



Contents

S.E.A.	p. 10-11
CAMPUS NEWS	p. 2-5
OPINIONS	p. 9
WORD ON CAMPUS	p. 8
WORLD REPORT	p. 6-7

Page 12



Where to eat near LAG

Page 4



Less people dress as adults



SGA member suspended

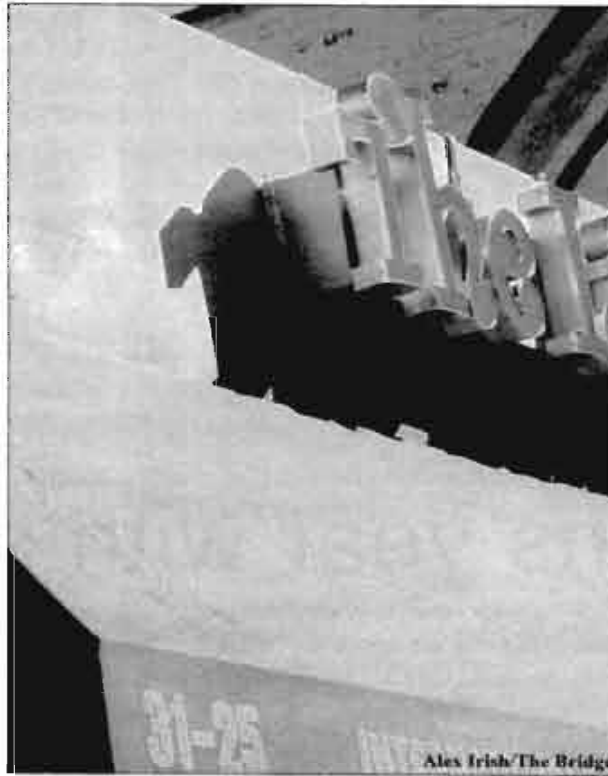
THE BRIDGE

CONNECT YOURSELF

LaGuardia's Official Student Newspaper

October 2006

Fire damages Lime Kitchen, Food Xpress



A FIRE WHICH STARTED MORNING of Oct. 9 severely damaged Lime Kitchen and Food Express, two of local food restaurants across Thomson Ave. from LaGuardia. According to LaGuardia security, the fire started in Lime Kitchen and eventually spread to Food Xpress. Numerous fire departments responded to the fire at 2:14 a.m. Monday morning. This could not be yet confirmed by FDNY, as Monday was a holiday. The fire is currently under investigation. **More info in the November edition.**

Alex Irish/The Bridge

College Senate to lose student seats

BY ALEKSANDR SIDOROV

The College Senate is considering eliminating 8-11 student senate seats, in an effort to meet new quorum requirements set forth by a New York State court ruling.

A plan that was created by a senate committee included cutting seats from 44 to 35. So far, there were only two drafts: one that was created during the summer and one that was created just before the meeting on Sept. 27., 2006

In addition, student and faculty voices are noticeably split in their struggles to remain in power. The problem lies with getting people, especially students to participate in senate. Only three student senators were eligible to vote at the Sept. 27 meeting. Other student senators either stopped going or graduated. "If there is an issue like tuition hikes, students' voice will not be heard," Anthony Pappas, college senator and alumni senate representative said.

Why the change?

A recent court decision *Perez v. CUNY* ruled the new quorum rules state that college senates meet a quorum requirement of 50% of the senate and an additional senator (33 senators) during a meeting. In addition, in order to pass a measure, 50% of the entire senate plus another senator (another 33 senators) must vote in favor. The new quorum rules would require senators to be at a meeting primarily

Although several clubs had spent time and money on full-length banners advertising themselves which they hoped to place in front of their respective tables, organizers busily informed these clubs that they would need to make half of their table space available for an additional club. This reduced the working/advertising space to little over 2 and a half feet.

Some tried to make do, folding their banners to fit the amended requirements while trying to maintain some semblance of legibility. Others ignored the organizers, hoping the club meant to sit next to them wouldn't show up or could be cajoled into moving elsewhere. The Bridge staff on duty at the time - meaning Law and myself - chose instead to tape our banner, in full effect, to the floor in front of us. Oddly enough this seemed to attract more interest to us than might have normally been the case. So, of course we took advantage of it. The irony

CONTINUED ON P. 2

LAG begins year with a bang



Aleksandr Sidorov/The Bridge

BY JOHN KNOX

Students' feelings mixed about Club Fair

Noon hadn't even reared its ugly head yet before the tension began to build at this year's Club Fair, a semi-organized collection of college groups and unassociated organizations that ran for approximately 4 hours on the 13th of September.

CONTINUED ON P. 3

Government Assn. suspends member

BY LISETT VEGA

The recently elected members of SGA are already in disputes, confrontations and are pending a court date. In an open SGA meeting held in M160 on Thursday, Oct. 11, Ivan Ortega, was recently suspended from position of Executive Secretary, by majority of SGA votes. Mr. Ortega threatened to take his alleged harassment case against President of SGA, Ashis K Gupta to court in the next several months.

As of Oct. 11, Ivan Ortega has been suspended for "dragging [SGA members] names through the mud," said Virginia Ramirez, SGA's Program and Events Governor. Ortega's suspension was enacted immediately, for the next six months and he may or may not return to office, pending judicial



review.

Mr. Ortega, whose duties, according to the student manual, include writing minutes, working on agendas for meetings with the

president and keeping records of meeting reports, claims that he has been badly threatened by the president following his proposal to change the method of SGA presidential elections. The students of LaGuardia Community College elect the members whose term start in July and ends in June the following year and then the president of SGA is elected by the governors elected.

Ortega sent in a proposal to the board office that states, "The president of SGA should be elected by the majority of eligible student voters..." to call for a referendum, instead of consulting with his associates first and having it approved within the SGA. Luis Merchant, SGA's mentor said, "The proposal would have been done if he [Mr. Ortega] would have gone through the president. Instead he

chose to go above the president using LaGuardia Community College Student Government Association's logos without permission."

Furthermore, Amed Adil, mediator of Clubs and Ethnic Affairs seemed upset. "It has been three weeks in a row, starting Oct. 4, that the discussion regarding Mr. Ortega had not been resolved," he said. Later on in the meeting Mr. Adil asked for a judicial review of the matter.

One of the issues that may have cost Ortega his position in office was indirectly accusing SGA's president of using SGA funds for his own personal use. According to Mr. Merchant, Ortega failed to understand that the SGA has a reserve account, meaning that at least six signatures from SGA members is required for a

voucher, which is then taken and reviewed by treasurer of school and lastly business checks everything including the minutes, making his claim against Gupta impossible.

Gupta later cleared the accusations about the questioned money, stating, "The \$1200 check in question was for a scholarship."

In a brief meeting with Malik, "D-block" Bestman of Informational Services, I asked about any disagreements in the SGA to which he responded, "Every family has disputes, but we try to work it out within the family." Coming from the new newly appointed position of Judicial Review, D-block had given great advice. Working out problems and issues that one may have against the family would probably be better resolved without the help of outside influence. ■

LaGuardia begins year with a bang

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

is that it turned out that enough space was available since more than a few of the clubs scheduled didn't show up.

Having struck a blow for mediocrity, I set off to interview the clubs in attendance. One thing that struck me almost immediately was the prevalence of clubs of the 'cultural' type, meaning they promoted a particular nationality or belief system. Out of around 30 or so clubs/groups in attendance I'd say at least half of these were of the ethnic or gender-issue type.

You had the Bangladeshi/Muslim Club (Ron, the V.P., would like to see better promotion), the Ecuadorian Club, the Straight And Gay Alliance (who are in dire need of new members by the way: take a little time to fight intolerance, people!), the Chinese and Chinese Christian Clubs, the National Business Honors Society (also known as Alpha Beta Gamma) and

the International Business Club (if membership in both slips this year they might give a thought to combining).

Prof. McMaster, the co-mentor of the IBC, noted that "a lot of students are scheduled for classes during fair hours," and that perhaps more advertising on-campus needs to be done for these sort of functions so those who have a few minutes between classes can attend.

Walter, one of the mature [sic] members of The Bridge staff went around pimping a Kayak and environmental club he wished to start.

Now before you raise your hackles against me, know I have nothing against anyone. My concern (one of many) is that in focusing on helping one group of people you alienate others, so I'm always wary of groups where the focus is on one type of person. I'm sure there's a need for some of the things/causes they promote; I just wish a better

vehicle could be devised than one that - in the eyes of the freshman - would seem to exclude others by virtue of their name.

For example: I approached the Japanese Club table and discovered that the club was looking for members who were not only Japanese, but interested in the Japanese culture (the desk warmer, Gabriel, was himself a gaijin - foreigner). All well and good, especially since the extent of my knowledge of Japan includes little more than WWII, Kurasawa films and Dragonball Z. But to the new kid on campus, it appears (especially from a distance) that the club is for Japanese students.

While offering such important services as job aid and cultural assistance (as does the Ecuadorian Club, the BSU and the Bangladeshi Club), Gabriel sees few Japanese students who are interested in more than schoolwork. "If I went to Japan, I wouldn't join the 'American Club,'" he mused. I'm sure other clubs are looking for a diverse membership as well, but how can an untrained eye tell this? It can't. After all, what if the club in question isn't looking for just anyone? Are you bold enough to ask?

In addition to school clubs you could stop by either the table offering a book bag in exchange for filling out a questionnaire about the type of music you listen to or check out the undissected cow eyeball (along with some gaily painted hermit crabs) at the

table set up by the N.Y. Hall of Science. One item of interest I did learn there was that the museum was free on Fridays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. I took the family there the next Sunday, and she was indeed right about the free admission. One bit of advice, though: parking costs \$10 and everything in the lunchroom costs \$2, even a small container of milk. Still, it was worth it since Bubba (my 3 year-old monster) did me proud by breaking his first museum exhibit.

One club that caught my interest was the Occupational Therapy Club (Ms. Chipli representing), which promoted student health issues and offers assistance to students with disabilities. I picked up a flyer on proper backpack usage, which I'm sure everyone will end up ignoring either because they don't care or textbooks are both necessary and too damn heavy anyway.

Filmatic was there, with a Mr. Snuggs promoting interest in the tens of thousands of good films already available that go unnoticed in lieu of the latest shoot-em-up / gorefest / lowbrow comedy in theatres. I know his frustration: my wife's family and most of her countrymen (no, I won't mention what country they come from) are guilty of only finding value in new releases. Imagine trying to get thousands of jaded college students interested in classic film instead of the several score in-laws I contend with. Good luck, guys.

Sasha and the BSU (which if taken out of context sounds like something else entirely) - the Black Student Union - had an audiovisual presentation many passersby seemed to enjoy, as well as cupcakes. Since her club offers help with problems both outside as well as inside school and does a lot of fundraising, she feels more promotion is needed for the fair.

The Gamers Club (where the other pastime besides video games seems to be making fun of their president) had an A/V presentation of sorts as well but not the cupcakes. As did Filmatic. Starting to see a pattern here?

Add to this already audibly confusing mishmash the several guitarists of Rock Reaches Society readying their axes for the musical portion of the fair right next to our table and I knew there was little sense staying until 4 p.m., the scheduled end of the fair.

In the end, the majority of people involved in the clubs I managed to speak to did seem to be in agreement that, while this fair was certainly a better experience than last years, better organization/promotion/table distribution and other details still need improvement. Might I suggest a mandatory Club Table Seminar for those who wish to attend? A lot of information could be passed on beforehand that clubs could use better. Plus, there's nothing wrong with assigning tables beforehand.

And more cupcakes. ■

Corrections

Picture credits:

September 2006, pages 2, 16: *Caroline Alarcon for the Center 3 Building picture and for all pictures in Night Out on LIC.*

September 2006, page 2: *Aleksandr Sidorov for the LaGuardia map.*

This edition, page 1: *Top left picture by Gianni Jaccoma*

Text errors:

September 2006, page 4: *What Does the Student Government Do? The boxed item should say, "Turn to page 10 for their answers."*

September 2006, page 3: *LaGuardia's Study Hall Left Unsung, last paragraph: Allen Scribner is the office manager, not the secretary.*

College Senate to lose student seats

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

because it's almost impossible for a senate to be unanimous.

As a result of the decision, the president of the college, Gail Mellow requested Jerry Ianni and Sally Metler, the two chairpersons of the senate in Spring 2006 semester to come up with a governance plan. There is a bit of confusion between the senate and the president: senators claim that the Perez v. CUNY ruling made the senate a policy-making body, while the president says that the role of the senate, which is an advisory one, hasn't changed.

LaGuardia's student senators have not been known for their attendance in the senate. Justin Pastor, a former member of the senate and a former S.G.A. governor, added that students have work and family commitments as well as school and are sometimes too busy for the senate.

Why aren't student senators attending?

"LaGuardia students carry more baggage than LaGuardia airport flyers," said Ahmed Adil, an SGA governor said. This statement, although unproven statistically, may be right. According to LaGuardia's institutional profile, 55% of LaGuardia students were employed in 2005. So not a lot of students have the time to come to a meeting, even if it's once a month, which is how often official senate meetings are.

What are the changes?

The summer draft proposed a decrease in student senators from 21 to 13. The draft kept the

requirement that the number of academic department senators would be equal to the number of student senators, but added some seats.

The new, second draft proposed the student seats be reduced to 10. "You might as well reduce the seats to five," Pappas said during the Sept. 27 meeting. Mr. Pappas, as well as Jerry Ianni and Sally Metler, who are members of the faculty, were part of the committee to revise the college senate.

The Sept. 27 meeting had one discomfort for students: number of faculty and staff outnumbered the students. There were only three student senators present at the meeting. This was partly due to the fact that when a student graduates, he or she is no longer able to participate as the senator. This held true with at least one former senator, Gabe Rhodes, who was an observer. The seats should fill up in October, when the new senate session starts. But some senators did not make the grade, literally - their GPA dropped below 2.0 even though their GPA during the elections in May was higher. "A better time to elect senators," Pappas said, "is during the fall semesters." This is true for faculty senate elections, which happen during the fall.

The ad-hoc committee was also presented with a plan to change the senator elections to fall semesters, just as it is with faculty. A measure that was shared by faculty and student senators was a training program for senators. ■

LAG receives MetLife Award



Aleksandr Sidorov/The Bridge

BY BRIDGE STAFF

LaGuardia was recognized as one of the best in the nation in serving students that are economically and academically disadvantaged students. LaGuardia shared the first place with Indian River Community College in Florida.

Each college received \$30,000 because they implemented strategies to help disadvantaged or underprepared students.

LaGuardia met the goal by developing programs for ESL students "through seamless transitions to discipline-area work, and creating a sense of community and heightened

engagement with the college," according to Jobs for the Future. LaGuardia's diverse population has enabled the college to unite incoming students with different program, like clusters and challenging students.

LaGuardia boasts a large international student population and is one of the top 25 community colleges for degrees granted to minorities.

The reason for creating the MetLife award was to get more people into colleges. Today, 80% of new jobs require some sort of a college education. LaGuardia is facing this challenge with new techniques for a unique environment for students. ■

S.A.G.A.'s plan for school year

BY IRVING FLETCHMAN

The Straight and Gay Alliance Club otherwise known as S.A.G.A. has many plans for the fall which range from discussions to events. S.A.G.A. is a safe environment where straight, gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual and people who are curious about their sexuality can come together and meet to discuss different things that are on their minds. S.A.G.A. welcomes anyone who is interested in joining the club to participate. People normally assume that S.A.G.A. is a club only for people who are gay but this club is for anyone no matter

what your sexual orientation is.

This Fall the club plans to have a First Annual Fall Ball at LaGuardia sometime this semester. On Oct. 11 S.A.G.A. had a coming out day - a day when students can tell other people about their sexual orientation and how they feel about it. This is confidential and whatever is discussed at club meetings will not be discussed anywhere else. On Oct. 14-15 S.A.G.A. students and faculty planned to participate in the Breast Cancer Walk in Manhattan. During the Fall '06 semester the Straight and Gay Alliance Club plans to have a

sexually transmitted disease week where students can talk about different diseases like syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, human papillomavirus (HPV), and scabies. Each day during this week we will talk about a different disease in depth. Also S.A.G.A. plans to have a Halloween party at the end of October.

The Straight and Gay Alliance Club has been around for years at LaGuardia and has always been a safe environment for students. S.A.G.A. hopes to get rid of homophobia and any prejudices about the club. ■

Irving Fletchman is a member of the Straight And Gay Alliance club (S.A.G.A).

This article was brought to you by S.A.G.A.

If your club wants to write, contact us: bridgenewspaper@gmail.com

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SGA's Study Hall still under-used

BY ANDRE MAFFIOLETTI

As the semester start to pick up speed, the doors of the Study Hall remain firmly closed and unwilling to budge, safeguarding its thousands of dollars in computers and furniture as if it was a buried treasure. However, this grim and costly scenario is about to change, at least according to the new SGA government body.

On a brief interview in The Bridge office, new SGA President Ashis Kumar Gupta and former Informational Services and new Judicial Review Governor Malik "D-Block" Bestman shared some information about the new SGA plans to the Hall and what students should expect when the Hall re-opens in the near future.

Mr. Bestman was pretty upfront when asked about the Study Hall, admitting that management of the Hall so far has been ineffective and disappointing, and reaffirmed the new SGA's commitment to reopen the Hall as soon as possible, saying, "Initially we wanted to get the Study Hall open when school opened and it should have been on Sept. 11, but because of the Homecoming party and other activities here at LaGuardia [it was not open], but it's like a promise that the Study Hall will be open before December." According to Mr. Bestman, the Hall has been on the mind of the SGA since they took office on July 1, and they recently approved a budget of approximately two thousand dollars for the Hall, that includes among other things the purchase of a printer and a Xerox copy machine, which will service the entire room.

On the other hand, Mr. Gupta was more cautious in his assertions. When inquired about the opening of the Hall, he replied, "We're not sure; we're in the process to do it as soon as possible. Maybe in one month. I can't confirm you [sic] anything, but we're really working on it."

Similarly, Mr. Gupta gave no definitive answer when questioned about how much money has been spent so far on improvements to

Less people dress as adults for Halloween

BY ISARAEEL MORENO

Halloween's costume tradition continues to grow a gradual life of its own. The current trend is that more and more adults join the ranks of kids and use the occasion to dress-up as well.



Last year, about \$3.3 Billion dollars were spent by Americans towards Halloween items, which represented a rise of 5.4% from 2004 and continual increase from previous years. Retailers attribute its ascension to the brisk sale of adult costumes, elaborate makeup, wigs and other accessories. Consequently, it has become the third largest adult party day in America after New Year's and the Super Bowl.

the Hall, confessing not being sure of the figure.

Mr. Bestman is very excited though, and shared with us several plans the SGA intends to put into practice once the Hall is finally open. Among other things, the Hall will be furnished with a small library, composed of books from the most varied sources, as Mr. Bestman relates, "We're talking to professors, talking to the library, getting some books that are not being used or that people don't want, we're getting them and putting them in our library section."

Mr. Bestman also commented that the SGA will use its influence to try and get books from the bookstore at a discount, and that they are prepared to use anything from five to ten thousand dollars on books. The Hall will also provide a limited amount of free Xerox copies for the students everyday, an initiative that Mr. Gupta declared, "It's not really a competition [with the library]. Our goal is to help, basically, and

The practice of wearing costumes on Halloween day started in the United States as massed produced costumes, began to appear in retail stores around the 1950s to outfit the children's trick-or-treating tradition. The night became established in popular culture around that time and children donning in costumes went house to house making innocent threats to obtain sweets. Traditionally, the role of adults was to give out candy and perhaps tease a child who might appear too old to be enjoying the holiday. But now, the involvement of adults in Halloween festivities keeps growing.

It's clear that every year a shopping lull prior to Christmas has been filled with the approach of Halloween. In the same way, a market has been created in which American consumers spend billions of dollars on decorations, parties, greeting cards, food, and costumes. Those costumes are not just for children. In addition to adults, there's a surge in the demand for pet costumes, as a growing number of pet owners are dressing up their pets for Halloween. It is also now customary for many people to decorate their place of work with Halloween paraphernalia, and some even attend work wearing a costume.

if we give up free copies is in order to help the students", a comment that was complemented by Mr. Bestman explanation that "we'll offer a limited amount of 10 copies, and if the student wants more copies after the limit, then he can go back to the library."

The Study Hall is located in room M159B, just outside The Bridge office, and regardless of new initiatives and another budgetary enhancement, its doors are still locked. Despite youthful determination and a winning attitude by the new SGA, the fact remains that much has been said and little - very little - has been done. The student government body has plans, but no accomplishments to speak of as of now. They're still settling down in their offices

As these practices become more widespread, some are pointing them out as examples of the infantilization of American culture; in which children's activities become adopted by much older participants. Along with T.V. shows, cartoons, music, movies, and video games, the distinction of what's enjoyed by a certain age group becomes less clear. Halloween allows people to transform themselves and provides an easy escape in which adults can act like kids. A 2005 poll by Time magazine lists that 90% of adults admit to stealing candy from their kids' Halloween bags.

So, is all this part of a regression process? Halloween is a relatively recent American celebration. There are just some mentions of it in the early 1900s, though its origins come from a distant place and time: the British Isles and its blend of European pagan traditions with some Christian beliefs. Nevertheless, its elements construed what's thought of as better-left-to-children, much the way fairy tales are treated. It is believed that the general disenchantment within American culture with the

world of spirits and magic that surrounds Halloween relegated the holiday to the domain of children.

Thus far, Halloween proves to be a malleable celebration. It came into being as a product of different influences, comprised of Irish, Celtic, Roman, and Christian traditions. Thus, it's one that provides a tangible form of collective expression which changes and it's used for many purposes. The Greenwich Village Halloween Parade is a profusion of individualities in which participants' costumes have a thin tie, if any, to the spirits and monsters regularly associated with Halloween. And after the Sept. 11 attacks there were fewer sales on gory items as people opted for patriotic themes.

This shows the creative and personal engagement that the holiday elicits and each year more people are willing to embrace it, here as well as abroad.



It appears that Halloween will keep on experiencing changes, and lose its nomination as a day for kids.

It's one American celebration that keeps on transforming. ■

and demarking their territory. In the meanwhile a lot of money is going around and the product of that money - students' money - is piling up behind a steel door.

The new SGA deserves the benefit of the doubt, and therefore no judgment should be issued until Mr. Bestman's

estimated deadlines start to run thin. However, as a fellow student who's money is disappearing within the fabled M159B room, if by December I can't have some free Xerox copies, I'll be seriously thinking about going to the Bursar office and ask for a refund. ■



Tell us if you hate us

Tell us if you love us

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Graduation Celebration

Graduation Cruise well-received by students



Radica Lazic

The graduates either came alone, together, with families or they brought outside friends to celebrate. The buffet was in a total of four stations. What was on the menu? Chicken Marsala, fluffy white rice, smoked andouille sausage and other delicious foods. Chef custom slicing cob smoked ham and rosemary round roast. Throw in roasted pineapples and some dressings, and you have reached the end of the buffet line! Cash bar in the meantime was doing some business, which continued throughout the night.

The bad news is that it was raining heavily during dinner; the good news is that it turned

into a light drizzle and nearly disappeared after dinner, up until the cruise ship docked.

For entertainment, well the DJ on staff threw in a fabulous mix of Latin American culture with modern pop and hip-hop. A lot of 80s house-hop/hip-hop classics were featured.

Dance floor was full of action, where by the end of the night the downstairs dining hall was jam packed with dancers. Couples, groups, loners - they were all there. Live entertainment was provided by three singer/dancers who performed classic American numbers from Going to the Chapel and Leader of the Pack

to Diana Ross, impersonations included!

One of the graduates, Melanie, was celebrating her birthday on board - she turned 22. All you had to do was glance on the dance floor and from the moment the party started, well, let's just say she was the one who started the party.

Outside there were decks for each of the two dining floors, and a rooftop deck. The view provided thrill, excitement, serenity, and romance for everyone. We cruised by the Statue of Liberty, downtown, and uptown perhaps about 3 or 4 times throughout the event. ■



Radica Lazic

BY RADICA LAZIC

Arriving at Chelsea Piers 7:25 p.m. on the dot, I was relieved to find The Spirit of New Jersey NY Dinner Cruise still docked. Upon boarding an overheard conversation:
"What time can we leave?"

"7:30 is the plan, but you can leave whenever."

With that, at 7:55 p.m. the emergency instruction protocol was delivered and the ship set sail at 8:00 p.m., half an hour behind schedule.

Two floors of elegant dining were filled to almost full capacity.

Graduation ceremony not so well received

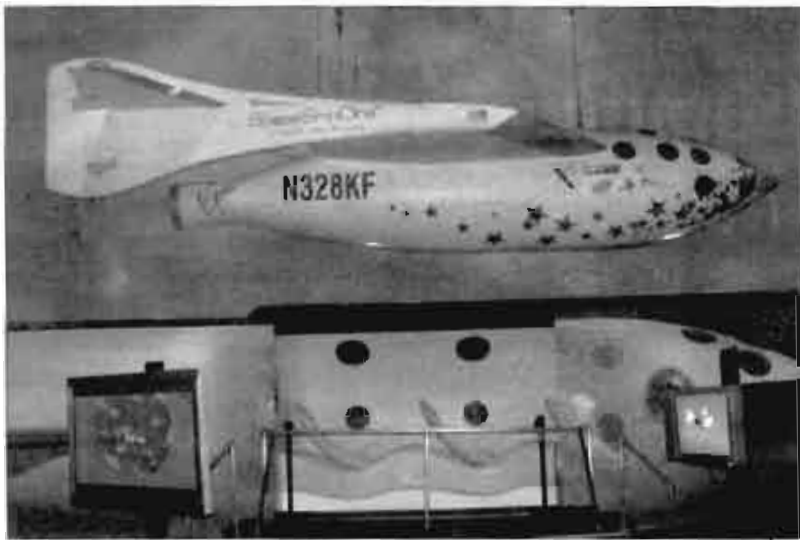


The graduation ceremony was a mess, attendees said, despite Senator Charles Schumer's appearance. The ceremony was very disruptive and disorganized, especially with students leaving right after going on the stage. Details in the November issue.

All pictures by Mariela Zapata

Congratulations to all graduates (we know it's kind of late)

Nextfest 2006



Nextfest's highlight was the Spaceshiptwo (cutaway on the bottom), a derivative of Spaceshipone (top), which was the first commercial manned spaceflight. The flight won a \$10M Ansari Xprize, but the more lucrative offer came from Richard Branson, founder of the Virgin brand, to create Virgin Galactic out of a fleet of Spaceship twos.

BY ALEKSANDR SIDOROV

This vending machine of the future was presented by MIT. The machine has 12 Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) screens, each costing about \$200 and two additional on top. Total price for the prototype is \$12,000.

According to the presenter, Connor Dickie, a research assistant at MIT, the machine's main advantage is its attraction. "A person can watch a short video and may decide to buy something," he said. The videos are usually 30 seconds long, which is enough to grab people's attention.



Nanoparticles seen here as black liquid are being attracted to a magnet. The liquid and the nanoparticles, which are made of iron oxide (rust), have adhesive properties, like water in a drop.

Seen here, the drop of the magnetic liquid aligns itself along the magnetic field of the magnet that's in the tube.

The project is part of GE's innovation projects and "might be used as magnetic resonance imaging agents to better analyze tissue in human body," Amit Kulkarni of GE's Global Research Blog wrote.



General Motors presented its line of futuristic-looking alternative fuel vehicles. GM promoted two kinds of fuels: hydrogen and E85, ethanol that's derived from corn.

GM also featured a Saturn pavilion, which was promoting E85-fueled cars, while deemphasizing the impact of hybrids.

Cars that were featured are still some 10 years before being used on the road.



Meet the new personal vehicle - Wheelsurf. The entire machine is a wheel, which is powered by a gasoline engine and is steered by leaning the body. The Wheelsurf is made by a Dutch company and is available for €4500. But it takes three months to deliver one, as they are produced and sold in Europe.

Doctors Without Borders launch interactive exhibition

BY BETTY BENITEZ

Doctors Without Borders/ Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), an organization that offers humanitarian and medical aid throughout the world designed an outdoor exhibition, *A Refugee Camp in the Heart of the City* to advocate, teach and help visitors develop awareness and imagine how millions of refugees live daily as they flee war, persecution and violence around the world.

Outdoors educational exhibit will embark on a national tour beginning in New York City and stopping in Atlanta, Dallas, Chicago, Nashville, and the West Coast to raise awareness of how 33 Million people are currently uprooted by war and violence through out the world. Public education has become an essential alternative for Doctors Without Borders to organize more adequate emergency aid and support teams.

The 8,000 square foot exhibit is a replica of refugee camps and displays of 10 different sections, which include tent stations, designed with real life materials that are used by refugees and MSF staff also known as Doctors without Borders.

Each section represents the challenges and the handling of basic survival necessity:



The Refugee Village, Food Distribution Area, Latrine Area, Water Supply, Health Clinic, Cholera Tent, Vaccination Tent, Nutrition Tent, Landmines, and Photo Display. The detailed information of shelter building, decontamination of water, waste disposal, and malnutrition children srations bring to light real life scenarios of a refugee camps.

The exhibit is designed to be very interactive and tangible. Tour guides allow visitors to go inside each tent to touch real life materials. Visitors can taste high-energy biscuits used for refugees, who suffer from 'mal-nutrition, younger children are encouraged to pick up five gallons of water, which

are gallons lifted by children and women that travel extreme long distances in and out of the refugee camps. Fake corpses are also exhibited to show the death rate caused by air borne Cholera as well as the malaria testers used on refugees.

Tours and guides are conducted by MSF staffs, (Doctors, Nurses, and Logisticians) which have worked in the field in places like, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Colombia, and Chechnya. The MSF staff explains the function of each section based on their experiences in the field. They also share their stories and experiences, which has impacted on changed their lives completely. ■

Getting a working holiday visa

BY SEUNG-HEE JOO

A lot of people have dreamed of traveling to other countries once in their lives.

However, many people cannot carry out the plan because they don't have money, they don't know how to get a visa, and they don't know how long they will be traveling. It's time to stop talking and begin doing. I have good news: a special visa program, called a Working Holiday Visa. Working Holiday Visa is a travel permit which allows travelers to undertake employment in the country issuing the visa for the purpose of supplementing their travel funds. This special visa will last for one year for one country to only per person.

The United States has concluded an agreement between certain countries such as Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, and United Kingdom. There are often several restrictions on this type of visa.

First, Working Holiday Visa opens up an opportunity to young travelers, and as such an age restriction applies, usually 18-30. Second, the visa usually allows a stay of up to 12 months from the date of first entry to the country. Lastly, most travelers can enroll in one training or study course of up to three months duration during their visit. Therefore,

Working Holiday Visa will be a good opportunity for young people who want to get both advantages of working and traveling. I had a Working Holiday Visa in Japan and Canada and it was a great experience. Look for my article in the November edition of *The Bridge* about my great experiences with Working Holiday Visa in Japan and Canada.

For more information:

Australia : <http://www.immi.gov.au/visitors/working-holiday/index.htm>

Canada : <http://www.whpcanada.org.au>

Japan : <http://www.jawhm.or.jp>

New Zealand : <http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/stream/work/workingholiday/>

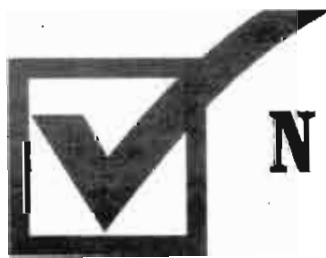
United Kingdom : <http://www.>

**Seung-Hee Joo is
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I WANT YOU TO VOTE



NOVEMBER 7, 2006

OR QUIT YER BITCHIN'

THE BRIDGE
A Student Organization



word ^{on} campus

What was your memorable Halloween?

“

I went to a K-Mart and picked a Ninja Turtles suit. The suit didn't fit. I ended up wearing a girls' costume. I looked like a hooker.



- Lee ”

“

In 1996 I was dressed as a Blue Belt in Karate. We got more candy than usual.



- Alex ”

“

When I was a kid, I dressed as a Star Wars superhero



- Saijad ”

“ Last year I came home after trick-or-treating with my nephews and we were going up the stairs. There was a young man, wearing a wig, a skirt and a bra with holes in it, masturbating and singing Rolling Down the River by Tina Turner. ”

- Armand

“

It was four years ago. I had my first dance contest and I won.



- Dre ”

OPINIONS

An open appeal for UN Peacekeeping Troops

Dear Secretary-General Anon,

I am writing to you today out of desperation. You see, conditions have gone from tense to downright hostile in my Statistics class, and I am begging you to approve the deployment of peacekeeping troops to my classroom.

You see, there was an incident on the 21 of September – a day that will go down in history as a black mark on the otherwise peaceful conditions here at LaGuardia. This incident involved a handful of disgruntled students violently reacting to improvised sanctions laid down by our leader/teacher. I will not name names for fear of retaliation by the juntas.

Anyway, when it became clear that the majority of the villagers/students had not completed their required homework before the start of class, the teacher decided, with a touch of derision, to have them complete the homework in class. Being one of the four students who actually did the homework I was naturally upset about this turn of events, but the teacher does have the option of conducting the class in their own way.

After this enforced homework period was well underway, one of the students chose to voice their dissatisfaction with the teacher by stating they did not feel the class should be used for students to make up their homework. When asked if they had done the homework, the student replied in the negative, but felt strongly that it did not have any bearing on the situation. The teacher disagreed, stating that it was unreasonable to expect to learn new material when the class would not have a suitable grasp on the previous week's teachings.

That's where things got out of hand. The student went on to harangue the teacher with a barrage of 'F' bombs, much to the surprise of most of the class. The rest of us had misgivings about the way the day was going, yet did not feel it necessary to use foul language to express our discontent. This student continued to assail the teacher and their method of teaching, and refused to leave the classroom when ordered to do so, which was within the right of the

teacher. Other students began to rally around her, adding their two cents to the already heightened atmosphere.

After several minutes, the teacher left the classroom to enlist the aid of the local security forces. The one officer who responded seemed to care little about the situation, instead making light of the arguments' sides and stating that they were there to simply see if the class was in 'chaos'. When they did not see any apparent 'chaos', they left. The teacher returned soon after and continued the class.

At the end of class, the security officer returned with a complaint form for the teacher to fill out. When the teacher expressed that they were going to insist the student not be allowed to return to class, the officer had no response to that except to leave before the student could say anything. The remainder of the class was filled with tension, as you may have guessed.

While I doubt this student will be back on the following Tuesday, there remains the possibility for similar incidents of this nature, including (possibly) a guerrilla action by the ousted student. At any rate the atmosphere necessary for learning has been tainted and it is with this concern in mind that I humbly request the aforementioned forces, Mr. Secretary-General.

I understand you and your organization have a lot on your plates already, what with Darfur, North Korea and Iran requiring the lion's share of attention. However, I would like to point out a similar incident between the Vatican and Islamic fundamentalists that may have a bearing on any decision you may make regarding my request. When words were spoken by the pontiff that others of another faith did not appreciate, the end result of their anger was terrible violence directed towards those not in any way responsible or reasonably culpable for the statement. I consider the situation in the MAT 120 class of a similar nature, wherein both parties (the teacher by not providing an alternative for those who had done their homework that involved actual class work, the student for cursing out a teacher – something that should not be

tolerated under any circumstances) have ratcheted tensions to an unacceptable level.

Considering the class size of 25 students and one teacher, I believe a force of approximately 5 troops – one for each 5.20 persons – would be sufficient to stem the tide of bad feelings that is permeating our classroom as long as they are sufficiently armed. Remember, Iranian students in 1979 proved too much for the reigning party and overthrew an entire country so it's best to err on the side of caution.

Mr. Secretary-General, you may feel my request is an unnecessary allocation of forces, that diplomacy and possible sanctions should be our initial response to this crisis. I need only remind you of how well those instruments of policy have worked for your august body in recent years and perhaps you will, for once, respond in a timely manner with the required assistance.

At any rate, I will be requisitioning a flak jacket from the local National Guard until I receive a reply from your office. One can never be too careful these days, especially in light of recent events.

I await your prompt and hopefully positive response.

Respectfully Yours,

John D. Knox
john.knox@mail.laguardia.com ■

Let's save Darfur

BY BETTY BENITEZ

The crisis in the Darfur region in Western Sudan has worsened. An estimated 400,000 men, women, and children have died. In addition 2.5 Million civilians have been forced to flee their homes due to the violence and war and 3 Million rely on humanitarian aid. This catastrophe is government-sponsored genocide by the Sudanese government officials.

Global Day for Darfur was launched Sept. 17, where tens of thousands of people across the nation of different races and religious background joined together to advocate deployment for the United Nations peacekeepers to step in and protect Darfur.

As a believer in advocacy for people living under unjust rulings I was proud to see how much people came out to the rally. I was glad so much people are concerned with the lives of those who live internationally and lack aid. It was a relief to witness the mass of people who participated in the rally. Blue berets were distributed to signify support for the U.N. peacekeeper forces that wear the berets in combat zones to represent their affiliations.

However, I am upset to learn that it has taken so long for the U.N. and other government officials to enforce the peace process. Sometimes I ask myself how many lives need to be lost for officials to intervene. It was

so important for the United States to intervene in Iraq, calling it the Occupation Freedom War. Most Americans know that politicians and government officials contribute aid in exchange for interests. According to Savedarfur.org, it has been two years since President Bush declared Darfur genocide, and yet genocide continues. The President and his administration have made some progress, but the situation on the ground has continued to deteriorate. The escalating nature of the crisis demands more than words on paper, it demands results on the ground. Diplomacy is always slow and the never-ending appeals and paper work seems like a requirement for peace. Meanwhile thousands of people are killed, starving, raped, and uprooted by war.

Violence is an action I will never understand and it is above my comprehension. Psychologically people who perform genocides have wandered to another platform that entails hate while losing touch with compassion. The dilemmas of violence and war are devastating the universe, which is why peacekeeping needs to start now.

The time is now and Darfur needs your help. Please check out Savedarfur.org. I want to show my gratitude, compassion, and respect for all those uprooted by war, the work of humanitarian aids, and all those fighting for a just and peaceful world. ■

LOVE & LIFE

Let Go

BY NICHOLAS KARASOULIS

People say that there are times in our lives when we just need to let go and let life take its course. I have always disagreed with that ... until now. A lot of you readers probably read my "hit" article "Never Let Go," where I argued the fact that we should hold tight to the people that we love and care about. I'm not here to argue that fact. But I'm here to tell everyone that sometimes we have to let go.

Sometimes we just have to let life take its course no matter where we end up. We can't control

everything in our lives and sometimes it's best that way. For example, a failed relationship – no matter how incomplete we might feel without them – is better for us. If we let go and pray that life and fate will guide us in the right directions, we will be ready for some self-reflection and some healing only to put ourselves back in/on the market; give ex a call that deserves another chance or perhaps just have some fun? By that I mean hanging out with some friends and family.

Life is too short to just be controlling things all of the time. The more you try to control all of the situations all of the time, the more they will control you. You

will wind up becoming like me and just completely ruining your life way more than you think that it already is.

I learned that the hard way, that's how I lost "L", and that's also the reason that I'll never get her back. She told me recently, "You don't know what the future holds. None of us does." In other words, that's the nice way or, saying no. But then I have been known to be wrong a lot with her. But she's right, you know?

We don't know what the future holds, so we all really need to just let go. Let go and just go with it. Go with the flow. Really, what else does any of us have to lose? ■

If you have a comment on any article published in this or other issues of The Bridge, e-mail us: bridgenewspaper@gmail.com or drop off a letter to the editor in our envelope in M159. Letters to the editor must include the author's name. We will withhold a name upon the request of the writer



Baseball Playoffs Predictions

BY ALEX IRISH

As Major League Baseball's regular season comes to a close, teams are either getting ready for the playoffs, or they are getting ready for a long off season. The different teams that are going to the playoffs will be facing a different type of animal, because the playoffs have a reputation of destroying pitching staffs, and everyday line ups. I will give a prediction of what I believe will happen in MLB playoffs

AL Playoff picture

AL East: New York Yankees
AL Central: Minnesota Twins
AL West: Oakland A's
AL Wild Card: Detroit Tigers

AL Division Series

Competitors

New York Yankees VS Detroit Tigers: Tigers in 4 games.

- The Yankees possess no pitching and don't have any players that are known for their post season play.

Oakland A's VS Minnesota Twins: A's in 3 games.

- The Oakland A's are too good. They should handle the Twins really easy.

AL Championship Series

Competitors

Oakland A's vs. Detroit Tigers: A's in 6 games.

- The A's are a good team, and the Tigers are still a young team. They are not ready to deal with the bats of Thomas, Swisher, and Bradley.

NL Playoff picture

NL East: New York Mets
NL Central: St. Louis Cardinals
NL West: San Diego Padres
NL Wild Card: Los Angeles Dodgers

NL Division Series

Competitors

New York Mets vs. Los Angeles Dodgers: Mets in 3 games

- The Mets will be a great team in the future, but they will not have Pedro Martinez for the entire playoffs. Tom Glavine will

step up for them.

St. Louis Cardinals vs. San Diego Padres: Cards in 4 games.

- The Cards possess some of the best hitters in baseball. Plus, with a healthy Albert Pujols, this team is not going to have a problem scoring runs.

NL Championship Series

Competitors

New York Mets vs. St. Louis Cardinals: Cards in 6.

- The Mets young players and not too great pitching staff will have problems hitting and delivering on the mound, but expect it to be a good series.

World Series

Oakland A's vs. St. Louis Cardinals: Cards in 6.

- The A's have a bunch of solid players and good pitching. However, the pitching staff is prone to mistakes and with the 3, 4, and 5 hitters that the Cardinals possess, it will be a struggle to compete in the same arena. ■

Top and bottom of the NFL

BY ALEX IRISH

The end of August only signifies one thing to NFL fans. Games that really matter. No more preseason, no more T.O. doesn't practice today. Those are gone until next year, when T.O. won't practice and the preseason will be upon us once again. I have evaluated the teams and the off season moves, along with some of the Preseason games and have formed a list compiling of the best teams in the league, the worst teams in the league, and the reasons why I have placed them this way.

Best 5

5. Pittsburgh Steelers - After last years' run to the Super Bowl and then winning it, this team has lost some key components, but still has "Fast" Willie Parker, Joey Porter, and Ben Roethlisburger running the team. Roethlisburger's career record is 24 wins - 2 losses, he just doesn't lose.

4. New England Patriots - And while we are talking about guys that don't lose, Tom Brady has lead this team to three super bowls in five years, winning each time. After that, there isn't much you

can say about this scrappy bunch, they get the job done in crunch time.

3. Indianapolis Colts - Even with the loss of Edgerin James, the Colts still possess the most dynamic air attack the NFL has even seen. Whether the ball is going out to Marvin Harrison, Reggie Wayne, Dallas Clark, or Brendon Stokley, Peyton Manning commands the league's best offense, which more then makes up for the lackluster defense.

2. Seattle Seahawks - The league MVP Shaun Alexander has appeared on the cover of the Madden '07 video game, so expect a falloff of stats, but they possess one of the league's underrated stars in Matt Hasselbech.

1. Chicago Bears - This team possesses the ability to beat you by running the ball, passing the ball, and their defense has the ability to smother receivers and force turnovers.

Now...

The Bottom 5

5. Houston Texans - David Carr is now playing for a former

quarterback in Gray Kubiak, so expect him to produce numbers for his underachieving team of misfits. Also, the defense is a few years away from being decent, but they aren't as good as advertised.

4. San Francisco 49ers- This team was nothing to begin with, but with the draft of tight end Vernon Davis, who plays more like a wide out (he ran a 4.2 40-yard dash), they will have sunny days ahead, far ahead.

3. Cleveland Browns- This is a team with no destiny. They are hopeless on offense and on defense. They should hope that those young players grow up pretty quick.

2. Green Bay Packers- Brett Farve is on the downside of his career. They will not even compete in most of the games this season. This should be #4's last year in pads.

1. Oakland Raiders- With their team of misfits, the Raiders will not compete in this league where you must place a premium on attempting to run the ball, not throw 45 yards down the field. ■

Queens Theater brings new plays

BY ANDRE MAFFIOLETTI

"It's a story about a man who hires a detective to find his wife, who stole his car and then disappeared on Labor Day. It has a kind of *Usual Suspects* mentality to it, a sort of comic suspense with whacky characters," says Kevin Swab, director of the play *Catch Me If You Can* (NOT based on the Leonardo DiCaprio movie), an adaptation from a 1960's French play of the same name. Mr. Swab is a member of The Parkside Players, a Forest Hills based theatre company, one of the many companies operating in the Queens-Brooklyn area.

Mr. Swab, who is a teacher at William C. Bryant High School in Long Island, has been moonlighting as a theatre director - and sometimes actor - with the Parkside Players for a few seasons now, and is one of the innovative members of the new wave of artists literally taking the stage on the two boroughs, a initiative aimed at enriching the artistic scenario of these culturally diverse neighborhoods, and especially to give people in the region an alternative to entertainment that does not include letting go of an outrageous fortune in order to watch a good play. Different from the city, variety does not come at a price in the Queens-Brooklyn circle. The average play costs about \$10-25.

However, the real bang for the buck here comes in the quantity and quality. "There's good theatre in Queens," says Mr. Swab, "people ask me to give a recommendation, and they are surprised with how many companies there are out there." Listed on the website Spotlightonstage.com, a home page for community and regional theatre that covers the boroughs, there are more than 20 theatre companies actively working, and their plays range from the conventional acts to experimental pieces. "Queens theatre will take risks, there's a lot of plays out there that you won't find on Broadway," says Mr. Swab. I am particularly interested in checking out "A New Brain" in the Astoria Performing Center, Inc., a play

described as "a comical musical about a composer during a medical emergency."

Moreover, according to Mr. Swab, there are always new plays springing into existence, for plays do not run for long, mainly because of the need to bring fresh material in order to keep up with the competition (the average play runs for a month or two). When inquired about the problems theatre in Queens has to face, Mr. Swab stated, "We have to find ways to bring a younger audience out to the theatre. That's our main problem. The audience is becoming older and older, and we have to try and attract the younger crowd as well. A lot of the people who goes [sic] to the theatre nowadays is the same people who was going to the theatre decades ago, and the young people is leaning more and more towards movies and technology and away from the theatre." Among the many strategies used by companies to bring young faces to the theatre are posting auditions on *Backstage*, a magazine featuring casting notes for aspiring and professional actor alike, distributing pamphlets in schools and making use of the Internet, a medium that the younger crowd is well adapted to. To some, like Mr. Swab, these strategies can even be stretched a little further, like giving his students the option of going and watching a play to earn some extra credit by writing a review of it.

Strategies are met with varied degrees of success, but in general they have been working, for theatre in Queens is experiencing a period of prosperity. "There are periods of light and darkness," says Mr. Swab, "and right now the future is bright. A lot of new minds are taken over theatre, and bringing new material, contemporary plays that sparkle the interest. In a few years, we'll need to shake things up again, but for now, things are working well."

Mr. Swab's *Catch Me If You Can* premiere Nov. 18, at 8:00 p.m., and will run until Dec. 2. Be sure to catch a review of it by yours truly on The Bridge's new theatre column in the next edition. ■

Uncle Johnny's Silver Screen Review: The Black Dahlia

BY JOHN KNOX

Who Made It: Brian De Palma (Dressed to Kill, Scarface).

Who's In It: Josh Hartnett, Scarlett Johansson, Aaron Eckhart, Hillary Swank.

What's It About: Cops in 40s L. A. investigate the murder of a Hollywood starlet (more like a wannabe). One (Eckhart) puts his relationship in jeopardy by obsessing over the crime, the other (Hartnett) becomes involved with a woman (Swank) whose family has ties to the victim. Based on the novel by James Ellroy (L.A. Confidential).

Is It Worth It?: Just before the credits start rolling at the end, there's a disclaimer that states that the film is mostly fiction. Thank God; if this was how the investigation really went I'd be surprised if anyone was left to tell the tale.

The film begins pretty well, detailing the developing relation between Hartnett and Eckhart, two L.A. cops whose stars are on the rise because they're both well-known boxers. But things get a little strange early on while you're trying to figure out the relationship between Hartnett, Eckhart and his wife (Johansson). One minute it looks like a threesome might

occur, the next you wonder if the men are going to go 'Brokeback'. The real outcome is a lot more mainstream, which was actually disappointing.

Anyway, Eckhart's character is a headlines-seeking type of cop, while Hartnett's never seems to know which direction he's going in until they stumble across - literally - the case of the Black Dahlia. The starlet's murder (real enough at the time; the mystery was never solved) and subsequent investigation unravels over the remainder of the film, with DePalma throwing in plenty of what I like to call 'WTF' moments. Especially weird was Hartnett's relationship (if you could call it that) with Swank and her family, a gang of unbalanced misfits I haven't seen since, well, ever! Mom alone is a total freak show and becomes even worse over the remainder of the film, if that were possible.

Essentially, the film is more about Hartnett's character than anyone else, including the Black Dahlia: his rise, his fall, the corruption and slime that surrounds almost every piece of his existence. There are more than a few plot holes, especially when one of the major characters dies and is disposed of in a manner that is never satisfactorily explained. His character, or more precisely Hartnett's acting, is often wooden:

remember that short bit at the beginning of 'Sin City'? Think two hours of that, including the first-person narrative.

The violence and sex scenes in this film actually have the effect of numbing you to the outcome of the case and the characters' fates, which is sad. Nothing is particularly surprising or shocking, just nasty. And since no one is innocent, even Hartnett, you don't end up sympathizing with anyone. That's kind of a letdown. As for the ending I'll just say for a piece of fiction based on true crime it felt phonier than it should have.

I left the theatre feeling a bit numb, not really wanting to remember much about 'The Black Dahlia.' It certainly isn't going to go down as one of De Palma's better films. That's too bad, because you get a sense he really put himself into this film, as the cinematography was pretty good, the dialogue authentic and the score present but not overwhelming.

But in the end it's a sleazy film about sleazy people doing sleazy things to each other. I can't imagine the real story being as torrid as this; if it is, then maybe Hollywood is really the largest cesspool in the world, turning the good bad and the bad way worse. If that's the case then I feel really bad for any starlet who ever set foot in that town. ■

Literary Corner We Don't Get Any Lemon Pie Here

By Alex Irish

We dont get any lemon pie.
Or any instructions for life
Handed out in the world,
vulnerable as a virgin
We fight for the one good time
The one to stop us all.
The one that makes us crawl, but
we sit instead
Never choosing our own meals, so
we get bread.
Never having any real thrills, so
we make them
Refusing to smile a bit for me
Sara, my wonderful vixen
Turning her back to the world, as
she explodes out my door
We dont get lemon pie here
Wrong way here, boy, you dont
belong
Long wait here, knowing my feet
turn to stone.
Drunken with hate, the ever
knowing presence
But your boredom sickens my
stomach
Away you go off, like a hunter,
killing life
Return my insight, thus I see thru
the night
I seen futures of my life,
With no lemon pie
Lifes too short curse cursed my
best friend,
Now we leave flowers for him on
his birthday
And sit and wait for our number to
end, but I dont
Hand me that knife, Ill do it

myself.
Grant me my death, because you
only live once.
And my suicide is my act which Ill
only try once
With the darkness that surrounds
my past,
It becomes so hard to feel pain
I was broken hearted, till my
hatred came.
Now I live for this moment, but
plague the end of days.
My life, I wish to end my last night
I feel left out of life, but Ill be
alright
Now I hold on, Im too strong, but
visions to infect my decision
Remembering night, when the heat
made me too cold to write
And my black hearted vixen,
serving lemon pies, with side
fixings
I love the love of my life, but cried
when she left me twice.
My negativity reflexes the
reflection of the woman I hope to
call my wife.
But her heart is gone, so I serve a
fixing of lemon pie with that.
Love sucks, but never too long, I
wish to Christ,
I want to believe in him, but my
life is hard enough to believe in.
Lemon pie, take me home, lemon
pie make me whole
Life sucks, I sink to the top of my
miseries.
While the lady takes photos of the
corpse of my body
~~~~~END~~~~~

## THE OCEAN

The Ocean is deep, blue and  
mysterious,  
Its waves ring like magic to one's  
ears  
The Ocean is plentiful and full of  
fish  
The Ocean can make true any wish  
Just close your eyes and dare to  
dream

The Ocean will make your dreams  
come true  
The Ocean is vast and unbelievable  
The Ocean is sharp, the ocean is  
gullible  
The Ocean, The Ocean  
I love the Ocean!  
*Mona Toor*

## Christine

By Alex Irish  
I built this car from the scraps in  
the yard  
i built my love from the scraps in  
the yard  
i blessed it with a curse from above  
i blessed her with a curse from  
below  
i tried to make nice, but instead  
paid a price  
now i'm stuck in a grave, a foot too  
low  
i tried to make nice, but i rolled

the dice  
and came up surprised when i got  
snake eyes  
this is no love worth living for  
you are not my love, you're not  
worth living for  
painted a demon, candy colored  
red.  
makes it look like blood, once its  
shed  
painted a soulless, licorice colored  
white  
makes it look like a bolt of  
lightning,  
and when she barks, she bites.

## Kung Fu Girls visit LaGuardia



BY LISETT VEGA

Homecoming 2006 started off with a kick from the kung fu girls. A 2-piece powerpop/indie rock band from Huntington, Long Island gave us a buoyant performance with their hits Hey (Baby Baby), Black and White, and You Had Me at Goodbye a fifteen minute set filled with softhearted lyrics about love, "I'm thinking of you/If you only knew/I'm thinking

of you/ You're always on my mind/ A love like ours is hard to find" and power cords driven guitar riffs.

After the set I caught up with the black and blonde streaked guitarist and vocals, Mia koo and backup vocalist on guitar and keyboard, Ava Koo. The energized Girls, who showed no signs to slowing down after their set, stopped for a short interview with The Bridge.

**Bridge:** "How long has the Kung

Fu Girls been a band?"

**Mia:** "It's been about two and a half years now."

**Bridge:** "Who are some of your musical influences?"

**Mia:** "The Plain White T's, Matches, and The Beatles."

**Bridge:** "When should we be expecting your full length album?"

**Ava:** "Our EP will be coming out next month entitled Thinking of You; you can purchase our stuff at [merchdirect.net/thekungfugirls](http://merchdirect.net/thekungfugirls)."

Eager to catch the following act hit the Atrium's stage, the girls left us with an encouraging message for the students here at La Guardia, "Stay in school, don't do drugs, listen to the Kung Fu Girls forever, buy the album and I love you!"

You can catch up the band at [myspace.com/thekungfugirls](http://myspace.com/thekungfugirls)

Kung Fu Girls should be back in LaGuardia in November. ■

## Places to dine near LAG

5 4 3 2 1  
 Best Good So-so Uh-oh Don't

BY ALEKSANDR SIDOROV

There are a lot of food places near LaGuardia. But where would a poor student get something to eat for a decent amount of money?

First, let's look at the "Thomson Strip." There is Lime Kitchen, Pizza Xpress, College Convenience, 7-Eleven and Aroma Y Sabor. All five are close to the college, but it depends what you call close, considering the time it takes just to cross Thomson Avenue.

**Lime Kitchen** – the food is decent and cheap. The food quality is similar to LaGuardia's cafeteria (see below). The place doesn't exactly shine with outstanding service, cheap food or cleanliness, but it's alright. The bad thing we found is expired chips and a dirty bathroom. Tip: use bathrooms in LaGuardia. They're actually better. They don't accept credit cards, but an ATM is available. 2

**Specials range from \$2.50 - \$5.00,**

and polite. The bad things: floor can use some cleaning and there was some rotten fruit. 5

**Food prices:** Pizza slice - \$1.75, Sandwiches: \$4.50 - \$4.95, Burgers: \$3.00 - \$5.50 Coffee \$ .95 - \$1.50

**Hours:** Mon - Fri: 6:30 a.m. - 8 p.m. Closed due to fire.

**College Convenience** – The store has too many things for its own good. One of the good things about them is that their subs are good. But they usually have a strange smell and I didn't want to know what exactly it was. The food quality and prices are comparable to Lime Kitchen, so go there if you must, but try to choose something else. They do have some school supplies but not as much as LaGuardia's bookstore or MDS supply store near Seattle Cafe, which is a good thing – there aren't that many stores that sell school supplies around here. 2

**Food prices:** Subs: \$2.99 - \$5.99, Coffee: \$.75

**Hours:** Mon - Fri: 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

**7-Eleven** – A Japanese chain that

evening students. ●

**Food prices:** Sandwiches: \$1.99 - \$3.99, Fountain soda: \$.89 - \$1.29, Coffee: \$1.25 - \$1.55

**Hours:** 24 hours



**Aroma y Sabor** – The restaurant is comparable with Seattle Cafe in terms of comfort, but the food is much better. The service is quick; there are plenty of seats, including some outside seating, which is useful when it's warm outside. To my knowledge, there is no restaurant around here that has that. A 10% student discount is also available when you show your school ID. ●

**Food prices:** Pizza slice: \$1.75, Sandwiches: \$1 - \$2.50, Burgers: \$2.95 - \$5.75

**Hours:** 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.



Burgers \$2.50 - \$3.50 Coffee \$1  
**Hours:** Mon - Fri: 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
 Currently closed due to fire.

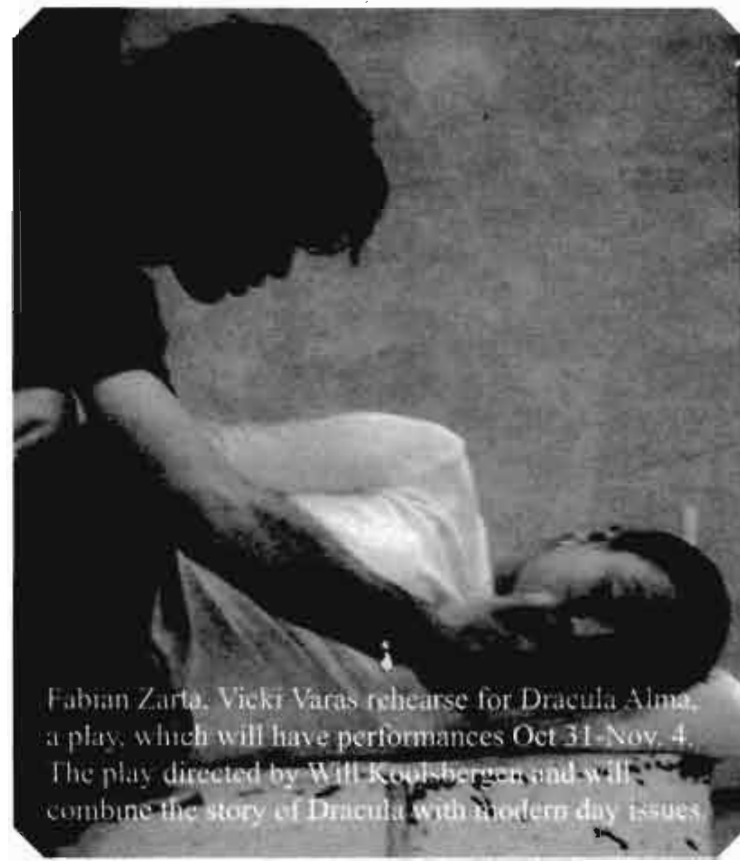
**Pizza Xpress** – Probably one of the best places on the Strip. Pizza is very good and priced right: \$1.75 per slice. They don't have any specials and they don't replenish their drink shelves often enough. For entertainment, they have two TVs and the seating area is quite comfortable. Their service is quick

settled in the neighborhood last year has proven to be a hit with LaGuardia students, who don't seem to mind the long lines. The convenience store has not put anyone out of business just yet, but give them time. The store itself is a clean place with plenty of food to choose from. The downside: the price and it only has snacks, not real food. On the other hand it is open 24 hours a day, so it's good for



**Seattle Cafe** – A restaurant that has also proven itself quite popular among LaGuardia students, but unlike some other popular places, it's not very clean. Seattle, however, has a wide variety of food: hamburgers, pizza, sandwiches. You name it, they got it (well, almost). However, the restaurant has received a few health warnings in the past, so watch out. Seattle has a good, attentive service and a 10% discount for students. 3

**Food prices:** Combos: \$2.99 - \$4.95, Burger or panini: \$4.95, Pizza slice: \$1.65



Fabian Zarta, Vicki Varas rehearse for *Dracula Alma*, a play, which will have performances Oct 31-Nov. 4. The play directed by Will Koolsbergen and will combine the story of *Dracula* with modern day issues.

**Hours:** Mon - Thurs: 6:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m., Fri: 6:30 a.m. - 7 p.m., Sat: 6:30 - 4 p.m., Sun: Closed

**LaGuardia Cafeteria** – When you go to the cafeteria, you get what you pay for. The cafeteria offers a nice seating area, although the colors could be better. The food there isn't great, except for a few items, like their fries and cakes. The cafeteria does offer comfort on a rainy day.

1 **Food prices:** Pizza: \$1.75, Sandwiches: \$1.65 - \$2.75, Coffee: \$.65

**Hours:** Mon - Fri: 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

And then there are also places that require some walking or taking the bus, if you're willing to wait for one. These places are best if you're done with classes or have an hour break between classes or your work.

**Quizno's** – Quizno's is my favorite place to eat. Given the fact that it's all the way near Court House Square subway station, it's kind of out of the way. But it's worth it: the food is awesome. I'll admit though – it's expensive. A meal would probably cost you around \$10, which is something not every college student can afford, but it will fill you up. 5

**Food prices:** Meals range between \$6 and \$9

**Hours:** Mon - Fri: 10:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Sun & Sat: Closed



**L'Angoletto Ristorante** – As with Quizno's, the place is a bit of a walk. The staff is very friendly there, but it doesn't hide the fact that the pizza there is almost \$2 and the Pizza Xpress pizza is better. The environment in the pizzeria is nice and quiet and clean, which is rare around here. 4

**Food prices:** Hamburger meal: \$4.99, Pizza slice: \$1.90, Garlic nuts 5 for \$1

**Hours:** Mon - Fri: 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

**Down on Queens Blvd**, there is Wendy's near 44th Street (46th Street Station - 7), McDonald's on 38th Street (40th Street 7 Station), Burger King on 40th Street (40th Street station - 7), and finally Subway and Dunkin' Donuts near Queensboro Plaza. I don't think I need to describe them, as these brands are quite popular anyway. Question is: are they enough to make you take the train or the bus? ■