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January - February 2006

THE BRIDGE

STUDENT NEWSPAPER

CUNY unveils Master Plan

By ALEKSANDR SIDOROV

CUNY unveiled 2004-2008 Master Plan in November 2005 at meetings with student club representatives all over CUNY campuses. Yearly tuition increases are one of the important factors of the Master Plan, which according

has yet to be approved by the New York State Legislature, the tuition increase would be 4.3% for the 2006-07 semester for community colleges, like LaGuardia, and 3.3% for senior colleges like Queens College.

The Master Plan should be

per year, and community colleges' tuition would increase, but by a smaller amount: \$120 to \$2,290.

By the 2009-10 semesters, yearly tuition for senior colleges will be \$4,390, while community college students will have to pay \$3,160. These figures are representations of what a full-time, New York State resident, 12-credit student will have to pay. The figures do not include out-of-state and international student, who pay nearly 50% more than their matriculated counterparts.

To offset students' costs, CUNY came up with a plan so that what a student has to pay in Fall 2006 will be the same as they pay now.

For those who receive TAP (Tuition Assistance Program), the increase should have no effect, since the TAP is large enough to cover this increase. For students who do not have TAP or any other grants, corporations and other donors should help those students and pay the difference.

The administration was not clear as to how that would be done and which students will qualify.

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Regresa el Programa de Educación Bilingüe

Gústete a quien no le guste

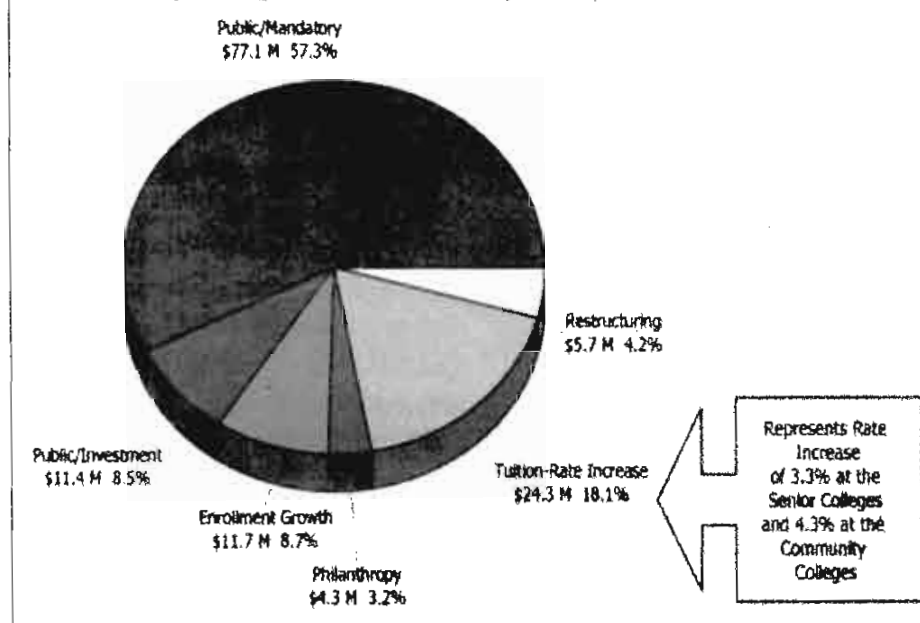
Por FABIAN ZARTA

A través de los últimos años, en Estados Unidos el bilingüismo ha venido tomando bastante fuerza, en especial cuando de Español e Inglés nos referimos; esto gracias a un alto índice de inmigración Hispana. Consecuentemente, se ha ido creando mayor conciencia cada vez más, en cuanto a la formación académica en los dos lenguajes, hecho que debe prevalecer. Ello fundamentara la exitosa trascendencia de nuestra sociedad y la expansión del pensamiento de nuestra raza.

El Programa Bilingüe arraiga cimientos en el año 1973 pero genera fuertes fundamentos después de 1974 en LaGuardia. Según informes de "Bilingual People Services", antiguos exgraduados de LaGuardia, hay gran demanda de maestros bilingües en la ciudad pues los que hay no suplen las necesidades. Sin embargo, hace aproximadamente dos años atrás el programa dejó de funcionar en LaGuardia por cuestiones aparentemente de revisión y/o reestructuración. Hecho que no dudo haya sido importante para el desenvolvimiento de de nuestros futuros educadores bilingües. Pero estamos hablando de un periodo bastante largo, ¿Cuáles realmente fueron las razones? Me di a la labor de indagar al respecto, y después de escuchar voces aquí y allí, contacte a Ana Maria Hernández, maestra de Literatura, y una de las pioneras con este programa en LaGuardia. "Yo fui una de las primeras sorprendidas cuando el programa fue cerrado" dice la docente. Y agrega "aún me pregunto, cuales fueron las razones por qué uno de los programas más exitosos fue cerrado", quise profundizar un poco más en la connotación que tenían sus palabras y sin tanto rodeo tome al toro por los

Continúa en la página 8

Financing of Budget Priorities by Source (millions)



HOW CUNY BUDGET WILL work: 57.3% of CUNY's budget will come from the state and the city, 8.5% will come from investment, 8.7% will come from additional enrollment, 3.2% will come from donations, 18.1% - tuition increase, and 4.2% from restructuring, which is mostly cost-cutting.

to Richard Elliot, LaGuardia's Vice President of Administration, is staying away from a huge tuition increase every year. According to the plan, which implemented by the Fall 2006 semester at all CUNY campuses. The tuition for senior colleges would increase by \$130 to \$4,130

Man attempts suicide from E Building

By SABRINA HARTEL

On Jan. 10, 2006, a hearing-impaired male in his early 20s attempted suicide from the fifth floor of the E Building at LaGuardia Community College around 5 p.m., according to top officials at the Public Safety Office.

The young man, who was not a student at the college, and whose identity will be withheld for privacy, entered the building with a valid driver's license, and stated that he was there to visit a cousin. Moments later, according to Ed Sisco, LaGuardia's public safety director, he made his way up to the fifth floor, and through an unlocked door where he exited, and stood on



the ledge of the roof.

Students spotted the man from

below, and security personnel responded immediately, as well as local police and fire fighters, when he was safely removed from the roof, and escorted to the hospital by two Public Safety officers - according to an official report from LaGuardia's Chief External Affairs office.

Even though the man was from the neighborhood, LaGuardia's open-door policy has raised some concerns about student safety. "This is an open campus," said Captain Brooks, from the Public Safety Office, "They show us a valid driver's license, and we can't stop them, or even know where they are going."

LaGuardia is one of a few of CUNY's colleges with an open door policy while some close their doors to the public; a student must show a valid student I.D. to gain access to the college grounds. ■

CAMPUS NEWS

School lunch tasting more like money

By JENNIFER MORRON **Cost is Great, Correct?**

Listening to the sweet beat of "Jingle Bell Rock," a great holiday song, I could smell the thick cheeseburger sandwich sitting on my friend's plate.

"How much was that? It looks good!" I asked facing her as she was placing the gigantic burger in her mouth. "How does it taste?"

"It's good, here try it. It was \$2.39," she replied as she positioned the burger in my hands fully covered with ketchup.

"Wow, \$2.39? For a cheeseburger?! And this is not including a drink, correct? Wow! In McDonald's, you could buy two cheeseburgers for that price!" I had remembered this past experience as I saw my two friends eating those crispy curly fries and a cup of warm, delicious oatmeal. School lunch is tasting more like money to me than food.

There are two cafeterias, one in the M Building located on Thomson Avenue and an additional cafeteria in the C Building located on 43rd Street on Thomson Avenue. Both have the same type of food, such as crispy curly fries, warm cheeseburgers and even sushi. The food is fantastic and so is its cost, isn't it?

Ebony Dawkins and Ayesha Sultana, freshmen, both disagree. "The school lunch tastes very good, but it is putting a dent in my pocket because it is too expensive," Dawkins said. Sultana added that the food cost was making her waste about \$30.00 per week.

Even staff members of the Recreation Department agree that the food is too expensive. "I think the school lunch is way too expensive



Expressway is right next to the school. It is in fact very perilous but many students seem to rather choose 7 Eleven than college food, regardless of the weather or the traffic.

Many students, like Austin J. Auriemma, chooses 7

and they need to have more of a variety of foods to choose from since the school promotes diversity," one staff member spoke out.

Another staff associate, Tamer Altan disagreed and thought that there was a large selection to choose from and the price was pretty reasonable.

Many have the same opinion with these staff members, particularly on the price range. A cup of cereal itself is sold separately from a container of milk. Together, that would be about close to three dollars.

Another example would be a turkey sandwich. This alone would come out to almost \$4.00. Additionally, there is ten percent sales tax on the food. Why the tax? Mike Gelles, President of the Food Corporation for CUNY food services added, "It's the law. We cant get away from it."

7 Eleven Moves Into Town

Recently, a new 7 Eleven opened across the street from the E Building. Many students have been going there and buying hotdogs and instant spaghetti. When asked if there was a decline in customers, Levine explained, "Not that I have seen. I've seen a couple of 7 Eleven coffee cups in the school campus but no decline has been made. I personally feel that the store was built on the wrong side of the street because it's dangerous." The wide block has traffic lights, but is still known as a dangerous street due to the fact that the Queensboro

Eleven rather than the college's cafeterias, "Well, first of all, everybody crosses that street, to go to the train station or to buy their cigarettes. And, well, rain doesn't bother me at all. It's just across the street; it's not like walking an extra 10 blocks or something."

The prices in 7 Eleven are as costly as college lunch. The only difference is they sell more of a variety like dishes of instant noodles, hotdogs, slurpies, hot pockets, frozen dishes and additional materials for home and to eat.

Could a Difference Happen?

The head of the food industry here at LaGuardia said they can lower the prices, but to keep in mind, they do sell more of a quantity than McDonald's for the same price. For example, the box of small French fries costs the same amount but they offer more than McDonald's plus they are made instantly, hot and fresh.

"I recommend before the students go and make assumptions about our food being pricey, to check out any other CUNY school. Out of all CUNY food industries, we are the lowest committee in the system." Gelles responded. "If students feel so strongly, a petition could be made."

If anyone feels strongly about the food prices or quality, please feel free to voice your opinion. A single voice can make a difference. ■

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The Bridge is the student newspaper of Laguardia Community College. It is published by an independent student staff and financed by Student Activities Funds. Opinions expressed in the paper are not necessarily those of the college administration, faculty, student body or the newspaper staff.

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Corrections:

Pictures from Bridge Update (page 2) for November 2005 were taken by Robert Lam, not Randy Fader-Smith.

Author of "Enrollment Service Center Opens for Business" on page 4 in October edition of The Bridge is Charles Arizmendy, not Ed Cen.

Got something to say?

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CAMPUS NEWS

International High School receives high marks

By ANGIE ORTIZ

A recent study done by the City University of New York Graduate Center has compared the graduation and dropout rates of international high schools with traditional high schools. The international high schools participating in this study were Brooklyn International, Manhattan International, and LaGuardia's very own International High School. The study has shown that the graduation rate for foreign from international high schools are higher than foreign and non-foreign students from traditional high schools. For international high schools overall, the 4 year dropout rate is 5.2%, while the rate for students who are learning English is at 31.5%, and 19.9% for students who aren't English language learners.

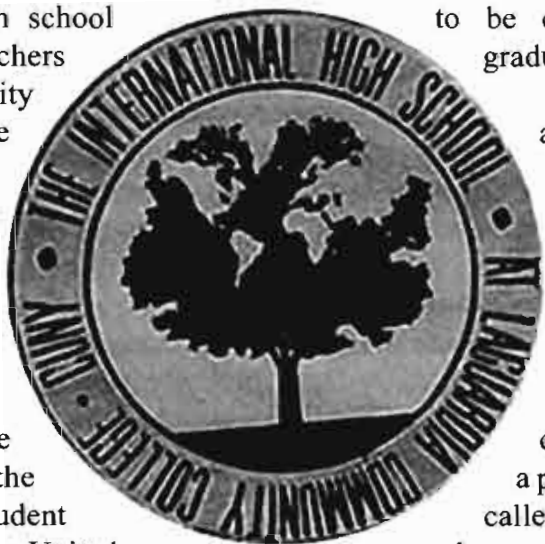
Many will wonder, what are the international schools offering that the others aren't?

This research was also looked at further by other factors such as age, gender, and GPA. LAGCC's International High School receives students from all over the world. There are students who recommend the school to other family members who wish to learn English and study in America, and sometimes the demand is high to get it, so admissions has a waiting list set up.

"We had people from Sweden," said Terry Judson, who is in his 14th year as the school leader. Many of the staff members within the school are bilingual and help students achieve their goal by giving advisement and team support. Since the school is small with about 450 students overall, having a small number of students means a small class size. The most people that can legally be in a class is 24 at the high school and it gives teachers the opportunity to give more support and guidance to individual students on their academic progress.

To be admitted into the school, the student has to be in the United States four years or less. They also have to score at a beginner or intermediate level on an English language assessment test called NYSLAT. From there, the academic requirements for the school are similar to other high schools, such as having three years of math and science courses, and four years of social studies and English. Most of the coursework involves

more projects and less lectures, to maintain interaction among the students and teachers. One exception are the Regents exams required for high school students to graduate. New York State has excused all 28 international high schools from having students take the regents, although in the International High School at LaGuardia they have to produce a collaborative final project to be considered for graduation.



While there are no honors courses offered, for students who wish to get a heads up on their academic career, there is a program offered called EXCEL, where students can earn their high school diploma and associate's degree by taking college classes. The coursework isn't any easier or tougher, and there is tutoring available to help them. Every teacher helps students improve their English along with the lesson.

In its 20th year, the international high school in LAGCC has many success stories, such as

receiving and winning grants from foundations such as the Gates Grant for the Early College Program. Also, officials from other states such as Colorado will visit the high school to gain knowledge on what to do to achieve an international high school as successful as LaGuardia's. Officials from North Carolina have also visited the school to gain insight on opening an Early College Program similar to the school's.

Once the students reach their goal, they are able to participate in the honor of graduating from their high school, which takes place in LaGuardia's main stage theater in the evening hours so parents who work can watch the special event. The graduation ceremony is performed in English, but students who speak are welcomed to say something in special their native language as well as translate for the others. The ceremony also has special guest speakers, some who are given awards from the school.

Many special awards are given to the students at the time of graduation, from academic achievements to scholarships to private schools that can be up to \$100,000. Awards are also given to outside sources, such as people who have given their time and funds to help the school continue with its success. ■

Photographers light up LaG

Commercial Photography Majors illuminate campus with vivid colors, images and creativity.

By BETTY BENITEZ

The LaGuardia Community College, CUNY Commercial Photography Department presented, *Student's Exhibition by Upper Class Photography Majors*, October 12 through November 30, 2005.

The student exhibition presented work by ten Upper Class Photography Majors. Students' work was showcased in a glass case located in the main lobby of the college, where most student could get a glimpse of the exhibition.

Each student offers a unique style of photography. Students submitted their best work in both, black and white and color. The photographs also varied in subjects from landscapes and experimental work to studio still life, portraits and photodocumentaries.

This particular exhibition presented student-produced and student-curator work. Students were in charge of

production, which allowed space for hands-on experience. The curator opportunity was given to student and Commercial Photography major Sungjoon Kim, 31.

Sungjoon Kim printed all photographs on an Epson 7600 ink jet printer using Ultra chrome Archival ink. He also did the layouts of the photographs, by choosing from thumbnail images. His final choice was 24x33 life-size photographs. Having design experiences helped him curate this exhibition. "I have a bachelor degree in Fine Arts [and] my major was design, so I think I was pretty much familiar with doing printing and using computers," he said. According to Sungjoon, his experiences helped him organize the exhibition, but it was still hard work. "It took a lot of time to put together the images and print them out. It took 1 month because of my class schedule," he said.

The exhibition was intended to highlight work by students produced in in-class assignments and individual outside work. There were no guidelines as to what types of work were installed. The final

choice was made by the students themselves as explained by Mr. Scott Sternbach, Lecturer and Director of Commercial Photography at LaGuardia Community College. "I gave them basic guidelines that the subject matter did not matter, the thing that mattered was the quality of the work. They should only show their best work that would translate well to a large image," he said.

Students were also very happy that their work was installed in the exhibition. "As a student from LaGuardia Community College, I feel grateful that my work is up because there are only a few students whose work is up - ten out of at least thirty students," said Upper Photography Major Mauricio Quintero, 22. Mauricio's displayed work is experimental. He uses a technique call painting with light; where the subject he photographs is highlighted by a flash light in plain darkness. "I feel everybody's work is different and I feel good about my school and class work. I feel confident about my school and department," he said.

Each photograph has a different meaning and reflects specific visions of each photographer as explained by Photography Major Joe Cantor,

31. His photographs were black and white documentaries. "I think it is important, because I photograph out of state, the small towns of Maine and Texas. [It] is a good way for students to see lifestyles out of New York and a lot of my pictures in this exhibition are photo-documentary and portrait; I really like to tell a story with my pictures, I love pictures," he commented. ■

Get involved in your newspaper!

Join The Bridge

Meetings are

Wednesdays

at 2:45 p.m.

in M 159

CAMPUS NEWS

LaG helps to battle asthma

LaGuardia CC launches a 300 Family Asthma Assessment and Prevention Project focused on Elmhurst, Queens and Parkchester, the Bronx.

By WALTER IWACHIW

Through a pilot \$250,000 two-year Federal Environmental Protection Administration Project LaGuardia Community College is recruiting volunteers and eligible participants in an asthma assessment and prevention project in Elmhurst, Queens and Parkchester, the Bronx. This study is a collaborative effort with Environmental Protection Agency, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Education, the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, and community hospitals supporting the LaGuardia-based project.

The motivation for the program is the continued increase in new asthma cases among the New York City population. Currently, over 700,000 adults and 300,000 children are diagnosed. This assessment project is an effort to establish monitoring and remedial programs to stem the tide of asthma and the thousands of deaths that result every year. Low-income communities have a threefold greater incidence of childhood hospitalization from asthma.

This initiative involves conducting an initial assessment of the home environment and providing individuals with educational information on how to minimize or eliminate asthma home environmental triggers such as pests, dust mites, secondhand smoke, molds, and household cleaning products. Six months after the initial visit, a Master Home

Environmentalist will conduct a follow-up visit to evaluate the effectiveness of asthma education in decreasing the occurrence of asthma symptoms.

The project is recruiting individuals with asthma and health care workers through its website (<http://www.lagcc.cuny.edu/AsthmaProject/>). Volunteer Healthcare workers are being recruited from the community, student and faculty base and the program offers a stipend to qualified students to defer the costs incurred. Allied health field students are encouraged to volunteer and take advantage of the training with a certificate as community health worker, provided by the NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation in support of the program. The student body as a whole is encouraged to inform eligible friends in the Elmhurst and Parkchester areas to register for the benefits of the program, which includes an asthma kit with products to help control asthma symptoms, a home assessment for asthma triggers and education designed to minimize or eliminate triggers in the home.

LaGuardia CC faculty, staff and at large members on the asthma assessment and prevention committee are project director Rosely Octaviano, RN, MA, AE-C, project manager Marcia Caton, RN, Ph. D. Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, committee members Cynthia Boone, OTR/L, Fredesvinda Dura, BSChE, ME, Debra Engel, PT, DPT, MS, Nurper Gokhan, Ph.D., Adjoa Gzifa, BA, MA, Rosann Ippolito, MS, RD, CDN, Marie E. Mark, Ph.D., Maria Pina-Fonti, RN, BSN, MA, Diann Slade, RN, MSN, Iona Thomas-Connor, RN, BSN, MA, EPA Project Officer Ameesha Mehta-Sampath, EPA Grant Specialist Douglas Roberts. ■

Family Asthma Assessment and Prevention Project <http://www.lagcc.cuny.edu/AsthmaProject/>

Emergency procedures puzzle LaGuardia students

By SABRINA HARTEL

It was 11:50 a.m. on a brisk September morning. The professor gave a lecture while students were safely tucked into their seats as the sirens wailed, and the multi-colored lights flashed. The students rushed to the doors and joined the frenzy of other students finding their way to the outer exit. "It's a fire drill!" one of the students shouted down the now heavily packed corridor.

Francisco Hernandez, an International Business major, was among them. He hurried as fast as he could, grabbing his knapsack while scuffing the linoleum floor with the wheels of his orthopedic walker. Once he reached the lobby, he was soon faced with the hard reality that the stairs didn't accommodate his needs as a disabled person. "I was never told what to do in a situation like this. I would ask for help, but other students would be too busy trying to get down the stairs themselves," said Hernandez. "It scares me a little bit, but I can't think like that, or else I'd never leave the house."

Francisco Hernandez was not the only student stranded in the lobby that day without a safety plan. Many students were forcing their way through the tiny exit at the front of the building, and down a stairway that could only hold two people side-by-side, while the back exits remained unused.

"All students are to be assisted by a warden deputy during the fire drill, and will not leave until the floor is clear," said Sherman Walker, fire safety director at LaGuardia Community College.

"It takes approximately eight minutes for over 14,000 regular students and staff to evacuate the



buildings with the average of five exits for each building unit," said Mr. Walker.

And according to Mr. Walker, there is one fire drill per semester, accompanied with monthly test on all fire-prevention systems: sprinklers, pre-action systems, air and water.

But according to the New York City Fire Department of Public Records, LaGuardia Community College has had 59 violations dating back to 1987 on the address of 31-10 Thomson Ave., LaGuardia's main building, alone— with violations ranging from failing to conduct required test inspection, general maintenance and failure to provide signs and post to show students where all of the exits are.

"We work for the city, so things take time, and can be slow implementing. But we've come a long way," said Walker.

Sherman Walker has denied allegations for the lack of signs posted in each classroom, and decided to walk me around the campus in a demonstration. Room after room we entered in the E Building, four in total, only one had a fire-exit sign posted near the doorway.

Mr. Walker quickly pledged to take action and replace the missing signs, as a result of freshly covered paint on the walls. One week later it was discovered that there were still no signs in place. ■

A Spanish Edition at The Bridge

Dear readers,

LaGuardia is made up of approximately 48% Hispanic students, more of us immigrants, some others with Hispanic roots. This is a high percentage if we see how many cultures we find around a city like New York or even in a county like Queens. Although our college has had this statistic and more over the importance of the Spanish language has been growing in the U.S. We didn't have a Hispanic edition in *The Bridge*, before January 2006. In fact, it was a big mistake. Even though English language is an important tool for our advancement, personal/social overcoming and successful life in this country, we should work to preserve the basis of our culture. In illustration, the language is fundamental for this end. When we come to be part of a new community, it almost is impossible that a transformation or mutation doesn't happen, it is not good and it is not bad. It is as simple as change. It creates a new concept of evolution in the thoughts of society in which each individual is adapting him-/herself and a settlement gives what they have. However, it

doesn't just mean to receive commands like a machine; it must be a feedback of thought, forming new missions and visions in the society. Therefore, I stepped up to contribute to this cause, opening *El Español, la Sección* in *The Bridge*. The Spanish Section (pages 8-10) will have news of what is going on in the Hispanic world at LaGuardia. I am a learner like most people here and I'll be a learner all my life because there is always something to discover. Even though my first language is Spanish, I am also learning its grammatical structure, vocabulary, history and present everyday. This is to invite all of you who want to be part of this idea, Hispanic and American people. There is hope write this section that is shared by *The Bridge's* staff because it expands our multinational culture in LaGuardia. Finally, I want to give thanks to all my comrades, interviewed people and you, readers, for supporting this idea in *The Bridge*.

Thank you,
Fabian Zarta
 Editor, *El Español, La Sección*

CAMPUS NEWS

Congress announces grants for science students

By WALTER IWACHIW

On Dec. 24, 2005 the U. S. Senate, following the House of Representatives, approved a five-year \$3.75 billion Smart and Academic Competitiveness Grants program, funded by budget deficit reduction bill. The grant program will provide additional dollars to Pell recipients who had a rigorous High School curriculum in the first year an additional \$750.00 the second year with a 3.0 GPA and a major in science, math or language, the third and fourth year amounts rising to \$4,000.

The Eleventh Hour Christmas Grants, from the U.S. Congress, to supplement LaGuardia Student education financing while cutting back on medical benefits and bank school loan subsidies. The grants were called the Smart and Competitive Grant Student Aid Program. These grants supplement Pell Grant Eligible Students Majoring in Sciences and Math. The grant and loan program changes are funded by a \$39.7 billion deficit reduction bill over five years of which 32% or \$12.7 billion come from student aid related accounts.

Additionally, the legislation moves upper loan limit of a subsidized student loan to \$3,500 and \$4,500 respectively for eligible students the same shift of benefits in this case from government subsidy of bank fees for subsidized student loans to

student funding by increased interest rate charges of 8.5 %.

This article is to alert students to the coming changes and reconsider your study majors in advance of the effect date of the grants, in an effort to maximize the individual student financial aid package. Keep in mind that the funds for the grant may have come from cutbacks in other federal programs you may currently receive and depend on. The LaGuardia CC financial aid professionals are actively looking into the Smart Grant program, possible school funding reductions from the deficit reduction bill and awaiting further information about the effective date of the legislation.

The objective of the additional financial aid is to provide financial incentives to College students across American to major in the sciences, math and the languages and follow career paths into science, engineering and the languages largely because the U.S. economy is dependent on these career paths for the future and there is a shortage of these kinds of professionals.



CUNY unveils Master Plan

Continued from Page 1

The Master Plan has some vulnerabilities; the most important one is that it has not yet been approved. Another one is the fact that its three primary budget providers – state and city, private donors, and student tuition are dependent on each other.

Master Plan, in itself, is a call for higher standards at CUNY. "Every dollar will go to improvements," said LaGuardia's President, Dr. Gail O. Mellow. She also added that the budget depends on those primary budget providers. If one of them doesn't get enough money or doesn't get approved, Master Plan could fall apart. State and city funding are especially critical, since they produce the majority of the budget.

The budget will also strengthen CUNY's and LaGuardia's flagship programs, according to Mr. Elliot. The colleges will have money to hire new faculty, improve undergraduate education, and expand teaching through

technology.

The new Master Plan is different from CUNY's tuition increases in the past. Justin Pastor, LaGuardia's

representative at University State Senate (USS) of CUNY, views the plan as good. "I think that the plan is better than the past because the increase is gradual instead of having the tuition jump every few years," he said. The gradual tuition increase ensures that the University expenses will be covered even with inflation. It also adds programs to the colleges, while decreasing emphasis on students paying tuition. According to CUNY's website, the percentage of CUNY's budget funded by students' tuition will decrease to 37.6% in 2009-10 semester from the current 40.6%

CUNY officials point out that the last increase, which was in 2004, raised tuition by \$800 in senior colleges and \$300 in community colleges. Though, some of LaGuardia's students disagree with the plan. At the time of the announcement of the plan, students leaders spoke against the hike, calling it unfair because by the time the changes are implemented, the students will be gone. Mr. Elliot acknowledged their concerns, but said it's out of their hands, since LaGuardia is only a two-year college.

Some international students voiced their concerns as well, citing the fact that they pay more than other students, while not getting any aid from the government or any other sources, other than their own income. Elliot tried to alleviate their concerns by repeating that the difference in tuition will be paid by a private investor.

Projected Annual Undergraduate Resident Tuition Increases

Fiscal year	Projected Senior College Increase	Senior College Tuition Rate	Projected Community College Increase	Community College Tuition Rate
2005 - 2006	N/A	\$4,000	N/A	\$2,800
2006 - 2007	\$130	\$4,130	\$120	\$2,920
2007 - 2008	\$100	\$4,230	\$90	\$3,010
2008 - 2009	\$90	\$4,320	\$80	\$3,090
2009 - 2010	\$70	\$4,390	\$70	\$3,160
Percentage change from 2005	9.8%		12.9%	
Percent Annual Average Change over 4 years	2.4%		3.1%	



“ I’m going to be working on my career in real estate, my LaGuardia classes and, if I have time, party! ”

- Alberto Santiago,
Deaf Studies

“ I am going to go upstate four-wheeling and working on a farm ”

- Radica Lazic
Liberal Arts: Math and Science



“ Vegetating on the sofa as I graduate at the end of this session. ”

- Suzanne Georgion,
Teacher’s Ed/English





WORD ON CAMPUS



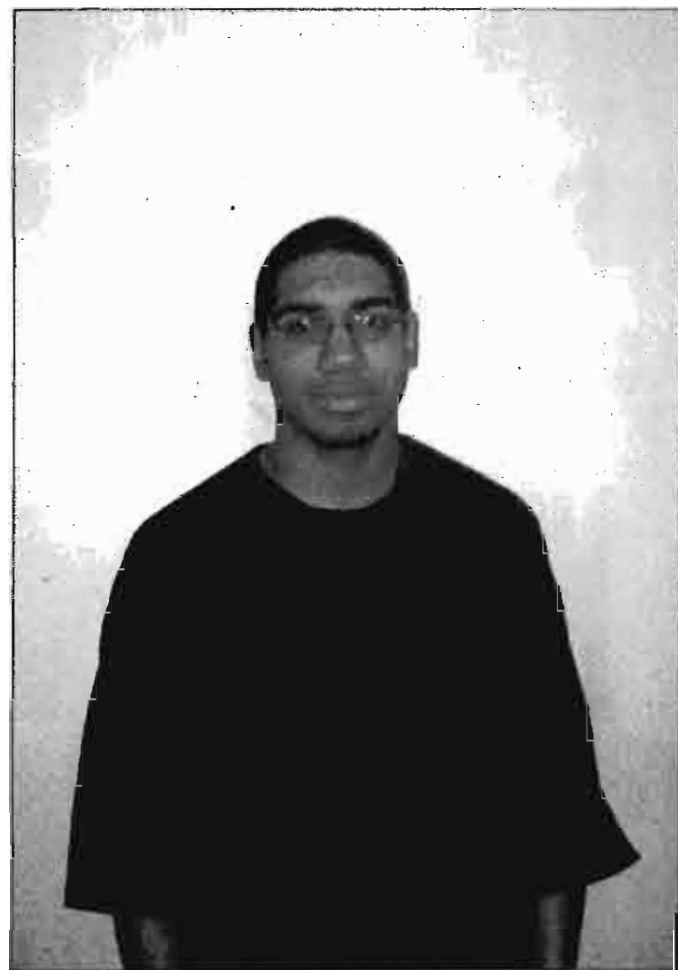
How Do You Plan to Spend Your Spring Break?

“

I'd like to look for another job so that I can quit the one that I have right now.

”

- Alexander Espiñoza,
Computer Science



“Traveling. Whoo! I love to travel. I just got a new car, so I can't wait to take a road trip with my girlfriends. What better time than springbreak?”

- Monique Pettawal,
Liberal Arts: Social Sciences



“I plan to visit my family in Massachusetts. and then come back to prepare for my Spring 2006 classes”
Pedro Peralta,
Computer Technology



“I plan to study for Biology II, since I am taking Biology I during the six-week session.”
- Kelly Sexton
O.T.A.



EL ESPAÑOL LA SECCIÓN

Regresa el Programa de Educación Bilingüe

Por FABIAN ZARTA

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cuernos:

1. Por qué nace el Programa Bilingüe en LaGuardia?

Para la época en que inicio, se estaban necesitando mucha mas formación académica para los educadores que existían en aquellos días, LaGuardia fue una de las primeras en concientizarse de eso. Había gente que pensaba que por hablar Español, ya se podía enseñar el lenguaje, hablar Español es una cosa y Enseñar Español es otra. Yo vine a LaGuardia con el Programa Bilingüe e implante los cursos de Literatura y cultura latinoamericana.

2. Que ventajas tenía /tiene el estudiantado en este programa y cuales eran esos programas?

LaGuardia es el único con un Programa Bilingüe, a nivel de "community College", en todo CUNY. El hecho que tengamos los "Base Skills" (Cursos de talentos básicos: escritura, lectura y matemática), hacen que muchos de los interesados en el programa, no puedan ingresar a una universidad de cuatro años sin haber pasado estos cursos. En adición, en LaGuardia el alumnado puede desde el principio tomar sus cursos de educación. Los cursos eran educación, primaria, educación secundaria, "early childhood" y "childhood education"

3. Por qué fue suspendido el Programa de Educación Bilingüe. Vamos al punto; el profesorado tenía fallas, el alumnado, las instalaciones, necesitaba realmente una reestructuración, cual fue el causante del largo cierre del programa? Hablamos de dos años.

Lo que pasaba es que no teníamos un director en el programa bilingüe, Para el año 1991 y 1992 con el director del programa Jesús Fuentes, una persona totalmente dedicada, hicimos algunos cambios al programa, desafortunadamente con su muerte para aquel tiempo, no hemos tenido directivas que realmente hayan hecho lo suficiente. Las leyes han cambiado, se decía, que supuestamente se iba a revisar que estaba pasando con el programa, bueno eso fue parte de la movida que hicieron, porque después nos enteramos que era que estaban formando un nuevo departamento de educación. Pues el Programa

Bilingüe estaba dividido. El bilingüe, en Humanidades; escuela primaria y secundaria, en Ciencias Sociales y el de "early childhood", en "Human Services". Y ahora los pusieron todos en un solo departamento para facilitar la instrucción.

4. Cuando nos mencionas leyes a que tipo de leyes te refieres, leyes de LaGuardia?



Fabian Zarta, The Bridge

No, a las leyes de la oficina de educación del estado. Por ello, inclusive tuvimos una persona de fuera inspeccionando el programa, dijo de algunos ajustes que debían hacerse pero los comentarios fueron muy laudatorios. Además, se reviso con cual universidad de cuatro años nos íbamos a articular, en este caso continua City College, para saber cuales eran sus requisitos y que todos los cursos que los alumnos tomen aquí, les sean útiles allá.

-Como escritor de este artículo, debo mencionar que ciertas personas con las que hable, dicen que quien hizo la inspección realmente no era muy bien aceptada por todo el programa de educación bilingüe en LaGuardia, inclusive hubo quien se refirió a ella poniendo en tela de juicio su desenvolvimiento profesional, "dizque porque habló de más cambios de los necesarios".

5- No servían acaso todos esos cursos/ Cuales eran esos cursos y que diferencia es la existe entre lo que había antes y lo que trae ahora el Programa Bilingüe?

Nosotros teníamos cuatro cursos de educación bilingüe, 12 créditos, introducción al bilingüismo, historia del lenguaje, teorías de la educación bilingüe y las practicas de salón de clase. Ultimó el cual no tenía créditos transferibles. Este curso se suspendió, el pasado 21 de noviembre en una reunión con CUNY en City College, se

hablaba que la universidad de cuatro años que da la licencia de maestro es donde debe hacerse el "Field work". Además, que los estudiantes de LaGuardia iban muy bien preparados académicamente. Desde ahora, todos los cursos de educación bilingüe que tomen aquí, les serán útiles al transferirse a la universidad de cuatro años. En adición, se darán "internships" para que el estudiante trabaje en el área de docencia bilingüe, por que antes hacían los "internships" pero no realmente en su campo. Los cursos de composición I y II en Español e Historia Latinoamericana continuaran y también serán transferibles. Adicional, el programa estará en un solo departamento.

6. Hablamos que no había un director en el Programa Bilingüe. Por qué dejar ese vacío, y luego sencillamente cerrar el programa? Carencia monetaria. No querían traer a nadie, hasta no saber hacia que dirección realmente iba el programa. Se habló de una revisión del programa, luego, que quedarían en un solo departamento. Y después que este estará supervisado por una sola persona que estará a cargo de todos los programas de educación en LaGuardia. Entonces no tenía sentido traer una persona para el Programa Bilingüe, cuando se iba a traer a alguien para la supervisión general. Yo creo, esto es pura conjetura mía, como tú sabes que esto de la educación bilingüe es una cuestión muy política; muchos de los críticos, a nivel de bochinche, dicen que no debe existir y que se va a acabar. Esto no es cierto, ellos no tiene ni la menor idea de lo que hablan.

7. Ha habido mucha polémica con esto del Programa Bilingüe, se habla que los consejeros no asesoran bien a los estudiantes interesados, inclusive algunos asesores ni saben que existe, o les dicen que es un programa sin futuro profesional. Que les dirías tu a el departamento de consejeros y al estudiantado?

A los asesores que se asesoren, el programa esta vigente y vuelve con mas fuerza, y al estudiantado que estudien Educación Bilingüe, no crean esos rumores porque no son ciertos.

Noticias en Español La pequeña nota

Se inicia una nueva etapa en The Bridge, pues se da paso al pensamiento Hispano y al rescate de nuestra escritura y lenguaje. Debo decir que aún soy un aprendiz, y que toda mi vida lo seré; se que falta mucho por explorar en el Español, la Sección. Sin embargo, el ideal es noble y la esperanza grande. Por ello, seguiré trabajando más en profundidad para las futuras ediciones, con más temas de interés, no solo de aquí en LaGuardia, sino también en el panorama socio-político-cultural de nuestra comunidad Hispana y por supuesto de esta cultura americana que es nuestro hogar ahora. La idea es crear y sembrar inquietudes por nuestro lenguaje, tanto para nosotros en LaGuardia como para el público en general; y es por esto que hago una invitación a todos aquellos que quieran ayudar a enriquecer esta sección, para que se unan a esta causa. Compañeros como quiera que sea les deseo lo mejor en la marcha. Gracias a todos mis camaradas del periódico por apoyar esta idea, a los entrevistados y a todos ustedes lectores, gracias.

Fabian Zarta
Editor

8. Que puede ofrecer un estudiante graduado de este programa en LaGuardia?

Realmente con un diploma de LaGuardia solo pueden trabajar como asistentes para profesionales y servirles mientras van terminando la carrera profesional de cuatro años.

9. Qué le dirías a un estudiante que quiere ser docente bilingüe?

Yo siempre he dicho que la enseñanza es una vocación, la riqueza del maestro esta en la satisfacción. Nosotros como latinos tenemos una contribución muy importante que hacer a esta sociedad y la educación bilingüe es una gran contribución. La idea del bilingüismo es formar niños competitivos en las dos lenguas y para eso se debe estudiar de nuestra historia latinoamericana y conocer muy bien métodos de enseñanzas.

10. Bien, y lo que todos estamos esperando, para cuando iniciara

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Regresa el Programa de Educación Bilingüe

Continuación página 8

de nuevo el Programa Bilingüe?

Ya están aprobados los cambios por la oficina de educación. Ahora solo queda esperar a que los cursos del programa estén en los nuevos libros del "college". Y ya para otoño de este año lo tendremos de vuelta.

11. Para terminar, te tengo una última pregunta que no puedo dejar pasar. Que les dices a todos los estudiantes de LaGuardia, con respecto a sus propósitos en las diferentes áreas profesionales, cual es la llave de su éxito?

Si me haces una pregunta como esa, entonces debo citar a una de mis maestras espirituales y quien mantenía teorías del subconsciente profundo, Joseph Cambú, que decía siempre "Follow your Heart". Las personas que realmente triunfan, triunfan porque saben lo que verdaderamente quieren hacer; no escuchan las presiones familiares y/o sociales que les impongan. La presión debe venir de adentro.

-- Y si aún no han encontrado eso que buscan o que los llena?

Sigan, busquen, exploren para eso son jóvenes, la juventud está para experimentar. No hay nada más hermoso que sentirse inspirado haciendo lo que a uno le gusta. Por ejemplo, mi riqueza está en mi vida diaria como maestra que en las cuentas que pueda tener en un banco. Desafortunadamente, estamos viviendo en una vida materialista cada vez peor, la verdadera felicidad es saber que haz hecho una contribución y que eres feliz haciendo esa contribución.

Lectores, que tal ese último mensaje que Ana María nos deja, como para reflexionar. Sean ustedes quien saquen sus propias conclusiones y queden con lo que más les sea de utilidad. Si están interesados en el Programa Bilingüe o si simplemente desean tomar un curso en lengua extranjera o profundizar en el Español, acérquense a la oficina E 212. ■

Elecciones en Colombia de 2006

Por FABIAN ZARTA

Colombianos de LaGuardia háganse sabedores de que tenemos Elecciones Presidenciales y del Congreso para el periodo que data entre el 2006-2010. El domingo, 12 de marzo se llevará a cabo las elecciones del Congreso de la Republica; y el domingo, 28 de mayo la elección presidencial.

Como nota extra, les comento que la Corte Constitucional Colombiana adhirió a la constitución el acto legislativo que permite la reelección presidencial inmediata, lo cual deja libre potestad de inscripción a nuestro actual presidente Álvaro Uribe para las candidaturas presidenciales de 2006, acción que no demoró en ejecutar el audaz líder. Más aún, porque tal hecho le dejará huella imborrable a su nombre en la historia política de nuestro país, por ser el primero en lograr tal evento, ya veremos cómo le va.

Y fue debido a las elecciones, que por el mes de noviembre y diciembre en diferentes sectores del estado interestatal de New York hubo mesas de registración de cédula

para las votaciones. Consecuente, el último plazo de registración para votar por el Congreso de la República tuvo paso hasta el 31 de diciembre de 2005, con sede en el Consulado de Colombia, ubicado en la 10 East 46 th Street, NY, NY 10017. Sin embargo, para las Elecciones Presidenciales los interesados tendrán otro plazo, y podrán inscribir su cédula desde el 13 de marzo hasta el 3 de abril de 2006, nos anuncia el Consulado. Las inscripciones deben ser personalizadas y los interesados deberán tener su cédula de ciudadanía o pasaporte

vigente. No obstante, para el día de las votaciones solo se aceptará la cédula; la contraseña no es válida en ningún caso. Para este fin el consulado tendrá el horario de atención al público de lunes a viernes de 8:15 AM hasta la 1:45 PM.

La Registraduría Nacional Del Estado Civil, ha habilitado 13 sitios más de votación en los diferentes sectores de la ciudad, con la idea de facilitar el acceso a toda la comunidad colombiana. Tales como son: Union City - Genesis Bakery, Tel: 201.319.1971; Filadelfia-Listo Inc, Tel: 215.455.4786;

Trenton - Rapido Florez, Tel: 609.396.7732; Brentwood-PMB, Tel: 631.428.750; Dover, Tel: 973.769.5779; Hackensack, Tel: 201.342.7399, Elizabeth - Roberts Joyería, 282 Morris Ave. y Morristown - Luciano Travel, 102 Speedwell Ave. Morristown NJ 07960, entre otros. Para mayor información contactar al Consulado de Colombia al 212.798.9000.

Finalmente, quiero dar las gracias al señor José Iván Aguilar, cónsul representante de comunicaciones de la Embajada Colombiana en New York, por su información y amabilidad para con este artículo. ■



Teatro en LaGuardia a la Retaguardia con Catrina Ganey

La actriz y maestra

Por FABIAN ZARTA

Digna representante de la raza negra; actriz y docente nacida en Washington D.C. esta radicada desde 1993 en New York, tiempo en el cual ha estado trabajando como maestra de teatro en LaGuardia y actriz profesional.

La realización de sus estudios de actuación, han sido en "The University of Michigan, M.A.", "Howard University, B.F.A. (Magna Cum Laude)" y "Webber Douglas Academy Of Dramatic Arts", en Londres, donde tuvo un encuentro especial con Shakespeare y sus clásicas obras. Está talentosa mujer ha vivido en Alemania, donde fue estudiante de intercambio, para estudiar en colegio regular por un año, después de terminar su secundaria aquí. Así como también, ha vivido y estudiado en Detroit y algunas ciudades de Centro América por cortos periodos.

En los años 80, con entrega quiso trabajar como misionera en el

"Apartheid Movement", (Movimiento contra de la injusticia política y el racismo precedido en el Sur de Africa), donde ella por iniciativa propia, con parte de su patrimonio cultural y económico, viajó a ciudades como Cape Town, Johannesburg, Soweto y Durban; para participar activamente en favor de este movimiento.

Y ha sido gracias a estas experiencias, que durante sus últimos 15 años de vida profesional, ha trabajado en diferentes escenarios en el mundo del cine, el teatro y la televisión americana. Se destacan, en el campo del cine "Freedomland", película que rodó la pasada primavera, donde interpreta a Lorraine, quien es una supuesta amiga de la protagonista. Bajo la dirección de Joe Roth, esta es la historia de una mujer blanca quien llega herida a la sala de emergencia de Dempsey Medical Center, en Dempsey; y a quien supuestamente un hombre negro arrebató contra ella y le secuestran su pequeño hijo de cuatro años en este barrio de negros. Esto crea tensión entre la comunidad de blancos

y negros. Después de investigaciones la mujer confiesa que su hijo dormía en la silla trasera del carro, cuando el carro fue robado. En esta película trabaja al lado de actores del calibre de Samuel L. Jackson y Julianne Moore. Película que por cierto, estará en cines por estas semanas. Otras películas, "Bringing out the Dead", interpretando a Odette, dirigida por el sensacional Martin Scorsese; "Carry Me Home" interpretando a Hattie, dirección por Jace Alexander; "Tinsel Town", interpretando a Cathering, su primer golpe al cine independiente, dirigida por Ken Delvecchio y "superhéroes" donde interpreta a Marnie una oficial que esta cansada de sacar a su compañero de problemas; película dirigida por Ed Radtke y que terminó de rodar en octubre del año pasado.

En el campo del teatro, encontramos a la obra Miss Evers Boys, interpretando a Eunice Evers, bajo la dirección de Lorna Littleway

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EL ESPAÑOL LA SECCIÓN

Teatro en LaGuardia a la Retaguardia con Catrina Ganey

Continuación página 9

(Stamford Theater Works), obra con la cual ganó una nominación por parte del "Conn Critics' Circle" como mejor actriz en 1999 y pesé a que no se llevo el premio, el merito fue grande. Con la obra For Colored Girls, (Off Broadway, teatro de bajo presupuesto) interpreto a "Lady in the Violet", entre otros personajes y bajo la dirección de Ntozake Shange, fue una obra que le dejo reconocimiento por parte de "Audelco Award", por excelente integración de todo el grupo de trabajo. Estas son solo algunas de sus muchas obras.

No puedo dejar por supuesto aun lado, su trayectoria televisiva con "All my children", ABC, donde interpreta a Zora Jones, bajo la dirección de Conal O'Brien; "Law and Order/ Trial by jury", NBC, interpretando a Taylor/Forewoman, dirigida por Constantine Markis, entre otras series.

Cuando uno se encuentra está mujer en la senda, descubre muchas manifestaciones de la berraquera de una americana. Ella con su particular estilo demuestra lo que es sin más ni menos de prejuicios sociales o etiquetas; la síntesis de una gran fuerza y energía, algo que no podemos negar las personas que hemos tenido la oportunidad de compartir con ella. más aún, quienes somos sus estudiantes, pues nos topamos con un método de enseñanza que aunque profesional no deja de ser jocoso y entretenido, y para que más, si aprender se fundamenta en disfrutar lo que se aprende. Uno encuentra con ella una maestra que busca dotar con semillas de conocimiento al alumnado, en base

a sus particulares experiencias, talves con la idea de que nuestros pasajes de vida profesional sean aún mejores.

Aquí, sus pensamientos:

Me gusta leer y en ocasiones escribir, a veces profesionalmente. Yo aconsejo a mis estudiantes en base a su personalidad, pero les hago saber que la actuación es más que glamour y bastante dinero; que existe una diferencia entre ser un actor y ser una estrella: Ser actor demanda seriedad en el estudio y deseos de entreno constante, tanto en el aula de clase como fuera de ella; pues no es por arte de magia ni rápido arreglo que se hace un actor. Hay que amar la carrera, para mi grandes ejemplos de carreras actorales son: Ingrid Bergman, Joan Crawford, Betty Davis, Spence Tracy, Crack Gables, Cary Grant... estos si son actores, estas si son estrellas en mi libro, porque en ellos se ve un trabajo, por eso son leyenda. No como ahora, que algunos disque actores son estrellas y famosos por sus divorcios, escandalos,... y no por una real entrega al oficio. Que actores pueden ser esos?

Mi trabajo en LaGuardia me salvo. Yo me acababa de mudar a esta ciudad, no conocia a nadie y contaba con poco dinero. A Dios gracias, en mi primer dia pude ubicar este trabajo de maestra. Fue algo increíble, yo estaba buscando por un apartamento y allí estaba W. Koolsbergen, director del Programa de Teatro, le hable un poco de mi situación, me dijo hay una vacante en LaGuardia, es tuya, si la quieres!..

En mi carrera actoral, el personaje de la señora Eunice Evers en "Miss Evers Boys" fue definitivo en mi profesión, por lo controversial de la obra, basada

en el Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment, (Experimento con 399 hombres negros enfermos de sífilis con quienes el gobierno y doctores experimentaron en Alabama, durante el periodo entre 1932 y 1972. Esto con el fin, de saber que poder de destrucción, en su etapa final, tenía esta enfermedad). Trabaje arduamente en esta obra.

La cultura Hispana es excitante; tiene un ritmo, una pasión, un fuego emocional. Y en el escenario de entretenimiento cada vez van con más fuerza, creo que La cultura hispana y la Africo-América tienen en común que deben dar el 110 % cuando las puertas se abren para demostrar nuestro talento, pues aún existe una pequeña barrera de igualdad entre estas dos culturas y la Americana. Pero si hay ejemplo de un actor hispano talentoso, ese actor es: Benicio Del Toro. El nunca trabaja dentro de la caja, hay una subyacente de calor que se genera desde él. Benicio nunca hace un personaje regular; La primera vez, que lo ví actuando, fue en una película llamada "China Moon", pensé "quien es ese muchacho?" Ame su actuación. El es un actor increíble. También debo decir, que amaba mirar actuando a Marc Anthony cuando hicimos la película "Bringing out the Dead" fue

extremadamente serio con su rol de loco, drogadicto y desechable. "Pese a que no conozco muchos escritores Hispanos...a los pocos que he leído los he disfrutado!", Me dice Catrina con ganas de correr.

Dentro de mis proyectos, está un programa piloto llamado "convitions" que empecé a grabar a finales de noviembre, y cosas por ahí, aún por concretar.

Me gustaría ser una niña Bond 007 en el cine, pero No, no soy una niña sexy... claro que, como una niña si puedo soñar! Ups! O talves, hacer un alien; en el teatro he trabajado muy fuerte y por muchos años que hacen que no este interesada en regresar a la escena teatral. Sin embargo, si me ofrecieran el rol de la enfermera en "Romeo y Julieta" o el rol de Mama en el musical "Chicago" regresaría, y en la televisión, definitivamente trabajaria en una serie llamada "Smallville" historia basada en la niñez de Clark Kent ("Superman"), amo la humanidad y pureza de esta serie.

Bién, pues ahí estuvo Catrina Ganey sin más, ni más, tal cual ella es. Ya veremos más de sus películas y si regresa a las tablas, o las tablas van a ella? ■

La Sección, Reflexiva!

Textos de la palabra para la palabra

En los labios del prudente se halla la sabiduría
pues en las muchas palabras no falta la falta
mas el que refrena sus labios es prudente
porque los labios del justo apacientan a muchos
y con su boca se producirá sabiduría debido a que saben hablar lo que agrada
pues cuando viene la soberbia viene también la deshonra
y las muchas palabras,
pero con los humildes está la sabiduría
y la sabiduría en los labios del prudente
pues el prudente con labios de sabios se guardará
para su propia ciencia que es entender su caminar
para la integridad de sus caminos en la recta.
Porque el avisado mira bien sus pasos y como sabio teme y se aparta del mal
en justicia de perfecto que es enderecer su campo
porque amando la instrucción se ama la sabiduría,
que es el camino a guardar en la vida
pues los simples heredaran necedad y el que aborrece la represión es ignorante
porque el camino del necio es

derecho en su opinión
mas los prudentes se coronarán de sabiduría
al obedecer al consejo que le es sabio
porque al guardar la corrección recibirá honra
y como todo hombre prudente procederá con sabiduría
para como hombre cuerdo encubrir su saber
pues de la buena palabra hallarás alegrías
y hazte sabedor, que del fruto de tu boca hombre! comerás el bien
porque las vanas palabras de los labios empobrecen
mas las riquezas de los sabios son su corona
y como hombres hallén en el corazón apacible vida de la carne
mas la envidia puede ser carcoma de sus huesos
pero en el corazón del prudente reposa la sabiduría,
y lleva la ciencia del prudente que esta en entender su camino
que no es conocida en medio de los necios
pues al ser impacientes de espíritu enaltecen su necedad
pero el corazón del prudente tarda en airarse y es grande en entendimiento
porque ama, y desde temprano se corrige.

Por Fabian Zarta

Miro

Miro al espejo
y público mi tristezas
paso andante ando
recogiendo los bellos ojos en la línea de la mar con la arena
y, aparecen fulgidos los trozos del pasado
aquellos que no dejan ajeno al presente,
y llevan entre si una flor seca
mis ojos que la observan betados,
pero seca ya esta.
He de mirar más al frente y a los costados,
y me encuentran las flores sin recoger, y
en un mirar efímero las que he dejado pasar
más la que deje marchitar,
y aún más, a está quise regarle de nuevo, y
fui sembrador sin don allí
pero no por que no viviese en mí aquél
o ellá fuese sin vida
si no porque aquella ya no era mía,
tiempo de recoger las otras flores del paisaje,
hora de encontrar lo mio.
Acaso no es mejor eso que cargar con trozos secos?

Pupilas

Letras en tus pupilas
Lápices en las mias.
La prueba del delito;
Comenzó la leyenda con mirar

Por Fabian Zarta



Poemas en
La Sección



OP - ED

Elections aftermath

By ANNAIS MORALES

I woke up on the morning of Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2005 feeling tired and drowsy, like I did not get enough sleep. I reluctantly rolled out of bed and remembered that I had stayed up early the night before watching the results of the mayoral election. I asked myself, why? Why did I stay up to watch something of which I, as well as countless other New Yorkers, already knew the outcome? It's like watching a car crash; you don't want to look, but you do anyway.

Not that the results were bad, at least in my opinion. I voted for Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. Yes, I am a Democrat. Yes, I am Hispanic. Yes, I do reside in the South Bronx. Yes, I did get to shake former Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer's hand, and even had a two minute conversation with him when

he visited LaGuardia's campus last semester. However, I do not feel that I owe my vote to him just because I can relate more to him than I can to our billionaire mayor. Ferrer does not have what it takes to run a city that holds the risk of falling back down to the level it was at four years ago. Sometimes change isn't so good.

My mind was pretty much made up from the start. During the Democratic primaries I backed Congressman Anthony Weiner just because anyone besides Ferrer seemed like a good choice. I knew Ferrer would win the primaries, but I am not the type to follow the crowd, especially when the future of the greatest city in America is at stake.

Mayor Bloomberg possesses the ability to appeal to a vast majority of New Yorkers. In a city that is heavily populated with immigrants and people of different backgrounds and religions, this is a crucial component to winning the hearts and trust of the citizens. According to the New York Post, Bloomberg dominated in four of the five boroughs. Ferrer was only able to win his hometown of the Bronx. Take into account the fact that the Bronx is primarily Hispanic and one could easily assume that the only reason Ferrer won that borough is because the residents wanted to see a Hispanic take over City Hall.

Ferrer lost the support from the African-American community as well as other Democrats when he told a group of police sergeants that the shooting death of unarmed African immigrant Amadou Diallo was not a crime. The Village Voice's Jarret Murphy called it a, "self-inflicted wound." If four officers, regardless if they are white, shooting at an unarmed suspect 41 times and 19 of those bullets striking him is not a crime, then I do not

know what is. Now that he is not busy campaigning, maybe Ferrer should sit in on a Government 101 class at John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Mayor Bloomberg made this city a better place to live, work, go to school, and raise a family. He made sure that businesses continued to operate here after the terror attacks on September 11, 2001. He helped form Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) in commercial neighborhoods in the outer boroughs to make sure that small businesses are partnering up with one another to promote local businesses and ensure a safe shopping experience for residents. He eliminated social promotion in the 3rd, 5th, and 7th grades in order to recognize and stop any academic problems early on that young students may be facing. He reduced crime in some of the worst high schools in the city by flooding these trouble-plagued schools with cops and school safety agents. He introduced a nine-point plan to end chronic homelessness in five years. He has fought hard against terrorism. I applauded him when he made the decision of informing New Yorkers about the terror threat to the city's subway system. He knows that in this day and age, we cannot take any threat lightly. What has Ferrer done for the city? As far as Bloomberg is concerned - nothing but complain. You know what? I agree. All Ferrer did was attack Bloomberg. He never explained what he would do differently.

Mr. Ferrer did not take this campaign seriously. His advertisements were full of ridiculous humor: Reverend Al Sharpton dancing salsa (something I am sure New Yorkers do not want to witness again), President George W. Bush and Bloomberg riding a donkey together with Bloomberg throwing money at the president and Bush thanking him by planting a big kiss on the mayor's cheek. Where were all the ads about what you can do for the city in the next four years? Where were all the ads about how you will be a better mayor than Bloomberg? At least this campaign did not turn into a personal attack blitz like the gubernatorial campaign in New Jersey.

And, about the mayoral debates: since when is it polite to point your finger at others, Mr. Ferrer? Obviously he forgot his manners during the debates when he kept wagging his finger at Bloomberg as if he were a mischievous little boy. And what was up with Ferrer trying to make it seem as if Bloomberg betrayed African-Americans by not participating in the debate that was held at the Apollo Theatre in Harlem? Obviously, that extra debate did not do you any good, Mr. Ferrer.

Love & Life Definition of a Man

By NICHOLAS KARASOULIS

A man is defined by the stereotypical definition of a brute which is roughly translated into today's terms as a "rico suave" or a "playa." He has to be tall, muscular, well-built, wealthy, by 18 have a nice car and so on and so forth. I'm close enough, right? Wrong. In my view that is far from what a man truly is. A question for your thoughts: whatever happened to the true gentleman? No games, no lies, but genuine compassion and care?

A man is someone who is honest. He can tell you anything, you can investigate it and it would come out to be true. A true man is a gentleman. Meaning, pull out chairs for a female, hold open doors, et cetera. A real man would give you gifts for no apparent reason and take you to exotic and romantic places. He would come up with romantic games for you. A man is a person who's not afraid to show you his emotional side, his feminine side, and his sensitive side. He loves you for you, not for your looks or your social status.

The stereotypes of what society defines as a man, that I mentioned earlier, is bullcrap. A man is determined by what's inside, not anything physical. Whatever happened to the days of "Juliet is my sun!" - the days of Romeo and Juliet? Throwing pebbles at a woman's window, and serenading her with a guitar. Now men just serenade girls in the street with, "Hey mami," and, "What up shorty, can I holla?" That's not a man. That is a 21st century immature little 13-year-old boy. And I say 13 because, it has gotten so sad, it even starts out young.

It's just very pathetic and very sad the way the males of this country have turned out. These 40-10 cent gangster-want-to-be's walk around

However, I do not agree with Bloomberg on many issues. I am against his stance on the war in Iraq. I was disturbed by the gargantuan amount of money that Bloomberg donated to the group that hosted the 2004 GOP presidential convention in New York City. I found it fishy that he finally signed a contract with the Uniformed Firefighters Association, nearly two weeks before election day. As if that would erase the fact that he closed six firehouses during his first few months on the job. Yet, this is what most New Yorkers love about the mayor; he's not afraid to make tough decisions even if they are not popular ones.

All of the major papers supported

talking non-sense. I see it even in this college. 20-year-olds still acting like they are in high school. It's really sad, really pathetic. It's called a higher education, not a higher gangstacation! People need to sit down and really look at how men have changed throughout the years. It's sad. I'm not saying I'm perfect either. I'm a guy - I have my faults and flaws also.

Let things happen naturally, stop treating women this way! Put, down that 50-Cent and Jadakiss! They are all wrong, and we all buy into that crap. For God's sake, R. Kelly knows nothing! Pick up some Marvin Gaye, and Barry White! Yes, sometimes, even their songs are all about seducing, and manipulating women, but it's better than a guy saying, "I'll take you to the candy shop, I'll let you lick the lollipop." Pick up some Hawthorne Heights or some Emo music! I hate Emo, but anything, anything is better than that woman bashing and degrading, female-rank-lowering attitudes.

I am a man who doesn't hate men; I hate what we males have become. We have listened to the bad advice of, our so-called leaders, the media, and our stupefied peers for too long. But, the sad thing is, that it is too late to change it. Probably. But somebody needs to speak up for the few men that all of our lives watched the love of our lives leave with the jocks, and the gamers, the liars, the players and the bad boys of our schools, neighborhoods, and other/all aspects of our lives, and that person is me. And if that's what a man is than I'm not and, never want to be. ■

If you have any comments to this column, please e-mail them to nickxxx@slightlyintoxicated.com. Mention whether or not you want these comments to be published in the next issue of *The Bridge*.

him. The New York Post said, "He's proven his competence, kept crime down and breathed hope into the schools; his opponent, Fernando Ferrer, has no viable plan." The Daily News said, "His record far surpassed the expectations we held four years ago when the Daily News was the only major newspaper to endorse him [Bloomberg]."

The New York Times said, "If he continues his record of accomplishment over the next four years, he may be remembered as one of the greatest mayors in New York history." Bloomberg asked Ferrer during the last debate, "Do you think they're wrong?" Of course not, Mister Mayor. ■

LaGuardia educates former convicts

By SABRINA HARTEL

When you enter the tiny office located in room 238 on the second floor of the C Building, there are signs of encouragement lined up along the walls, and no name tags sitting on the desks - just a slew of fresh intake forms scattered about, while others are filled with black ink.

You will be greeted by smiling faces in the federally funded project of the CUNY Catch Program that creates change through economic and personal development. The program assist ex-inmates from Riker's Island with transition back into society, along with homeless persons and low-income youth, said Adella Horsford, coordinator.

Founded in 1991 by Dr. John Chiarkas, the program's mission is to provide at-risk adolescents with their last shot of a high school diploma and an opportunity to pursue a higher level of education. The program offers vocational training, counseling, and continued education with college courses and G.E.D. preparation.

"We assist high-risk students. Some of them are afraid to go to school because of gang threats and intimidation. We offer them an alternative," said Adella Horsford.

140 CUNY Catch students applied to LaGuardia for Spring 2005 and Fall 2005. Out of that number, 102 received their high

school equivalency diplomas, according to Dr. Chiarkas.

"The goal is to get students to college on the first day of orientation," said Horsford. "Over 112 students went to college with degree programs ranging from computers, business, and nursing."

According to Horsford, the Catch program is not required, but the challenge is to show them the benefits and make it appealing while the inmates are still in Rikers. "I tell them, the same people you see here are the same people you will see there," said Horsford.

Greg Bayduss, from the New



York State Education Department, believes the ex-inmates face a few challenges upon release. "They have to get over the stigma of being incarcerated, not trustworthy and not being able to hold down a job with no proven record," said Mr. Bayduss.

The CUNY Catch students' crimes range from misdemeanors

Unscramble the words to find the mystery word .

1. Something you do in order to pass your classes and exams?
dutys
2. Available in the library at Media services, just in case you don't have a computer at home.
talpop
3. Instructs classes.
erspofsr
4. Center of the E Building
taurim

Mystery word:
(HINT: What is each semester broken up into?)

By Kerryanne Mayers

to felonies, according to Horsford. "Women are more forthcoming with their crimes, the men don't talk about them much," said Horsford.

The Catch students are allowed to enter all buildings within the college for the use of the library and other student facilities. According to an un-named source in the public safety office, those who are in the program have a different color banner on their student I.D. cards than the rest of LaGuardia's students. The source also stated that there has been some trouble in the past with Catch students within the high school located in the basement of the M Building: causing trouble and smoking marijuana - although the captain of the public safety department has denied these allegations.

Nora Stock, a LaGuardia

Mystery word: sessions
4. atrium
3. professor
2. laptop
1. study
Key:

student majoring in human services, thinks that all students should be made aware of the CUNY Catch program. "People think that college is a bubble, but anything can happen on the streets of Manhattan," said Nora Stock. "There are bad people everywhere, I'm always cautious. But no one is beyond redemption, though you will be judged on your past."

Terri-Ann Villas, from the Women's Center at the college, thinks that wearing ID's should be mandated for visual identification of the Catch program students, but she also feels they deserve a second chance. "We don't want to isolate them, LaGuardia is an educational institution," she said.

S.A.G.A. attacked on Halloween night

By ERIC SHLEYER

On Oct. 31, 2005, ghosts and goblins wandered around the halls of LaGuardia Community College. It was once again time for the annual Straight and Gay Alliance's (S.A.G.A.) Halloween party. The party was a hit with 149 people in attendance. Creatures from all walks of life and un-life were at the party. The party was taking place in the cafeteria of the L Building, which is one block away from the M Building where the offices are located.

The spooking of friends wasn't the only malicious act taking place. During the party, the S.A.G.A. office was broken into, wallets and other items were stolen. It was not a simple break-in and robbery; this was a hate crime. The rainbow flag, which represents gay pride and diversity, was defaced with the word "FAGS" written on it.

"It's bad enough to be robbed, but to be targeted out of hate makes it more painful," commented Gregory Faulkner, Coordinator of Student Life & Development at LaGuardia.

"I've been out longer. I was not as shocked and hurt as some of the other members of the club. I felt like it was my fault - I was so busy; I should have made sure the door was closed. I feel like my kids were assaulted," said Alejandro Lopez, the president of S.A.G.A. at the time of the event.

School security was helpless to stop the robbery. "I definitely think there was a lack of security. The M Building is old. There are not as many cameras there as in the other buildings, but the school did the best they could," said Lopez. Ruben Rivera, a current student, agreed, "There definitely is not enough security throughout the

campus."

"We could have the type of security that would secure us completely," said Faulkner, "But if it were in place, you would not want to come here. If we're to do what we could, we would be giving up our freedoms."

Baruch's system, which is also part of CUNY, could be a model for LaGuardia's security system. Baruch College has a strict security policy where you can only enter the campus by swiping in as opposed to the open door policy at LaGuardia.

When asked why would anybody leave their belongings in an unguarded room, Lopez replied, "People think of their club office as a second home. All clubs leave their stuff in the offices all the time, [so] it was relatively safe before this incident."

Hate crimes could happen

anywhere at any time. "It could have been any club, one day S.A.G.A., the next day the Ecuadorian club with anti-Latino phrases or the Black Student Union with the 'N' word," claimed Faulkner.

The LaGuardia faculty and other clubs quickly offered their response through sympathetic and anger filled e-mails and quickly asked S.A.G.A. what they wanted to do about the hate crime. S.A.G.A. took the lead and held a Tolerance Day, where club representatives handed out red and black armbands, which read, "Stop the Hate."

"The visual statement was made, we received support and everyone said sorry," Lopez commented.

Gail O. Mellow, President of LaGuardia denounced the attack in her e-mail to LaGuardia and said that such attacks are unacceptable.

So far, no perpetrators have been caught. ■