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The Bridge

VOL. 6, ISSUE 2



Y. FIORELLO H. LAGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

W.A.T.

Hall of
Flags

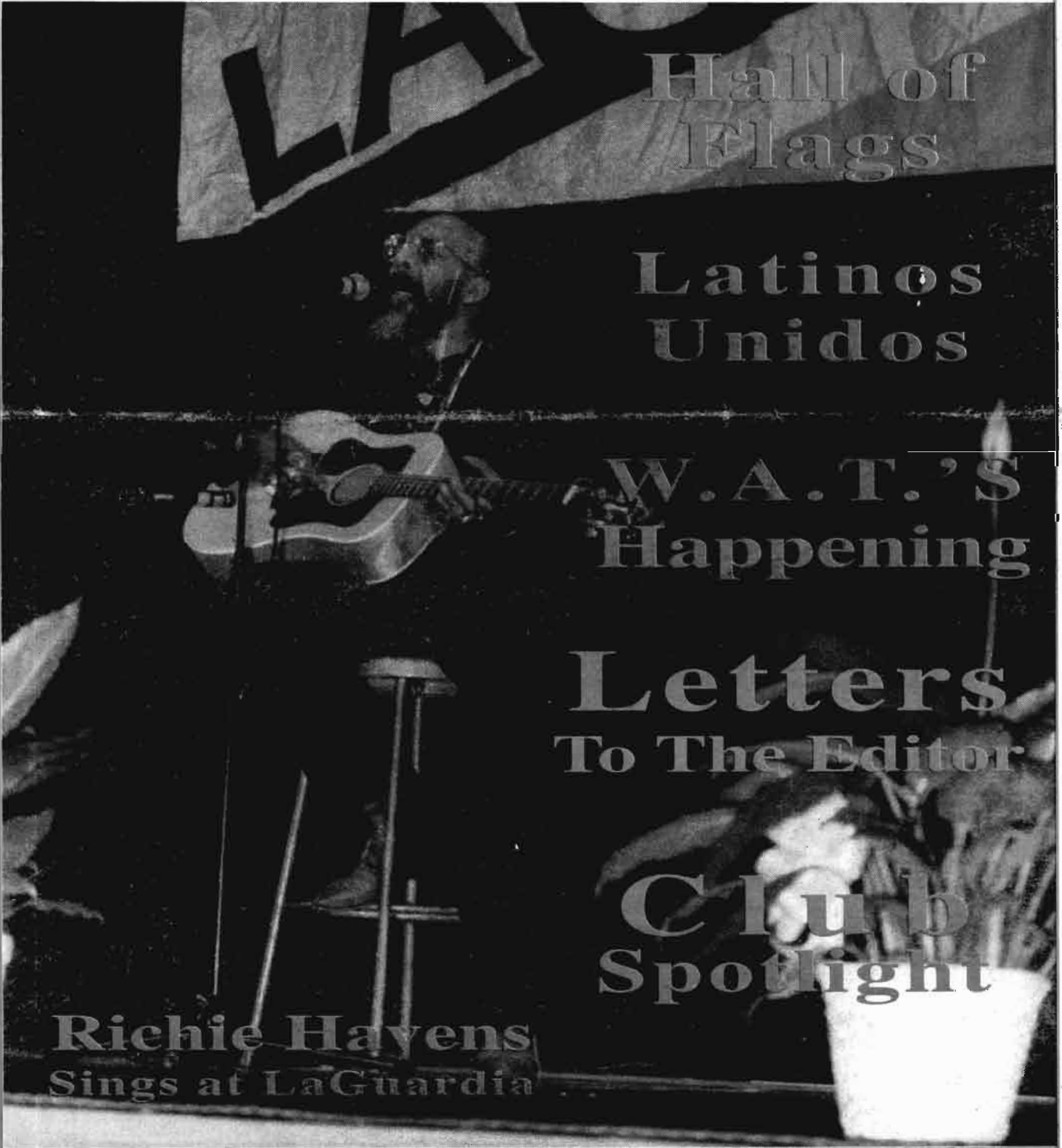
Latinos
Unidos

W.A.T.'S
Happening

Letters
To The Editor

Club
Spotlight

Richie Hayens
Sings at LaGuardia



The Bridge Newspaper

Fiorello H. LaGuardia
Community College

C U N Y

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CONGRATULATIONS!
1996/97 WINNERS

The Latinos Unidos Platform Wins the S.G.A. Elections

By Wilberto Ortiz

On May 29, 1997 the Latinos Unidos platform defeated the slate **Unity Ekota Unidos** (U.E.U.). Latinos Unidos won 12 out of 12 seats, defeating U.E.U. by 1,800 votes. It is the first slate ever to win all seats in government, Senate, and F.S.R.B. at LaGuardia College. Latinos Unidos earned 74% of the entire voting count. Some of the projects that the new officers want to initiate include the following :

- * Extending Library hours and improving resource materials in the Library.
- * Standardizing and reducing prices on school textbooks.
- * Creating an annual Family Day Event.
- * Establishing a recreational area in the "C"- Building.
- * Lobbying year-round against C.U.N.Y. budget cuts.
- * Establishing a Doctor on call.
- * Establishing free e-mail addresses for students.
- * Promoting gym expansion projects and functions.
- * Establishing a student Chair for SAC.

The new members of student government include the following : Miguel Belardo, Michael K. Cox, Jose Cruz, Angelica Fernandez, Lizbeth Gonzalez, Onaje Gittens, Patrick Hill, Michi Hernandez, Jose E. Irizarry, Oscar Mejia, Jayson Ramirez, Epy M. Reyes, and Ignacio Restrepo. The President of the new student government is Jose Irizarry. On July 2, 1997, the new student government began its first term in office.

Many of the students interviewed were very enthusiastic about the outcome of the elections. One student, Millie Rentas, said, "I voted for Latinos Unidos because since I have been at

LaGuardia, I didn't know who was who in the student government. I also feel that this is the time for a change. It's time for student government to come forward and let our students know more about our school issues." Juan Gonzalez, known as "Doc," said, "as a student who has supported student issues and rights, I feel the new members will uphold and fight against what will affect students adversely. I also feel that Latinos Unidos ran a great campaign on issues that I felt were important."

In an interview with some of the candidates, Michael Cox said, "I felt relieved that three years of campaigning to make changes came about on the 21st of May. The fact that we took all of the 12 seats means that students really knew that changes had to come. I felt comfortable that students knew who the true leaders were."

Many people feel that the Latinos Unidos Club played a major role in the elections. "Latinos Unidos is just a club. The club means a lot to me because that is where the new slate originally came from," said Jayson Ramirez, former president of the Latinos Unidos Club. "I'm happy that everybody came through and supported us. I'm also happy that we all finally put our hearts together [which] we should have done years ago to achieve this. Finally, all of that came true."

If you would like to contact your new Student Government officers, they are located in Room M160 or call (718) 482-5297. Look for the next issue of *The Bridge*, which will include a full spread on your new student government.

The Bridge is the official student newspaper of LaGuardia Community College. It is published by an independent staff and financed by Student Activity funds. Opinions expressed in the paper are not necessarily those of the College, administration, faculty, or the student body. The Bridge is not responsible for unsolicited material and all material is subject to editing. Copyright by The Bridge located in M118E at LaGuardia Community College, 31-10 Thomson Ave., LIC, NY 11101 (718) 482-5189.

W.A.T. = What ???

What does the new requirement mean and how will it affect you?

BY JOAN YVETTE ZELAYA

The debate and trouble over CUNY's Writing Assessment Test and Hostos Community College has hit LaGuardia. The problem began at the end of May, when the City University Board of Trustees voted to make the W.A.T. a graduation requirement for all community colleges. The requirement means that any student scheduled to graduate in June 1997 and after will have to pass the W.A.T., in order to receive a diploma. Students at Hostos, which is a bilingual college, felt the requirement was unfair and decided to turn to the courts. Yamille Mendez, Student Government President of Hostos Community College, explained that the students brought the lawsuit against the Board of Trustees and Herman Badillo, Vice Chairman of the CUNY Board, because the requirement was enforced a few days before graduation. In a May 30, 1997 article in the *Daily News*, lawyers for the students said that "the Board's decision was similar to moving the goal posts at the end of the game... these students have paid their tuition and fulfilled all the requirements they were told to fulfill. Now they are entitled to graduate." In the same article, Mr. Badillo said he respected the students' right to go to court, but said "the greatest disservice would be to allow students to graduate if they can't pass a simple test in English. We are trying to help them."

The requirement was passed at the height of scrutiny over what has been called an educational epidemic. The abrupt decision has raised many questions about fairness and the quality of a CUNY college education. Dr. Susan Young, Acting Summer Chairperson for the English Department at La-

Guardia, stated "basic writing is under attack at CUNY. Part of the criticism leveled by Herman Badillo, Giuliani, and Pataki is that CUNY is spending too much time and money on (remediation) educating these students." Dr. Young wanted to make it clear

"35.8% of this year's LaGuardia graduates couldn't pass the test. The same test that is administered to entering freshman."

that CUNY does not want to do away with basic writing, but feels the politicians do. "Their argument is that students coming into a college should not require remediation. But the problem with their argument is that the majority of our students are second-language students. Yes, they have taken E.S.L. courses, but it has been documented time after time that the average length of time for English language assimilation is approximately seven years. So, it takes a long time to become very fluent in the English language."

The reality facing CUNY is that its students, who are predominantly second-language students,

"...these students have paid their tuition and fulfilled all the requirements they were told to fulfill. Now they are entitled to graduate."

cannot pass the W.A.T., which is equivalent to an 11th grade writing test. According to a June 23, 1997 *Daily News* editorial, 35% of incoming community college students failed their entrance exams; while spending on remediation was as much as \$20 million a year. The same article stated that "35.8% of this year's LaGuardia graduates couldn't pass the test. The same test that is administered to entering freshman." Dr. Young explained, "It's not always that simple. There are other factors to be considered. If students are not keeping up with their fluency, if they are not writing and not being given feedback on their writing and if they are not speaking and using the language, the student's performance when taking the W.A.T. will be affected. Overall we have a pretty good report card. There is always room for improvement, but so far so good."

Many newspaper editorials have complained that the W.A.T. is extremely easy. During our interview, Dr. Young explained the W.A.T. does not require sophisticated writing skills. However, there is another factor to be considered and that is the fact that most of our students are bilingual. Another problem with the test is that the W.A.T. is designed for placement purposes. Prof. Terry Cole, an English Professor at LaGuardia who was on the CUNY Writing Task Force that developed the W.A.T., said "The problem with the requirement is that the W.A.T. is a placement exam. It is used to determine what English course incoming students will be placed in; it was intended to test a student's ability to answer a question under a certain amount of time, not how much a student has learned in two years. No one wants to spend money on developing a new test." Dr. Young partially agreed, stating that "the W.A.T. is an assessment test, not a

proficiency test...but one thing it can indicate, even in a limited way, is a student's fluency in English. That is what the Board of Trustees is saying, and that is basically what the colleges are say-

"It was intended to test a student's ability to answer a question under a certain amount of time, not how much a student has learned in two years."

ing, that students should be able to do this at the end of two years. There is a certain logic to the fact that if you can't pass when you come in, you should be able to pass the same test when you come out, which would tend to indicate some progress." As for a new test, she stated "for now this is what we have to work with, this is what we are going to use." She explained that although the W.A.T. will be used for now, there are various committees within CUNY currently examining alter-

"Fluency and literacy is the responsibility of the students, as well as the administration."

natives to the W.A.T. In response to the new requirement, officials at LaGuardia set up a strong support system of continuous writing workshops

and administer the W.A.T. to accommodate students' busy schedules. Students are allowed to take the test as many times as necessary until they pass. Although the mood at LaGuardia is not as tense as it is at Hostos, many students feel cheated. Marcia De Leon, who expected to graduate in June with a Associate Degree in Human Services, was shocked when she heard of the new requirement. "I have taken the test many

times and I still cannot pass. I passed all my English courses because I was allowed to use my dictionary. When I came to LaGuardia, I started in E.S.L. 95. I learned all my English here, and I still cannot pass the test. They don't understand that it is very difficult for us to write an essay where we are only allowed five mistakes. I think in Spanish, and for me to write an essay in 50 minutes with no mistakes is impossible." Other students who speak different languages conveyed the same feelings. Although they aren't as vocal as the students at Hostos, they are extremely angry. Still Dr. Young encourages students to take advantage of the W.A.T. writing workshops and Writing Center. The W.A.T. requirement has always applied to students who wish to transfer, as no senior CUNY College will accept a transfer student who has not passed the W.A.T. As of May 1997, the requirement now applies to all community college students. For the upcoming year, Dr. Young explained that the College is making every effort to help students overcome their difficulties with writing and meet graduation requirements. If you have any questions, please contact the English Department at (718) 482-5656. Look for an update on this issue in the next issue of *The Bridge*. Need tips for taking the W.A.T. test, turn to page 15.

Thumbs Up, and Hoorays!

by Edwin Dominguez

Lately, there has been a number of initiatives that have benefited LaGuardia students. The Bridge always considers every little thing that is done for the welfare of the students. Here are some things to applaud:

The incorporation of two extra microwave ovens in the Main Building Cafeteria has to be noticed. Now students won't have to wait in line in order to use a microwave oven. **Two thumbs up and a hooray!**

"There was a need for more pay phones in LaGuardia," said Eileen Murray, Director of Administrative & Support Services Department. Eileen Murray is responsible for having the new pay phones installed in the "E" Building and Main Building lobby. There are four pay phones and TTY access for physically impaired students. **Two thumbs up and a hooray!**

The gym management has done a very good job of installing new and better lockers to replace the old damaged ones that students had to use. **Two thumbs up and a hooray!**

Correction

The last issue of The Bridge (Vol.6, No. 1) presented an article, "Weird New Science," by Keith Pleickhardt. The article mentioned two people responsible for the concept and allocation of money for the new science study hall. Correction: Dr. Carol Haspel was solely responsible for the concept and allocation of money.

LaGuardia's Diversity is Honored

by Keith J Pleickhardt

LaGuardia officially opened the International Hall Of Flags on May 12, 1997. "This was a celebration of LaGuardia embracing the nations and cultures of the world," said ceremony organizer Dehly Porras, a Professor in the Math Department. "It was truly magnificent to see everybody coming together," she said. The International Hall of Flags honors the diversity of cultures in the LaGuardia student body by incorporating a flag for each country represented at LaGuardia. Presently, there are 135 flags on display in the Main Building.

Officials from New York City, New York State, and

the United Nations praised the multiculturalism at LaGuardia. One highlight of the celebration was an original poem entitled, "Flags All Around Me," read by Professor Jack Lynch. Another popular segment included songs such as "It's A Small World" and "We Are The World" performed by the children of LaGuardia's Early Childhood Learning Center. Richie

Havens sang his hit songs "Motherless Child," "Freedom," and a rendition of "On The Turning Away." LaGuardia's choir, as well as the many LaGuardia students, International High School students, and faculty members who performed, received standing ovations from the audience. "It was a magnificent celebration supported by those within the college and many outside the college," said Prof. Porras. At the close of the ceremony, the audience traveled through the halls to the official ribbon-cutting ceremony and through the International Hall of Flags to an international buffet of foods. This buffet was held in



LaGuardia students with a message of peace. Photo Courtesy of Wilberto Ortiz.

the atrium of the "E" Building and included various international dishes which provided a learning experience for the participants' taste buds. The celebration included music performed by Kaleidoscope, LaGuardia's own jazz band. Kaleidoscope's Latin jazz really moved the crowd! They received several ovations.

LaGuardia will continue its year-long 25th anniversary celebration by giving recognition and honor to its rich diversity. The festivities at our international college continued through the summer.

"This was a celebration of LaGuardia embracing the nations and cultures of the world."

looking for jobs, apartments, or used textbooks, check out the bulletin boards around the school for more information.

THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO "UHA"!

What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us.

Albert Pine

What we have done for others and the world is immortal.

Roger C. Andersen in *The Rotarian*

The only time you must not fail is the last time you try.

Charles Kettering

Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.

The more a man writes, the more he can write.

William Hazlitt

If at first you don't succeed, you're running about average.

M.H. Anderson

Never trouble trouble till trouble troubles you.

American Proverb

I have a theory that the only original things we ever do are mistakes.

Bill DeMain in *The Performing Songwriter*

Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.

Abraham Lincoln

In three words, I can sum up everything I have learned about life.

After you've heard two eyewitness accounts of an auto accident, you begin to worry about history.

It goes on.

Robert Frost

Changing Times

Compiled by Edwin Dominguez

Gateway To Success

BY EDWIN DOMINGUEZ

Bradley Richardson, career guru and author of *Job-smarts for Twentysomethings*, pointed out in an article he wrote for *Tools of Life* magazine that there are three types of people: those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who say, "what happened?" I think this theory applies to community college students. Students have to see if they are capable of planning their own future, not just watching what happens, or, even worse, not knowing what is happening.

Fortunately, students who need help making career choices can receive assistance in the form of Co-op Prep Internships. LaGuardia has helped students make career decisions since it opened its doors 25 years ago. "LaGuardia is the only community college that has a required internship program to not only educate its students, but to make use of on-the-job training to learn," said Catherine Farrell, Associate Dean of the Division of Cooperative Education. Dean Farrell added that "today's students need to have skills that are transferable, and the best way to get them is through experience." I also believe that we need work experience to succeed in today's work

world, or we need to make contacts with friends of our friends who are willing to give us a chance.

Learning takes place in different settings here at LaGuardia. Both in and outside of the classroom, students face reality. We take knowledge and put it into practice. All day students are required to take one or two internships, depending on their major. Extended day students are also required to take internships in these specialized curricular areas: Human Services, Occupational Therapy, Veterinary Technology, Dietetic Technology, AA/BA Program in Liberal Arts/Education, Education Associate: The Bilingual Child, Physical Therapy, and School Food Service Management.

Rosa Peralta, an accounting student who is now completing her final internship, said that "the program's faculty advisors are very efficient, but it is the friendly hand in which Co-op faculty advisors help you go through your internships that makes you feel better." She said that before she started in the "Gateway" course, which is the introductory course for the Co-op program, she did not have a clear idea of what she wanted to do in

the future. Now, with the help of her faculty advisor, she can easily face any barrier in her career as an accountant.

"What students learn in the classroom is basic to what is needed in the work world," said Prof. John Weigel, a faculty advisor for accounting majors. In 25 years advising LaGuardia students, Dr. Weigel has learned that the job market is open to those who have the prerequisite knowledge, skills, and experience.

There are many successful Co-op program alumni. Laurie Sue Brockway, editor of *Singles* magazine, is an alumnus of LaGuardia. She was an editor of *The Bridge*, and has gone on to become a successful journalist. Ms. Brockway now calls her former Co-op Advisor asking for interns interested in journalism.

Cooperative Education is what makes LaGuardia unique. Patricia Rodriguez, another student who is now in her second internship, said, LaGuardia provides "a channel to succeed." I believe that, thanks to the Co-op program, the chances of discovering who we might become in the future are better because we are allowed to explore career options and determine the career that we like the best.

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CLUB SPOTLIGHT

THE HAITIAN CLUB

by Joan Yvette Zelaya

With over 35 members, the Haitian Club is the largest club at LaGuardia Community College. The Haitian Club reopened its doors in the Fall 1995 semester, after being closed for two semesters. The club president, who prefers to be known as Wagner, explained that the club was closed because past members did not elect a president before transferring or graduating from LaGuardia. After Wagner and other students attended a multicultural event in the MainStage Theater, they saw that the Haitian population was not represented. Knowing that there was a strong Haitian population at LaGuardia, Wagner, with the help of Sebastian Bazile, Reggie Darbouze, and others, decided to get the club recertified. In order to do so, they had to get 15 signatures, a Faculty Advisor, and present an agenda to the Department of Student Life and Development who handles all student activities. In Fall 1995, students fulfilled all of the requirements and established the Haitian Club with over 50 signatures. After enlisting Jhony Nelson (from the Learning Project) as their Faculty Advisor, students were able to hold their first meeting and an opening celebration. During the last two years, the Haitian Club has sponsored many events. Wagner recalls the opening celebration, which was filled with

many surprises. "We learned from experience, but our first party was not easy. The room we reserved for the party held 84 people — over 100 people arrived. Security did not expect such a huge crowd. Therefore, the party had to be canceled because people became upset when they were told they could not come inside." The Haitian Club has learned from this experience and has held many successful events. Last semester, it held a fashion show, which was a great success. In May, members represented Haiti at the International Hall of Flags dedication ceremony. They also participated in the Travelogue during Multi-Cultural Week at LaGuardia. The Travelogue featured artifacts, native clothes, and a videotape of the Fugees concert in Haiti. Wagner explained that the Haitian Club has a lot more planned for the future. "We are hoping to start a clothing

"We do not exclude; all are welcome to be part of the club. We do not discriminate."



Haitian Club members: Wagner, "Koupe," Wendell, Reginal, Marvin, Armando, P.L., Sebastian. Picture courtesy of The Haitian Club.



Just a few of the Haitian Club ladies: Lilunni, Arlene, Yolande, Lovely, Tawana, and Rene. Picture courtesy of The Haitian Club.

"The New Flava de la Salsa"

by Joan Yvette Zelaya

On June 10, 1997, LaGuardia students had the pleasure of meeting long-time songstress Brenda K. Starr. Brenda came to the College to promote her new album, "Te Sigo Esperando." "Rocky" Yntriago worked tirelessly to get Brenda K. Starr to visit LaGuardia. His hard work paid off when she arrived, late, to the WLGC Radio Station studio for an interview to be broadcast live. Brenda explained her lateness by stating that she had just arrived the night before from performing at various clubs in Miami, Florida. "I was really tired and didn't feel like getting up, but I couldn't let my fans down; so I got up and came down to sign the autographs." Famous for her pop hit, "What You See Is What You Get," and ballads, "No Matter" with George Lamond and "I Still Believe," Brenda was very excited about her new album, "Te Sigo Esperando." She said she worked hard at practicing her Spanish for the new release.

Over 100 students lined up to meet with the Latin singer. WLGC Station Manager Alan Scribner did not anticipate such a huge crowd; neither did Brenda's manager, Eddie Cruz of Platano Records. They quickly ran out of posters, but that didn't stop students who arrived with flyers, hats, and t-shirts for Brenda to sign. Nobody fainted, although some came close to it, and a couple of fans sang for the singer. Extremely gracious and funny, Brenda was thankful for having such a loyal following.

The Bridge

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Room M188-e

drive for the homeless. We are also hoping that the Haitian Club could get sponsored by companies such as Reebok or Nike to help students who maintain a G.P.A of 2.5 and over with books and supplies. We hope this could start a trend among other clubs at LaGuardia and throughout CUNY." With such ambitious plans for the future, the Haitian Club still maintains a friendly atmosphere. "We are unlike other CUNY Haitian clubs. We do not exclude; all are welcome to be part of our club. We do not discriminate," Wagner said. Sebastian Bazille, vice president of the Haitian Club, explained that the membership of the club includes Japanese, African - American, and other nationalities. Wagner added that the Haitian Club wants to teach everyone about the Haitian culture. "Most young Haitian - Americans have been Americanized; we just want to show the school all aspects of our talents," he said. During club hours, "We plan events, study, and socialize; if someone has a problem, we try to help them," Wagner said. If you're interested in learning about the Haitian culture or becoming a part of the Haitian Club, just stop by the office in Room M-117E.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A DAY OF DISRESPECT

"A Day of Respect" was the first event that kicked off LaGuardia's salute to multiculturalism on May 20, 1997. The multicultural celebration ended with the Travel Logue on May 23, 1997. The week of multiculturalism was funded by Student Life and Development/Division of Student Affairs.

Being a poet/performer, I was asked by a representative from the Black Entertainment Club to recite poetry on "A Day Of Respect." On May 15, I was escorted to Student Life and Development by a Black Entertainment Club representative, where I was introduced to a Student Life and Development representative. I was told a copy of the poem I wanted to perform would have to be reviewed. I was shocked! To my amazement, that wasn't all. Material with profanity or sexually explicit content would not be allowed to be performed or read on stage. Why hasn't Student Life and Development sought after students to decide what should go on stage? Why haven't students fought to become active organizers on Student Life and Development events? Have they tried doing so? Have they been silenced in the process?

The original piece that I wanted to perform was called "La Isla Del Encanto." It is a piece that deals with a young man who lost his connection to his native Island, Puerto Rico. It also deals with his Puerto Rican love interest who tries to reconnect him to the beauty and culture that Puerto Rico has to offer. "La Isla Del Encanto" has one curse word and has a sexually explicit love scene that is not gratuitous. Instead of being direct in my description of the act, I use Puerto Rico as a metaphor for the female form.

I explained this to representatives of Student Life and Development. Nonetheless, I was asked to submit this poem on the following Monday by 10:00 a.m. I was skeptical on its acceptance, but I submitted the poem anyway. Irene Sosa, of Student Life and Development, later informed me that the committee for the event would not allow me to perform. I took the attention off my piece by asking her if student activity fees fund their department and the multicultural events occurring that week. The answer was yes.

The slight feeling of rejection quickly subsided when I realized that this rejection did not come from my peers. It came from college personnel who did not have student participation when deciding what was going on stage and what was not. Student Life and Development is comprised of faculty and staff. Although there was student participation in the events during that week, there was no input from the student body as far as what went on stage. What an atrocity! I was censored and so was Blondell Jackson from the Creative Arts Club. To my knowledge, no other victims have stepped forward.

A greater atrocity is committed when students entrust faculty with the duty of handling our student activity fees without becoming active members in the organization of these events. It was this lack of strong student participation that allowed Blondell Jackson and I to be censored.

My outrage led me to type up a memo to Student Life and Development criticizing them for their handling of this event. Its purpose was to raise awareness and organize a group of students so that the Student Life and Development Department and the College community can have open forums about this issue. All students have the responsibility of ensuring that censorship does not exist on any level of expression. The cliché that strength is found in numbers is absolutely correct. One student speaking out on an issue is considered a disgruntled student. A group of unified students with a common goal is a movement. Notice the difference. Unifying ourselves is the next step in ensuring that we live up to our responsibilities. Have you lived up to yours?

Frederick Feliciano

HELPS DEFINED

My name is Anastasia Trihas. I am a current LaGuardia student who has recently read "The HELPS Program Can Really Help You" article by Edwin Dominguez, in the Spring I edition of The Bridge (page 11). The article discusses LaGuardia's new health program called HELPS. This program provides HIV/AIDS and STD testing combined with counseling and referrals to other health and social services and agencies. I was very enthusiastic about reading the article because I was unaware of this beneficial service. However, I felt that the article would have better informed me if it focused more on the details of the program.

Since I was very intrigued by the HELPS program, I decided to find out a substantial amount of information that elaborated in more details. There are two types of testing done in the Health Center. One is done anonymously by the Department of Health. The other test is done confidentially by North Shore Hospital. The spring semester schedule is Mondays and Thursdays from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. North Shore testing is done on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm for the Department of Health testing. However, these dates are subject to change. The Department of Health is also willing to accommodate students with special needs schedule-wise.

When one enters the Health Center in MB-40 the LaGuardia Medical staff orients and informs the students on how the program works. If one decides to get tested or counseled, the staff then arranges an appointment with one of the two New York State-licensed counselors from either North Shore Hospital or the N.Y.C. Department of Health. During counseling one is informed about HIV and has the opportunity to ask any questions regarding relevant issues. Once the student has agreed to get tested, a New York State-licensed phlebotomist draws patients' blood and schedules a second appointment in approximately one to two weeks for the results. If one decides to get tested for STDs, the results are ready within one week. When the results are positive the individual is administered psychological counseling for as long as needed. After the psychological counseling, referrals, medication options, support group information, and any other pertinent information are also given. If the results are negative the patient is advised to take the test again within a 3 to 6 month period. The patient is also advised to apply the Department of Health's precautionary advice.

Anastasia Trihas

SHOWCASE

Interview with D. J. Chip Chop

by Rocky Yntriago

If you were to step into any club down the East Coast from N. Y. City to Miami's South Beach, I know for a fact that Chip Chop has been there, spinning the best in House music (jungle, Latin, acid, etc...). With his laid-back personality, I immediately felt like old friends. Even though his name has become a household persona in both the heterosexual and gay communities, Chip Chop the man is still a down-to earth type of guy who enjoys doing nothing when he isn't spinning.

I had the pleasure of interviewing Chip Chop a couple of weeks ago. We talked over some chicken and fries at Jack's Burger & Chicken. Here's what he had to say:

Rocky : First, I'd like to thank you for the interview.

Chip Chop : It's my pleasure.

Rocky : How did you get the name Chip Chop?

C. C. : (laughing) I have heard every joke about my name, but the truth is that it's a combination of three things: 1. Quickness with the turntables, skilled with the use of three or more vinyls. 2. My editing style. 3. It was also a name given to me by an old partner.

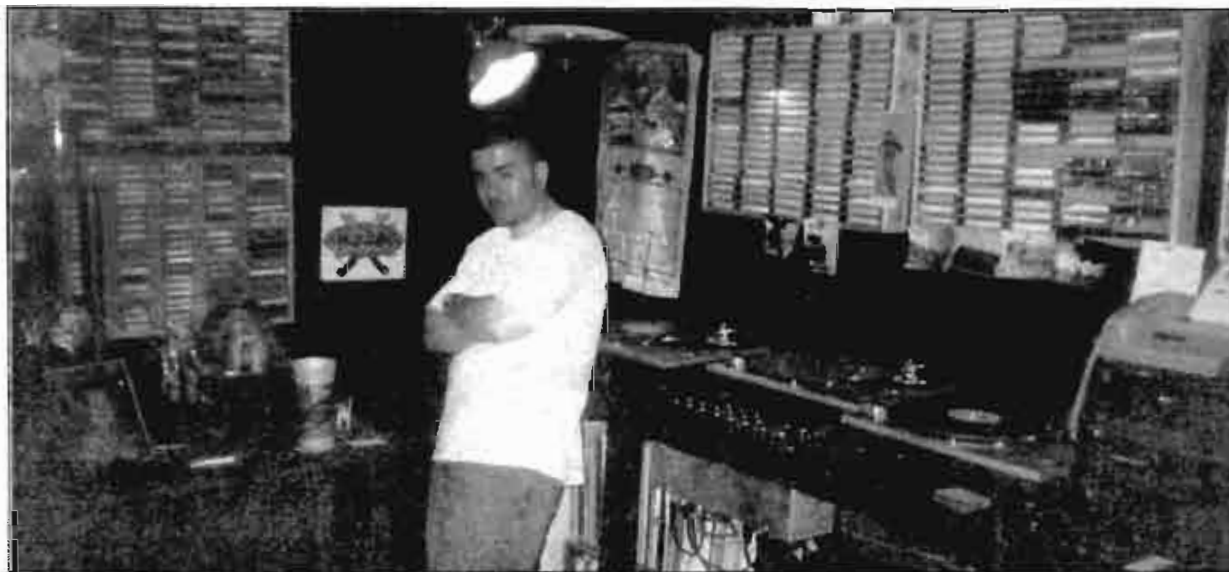
Rocky : You have been delighting us with your music for some time, how did you start playing?

C. C. : I started playing at age 8, but I started doing clubs at age 16.

Rocky : What was your first major club?

C. C. : I remember it like it was last year; the original Copacabana — East 60th.

Rocky : Who are your inspirations in the world of D.J.'s?



D.J. Chip Chop and turntables
Photo courtesy of Rocky and D.J. Chip Chop.

C. C. : Wow, it's only "Little" Louie Vega.

Rocky : Chip Chop we all know you love House music, tell us what else do you have to listen to?

C. C. : I love to listen to salsa, merengue, basically I love music!

Rocky : What equipment do you use?

C. C. : I use reel-to-reels, vinyls, and C.D.'s.

Rocky : Are there any records we should look out for?

C. C. : Too long of a list, but look out for Latin House Party with Norty Cotto (Mega 97.9), House of Cuttin' with Lord 6, and Seabank remix on the radio.

Rocky : What was your favorite club to D. J.?

C. C. : I would have to say The Sound Factory Bar on Wednesday nights; it's on East 22 Street.

Rocky : Do you have any preference when playing for a crowd?

C. C. : No, I love to play for both the gay and straight crowds. Music is anything that makes you move, it doesn't discriminate. I play for the crowd in the club.

Rocky : All success is credited to what?

C. C. : I would have to say it's a little bit of everything — because there have been sleepless nights and lots of struggle. Besides your parents and God, who do you credit for your success. My Uncle Toby (a.k.a. Ozzy), he's 70 years old and still comes to my parties. Also, my fans, and my partner, John Chan of Chip & Chan Productions.

Rocky : Where do you see yourself 10 years down the road?

C. C. : I see myself winning a Gold Record for producing.

Rocky : Any last words before we go?

C. C. : Always thanks to the club hoppers, who support my music, much love to MOTHER C.C., Freedom and Willie Ninja for their continued support. God bless you all.

Rocky : Thanks Chip Chop for the interview, much love and success in your life and career. See you on the dance floor—one love.

*For further info on how to buy D. J. Chip Chop mix tapes contact: Rocky Productions @ 917-393-7739 (voice mail)

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CLUB SPOTLIGHT

THE HAITIAN CLUB

by Joan Yvette Zelaya

With over 35 members, the Haitian Club is the largest club at LaGuardia Community College. The Haitian Club reopened its doors in the Fall 1995 semester, after being closed for two semesters. The club president, who prefers to be known as Wagner, explained that the club was closed because past members did not elect a president before transferring or graduating from LaGuardia. After Wagner and other students attended a multicultural event in the MainStage Theater, they saw that the Haitian population was not represented. Knowing that there was a strong Haitian population at LaGuardia, Wagner, with the help of Sebastian Bazile, Reggie Darbouze, and others, decided to get the club recertified. In order to do so, they had to get 15 signatures, a Faculty Advisor, and present an agenda to the Department of Student Life and Development who handles all student activities. In Fall 1995, students fulfilled all of the requirements and established the Haitian Club with over 50 signatures. After enlisting Jhony Nelson (from the Learning Project) as their Faculty Advisor, students were able to hold their first meeting and an opening celebration.

"We do not exclude; all are welcome to be part of the club. We do not discriminate."

many surprises. "We learned from experience, but our first party was not easy. The room we reserved for the party held 84 people — over 100 people arrived. Security did not expect such a huge crowd. Therefore, the party had to be canceled because people became upset when they were told they could not come inside." The Haitian Club has learned from this experience and has held many successful events. Last semester, it held a fashion show, which was a great success. In May, members represented Haiti at the International Hall of Flags dedication ceremony. They also participated in the Travelogue during Multi-Cultural Week at LaGuardia. The Travelogue featured artifacts, native clothes, and a videotape of the Fugees concert in Haiti. Wagner explained that the Haitian Club has a lot more planned for the future. "We are hoping to start a clothing



Haitian Club members: Wagner, "Koupe," Wendell, Reginal, Marvin, Armando, P.L., Sebastian. Picture courtesy of The Haitian Club.

drive for the homeless. We are also hoping that the Haitian Club could get sponsored by companies such as Reebok or Nike to help students who maintain a G.P.A of 2.5 and over with books and supplies. We hope this could start a trend among other clubs at LaGuardia and throughout CUNY." With such ambitious plans for the future, the Haitian Club still maintains a friendly atmosphere. "We are unlike other CUNY Haitian clubs. We do not exclude; all are welcome to be part of our club. We do not discriminate," Wagner said. Sebastian Bazille, vice president of the Haitian Club, explained that the membership of the club includes Japanese, African - American, and other nationalities. Wagner added that the Haitian Club wants to teach everyone about the Haitian culture. "Most young Haitian - Americans have been Americanized; we just want to show the school all aspects of our talents," he said. During club hours, "We plan events, study, and socialize; if someone has a problem, we try to help them," Wagner said. If you're interested in learning about the Haitian culture or becoming a part of the Haitian Club, just stop by the office in Room M-117E.



Just a few of the Haitian Club ladies : Lilunni, Arlene, Yolande, Lovely, Tawana, and Rene. Picture courtesy of The Haitian Club.

"The New Flava de la Salsa"

by Joan Yvette Zelaya

On June 10, 1997, LaGuardia students had the pleasure of meeting long-time songstress Brenda K. Starr. Brenda came to the College to promote her new album, "Te Sigo Esperando." "Rocky" Yntriago worked tirelessly to get Brenda K. Starr to visit LaGuardia. His hard work paid off when she arrived, late, to the WLGC Radio Station studio for an interview to be broadcast live. Brenda explained her lateness by stating that she had just arrived the night before from performing at various clubs in Miami, Florida. "I was really tired and didn't feel like getting up, but I couldn't let my fans down; so I got up and came down to sign the autographs." Famous for her pop hit, "What You See Is What You Get," and ballads, "No Matter" with George Lamond and "I Still Believe," Brenda was very excited about her new album, "Te Sigo Esperando." She said she worked hard at practicing her Spanish for the new release.

Over 100 students lined up to meet with the Latin singer. WLGC Station Manager Alan Scribner did not anticipate such a huge crowd; neither did Brenda's manager, Eddie Cruz of Platano Records. They quickly ran out of posters, but that didn't stop students who arrived with flyers, hats, and t-shirts for Brenda to sign. Nobody fainted, although some came close to it, and a couple of fans sang for the singer. Extremely gracious and funny, Brenda was thankful for having such a loyal following.

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1997/98 ACADEMIC CALENDAR
 Fiorello H. LaGuardia Community College/C.U.N.Y.
 31 - 10 Thomson Avenue Long Island City, N.Y. 11101

FALL SEMESTER - SESSION I

9/1	Labor Day (No Classes)
9/2	First official day of Coop Internship
9/2	First day of Fall Classes - Session I
9/9	Honors Night
9/10	Opening Sessions for Faculty and Staff (No Classes)
9/16	Commencement (No Classes)
9/18	Last day to apply for Graduation, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy Candidacy or Permit this semester
9/18	Last day to add Independent Study/Individualized Courses
9/18	Last day of tuition refund period
10/1-10/3	No Classes
10/10-10/13	No Classes
10/16	Last day to withdraw from a course officially
10/28	Classes will meet according to a Friday Schedule
11/27-11/29	Thanksgiving Recess (No Classes)
12/6	Last day of Fall classes - Session I
12/7-12/13	FINALS
12/12	Last official day of Coop Internship

FALL SEMESTER - SESSION II

12/15	FIRST official day of Coop Internship
12/24-12/25	No Classes
12/31-1/1	No Classes
1/5	First day of Fall Classes - Session II
1/12	Last day of tuition refund period
1/12	Last day to apply as a Non- Degree student (Applications will be accepted on a space-available basis)
1/15	Last day to apply for readmission or reinstatement from suspension (for Spring 1998 Semester)
1/19	Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday observed (No Classes)
1/21	Classes will meet according to a Thursday schedule
1/29	Last day to withdraw from a course officially
2/3	Classes will meet according to a Monday schedule
2/12	Lincoln's Birthday (No Classes)
2/16	Presidents' Day (No Classes)
2/18	Last Day of Fall Classes - Session II
2/19-2/24	FINALS
3/13	Last official day of Coop Internship

SPRING SEMESTER - SESSION I

3/14	First day of Spring Classes - Session I
3/16	First official day of Coop Internship
4/1	Last day to apply for Graduation, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy Candidacy or Permit this semester
4/1	Last day to add Independent Study/Individualized Courses
4/1	Last day of tuition refund period
4/10-4/19	No Classes
4/30	Last day to withdraw from a course officially
5/12	Classes will meet according to a Friday schedule
5/25	Memorial Day (No Classes)
6/16	Last day of Spring classes - Session I
6/17-6/23	Finals
6/19	Last official day of Coop Internship

SPRING SEMESTER - SESSION II

6/22	First official day of Coop Internship
6/27	First day of Spring classes - Session II
7/4	Independence Day (No Classes)
7/6	Last day of tuition refund period
7/6	Last day to apply as a Non-Degree student
7/9	Last day to apply for readmission or reinstatement from suspension (For Fall 1998 Semester)
7/23	Last day to withdraw from a course officially
8/8	Last day of Spring Classes - Session II
8/9 - 8/15	FINALS
8/28	Last official day of Coop Internship

E V E N T S

T H R O U G H O U T L A G U A R D I A



June 16, 1997

Congratulations to our young graduates! Early Childhood Learning Center Graduation Ceremony in the Main Stage Theater.

Picture courtesy of Wilberto Ortiz.



June 13, 1997

Crystal and Yanique on the catwalk for the Black Entertainment Club Fashion Show.

Picture courtesy of Harry Fleury Starlight Photography.



June 13, 1997

Picture courtesy of Harry Fleury Starlight Photography.

June 2, 1997

PHI THETA KAPPA International Honors of the two-year college, handed out awards to the brightest students at LaGuardia. Congratulations!



Picture courtesy of Wilberto Ortiz.

Yvonne escorted by Wagner, President of The Haitian Club, making a cameo appearance at the Black Entertainment Club Fashion Show.

Genius & Jerry

Their view on how to use the yellow pages



I use it to find numbers and addresses for goods and services.



I like to rip them in half to impress chicks on how strong I am.

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Tips for the W.A.T. Test

When taking the CUNY writing test, these pointers will help you write a passing essay:

- * Write four or five full paragraphs. Your essay should include an introduction, two or three supporting paragraphs, and a full-paragraph conclusion.
- * Don't begin your essay with "I agree with the above statement" or repeat the exact wording used on the question sheet. Your thesis must be strong and get to the point immediately! A better beginning would be: "All U.S. high school students should have to serve six months doing community service before being allowed to graduate."
- * Every supporting reason must be accompanied by a clear, specific example that illustrates your point. Indicate this by beginning with "For example," or "One illustration of this is."
- * Don't repeat yourself in the conclusion; offer a logical solution to the problem that you've discussed.
- * No matter what else you do, leave 10 minutes at the end of the test to thoroughly check over your essay for grammatical errors, to see that you've included examples and written a full paragraph for your conclusion, etc.
- * Don't waste time writing a draft; you won't be able to finish rewriting in time. Do, however, make a little outline on the inside cover to help you organize your ideas.
- * Identify your three most frequent errors in writing and check carefully for those errors in your essay before handing it in. You won't catch all your errors, but you can minimize the ones you tend to make most frequently.
- * Write legibly and neatly.
- * Make sure you fill out all the required information on the test booklet.
- * Don't try to be fancy; it won't increase your score, and most likely will just increase the chance for errors. Do make sure you have a clear thesis statement, two or three supporting reasons for your position with specific examples, and a full-paragraph conclusion offering a solution to the problem.
- * Make sure you breathe deeply and normally to get enough oxygen.

Tips courtesy of the English Department

Tips for Parents

Preparing First Timers for School

A child's first day at school can be an A+ if parents do a little homework of their own. "A parent's attitude about school plays an important part in how the child reacts," said Dr. Lou Ann Todd Mock, a psychologist at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

"If your child has been in day care, make clear that this change is a real accomplishment now that the child is grown-up enough to go to 'real' school," she said. Dr. Mock's other suggestions :

- * Visit the school during the summer.
- * Begin the appropriate bedtime and wake-up schedule a week or two in advance.
- * Figure out the best morning routine.
- * Let the child select the first-day clothes and lay them out in advance.

Routine Important for Homework

For young children, settling into a steady homework routine is a good lesson to learn. The early years are the best time for parents to lay the foundation for good study habits, said Dr. Florence Eddins, a child psychiatrist at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. Dr. Eddins recommends teaching by example :

"When it comes time to do homework, sit nearby with some work of your own," she said. "But remember that a child's attention span is shorter; a child will need short breaks more frequently." Some children need a play period before settling down. Eddins suggests experimenting to learn what works best for each individual child. "If children have trouble establishing good routines, help them set limits for completion," Dr. Eddins said. "You will gradually find what works best."

Spanking Should Not Be Disciplinary Tool

Discipline means teaching; it does not mean spanking or punishment. "The goal should be to teach children the right way to behave," said Dr. Fruge, a psychologist at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. Spanking children can teach them that "might makes right" and it's okay to use physical force to get what they want. The message conveyed to children, Dr. Fruge said, is that, when people don't do what you want them to do, hitting them gets the desired results and is acceptable. More effective ways to stop undesirable behavior include taking away privileges and making a child take a "time out" to calm down. Parents who use these methods demonstrate by example that nonviolent approaches can be used to solve problems, Dr. Fruge said.

Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, August 1997. Reprinted by permission.

F R E E P R E S S

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