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CCNY BASHES AMERICA



FREEDOM OF SPEECH: City College speakers (from left) Nuriel Heckler, M.A. Samad-Matias and Walter Daum discuss the attacks.

N.Y. Post photos by Francis Specker

Students, profs blame attacks on U.S.

By CARL CAMPANILE
and TODD VENEZIA

Anti-Americanism and anti-war sentiment raged yesterday during a "teach-in" at City College.

The vast majority of the students and professors who spoke at the session, attended by about 200 people, ranted against any American military action — some of them even blaming the United States for the World Trade Center disaster.

"American imperialism is responsible for this terrorist attack," shouted math professor Walter Daum.

He claimed that U.S. foreign policy "created" Osama bin Laden by financing the Afghan resistance to the Soviet occupation.

Professor Bill Crain said he wants "peace, not war."

"Our diplomacy is horrible," he said.

"During Iraq's war with Iran, Saddam Hussein used poison gas on his own people. We supported Iraq but sold arms to both sides."

He insisted the U.S. is responsible for bin Laden, claiming it trained him to fight Russia.

The forum was sponsored by

the professors' union, the Professional Staff Congress and nearly all the students who spoke had absorbed the lessons taught by their professors.

"We don't feel military action will stop terrorism, but it will lead to racism and hate," said sophomore Nuriel Heckler.

Senior Halla Salem, 21, said, "I haven't seen the evidence that bin Laden did it."

Student government leader Kenneth Williams said African-Americans should be suspicious of "rallying around the flag" and becoming "tools of the ruling class" in a war.

Mohammad Alam Shumon, a native of Bangladesh who resides in Queens, complained that the United States supports Israel and Pakistan, which he maintains "practice terrorism."

Charles Evans was one of the few professors who stood up to what he called the "anti-Americanism" on display. "Universities tend to breed this sort of thing," he said.

"There are times when a country has to respond with force," said Evans, who teaches philosophy. "People opposed to this are trying to relive the Vietnam War period."

Political-science professor Vincent Boudreau agreed there must be a military retaliation.

"There has to be some kind of response to this," he said, adding he'd support the creation of a coalition that would use military force.

Meanwhile, professors interviewed at NYU yesterday also said they were cool to war.

Timothy Mitchell, professor of international relations, said, "Any attacks should not be seen as just the U.S. and a few allies. A much broader group should be brought in under the auspices of the United Nations."

Once-proud campus a breeding ground for idiots



ANDREA PEYSER

SO this is what passes for academic freedom these days.

If you visited City College at lunchtime yesterday, you would have heard professors explaining that the murder of 6,000 innocents at the World Trade Center was payback for:

A. The American ruling class's attempts to squash non Judeo-Christian culture.

B. Colonialist oppression of people of color.

C. The capitalistic zeal to divide and conquer the workers of the world.

The fuzzy-headed academics must have eaten a few too many magic mushrooms.

In a forum attended by about 200 students, dubiously titled "Threats of War, Challenges to Peace," the unprovoked attack on the trade center was repeatedly referred to as "the incident." The terrorists were fondly described as "freedom fighters."

CCNY was previously known as the taxpayer-funded platform for the

anti-Semitic ravings of Professor Leonard Jeffries. Now, the once-proud institution has evolved into a breeding ground for academics who are too blind, stupid or intellectually dishonest to tell the difference between the divisive war in Vietnam and the coming war against terrorism that's uniting Americans.

The peacefest kicked off with Professor Marina Fernando, who charged that as a result of America's promise to wipe out Osama bin Laden, "We have already created a human tragedy of monumental proportions" for Afghan refugees.

"This is because of the blood lust that follows the Sept. 11 tragedy," charged Fernando, director of CCNY's International Studies Program.

If you want to see blood lust, professor, get off your rump and travel south to the graveyard that was the World Trade Center.

Then there was Professor M.A. Samad-Matias, who framed the attacks as Islamic resistance to Western exploitation.

"Countries sitting on mineral-rich deposits with fast-growing birth rates — to some people that's a threat," said the anthropology professor.

"Despite all the colonial-

ization, Muslims are able to resist the Western mindset, the Madison Avenue clothing designs ... to maintain a separate economy," Samad-Matias said.

If only the terrorists kept themselves separate from Western airplanes.

Professor Walter Daum, a proud relic of the '60s, said, "The ultimate responsibility [for the attacks] lies with the rulers of this country, the capitalist ruling class of this country."

There was a bit of muted dissent. Those who disagreed weighed their words carefully against the dominant anti-American and anti-Israel senti-

ment.

I applauded one older man who complained aloud about the pointlessness of focusing on "root causes" of terrorism.

"Terrible things were done to Germany after World War I, and we could have made the case that if you were nice to Hitler," he wouldn't have murdered millions, said the man, who did not identify himself.

"There is hardly any evidence these thugs were responding to the evils of capitalism. It's more likely they were reacting to this country that allows women to wear bikinis."

He made sense. And he was booted.

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