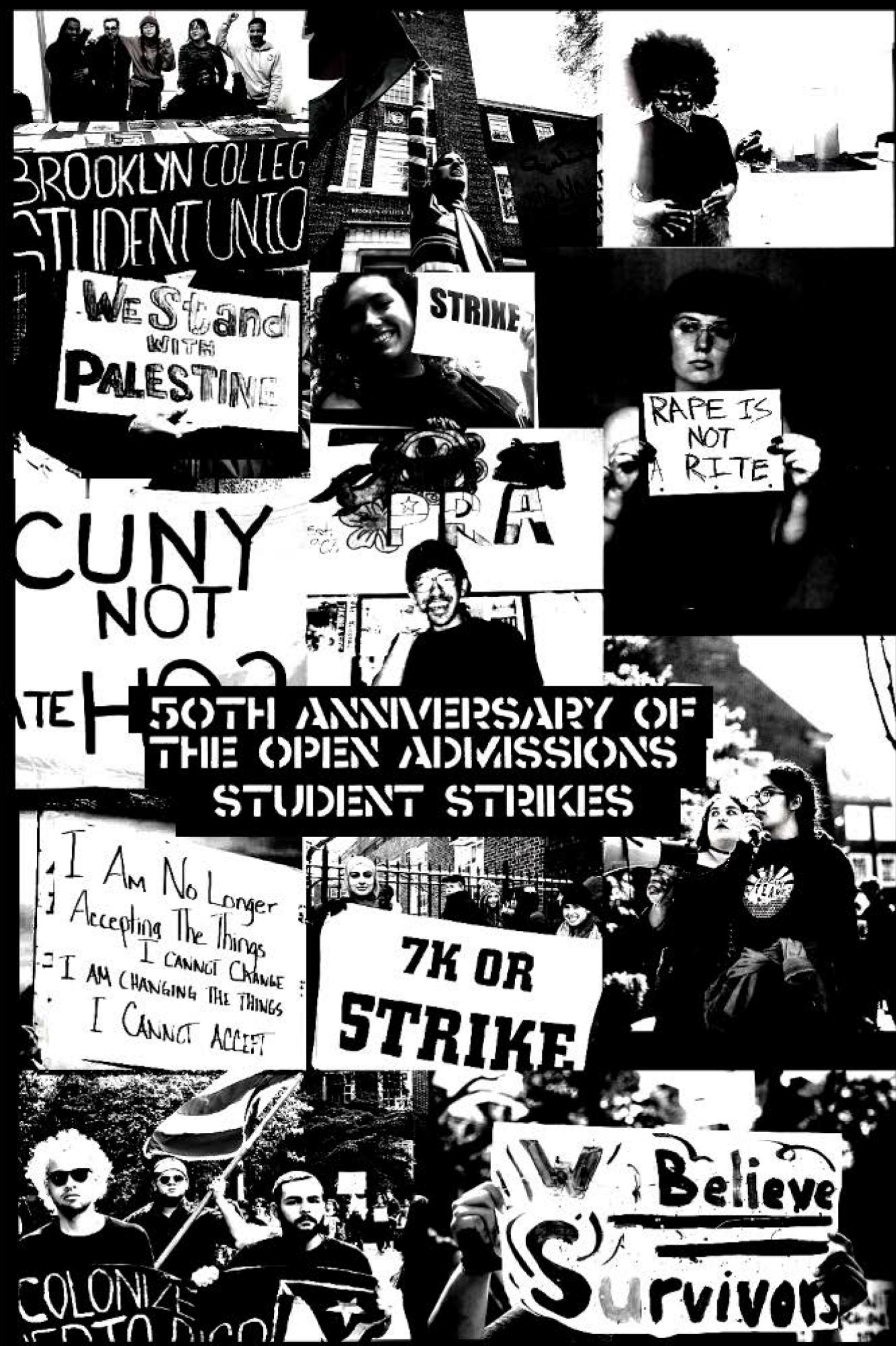
Students and rank and file workers within CUNY are still organizing to demand quality education for all!

Follow @BC_StudentUnion
@7korStrike @BCSocialists
#CUNYStruggle #FreeCUNY

#OA50STRIKE

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At the same time, CUNY's per-pupil funding declined by 18% between 2008 and 2018.

#OA50STRIKE

#7KORSTRIKE #FREECUNY