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Activism and Repression

Activism and Repression: The Struggle for Free Speech at the City College of New York, 1931-1942

"THE STRUGGLE FOR FREE SPEECH AT THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK , 1931-1942"

You are Invited to a Presentation by Prof. Carol Smith, Curator of the Current Library Exhibit

Prof. Smith, Baruch College, will show visual images from the display during her talk. Prof. Steve Leberstein, Chair PSC

Academic Freedom Committee, will provide commentary, and Henry Foner (musician, song-writer, teacher, historian, union leader and social activist) will sing songs of the student movement.

Date: Thursday, Nov. 2, Club Hour (12:45-2:15 p.m.)

Place: Room 432A, in the Library

Seating is limited, so please come early. Refreshments will be served.

For further information please contact [Prof. Morris Hounion](#), Library, x5491

[PDF Flyer](#)

ACTIVISM AND REPRESSION: THE STRUGGLE FOR FREE SPEECH AT THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK, 1931-1942

City College of New York, the oldest campus in CUNY, was a microcosm of the battle for free speech on

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college campuses during the 1930s and 1940s. The exhibit "Activism and Repression: The Struggle for Free Speech at CCNY, 1931-42" is currently at the Ursula C. Schwerin Library of New York City College of Technology, City University of New York. It runs throughout the months of October and November 2006, and is on loan from the City College.

The display is curated by Professor Carol Smith, a retired faculty member from CCNY and currently an adjunct Associate Professor in the SEEK Program at Baruch College. It is currently composed of photographs, graphics, flyers and political cartoons from the City College Archives, the Tamiment Library of New York University, the Reference Center for Marxist Studies, and the New York State Archives in Albany. Reproductions of graphic illustrations by William Gropper, Hugo Geller and Harry Gottlieb are included.

This display has been shown at three other CUNY colleges: City College of New York, The Graduate Center, and Baruch College. Future venues will include the Museum of Labor History in 2007. The exhibit has been created online by the New Media Center, CUNY Graduate Center, on their Virtual New York website.

Once on the website's opening page click on the button "I am a guttersnipe" to view it.

The display focuses on student and faculty activism at CCNY during the Great Depression. This activism was spawned by the Depression and gained momentum with the rise of fascism in Europe. Students at City College protested against militarism at home and fascism abroad, for social and economic justice, and for free speech on campus. In response, the college administration suspended or expelled student leaders, banned their organizations and publications, and brought hundreds before college disciplinary committees.

The display can be viewed not only in the main showcase outside the Schwerin Library but also in three cases inside the library. Library hours are:

Mondays through Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Fridays, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Library will be closed on November 23-24 (Thanksgiving holiday break)



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