

F.H. LaGuardia Independent Student News Magazine

The Bridge

Special Student Elections Issue 1999

Who will be LaGuardia's Next Student Body President?



?

You decide.

Let this Special Edition be your guide to the Elections. Everything you need to know is right here!

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The Bridge” has made its mistakes in the past. We recognize that fact and are prepared to face the future.

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Editor-in-Chief
Shawn Torres

Assistant Editor-in-Chief
To be announced

News Editor
To be Announced

Managing Editor
Sherley A. Alvarez

Photo Editor
Gary Weelock

Features Editor
James Marrero

Graphics Editor
To be Announced

Arts and Entertainment Editor
To be Announced

Graphic Designers
Roman Kaykov
Shawn Torres
Zimry Caraballo

Research Assistants
John Yonhara
Scop Song

Faculty Advisor
Professor Terry Cole

In light of the fact that only 18% of the student population voted in the last student election, the Editorial staff here at “The Bridge” felt there was a dire need for this supplemental issue. We would like to thank Patricia Garrett of the Employment Office, Dean Ruth Lugo, Dean Richard Elliott and Student Government President Carlos Bonetti for making this issue possible.

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 this 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 is located in M117E at LaGuardia Community College, 31-10 Thompson Ave., L.I.C., N.Y. 11101 (718) 482-5189.





Attention all LaGuardia Students:
It cost The Bridge \$600 to bring you this
publication.

The next elected
Student Government will
have direct access to a student
activities budget of
\$ 2 million.

What are they going to do with
it?

Vote!

Student Government elections are coming.
Don't you want to have a say on how that money is spent?

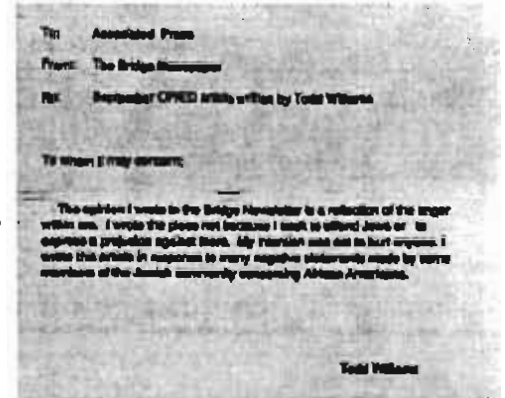
Never Again.

In the September 1993 issue of The Bridge, an African American student, Todd Williams, published an opinion article that contained a number of anti-Semitic comments. These comments provoked (in the climate of Mayor Dinkins and his recalcitrance in dealing with the Crown Heights Affair) a number of responses from LaGuardia, community high schools, and the surrounding community. The Bridge enters a new millenium, we would feel recalcitrant to not address the scandal that stopped The Bridge from publishing regularly for a number of years.

“The opinion I wrote for “The Bridge” is a reflection of the anger I have within me.....

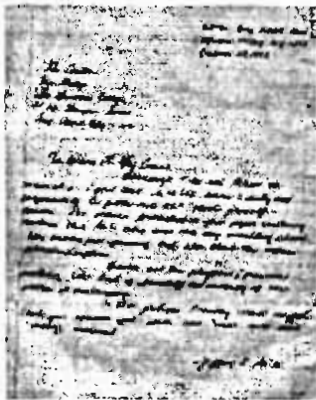
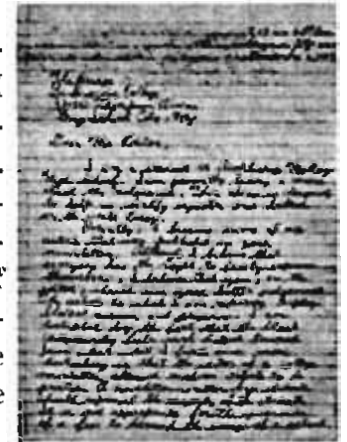
My intention was not to hurt anyone....”

- Todd Williams
Apology Statement



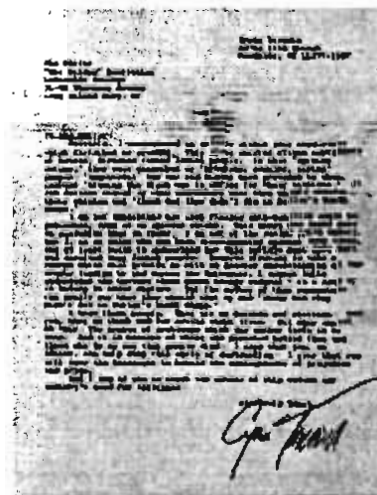
I am disturbed by the fact that the black community feels such hatred towards Jews, but what I find even more disturbing is that the Editor of a college newsletter allowed such an article to be printed. A newsletter written by the students should represent the majority of the students. It is not appropriate for the ignorance of a few to tarnish the image of the school. It is your responsibility, as the paper Editor, to protect the image of your school. Please be more selective in the future about what articles you decide to publish.”

- William E. Higgins
Student, Archbishop Molloy High School



“Although I do not believe in censorship, I feel that it is the Editor's duty and responsibility to filter out all.... forms of racism.”

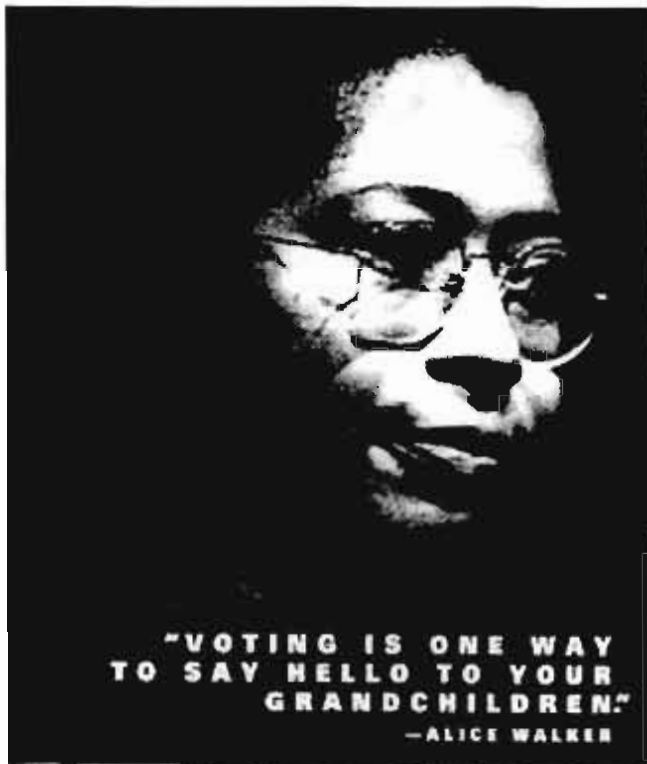
- Jeffrey P. Aol??



I am not of the Jewish faith myself, but I, as an Asian who has been discriminated against many times, can at least begin to understand how this article must have hurt and insulted many Jewish people.”

- Cyrus Tavadia





"VOTING IS ONE WAY
TO SAY HELLO TO YOUR
GRANDCHILDREN."
—ALICE WALKER

YOUR

VOTE

IS YOUR

VOICE

**REGISTER TO VOTE!
WHEN YOU REGISTER FOR CLASS**



CUNY'S PROJECT VOTE IS MADE POSSIBLE IN PART BY A DONATION FROM
BARNES & NOBLE BOOKSTORES, INC. PHOTO BY JEAN WEISINGER

“Somos El Futuro!”

The Model New York State Senate Session Project was initiated in 1997 at the request of the Puerto Rican/ Hispanic Task Force of the New York State Legislature. The Task Force is chaired by honorable assemblyman Roberto Ramirez and concentrates on politically mobilizing and voicing the concerns of the Hispanic community in order to benefit society as a whole.

The mock senate session is an opportunity for participating CUNY, SUNY and Molloy college students to learn about and engage in the state's legislative process. It is a unique leadership development program. It is also a chance to meet the present leaders of the hispanic

community and see them in action.

The intensive program consists of five training sessions and a weekend trip to Albany, New York where students conduct their mock session in the Senate Chambers of the Capitol building. In this 1999 model legislative session exercise, students were asked play the role of a senator from an actual electoral district with its particular demographic characteristics. The exercise is realistically composed of parties, party leaders, party whips, and lobbyists. Students must not only become knowledgeable about the organization and procedures of the legislature itself, but also the public policy issues being considered

and the wider governmental, political and social context in which the legislature and its members function.

This year, Sherley Alvarez and Shawn Torres successfully represented F.H. LaGuardia Community College at the mock session. Our very own editor, here at *The Bridge* Shawn Torres was elected Majority Leader. Sherley Alvarez shone as she presented her party's arguments eloquently in a featured speech on the floor of the legislature. For more information on the Model Senate Session program please contact Gregory Faulkner, or Irene Sosa at the Office of Student Life and Development (M115).

- Carolina Coria

CUNYMock Senators at the "Somos El Futuro" gala dinner



We are the future!!!



Bottom Right: Sherley Alvarez, Sharon Almagro, LGCC Alumni and honorable Assemblyman Ruben Diaz.



"The Bridge" needs:

Revolutionaries

Evolutionaries

Dreamers

Schemers

Yuppies

Buppies

Schizoids

Androids

Braniacs

Maniacs

Wizzes

Vulcans

Has-beens

Mutants

Wanna-be's

Somebodies



**As well as an assortment of
Editor's, reporters, artist, and
photographers. All of the
above
can apply in room M115
or M118**

“The Trickle-Up Effect”

Dr. Raymond Bowen
President of LaGuardia Community College

College is already, not always happily, an aspect of adult life,
not simply a playful preparation,...
—David Riesman

Democracy remains strong when we all vote. By exercising our right to vote May 4th – May 6th, we take an active part in the way in which we are governed. We can make a difference. Voting to elect LaGuardia’s student representatives holds a greater chance of taking us where we want to go than a failure to vote.

Choosing fellow students to represent you on such issues as financial aid (Tap and Pell grants), curriculum, library hours, facilities, tutors, math labs, and registration amplifies your opinion in a focused way. Voting enables us to influence decisions taken by city and state officials that affect educational opportunity and access. Your collective student body vote, on campus and in your neighborhoods, has impact by providing leverage when

LaGuardia and CUNY are under attack.

As a college of the City University of New York, LaGuardia is guided by the policies set by the CUNY Board of Trustees in New York. The Trustees are ap-

pointed by the Mayor and the Governor. They deter-

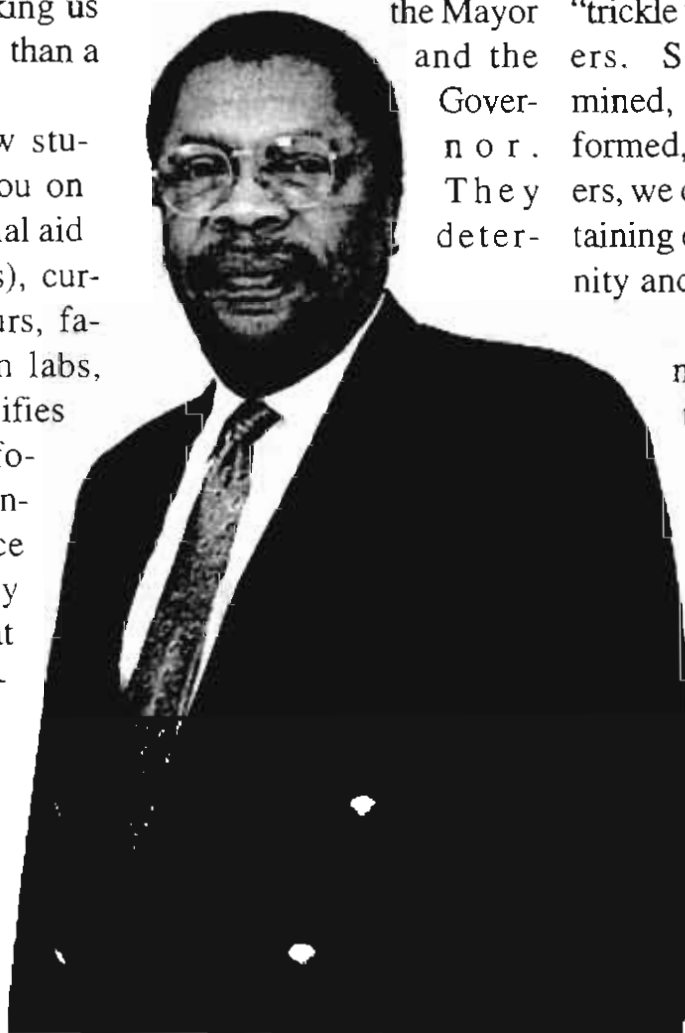
mine levels of support students receive, the amount of tuition, remediation, and a host of other issues.

These are all issues of educational opportunity and access.

All politics are local. Our votes at the local level “trickle up” to decision makers. So by being determined, alert, energetic, informed, and registered voters, we can be vigilant maintaining educational opportunity and access.

Think for a moment. At CUNY there are some 193,000 students. When we add family and friends, we have a potentially enormous bloc of voters, 400,000 strong, ready to voice their opinions at the polls.

We don’t vote in the abstract. Every vote counts in the lives of col-



lege students, a fact particularly important when you consider that LaGuardia has students representing some 104 nationalities. Many come from countries where the right to vote is non-existent or where elections are not free and open.

Your participatory vote in the May 4th – May 6th campus election is a privileged right which you can leverage by voting in the next public primary and general elections in your neighborhood communities.

For those students who are not citizens, the International Student Office can assist you in becoming a citizen so you can register to vote. Whether you were born in the U.S. or are one of many naturalized citizens in New York City who have worked long and hard to earn the right to fully participate in the American promise, you should take part in the democratic process. Mobilize your friends and fellow students to act. You will help assure continued educational access at LaGuardia by taking the first step. Vote in LaGuardia's student elections May 4th – 6th!

W F.H. LAGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE **MULTI-CULTURAL** Appreciation Week 1999

May 18th • 1:00pm

ARTS **CRAFTS**

The Faculty, Staff and Students will display Arts/Crafts from around the world today for your enjoyment.

E-ATRIUM (E-BUILDING)



May 19th • 1:00pm

SPRINGFEST



*The scent of freshly popped popcorn fills the air, balloons drift by, and hot dogs and ice cream are in abundance. It must be LaGuardia's Annual Carnival, **SPRINGFEST!** The only catch is that administration, faculty and staff will serve you!!!*

E-ATRIUM/COBBLESTONE/GRASS COURTYARD



May 20th • 1:00pm

DAY OF RESPECT



A special time to appreciate our community through music, song, poetry, dance and artistic expressions.

MAINSTAGE THEATRE (E-BUILDING)

Human history is dripping with our blood. Why? Because we could not get our act together. No matter who you are, if you are attending community college, you are likely to have some ancestor who's been conquered because her or his people suffered from inter-tribal, inter-racial, gender, class, religious disputes while an outside force took advantage. From the shores of Ireland to South Africa, from the Chinese to the American Indian, history shows us what happens when communities lack unity.

“THE

The buzzword lately for the division of our national community is “bipartisanship.” This ‘bipartisanship’ has cost the people of the United States greatly. It has made a mockery of our presidency and judicial jesters of our elected officials. Bipartisan politics has begun ripping our government apart slowly. First we were faced with the “Whitewater” investigation which turned up nothing; then we were put through a ridiculous “he exposed himself and I can tell you the birthmark 10 years later after I accepted the promotion” Paula Jones case, and finally the “poor girl was taken advantage of, really being used as a pawn, \$ 360,000 dollar book advance, 25 million dollar investigation almost got that slick Willie, internet soft porn, but it’s really a cigar” grueling Monica Lewinsky fiasco. It has cost the American people not only 25 million dollars, not only the progress that could have been made over the scandalous period, not only our moment to shine as the world’s only remaining superpower, but our pride.

Do we as the future leaders of our communities want to emulate the failure of the obviously dysfunctional older generation? A generation obsessed with being right instead of what’s right. A generation lacking any visible integrity. It is truly disturbing that most Americans believe and accept the fact that their elected officials lie to them regularly.

F. H. LaGuardia is a microcosm of the bigger picture, Ladies and Gentlemen. We are a community of 10,000 and represent 104 nations. As we enter the

newest political race for student government we must start examining ourselves and asking several tough questions. Do we want to accept the current “khaki, button down shirt, espresso, Big Mac, cookie cutter, can’t live without my pager and cellphone, whiny MTV Real World” nonsense that we are being sold?



RAT RACE”

Or, do we want to explain how globalism should work instead of being told? Do we accept the current stereotype of the “ex-car salesman, two faced, always got a trick up my sleeve” politician”? Or do we stand by our inner compass, telling u s right fm



wrong? Do we elect student governors who care more about their stipends and leadership conferences than the needs of the students they represent? Do we stab each other in the back to get to those positions? Are we going to bind ourselves in order to fit into the extra-small shoes the present politicians are leaving us? Or, are we titans, bigger than the trifling and the treachery, titans like Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King, Mahatma Ghandi, John F. Kennedy, Margaret Sanger, F.D.R., David Ben-Gurion, and Thomas Jefferson just to name a few.

If these names seem irrelevant to you, you have forgotten how powerful you are. It was campuses just like this one all across this country that nurtured the civil rights movement. In 1989, it was students who showed the world China was ready for democracy in Tiananmen Square. In fact, it has always been students who were courageous enough to question the political and social status quo. After all we are the ones left to clean up the mess.

Over the last few weeks I have had the serious displeasure of covering our latest student government election. Election time is strange; if one is paying attention they can see the best of the community college species. But unfortunately, one can also see the worst. I have been privy to scheming, backstabbing and invasion of privacy among other types of repulsive behavior. “The Rat Race” is on and it has been sponsored; sponsored by those who benefit from having a divided student leadership; sponsored by those who benefit from

having a pathetically politically inactive campus. I plead with the candidates of this year’s election: Look around you and ask, “Why?” Look at the people giving you advice, doing you favors and ask “Why?” Look at the Rat Race and ask, “Who is controlling it?” Look at the school after this is all over and make it better.

It does not matter who beats the maze, who gets the cheese, who wins; because if we do not unite, we all lose. I have met close to thirty smart, productive and talented candidates this year. I hope that regardless of the election’s outcome those thirty individuals can come together and lead us to new heights in the new millennium. That would be keeping it real. Just remember, if you win the rat race, you’re still a rat.

We are not rats.

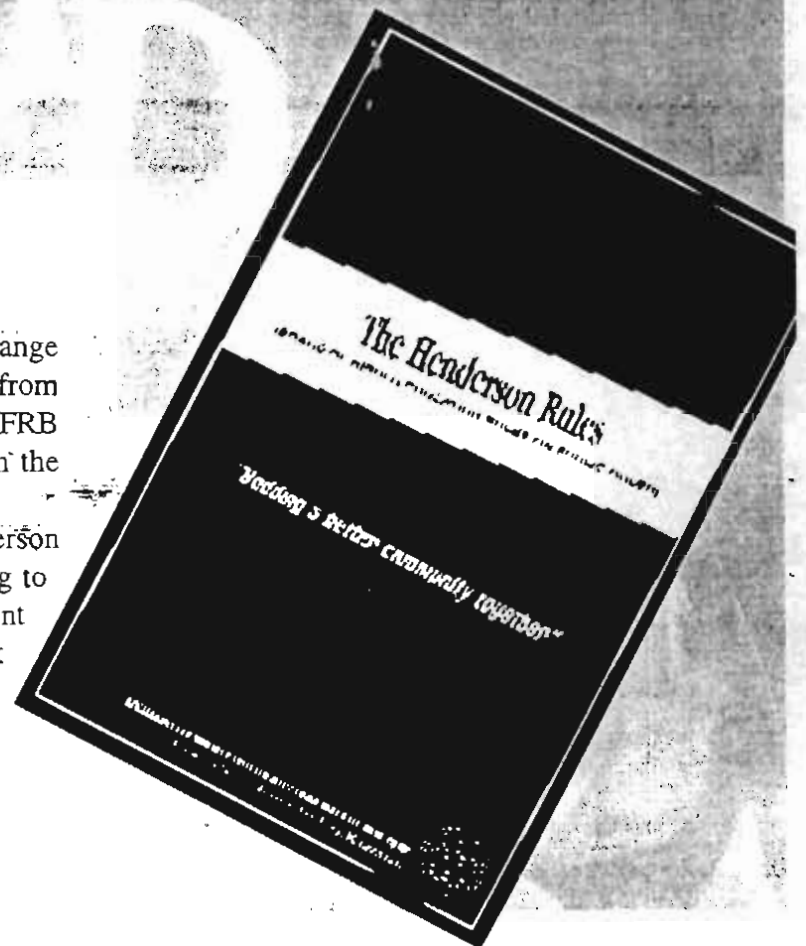
- Shawn Torres
Editor-in-Chief



Know Your Rights.

A growing number of students have been subject to the college's disciplinary process. These actions stem from discipline related infractions, such as theft or disorderly conduct, to cases dealing with academic integrity violations, such as fraud or plagiarism. One area that has been plagued with recent occurrences has been the Library. Many students have been detained for attempting to take books without appropriately registering them with Library personnel. Understanding your rights and the policies that govern the discipline process, are essential aspects of your academic experience. The rules and regulations for the maintenance of public order are referred to as the "Henderson Rules", these regulations were established by the City University of New York, to ensure a reasonable degree of civility for all members of the college community. They are designed to address those who violate college policy, and to serve as a mechanism for those that have been falsely accused. They provide an opportunity for a member of the college community, to present their case before the college's discipline committee, known as the Student Faculty Review Board (SFRB). The SFRB performs a role similar to a jury, and

is empowered to render final decisions that could range from dismissal of the alleged charges, to suspension from the college. The student representatives for the SFRB are elected during the Spring Semester along with the Student Government and College Senate elections. If you would like to obtain a copy of the "Henderson Rules" or receive additional information pertaining to the discipline process, come to the Office of Student Life and Development located in room M-115; ask for Luis Merchant, Chief Adjudicator for the Student Faculty Review Board.



THE HENDERSON RULES:THE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION RULES ON PUBLIC ORDER

Academic freedom and the sanctuary of the University campus extend to all who share these aims and responsibilities. They cannot be invoked by those would subordinate intellectual freedom to political ends, or who violate the norms of conduct established to protect that freedom. Against such offenders the University has the right, and indeed the obligation, to defend itself. We accordingly announce the following rules and regulations to be in effect at each of our colleges which are to be administered in accordance with the requirements of due process as provided in the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees.

1. A member of the academic community shall not intentionally obstruct and/or forcibly prevent others from the exercise of their rights. Nor shall he interfere with the institution's education processes or facilities, or the rights of those who wish to avail themselves of any of the institution's instructional, personal, administrative recreational, and community services.
2. Individuals are liable for failure to comply with lawful directions issued by representatives of the University/college when they are acting in their official capacities. Members of the academic community are required to show their identification cards when requested to do so by an official of the college.
3. Unauthorized occupancy of University/college facilities or blocking access to or from such areas is prohibited. Permission from appropriate college authorities must be obtained for removal, relocation and use of University/college equipment and/or supplies.
4. Theft from, or damage to, University/college premises or property, or theft of, or damage to, property of any person on University/college premises is prohibited.
5. Each member of the academic community or an invited guest has the right to advocate his position without having to fear abuse, physical, verbal, or otherwise, from others supporting conflicting points of view. Members of the academic community and other persons on the college grounds shall not use language or take actions likely to provoke or encourage physical violence by demonstrators, those demonstrated against, or spectators.
6. Actions may be taken against any and all persons who have no legitimate reason for their presence on any campus within the University/college, or whose presence on any such campus obstructs and/or forcibly prevents others from the exercise of their rights or interferes with the institution's educational processes or facilities, or the rights of those who wish to avail themselves of any of the institution's instructional, personal, administrative, recreational, and community services.
7. Disorderly or indecent conduct on University/college-owned or controlled property is prohibited.
8. No individual shall have in his possession a rifle, shotgun or firearm or knowingly have in his possession any other dangerous instruments of material that can be used to inflict bodily harm on an individual or damage a building or the grounds of the University without the written authorization of such educational institution. Nor shall any individual have in his possession any other instrument or material which can be used and is intended to inflict bodily harm on any individual or damage upon a building or the grounds of the University/college.
9. An action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers mental or physical health or involves the forced consumption of liquor or drugs for the purpose of initiation into or affiliation with any organization is prohibited.
10. The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of illegal drugs or other controlled substances, or as part of any University/college activities is prohibited. Employees of the University must also notify the College Personnel Director of any criminal drug statute conviction for a violation occurring in the workplace not later than (5) after conviction.
11. The unlawful possession, use or distribution of alcohol by students or employees on University/college premises or as part of any University/college activities is prohibited.

Adopted for all units of the City University by the Board of Higher Education on June 23, 1969

The Positions

and Vital Information by James Marrero

Every Spring, student elections are held at LaGuardia Community College. The registered candidates run for slates. Slates are a group of people who have common goals. These are F.H. LaGuardia's version of political parties. The present race has been divided into three slates. They are Student Voice, New Direction, and Diversity. **Simply because you vote for one candidate does not mean you vote for the slate! Slates represent political platforms! You could vote for individuals of your choice! You do not have to vote for only one slate! Vote for separate slates to ensure a fair election!** Balloting and booths are run by the Student Elections Review Committee. They make sure the candidates follow the LaGuardia Community College elections code. If a candidate runs a dirty campaign, they will be sent on trial with the Student Elections Review Committee and other witnesses from their slate. When the candidates are elected, they discuss their differences in a forum. They also nominate each other for positions in the Student Government. **You will be electing 12 student governors! Vote for the best qualified people!** The Governors elect the President and Vice President. The positions are the following:

1. **President** - This person is elected by the governors that you elect! This person also oversees the operations of the Student Government.
2. **Vice President** - Serves as an assistant to the President.
3. **Treasurer** - Handles financial accounts of the Student Government.
4. **Executive Secretary** - Writes minutes, works on agendas for meetings with the President, and keeps records of the meetings.
5. **Governor of Information Services** - Puts out fliers, minutes, memos, and serves as a research assistant for the student government.
6. **Governor of Club and Ethnic Affairs** - Acts as a mediator with Student Life and Development, reports the needs of clubs back to the Student Government, and helps the campus get parties by obtaining permission from administration.
7. **Governor of Programs and Events** - Promotes events that benefit the student body, completes event forms, solicits ideas from the students regarding events, and works with the Governor of Public Relations.
8. **Governor of Judicial Review** - Monitors and evaluates the governors, takes filed complaints from the governors who have problems with their associates, and takes recommendations from the Vice President about the other governors.
9. **Governor of Academic Affairs** - Deals with problems students have with their professors and their courses, and facilitates events and seminars on campus.
10. **Governor of Foreign Affairs** - Deals with the needs of foreign students and mediates problems between these students and the Foreign Student Department.
11. **Governor of Political Focus** - Raises the political consciousness of the students, promotes political activities by bringing political organizations to campus.
12. **Governor of Public Relations** - Helps the Student Government maintain a good reputation via print, radio, etc.





The Candidates

*“Politics is very much like taxes,
everybody is against them, or every
one is for them as long as they don’t
apply to themselves.”*

- Fiorello H. LaGuardia

*“Bad officials are elected by good
citizens who do not vote.”*

- Anonymous

Student Elections are
May 4th, 5th, and 6th.
Every registered student can vote.
You have earned the right; use it.



From left to right :Top: Shamsul Haque, Jasmin Noguerras, Micheal Pirtskhalaichvili, Jocelyn Iglesias, Kieth Walker, Eddyson Jean-Baptiste, Qaisar Awan
Bottom: Muna Hoque, Masaru Arimoto, Anthony Pappas, Ruth Torres, Norma Tabora

The New Direction.

We are a group of student leaders comprised of a variety of ethnicities, races, and religions. Our experiences working during registration, direct involvement in the clubs and the Center for Leadership, being members of the Space Committee, the College Campus Committee and the College Senate, have given us a chance to work closely with administration, staff, faculty, and students. With this we have gained the necessary knowledge and experience on teamwork and how to get the job done.

We know that several issues must be improved in order to have a better college. For example: hundreds of students have to stand on different lines for hours during registration. We want to do something about that. Many CUNY colleges have adapted phone registration; why should LaGuardia be any different? ESL students have been ignored for years. In order to overcome this we propose to provide more tutors for ESL and math labs so that more individual help is available for these students. Very few students have the opportunity to express themselves to administration; therefore, we will arrange Town Hall meetings every semester. Last but not least, the CUNY system has been under attack by the Mayor, Governor, and some of the trustees. We have been fighting back, and we promise to make the fight even stronger.

In order to make positive changes in our college and fight against CUNY attackers, we need a strong student government. We have demonstrated that we have what it takes to satisfy the needs of the students. Give NEW DIRECTION a chance by voting on May 4th-6th.

Jose Mateo



David Brown



Manny Colon



Diversity.

Attention students, are you aware that our educational rights are being stripped away from you? Tuition is getting too expensive to pay. It is getting nearly impossible to graduate from college. The "Big Boss Man" (Mayor Guliani) says that our standards are too low and that CUNY students are graduating not able to read and write. He has forgotten that more minorities graduate with master's degrees from CUNY than across the United States. He and Governor Pataki want to impose new regulations on us. The Board of Trustees, which is controlled by the two, are proposing a plan to increase requirements of being a full time student, from 12 to 15 credits a semester. If this proposal is put into effect, many of us will lose our financial aid. This will put a great burden on our lives. CUNY students do work and have families to raise. Our classes on campus are extremely overcrowded. Due to the removal of Open Admissions from senior college (4 years), yes Open Admissions, it allows any CUNY students with G.E.D. or high diploma to attend any CUNY college without an entrance exam. This is just the beginning, our classes are overcrowded now but in the near future enrollment will begin to drop. These new standards, which are being imposed on us, will have a direct affect on minorities (Latino and blacks) students across CUNY. This is a blatant attack on our livelihood and community. Higher education cannot just be for the privileged. Administrations' hands are tied. We need to get organized. We must defend our rights and the rights of those who come after to proper college education. There are not enough night services on campus for evening students (such as: EVENING COUNSELS). We need to lobby for more space on campus. There is an enormous urgency for a STUDENT UNION HALL, where we could assemble and organize behind our various student and social issues. There is lack of political awareness on campus. The only way to change the system is become part of it. An open and productive dialogue between Student Government, and administrators must be established. We, the students on the DIVERSITY slate, recognized these problems. That is why we are running in the upcoming STUDENT BODY ELECTION. We are proven student activists on campus. We are aware of the responsibilities that come with addressing these issues and are prepared to fight for student justice on campus and in all CUNY. WE are well informed about LaGuardia and CUNY policies.

Our student body is 10,000 strong: send a message to the college that we ready to defend and protect our students' rights.

VOTE FOR DIVERSITY

THE PROVEN STUDENT ACTIVISTS ON CAMPUS.





Carlos Bonetti



Carlos Hedalgo

**RE-ELECT
THE STUDENT'S VOICE
VOTE! FOR THE STUDENTS' CHOICE
SLATE PLATFORM**

1. CONTINUE TO LEAD THE STRUGGLE TO DEFEND OPEN ADMISSIONS BY EDUCATING THE STUDENT BODY.
2. KEEP THE ON-GOING IMPROVEMENT ON THE M-BUILDING CAFETERIA.
3. LOBBY FOR BETTER TECHNOLOGY IN THE LABS
4. ENCOURAGE LEADERSHIP BY ALLOCATING MORE MONEY FOR THE CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP AND FOR THE PEER LEADER PROGRAM.
5. CONTINUE TO LOBBY FOR THE STUDENT UNION HALL THAT MONEY HAS ALREADY BEEN ALLOCATED FOR.
6. ALLOCATE MORE MONEY FOR THE SGA STUDENT GRANT.
7. CONTINUE TO LOBBY FOR STUDENTS TO HAVE ABILITY TO CHANGE THEIR REGISTRATION STATUS.
8. LOBBY FOR MONEY TO PAY FOR ESL AND MATH TUTORS.
9. IMPROVE THE REGISTRATION PROCESS.

**VOICE YOUR WAY TO THE NEW MILLENIUM
THE YEAR 2000 NEEDS A VOICE
THE STUDENTS' VOICE**



“The Bridge”
Deadline for
Submissions is
May 15th, 1999
The Summer ‘99
issue will be re-
leased in June

And yes, it will be on glossy,
in color!





Elect Pas D. Beans

Have you ever held it in?

You could hurt yourself. Everyday millions of people conform to an intolerant society. They are the victims of inhuman gastro-intestinal demands. They are afraid of offending others by being human! We at the **FREE TO FART** Foundation believe that Pas. D. Beans is a candidate that can fight the repressors among us. Lets show them we aren't ashamed! Let them know you are human!

Use your Vote!

Elect Pas. D. Beans and stand proud.