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# Details on 'Grades Scandal' Still Murky



BY WALTER IWACHIW

A grade-fixing scandal broke at LaGuardia Community College in December. For an undefined time, students could order a grade change for a price or bottle of wine. According to the 137-count criminal indictment at least one student had testified about the facts in the case and raised some real questions about what repercussions

those individuals and the general school population will face.

The alleged perpetrator, Mr. Elvin Escano, a graduate and an employee of LaGuardia Community College, graduated with a bachelors from Empire State College in 2000, a SUNY College in Rochester, N.Y. Mr. Escano allegedly exploited his multiple roles, as a Computer Math Lab Technician (CLT),

computer programmer, tutor, and a Mathematics in Action (MAT096) teacher Mr. Escano acquired computer access rights and privileges that allegedly permitted him to change student grades entered in the older centralized CUNY "SIMS" registration program, now supplemented or replaced by the 2007 eSIMS counterpart.

A review of internet sites found that for two

students, Mr. Escano was rated a 3.8 on overall quality and 4.0 on ease at RateMyProfessors.com. As a business, grading was doomed to fail because the advertising of the service must expose the enterprise to discovery. It seems ironic that a statistical sampling of grades in the computer database compared to the department paper records exposed, Mr. Escano's, a CLT, grading scandal and not the advertising.

The repercussions the college may employ will be governed under CUNY rules, which cite that "[A] member of instructional staff ... shall be subject to ... [a] range of penalties," vary from a warning to an arrest if they engage "in any manner in conduct prohibited under this [CUNY] policy." Mr. Escano's case is based on the 137-count indictment brought by the Queens County District Attorney

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# eSIMS: A New Age of Registration Frustration?

BY ALEX ALI

AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2007, LaGuardia Community College completed the transition of the college's registration process from RegXpress to eSIMS. RegXpress, the program which many students are familiar with, will be gone. Students will have to learn how to use the program, for all of their registration needs.

The change to eSIMS, is a CUNY-wide process, and most CUNY colleges, either have the program currently, or will make the change shortly.

The Enrollment Service Center located in room 107 in the C Building is the office that will be using the new program the most. This is the office that students go to when they have problems such as enrollment, financial aid,

and any course issues that may arise. Ms. Christine Hill, an enrollment center specialist, commented about the program, "eSIMS is wonderful. It is much easier to use and is very user friendly. eSIMS is much faster than the old program.

Where RegXpress would take a long time to load,

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for entertainment news, look in the back >



# OPINIONS

## Editorial

### *From the Editorial Desk*

Happy New Year! Will this year be exciting? Perhaps. Will we learn anything? Maybe. Hopefully, you have seen our issues spread across the campus. We are a paper that dates back to 1982 (that's the oldest issue that we found in our archives). The paper used to be called Fiorello's Flute and even though we get our funding from LaGuardia, we don't dance to the same tune.

We are mostly an independent newspaper and we report on everything that's newsworthy that's going on at LaGuardia, even if it means working past 11 p.m.

Last year, we held our first focus group that asked you, the students, what you really thought of our newspaper. We listened and here's what we changed:

- A smaller newspaper size
- A smaller, but readable font
- Color newspaper
- News that matter to students

Unfortunately, some of the content was cut, like the Spanish Section because there wasn't enough staff to support it. The section was going to be transformed into an international section, featuring articles of various languages, but again, we wanted to focus more on transforming into a newspaper of quality.

A lot of people asked for a newspaper the size of Student News, but we are not Student News and we don't want to be a newsletter. Bridge's The Real Connection appeared briefly in May 2006 as part of a test run. It featured the same size as the Student News. However, it was not met with much success and was also eliminated too. I apologize if we misled anyone who thought it would appear again.

As we journey into the new year, a new staff is taking over *The Bridge* along with a new Editor-in-Chief, Nora Stock, effective February 1, 2007. After a year and a half of building *The Bridge* into its present state, I'm glad to say that the staff of *The Bridge* has accomplished a lot. Many thanks to our great staff, who worked tirelessly (for free) to bring the readers news and a quality paper. There remains much more to be done and I'm confident the new staff will make *The Bridge* even better.

Best wishes,

Aleksandr Sidorov  
The Bridge Student Newspaper  
Editor-in-Chief

## In One Year, Out the Other

BY JOHN KNOX,  
21ST CENTURY  
CURMUDGEON

One adage you understand *only* when you've had enough years under your belt is: 'the more things change, the more they stay the same'.

I've been alive - and aware - in the 60s, the 70s, the 80s, the 90s and now. As a small boy, I watched Walter Cronkite comment on the Vietnam War on television. As a teenager, I wore those horrible polyester shirts and danced those even more horrible disco moves. As a young adult, I watched the Challenger shuttle explode and take most American's dreams of space travel with it while I did my time in the Navy. At the end of the millennium, I re-married and looked towards the future with as much hope as I could muster.

Seven more years later, and what has changed? Not much. Stuck in an un-winnable war, folks moving like they have a combination of syphilis and poison ivy (or however you'd describe 'crunkin'), the shuttle program

almost at the end of its slow death.

What's changed is me: in the 21st century, I've returned to school to follow my dream, I've had some major physical changes (mostly bad, true) and I received the greatest gift a man could get - my son Bubba.

People can deny it all they want, but part of a man's brain is hardwired with a desire to have children, to extend beyond ones natural life. Those who are unable to fulfill this imperative tend to become sullen, miserable old men. Those who can tend to be called 'grandpa'; a wondrous title which entitles you (under optimal conditions) to visits from children always happy to see you and a guaranteed seat at the table for Thanksgiving and Christmas. At worst, you've accomplished the one biological imperative that we share with women: to procreate.

So if you have any question about whether you make a difference, if what you do in life will change the course of history, the answer is ... probably not. That honor

is reserved for very few. At best, you can become part of the tide of humanity that evolves as a whole. It's not so bad, really, especially in this age of minor immortality where your blog can live on after you. Think of all those poor people over the course of history whose playlists are lost forever because technology had not been capable of archiving them.

Despite all of this, things will most likely go on pretty much as we remember them for as long as there are people around to recall events. Things do change, but slowly enough that it doesn't change for us, the ones currently alive. I'm sure life was awfully different in the Middle Ages, but you never hear about any sudden change that ended the Plague or gave birth to a country. It happens over time, which in turn gives us time to adjust.

So it does ring true that the more things change, the more they stay the same. Because we really couldn't handle it any other way. ■

Just so you know.  
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## Letter to the Editor On Commencement

BY ANTHONY PAPPAS

Commencement should be about the students and less about unrelated issues. It is this belief that led other members of the Student Government of '99-'00 and myself to ask that the administration let the students walk across the stage, receive their diploma cases, say their names and a few words of thanks if they wished.

As the vice president of the Alumni Association, I have been invited to attend commencement and sit on stage - which I feel is a great honor - for the past 5 years. I remember the first time I did this it got very hot under the lights. Wearing my suit underneath my robe, I thought to myself for the briefest of moments, "wow, when will this ceremony end?" But I quickly remembered why we were there.

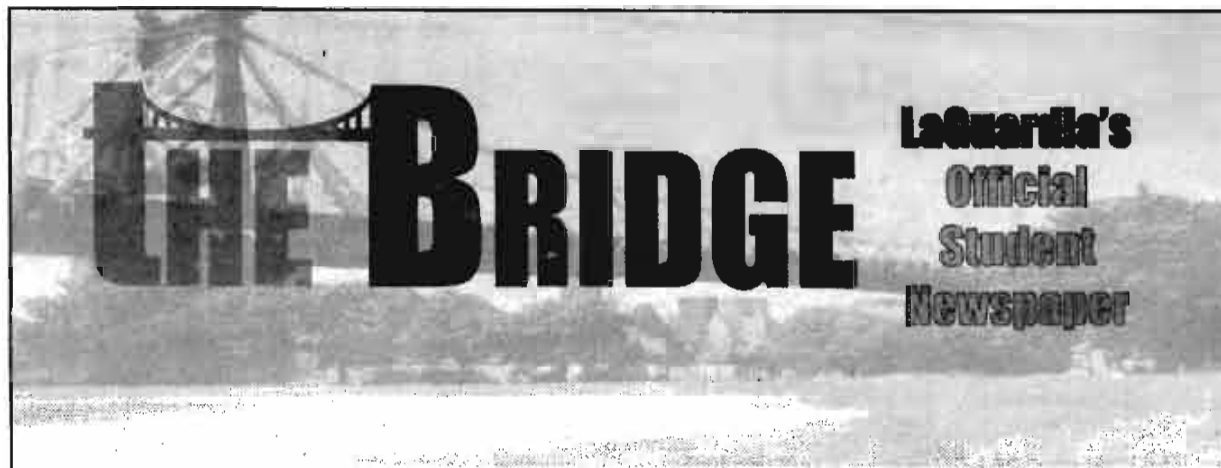
Sure, students walking across the stage might take a little longer than simply making a short trip to the podium, but witnessing their joy when they give a 'shout out' to their families or thank their favorite professor is worth every minute of

it. I would much rather sit through that than boring politicians and other speakers that give their speeches and false praise. I sit there every year, failing to see or hear the graduates. I volunteer my time and personally hand them their Alumni member pins, because the ceremony is about them.

If people are uncomfortable sitting there watching the students walk across the stage then they should remember that this is the culmination of 2 or more years of their educational experience. The least we can do is be there and take a little discomfort for them. If anyone can't do that then they should think about that beforehand. I know lots of people attend and just sit in the audience because they do not wish to sit on the stage.

If one can't be happy for the students, be patient while they express their gratitude, then one should stay home. No one is forced to attend the ceremony. ■

**Anthony Pappas is the First Vice President for LaGuardia Community College Alumni Association**



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## word <sup>on</sup> campus

What can LaGuardia do to make life easier for evening students?



More elevators, so we can get to class on time.  
- **Shreejana**



Employ more tutors and make the library open later.  
- **Gowrob**



We need more computers in the library. We also need to have the ladies restroom cleaned for evening students.  
- **Amirah**



Comfortable sofas to rejuvenate before classes.  
- **Dudley**



Some of the classes are too long. They need more classes in the evenings to shorten class hours.  
- **Neetha**

BY NATALEE BRODERICK



# CAMPUS news

## LAG's Illegal Change of Grades Scandal

### LAGCC Administrators Silent on Grades for Cash, Favors

**BY ALEX ALI**  
**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, HONOR AND** integrity are the hallmarks every college and university strives for, but this does not appear to be the case at LaGuardia Community College. The honor and integrity of LaGuardia Community College was desecrated by several students, who allegedly paid for the services of Mr. Elvin Escano, a computer science lab instructor who was employed at the college. According to the Queens County District Attorney's (QCDA) office, "a 137-count indictment with soliciting and accepting payment - ranging from cash payments of \$200 to \$2,500 or items of value, such as wine," has been filed.

These indictments are for services students would pay for, the service being that of grade changing. According to QCDA, Mr. Escano's grade replacement service ranged from changing grades of 'F' or 'Incomplete' to an 'A,' or if one did not pass the CUNY Proficiency Examination (CPE), a student would receive an instant passing grade for a nominal fee. Mr. Escano has several serious charges brought against him by the District Attorneys office, including grand larceny, computer tampering, forgery, computer trespass, conspiracy and witness tampering, to list a few. Mr. Escano worked closely with the Department of Mathematics at LaGuardia and the majority of faculty and staff did not want to comment on the subject matter. Professor

Millman provided his comments on this subject. Professor Millman is a senior tenured professor for the Department of Mathematics. He also maintains a website, lagcorruption.com. Professor Millman, who did not speak on behalf of the college, said, "I have known Elvin for 17 years. He made a big mistake, and I am sure he had other people working with him; he could not have done this by himself."

When Professor Millman was asked about who would be working with Mr. Escano, he said, "A lab tech can only do this with cooperation in the Registrar's office. Elvin needed someone in that office or this would be impossible. I am not saying he is guilty, but there is a lot of evidence." When Mr. Millman was asked how something of this nature could be done at our college, he replied, "The daily atmosphere at LaGuardia Community College is one of corruption, fraudulent remedial exams, cronyism in the promotion and tenure committee, and a general feeling of chaos. Nobody will ever find out what he did here, because of corruption, chaos, and incompetence."

Professor Millman was asked about his opinion about the college he stated, "I love the students, they are the best people. The hard-working kids are the heroes who got through the New York school system. The administration is so corrupt and beneath contempt. They are responsible for the low quality of education." The majority of faculty and staff at LaGuardia Community College either had no comment or did not want to be on the record, as the President of the College Dr. Mellow issued sent out an e-mail on on the College's GroupWise, which is used to circulate e-mails around the college. "I would ask again that all questions from the press be referred to Nathan Dickmeyer. This will ensure that the information given to the press is up-to-date and accurate as possible."

However, Mr. Dickmeyer was not available for comment, even after several attempts were made to contact his office. Dr. Mellow declined to give an interview; the only response given was the following statement received from her office, "President Mellow said while the matter is under investigation she would not be able to discuss it."

The scandal has placed a cloud of suspicion around students' academic achievements and could haunt them when applying to transfer to another College or University, or graduate school. Applying for grants and scholarships are some other areas that may possibly be affected by these insidious acts. ■

### Details on 'Grades Scandal' Still Murky

**CONTINUED FROM P. 1**  
 on Dec 6., 2006 and after a six month investigation, in short, it's up to the D.A. The students at LaGuardia expect little repercussions from the Mr. Elvin Escano "grade upgrading for a price" scandal. Essentially,

students' nearly universal sentiment is that only those who participated will be affected. According to the official press releases made by the LaGuardia President's Office and recent pronouncements that Mr. Escano was only a lab technician. Students responded by expressing their concerns about their future. Anil, a computer student at LaGuardia, said, "I expect other schools, not

employers, will be more concerned with grade changes." Erica, a nursing student, wondered if "future employers will be aware of the scandal" and exactly how deep the scandal goes. While Yorlane, also a nursing student, expects the effects to be limited to those involved.

In relevant parts, students should know there are possible penalties for submitting fraudulent grades for admission into CUNY or other colleges. CUNY policy is clear that students submitting fraudulent documents - pre-enrollment, post-enrollment and post graduation - "is prohibited by The City University of New York and may be punishable by up to a 5-year bar on applying for admission, suspension, revocation of degree or certificate and/or expulsion."

"The [student] applicant may then submit a written statement and evidence demonstrating that the document is not fraudulent," CUNY policy states. It is then up to the University to ignore, eliminate or reduce the penalty.

The staff side the investigation and arrest has proved to be a distraction with varying expression of sympathy, anger and disappointment. The major operational effect felt was the cancellation of computer rights and privileges for many staff who performed work in the school. Unknown owners of Passwords and usernames were deleted, en mass, to prevent unauthorized access to the computer network, clearly blocking some legitimate access to the network until passwords could be reissued. ■

may have faced and Mr. Lewis addressed the issue, "During the transition period between Fall II and Spring I, students cannot change their major, and have to come into the enrollment services office for this process, this should be corrected by the spring semester."

eSIMS will be the only registration program used at LaGuardia beginning in February. The opinions thus far, have been positive by the staff, which are familiar with this program. The final verdict will be known after the start of Spring I 2007, when the opinions of the students will be known. ■

**Comment on these and more articles: Bridgenewspaper.NET**

**“ A 137-count indictment with soliciting and accepting payment - ranging from cash payments of \$200 to \$2,500 or items of value, such as wine. - Queens County District Attorney charging Elvin Escano, the alleged perpetrator ”**

**“ During the transition period between Fall II and Spring I, students cannot change their major and have to come [to] the enrollment services office ... This should be corrected by the spring semester. ”**

**- Keith Lewis**

There is one problem with this program, which some LaGuardia students

## eSIMS: A New Age of Registration Frustration?

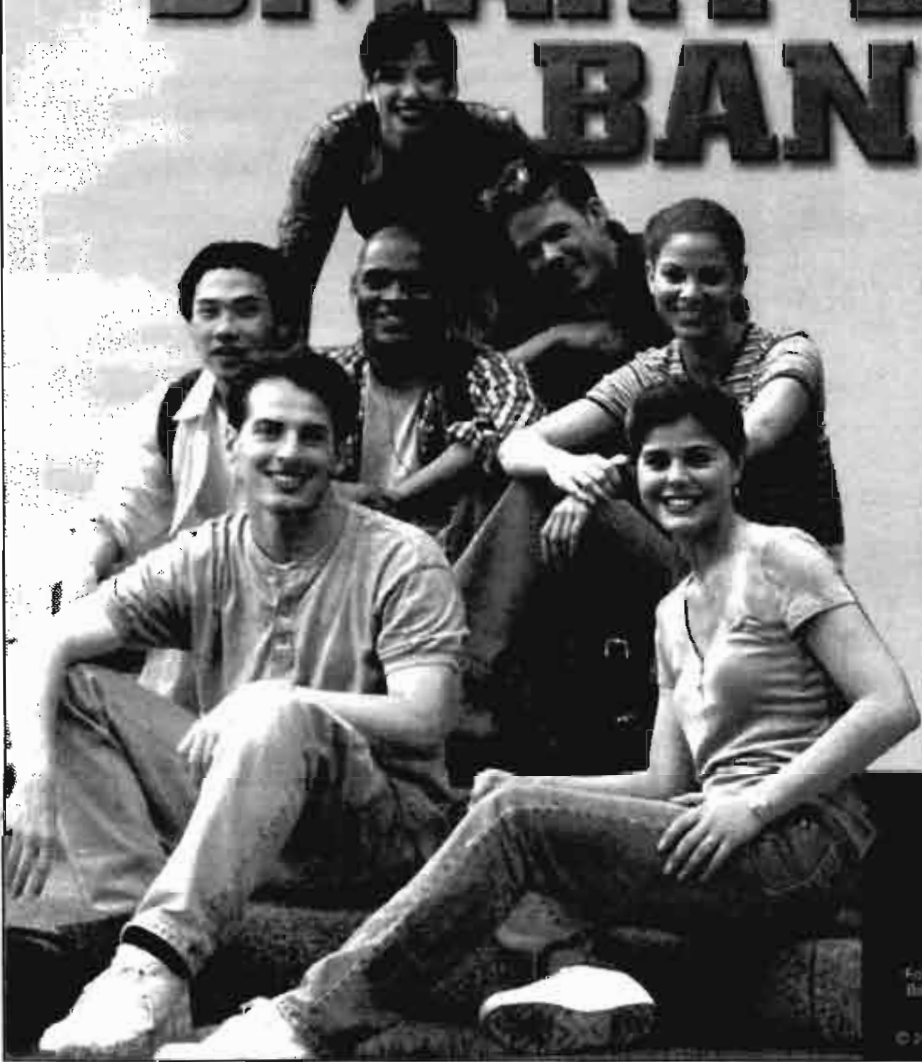
**CONTINUED FROM P. 1**  
 and possibly crash, eSIMS is done within seconds. eSIMS is great, and the students will love it." Mr. Keith Lewis with enrollment services said, "eSIMS is from CUNY. CUNY has implemented this at other schools, and after Fall Session II, LaGuardia will be another school which uses eSIMS." Mr. Lewis elaborated on the differences between RegXpress and our new registration process, "eSIMS is more connected to the CUNY portal, and it has better access with financial

aid, transferring to another school within CUNY, and overall it will be much more helpful to the students when they make the transition into a four year CUNY

school."

There is one problem with this program, which some LaGuardia students

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## SGA awards clubs



Aleksandr Sidorov/The Bridge

**DURING THE FIRST WEEK** of January the SGA (Student Government Association) held a party where clubs' achievements were honored by receiving certificates of appreciation. Only 8 club representatives were at the event.

People that went enjoyed the food and the music. Tina Albright, a student, said, "I like the food, music. The party [had] a great turnout." Karin Burke, also a student, said, "It's a great party but nobody can beat the Bachata and Merengue one." We will just have to wait to see if another club can beat that party or if Bachata and Merengue keeps surprising us with theirs. ■

BY JESSICA ISLAS



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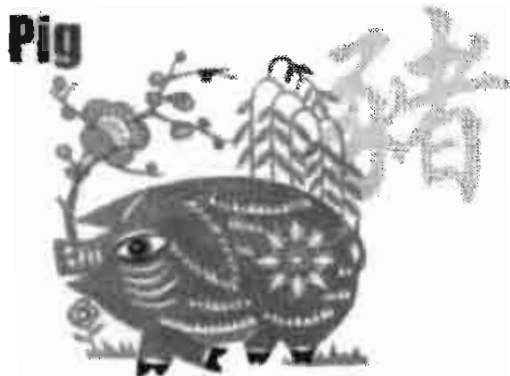


# Asian American / Asian Research Institute

The City University of New York

## CUNY Asian Faculty & Staff: Lunar New Year Reception

2  
0  
0  
7



Date: Friday, February 23, 2007 Time: 6PM to 8PM

Place: 25 West 43rd Street, 19th Floor  
between 5th & 6th Avenues, Manhattan

\* All CUNY faculty & staff involved in Asian American  
and Asian subjects are invited to the reception.

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- 03.09.07 Emma Christina Farmer (Hofstra University), "The Race to the Top: Is Sea Level Rise Accelerating Due to Global Climate Change?"
- 03.16.07 Charles Mandelville (American Museum of Natural History), "Kakatau"
- 03.23.07 Nicholas K. Coch (Queens College, CUNY), "Unique Vulnerability of the New York Metropolitan Region to Hurricane Destruction"
- 04.13.07 Kristina R. Czuchlewski (Columbia University), "Landslides, Volcanoes, and Wildfires: Views from Above"
- 04.27.07 Charles Mandeville (American Museum of Natural History), "Volcanoes of the World"

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- Cantonese 1 02/13/07 to 04/17/07, (7PM-8:30PM)
- Cantonese 2 02/08/07 to 04/12/07, (6PM-7:30PM)
- Cantonese 3 02/08/07 to 04/12/07, (7:40PM-9:10PM)
- Korean 1 02/06/07 to 04/10/07, (6PM-8PM)



10 Sessions



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# State of the Union 2007: What Bush Actually Said

BY JOHN KNOX

On the evening of Jan. 23, 2007 President Bush gave his sixth 'State of the Union' address to the American people. What he said during his speech is important, but equally as important is what he did not say, or what he managed to avoid altogether. This article will delve a little into all three areas.

You have to hand it to the president; for someone whose approval rating has slipped from 82% in 2001 to 28% in 2006 he sure acted like someone who had the support of the entire nation. Congress helped to continue that illusion by giving Bush an ovation at every opportunity, even when the faces of those standing and clapping were ones who so obviously didn't agree with what was being said. I don't blame them, really; they're just acting the way they've been taught to. Like the old adage states, "Hate the game, not the player."

Speaking of plays: about the only genuine display of humanity came from Wesley Autrey, the courageous construction worker who saved someone from certain death by subway, when he was recognized by Bush during the speech. Autrey's 'much love' gestures were genuine, if not entirely traditional for the floor of Congress. This man showed what he was feeling inside. How many senators and congressmen there did the same?

## It's the economy, stupid

"A future of hope and opportunity begins with a growing economy - and that is what we have," the president began. He went on to detail factoids that mean less than they seem: 7.2 million new jobs created (with no mention of many were lost), low inflation (more the result of world issues than anything the government did) and wages rising. This last issue was curiously absent of any mention of the minimum wage increase bill introduced by the Democrats. If wages are rising for any

other reason, it's not because of anything the government is currently doing.

Bush went on to detail what he thought were the key economic goals of his administration this time: balancing the Federal budget without raising taxes, eliminating the Federal deficit within five years, cutting the practice of attaching 'earmarks' to bills by half, Social Security/Medicare and the privatization of health insurance. Since no one, especially the President, can give even an overview of how the first two will be accomplished yet, I'll focus on the latter three.

**Reducing 'Earmarks'** - 'earmarks' (or 'riders', if you prefer) are those mini-bills attached to a larger, more important bill before it's voted on. For instance, your local Congressman might attach an earmark bill for monies needed to purchase Federal land so that one of their richer constituents can build a factory on it to an education bill that is almost certain to pass. The later they attach this earmark, the less chance someone will have a problem with it. As even the president mentioned, half the 'earmarks' that cross his desk attached to bills he's never even heard of before he's supposed to sign off on them.

This may not seem like a big deal to you and I in the small scale of things, but these are the types of bills that make sure one place has jobs and/or services locally and others don't. They're the types of bills where it's not whether they're right or wrong but how much influence the supporters can bring to bear. And this is not a good thing. Doesn't matter if it's been how things get done since the 1800s. You'd be surprised how many human service facilities have been shut down because some land developer "convinced" Senator Fatcat the property would be put to better use as a mini-mall. So eliminating



PRESIDENT BUSH GIVING HIS State of the Union speech in Congress on Jan. 23, 2007

'earmarks' is a good thing, if not a major one.

**Social Security/Medicare/Health Insurance** - Bush has been trying to get Congress to agree to privatize Social Security and Medicare for years, to no avail. Like any good palooka, that hasn't stopped him from coming back around to it once again.

Bush emphasized a tax relief that would give most workers the funds needed to pay for private health insurance. It's a good idea in theory, but in practice how many workers, making too little as it is, are going to use the monies they don't pay in taxes for things like food, rent and other necessities they can barely afford instead of health insurance? More than a few, I'll bet. Since signing up for private health insurance won't be compulsory (and it shouldn't), we'll still have people without proper healthcare.

## No Child Left Behind' the Bushes

The president asked Congress to renew his 'No Child Left Behind' law, which is due to expire after 5 years in effect. Response to this seemed mixed, as it should be; the statistics Bush quoted regarding upward improvement were based on polling done by those who supported the bill, so the results are bound to be, at the least, a little murky.

The only new - and

positive - addition to this was his recommendation that parents be given the right to place their child in another school if they felt the child's educational needs weren't being met. This is a good idea, as long as it isn't abused. Too often, good students end up in bad schools due to zoning issues. If implemented properly, it could show a city's education department better than any report which schools are failing.

## Bush's 'Green Dream'

The president spoke briefly on energy issues, including alternate fuels and power. Nothing specific, just how he hoped we could all be less dependent on oil from the Middle East (see how he ties this into what's going on now?). No actual legislation was mentioned, so take that how you will.

## Every Day is 9/11

Of course, no Bush speech would be complete without a long discourse on security, terror and Islamic extremism. "The war on terror we fight today is a generational struggle that will continue long after you and I have turned our duties over to others", Bush explained. So much for 'Mission Accomplished'. As was expected, the president formally asked Congress for a troop increase of 92,000 soldiers within the next five

# Lime Kitchen & Food Express Remain Closed

BY ALEX ALI

Four months have passed since the fire, which occurred at The Lime Kitchen and Food Express, both businesses have remained closed, with no signs of being reopened anytime in the near future. On any given day one can still see the Fire Marshalls conducting their investigations of the area. There has been widespread innuendo and rumors about the fire throughout the campus of LaGuardia Community College about this recent event, but only the Fire Marshalls may know the true nature of this fire.

In the December 2006 edition of this newspaper, the article about the fire created many questions for the Fire Marshall's office. The Fire Marshall's office was concerned about the anonymous source, which had given the statements about the fire incident. I had the opportunity of speaking

with Fire Marshal James Mills about this fire, and the December 2006 article. Fire Marshall Mills asked to interview the source, but the source declined the invitation. Fire Marshall Mills did say the following: "It is an on going investigation, and we are looking for any witness on the day of, and before the fire". If anyone has knowledge of this fire please contact Fire Marshall James Mills at 212-966-4385, as you may have information that is valuable to their investigation.

The faster that this investigation proceeds, the faster these two establishments will be able to reopen. The faculty, staff, and students of LaGuardia Community College miss the services, and variety, that these two businesses provided. It was a most unfortunate event, which occurred early Monday morning of October 9, 2006, and only time will be the judge on the futures of both businesses. ■

years. Iran was singled out as the nation this administration is currently concerned about, publicly stating that the United States would not tolerate a nuclear Iran. To be continued, I guess...

What was a *little* bit of a surprise was the call to establish a 'Civilian Reserve Corps'. He wasn't very specific on just what this entailed, other than to say it would function in a way similar to the reserves. But these people wouldn't be troops; they'd be civilians who, depending on which talents they had, would be called into service for an unstated period of time and an unknown cost. I know I'm going way out here, but theoretically this means Uncle Sam could hire imprisoned killers to carry out 'sanctions' against perceived enemies in exchange for considerations, including freedom. Some conspiracy buffs think the government does this already,

but a 'Civilian Reserve Corps' no doubt lend such hirings a legitimacy bordering on scary.

## "Those of You in the Cheap Seats..."

Finally, no Bush SOTU would be complete without his 'shout outs': from the gallery, the president recognized the aforementioned Mr. Autrey, the creator of 'Baby Einstein', a naturalized NBA player and a Silver Star winning wounded soldier. I'm not going to say anything more than I've never been crazy about this type of 'dog and pony' show.

This years State of the Union address didn't really tell us anything we were unaware of. These sorts of things have always been more of a cheerleading performance (go, U.S.!) than a true account of the Unions' state, which kind of tells you how things are going, if you think about it. ■

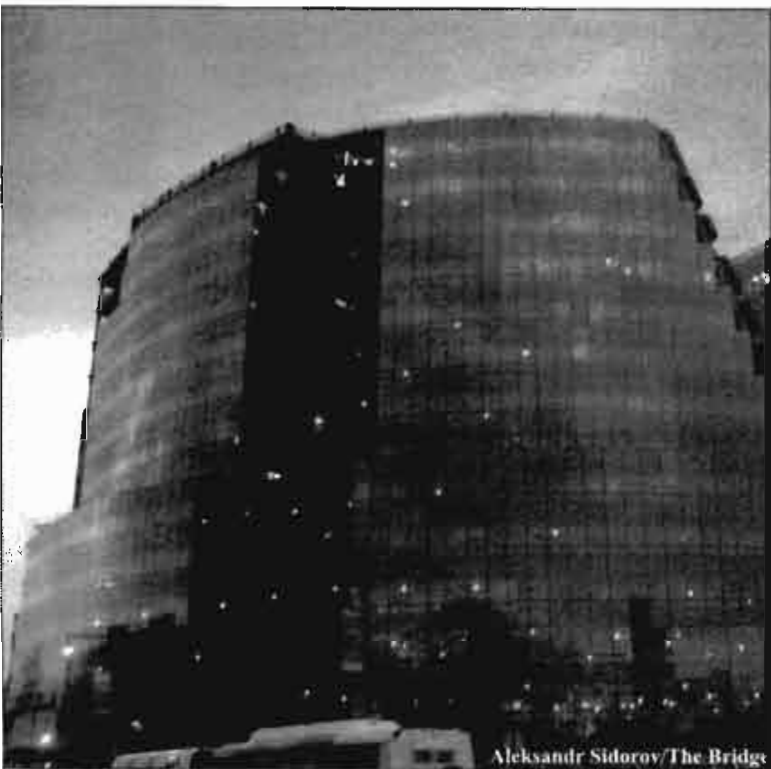
# Construction in LIC: What are they building?

BY ALEKSANDR SIDOROV AND NORA STOCK

**ARRIS LOFTS LIC, STILL** under construction, offers loft space 5 minutes from Manhattan. Although pricey (ranging from \$525,000-\$2,995,000 depending on the space), you get a lot of bang for your buck with 24-hour doorman and concierge service, a fitness center, lap pool, and a 3,000 square foot lounge with a screening room and gaming area, among a long list of amenities. The building should open later this year. 70% of the lofts have been taken. ■



Aleksandr Sidorov/The Bridge



Aleksandr Sidorov/The Bridge



**CITIGROUP, INC. IS BUILDING** a \$290 million 15-story office tower adjacent to its 50-story office building, Court Square One on Jackson Avenue 45 Avenue. Citicorp sold Court Square One building for \$470 million to Reckson Associates Realty Corp.

New York City agreed to improve the nearby area, obtaining \$17 million from the federal government. The money will be used to make the area more attractive. Citibank agreed to pay elevators and escalators between Court Square G and 7 stations. Court Square Two should be completed later this year. ■

**MTA IS BUILDING A \$7 billion** branch of its Long Island Railroad (LIRR) to connect it with the Grand Central Station via the 63 Street tunnel, which is currently used by the F train. The project is called East Side Access.

A new Sunnyside station will be built, while tracks are being laid in the Sunnyside Yards. MTA is working on a tunnel connecting the Sunnyside Yards and 63 Street Tunnel. If the project continues as planned, it will be finished in 2012 and the Grand Central will have an additional 8-track station underneath the main terminal.

Some concerns have arisen about viability of the project, since MTA is \$1.4 billion overbudget for its 2005-2009 capital plan, which covers the East Side Access, Second Avenue subway as well as No. 7 line extension to 34 Street projects and many more. The installation of ventilation ducts for the Grand Central add-on are also in doubt, since the area around the station is dotted with historic buildings. ■



Caroline Alarcon



SPORTS  
ENTERTAINMENT & ARTSSinking in the Atlantic (Division)  
Knicks, Nets Struggling to Keep Afloat in the  
NBA's Worst Conference

BY ANDREW ARINI

As the NBA approaches the halfway mark of the 2006-2007 season, the New York Knicks and New Jersey Nets find themselves fighting opponents, getting injured, and losing games. The bright side is they both play in the mediocre Atlantic Division: here the first place position is open to any one team who can string enough wins together. Out of the five teams in this division, four of them are separated by only one or two games. Each team has more numbered losses than numbered wins.

This will make for an interesting second half of the season since no one seems to have the ability to put away teams at the end of games. The Nets have lost six games when having the lead by the six-minute mark of the fourth quarter. The Knicks have had better luck in overtime games, but they also lost many fourth quarters.

In the end, the team that wins the Atlantic Division Championship by obtaining first place will secure the third playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. Since the beginning of the season, no team has made any significant progress, especially the Knicks and Nets, who had to cope with injuries, off season personal changes, let downs and fighting, which in many ways has impacted their season.

The Knicks began their season with overall sloppy play, inconsistency, and losing more games at home than on the road. But their new coach, Isiah Thomas, has changed the complexion of the team, and has gained the players' attention by earning their trust, and forming a positive report with his players in the media and in game situations. There has been less inter-team fighting and less accusations, especially during press conferences.

In return this has established

the Knicks as a 'team' with an image, and not just a group of players trying to play with each other. The team has been looking for the open man, and has been using the extra pass offense to get others wide-open shots. This has all contributed to this new team identity of 'us vs. the world.' Slowly the team's essence is being established.

This season the Knicks are trailing teams by a fewer points in the fourth quarter, when last year they would have been counted out, and given up by the mid-third quarter. Even though the losses have been piling up, some in disappointed ways, the Knicks have not entered a game with their heads down, already defeated, which can not be said for last year's team.

This year's team has improved on passing the ball: turnovers are down, and their offense has been spread out pretty equally, while Eddy Curry is being used as focal point on the interior. Seven players on the Knicks are averaging double figures in points. David Lee is averaging a double-double in points and rebounds. On the other side of the coin their defense, individually and collectively, is allowing their opponents to score 100 points each game with no problem. This is where the Knicks have to improve in order to secure the first place in the Atlantic division.

The biggest story about the Knicks is the fight between them and Denver. You cannot expect anything less from a team that is coached by Isiah Thomas. Thomas was an original member of the 'Bad Boys' that played for the Detroit Pistons. Of course some of that playing style is going to rub off. It's Thomas' style.

As for the fight, Nate Robinson was wrong for getting in the middle of the aftermath of the flagrant foul. His actions lead to the fight, and Carmelo Anthony's slap. It wasn't a cheap foul,

or Collins trying to hurt someone, it was simply a flagrant two foul. The foul was committed to stop the Knicks' embarrassment of how badly Denver was beating them. With all the ejections and suspensions, the punches and the slaps, in the end both teams are responsible, as well as their coaches. Yet, when all is said and done, this type of playing has definitely helped to unite the Knicks in such a way that last season has been erased, for better or worse.

The Nets have not played up to their level, or expectation. Beginning with the talented big three, (Kidd, Carter, and Jefferson), to their bench the Nets have started most games sluggishly. By the mid-mark of the first quarter the Nets are finding themselves spotting most team 10 to 20 points. Then the games become about playing catch-up. This takes more energy out of the veteran players and adds more pressure for the rookie to produce while seeing limited minutes. The Nets haven't played a full, consistent 48 minutes of basketball, but because they are in the Atlantic Division, as of Jan. 5 they are in first place.

The biggest story about the Nets is the season ending injury to their third year center, Nenad Krstic. Krstic was playing the best ball of his career. Before the injury he was averaging almost 17 points, and almost seven rebounds a game. What are the Nets doing to replace the center position? They are matching up to each team they play, when it comes to who will start for Krstic. Reserves such as eight-year journeyman Mikki Moore, and rookie Josh Boone have been called upon to produce, and play more minutes in Krstic's absence.

Moore, who is used for his speed can match up with smaller opposing centers. He has been a reincarnation of the old Nets Kenyon Martin, who is on Denver. Moore is

energetic, passionate, and creates a winning vibe on the court that is somewhat like a swagger. Most of the reserves have done a fair job both rebounding, defending and running the open court, yet the defensive presence that has been lost due to Krstic's injury, and will not be made up unless they make a big trade.

There are rumors that the injury to Krstic has opened up the door to trading players. Carter and Kidd have been mentioned in trade rumors, and the Nets have officially responded by saying no one player is safe, and that all trade talks are welcome, and will be entertained.

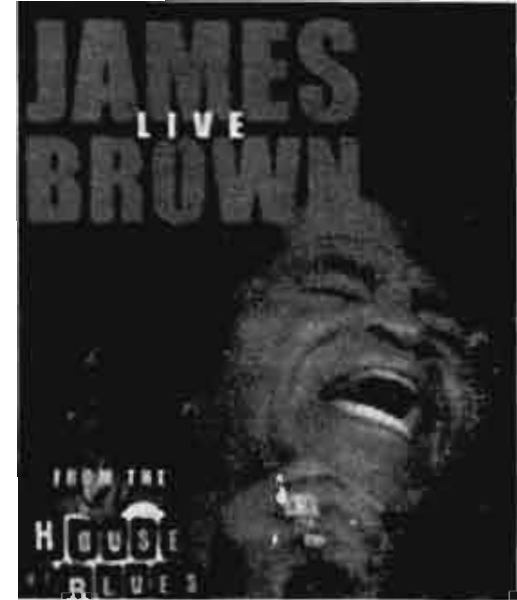
If the Nets do not secure first place in the Atlantic Division, they could find themselves barley making the eighth playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. If that happens, it would not give the Nets the much-needed home court advantage in the first round of the playoffs. Although the eastern conference doesn't have one main team leading in the standings, anything less than a third position in the playoffs would be considered a disappointment, and a let down for the Nets season.

But most NBA professionals feel the 'real' season begins with the playoffs. So the regular season, at least for the Nets, is being used to hone the teams' skills, as well as resting certain veteran players in order to be well prepared for the final run.

The Nets are a team built to play, and win, the NBA Championship. The Knicks are a team built to rebuild, entertain, and make strong run for a playoff spot. As the game of basketball is a about scoring runs, and consistency, all the teams know that an injury, trade, or fight can change the scope of a season, the expectations, realities, and conclusions. ■

Godfather's Last  
Curtain Call

Fans Give Emotional Farewell to the Hardest Working Man in Show Business



THE ORIGINAL SOULMAN.

BY MAGDA DAVANIS

It was as sad as it could get early Christmas morning for all who woke up to the news reporting the passing of James Brown. The "Hardest working man in show business," as he was called died of pneumonia at the Emory Crawford Long Hospital, in Atlanta, Georgia, leaving behind devastated fans, and a rich legacy in the music and entertainment industry. He was 73 years old.

Some of James Brown's greatest hits including "Out of Sight," "Sex Machine," "Say it Out Loud-I'm Black and I'm Proud" and "I Got You (I Feel Good)," brought the house down wherever he performed. With his moves, faster than the speed of light (does Michael Jackson or Mick Jagger remind you of something as they are strutting their stuff performing? It probably IS JB,) flamboyant attire, soulful words speaking not only for African Americans but for anyone who "has a soul," he delivered the "F" in funk and the "D" in disco and dance. His music probably sent people into the emergency room with heat exhaustion. A lone record of James Brown being

played at a dead party would resuscitate it, consequences being everyone sweating profusely, dancing their butts off on the dance floor.

Some honors he had received, besides adoration by millions of devoted fans, included a Grammy in 1965 for "Papa's Got a Brand New Bag," for best R&B recording, a Grammy for "Living in America," in 1987 for best R&B male vocal performance and most recently in 1992, he won a Grammy award for lifetime achievement. He was also one of the first Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees in 1986, along with the likes of Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry and other legendary performers.

Revolutionary, groundbreaker, civil rights warrior, the "Godfather" was a true tour de force. He was a man who had run-ins with the law and injustice but "money didn't change him." Time unfortunately did "take him out" (this based on him quoting that "while money won't change you, time will take you out). Wherever James Brown may be, his legacy will carry on for generations to come. His music and style has profoundly influenced current and future musicians. ■

# Bend It Like Bai Ling

## Shangri-La Acrobats Delight and Mesmerize at LaGuardia

BY SAMANTHA STONER

The recent Shangri-La Chinese Acrobatic Performance which took place at the LaGuardia Performing Arts Center was well received. On Nov. 10, the act opened at 8 p.m. and was welcomed by a large audience. The Shangri-La Acrobats performed at a family event that was fun for all ages.

Adults and children alike were entertained by the amazing feats demonstrated at the show. One acrobat was riding a unicycle while balancing everything but a kitchen sink on a tube that was in her mouth. Another

acrobat layed on top of a see-saw while rotating a coffee table with her legs. The applause would've never ended if the tempo of the music didn't change and the following act came on stage. This invited total silence and curiosity. Children in the front rows were hanging off of their seats.

While the female acrobats performed an assortment of remarkable spectacles, like whirling six plates on sticks with their bare hands, and the men carried out a series of very courageous stunts. The male acrobats' simulated kung-fu stunts that reminded me of flicks

like 'Rush Hour 2' and 'The Matrix' with such accuracy and effortlessness that it made me feel as if I were on the set of an actual action

individual. There were a couple of cases where the men performed in groups, for example, two men bent a wire with the applied



NOT YOUR ORDINARY 9 to 5...

movie in.

A majority of the stunts were unique to each

pressure of their neck while another man crushed a pyramid of bricks on top

of his teammates' head. Essentially, the women used a lot of beauty, grace and stunning costumes in their act while the men commanded attention through their body language and up-beat music with loud drums throughout their acts, and gongs at the end.

The acrobats restored the idea that style is an important element in a performance. Some shows go so fast that you feel that your eyes are deceived. The acrobats instead gave you the element of surprise with such a tasteful delivery that the energy of the stunt was felt in the crowd. Simply put, the crowd was moved. The Interim Managing Director of LPAC, Steven Hitt, commented about the performance saying "The kids are energetic in the way [the acrobats] are performing and [the acrobats] are just spectacular."

The Shangri-La Acrobats

displays of flexibility, confidence and creativity was synergized in the finale. All of the acrobats came together and exhibited such strength and synchrony, it proved nothing is impossible. The acrobats believed in themselves and each other. Through the motion of a bicycle and fans (as props), the audience perceived that the acrobats took flight and the show came to an end.

The Shangri-La Chinese acrobats have traveled around the world and performed in performing art venues at colleges and universities across the United States. They have sold out theater tours across the nation and performed at casinos in Las Vegas and Reno. They have entertained many celebrities, including former President Jimmy Carter. The performers have also appeared on television. This year marks the Shangri-La Acrobats 27th year of National Touring. ■

# Uncle Johnny's Silver Small Screen Review: DEXTER

BY JOHN D. KNOX

Good As It Gets)

*OBS: I could write about the 1 or 2 films I've seen over the Winter break; how they were disappointments of one kind or another.*

*Then, it occurred to me: why not write about something I saw that I did enjoy, even if it wasn't at the theatre? Isn't it more important to get the word out about things worth watching than things that are not? And so...*

## DEXTER SHOWTIME Season One

5

Best

**Who Made It?** Clyde Phillips, co-producer, from the book 'Darkly Dreaming Dexter' by Jeff Lindsey

**Who's In It?** Michael C. Hall (Six Feet Under), James Remar (The Warriors), Julie Benz (As

**What's It About?** Dexter Morgan, Miami blood spatter expert for the Metro Dade Police Department, has a hobby his co-workers probably wouldn't appreciate: he's a serial killer.

Fortunately for most people he limits himself to others of his type, killing other serial killers as part of a grander 'code' his adoptive father Harry, an honest but jaded ex-cop, instilled in Dexter while he was still impressionable.

Unfortunately (for Dexter) someone's shown up who's better at killing than he is, and it's not too long before the problem becomes very serious... and very personal.

**Is It Worth It?** Most made-for-cable series let me down after the first few episodes: even 'the Sopranos' didn't hold my attention all

the way through its first season. But this... this is something else.

Like I mentioned at the top, this series is based on Lindsey's first book. 'Roughly based' might be a better description, as Phillips & Co. take the barebones story built around Dexter and flesh it out to an enormous degree. Oddly enough, this has the effect of greatly improving not only the main character but all the supporting characters as well; each person from the book is expanded upon without losing any of their original flavor. In fact, some characters from the book are given complete makeovers, transforming them from mere mentions to serious contenders for your attention.

Even the body count is increased from that of the book, a bold move since they are where you expect to see Dexter show his true face the most. But again, the new material

is seamlessly added to the point that if you had not read the book you would think Lindsey had thought of them himself.

Michael C. Hall is wonderful - no other word for it - as Dexter Morgan. You don't want to be friends with a serial killer unless it's this guy; he's so darn likeable. His confusion to normal human interaction is often worth a chuckle, sometimes worthy of a guffaw. But then again, every character was well-cast. Debbie (his cop sister with more ambition than ability), Lt. La Guerta (from media whore to responsible crusader in 12 episodes), Sgt. Doakes (the nemesis) and the rest. If I had the space, I'd comment on them all but suffice it to say you accept every actor as their character.

Some new twists and a different ending leave a few conflicting plotlines that will not



DEXTER HAS HIS WORK cutout for him.

really interfere with one's enjoyment of Lindsey's second Dexter book, 'Dearly Devoted Dexter' or it's translation onto the small screen. I only hope they continue to improve upon the source material without completely deviating from it.

If you have cable, order

Showtime on Demand and see the entire first season of this great show as soon as you can. If you don't, ask someone to tape it for you. You'll be glad you did. ■

John.Knox@mail.laguardia.com

# Literary Corner

## BLACK (fade out)

By Alex Irish

These are the dreams of the promise land  
 Become successful enough to leave this land  
 But I'm still hungry, and in this blue inspired dark  
 It's hard to see the crooks lurking in the park.  
 But I see all around me, with night vision eyes.  
 Fading out to black, my surrounding's disguise.  
 Walking two steps above the concrete, gust of wind under my feet  
 Promises denied with each person I meet  
 Remember when I was told that I'd be nothing in second grade.  
 But now I'm something, my crystal clear future is on the way.  
 But crystals dilute my vision, so its hard to see the choices I've made.  
 So it gets dark in here, like a mind trapped in the shade.  
 But these live and die with us.  
 But I never wonder why. I just hold my hand to the sky, and paint a perfect darkness.  
 Incredibly bright, I think I'd give up all this, To the confusing little girl, with her fingers in her curls  
 Hoping that one day, we could have ruled the world, but she left me in the black  
 But it ok, matter of fact. I think I'd rather be left in the dark, then put in the light  
 Its like a bat in the cave, flapping his wings at a brand new night.  
 This momentary psychosis. not wrong, I'm just attempting to do what feels right.  
 But you still don't know my name...its fine, I'll tell you when its time.  
 But its time to make a departure, and leave this town.  
 Don't cry for me Argentina, the truth is I'll still be around  
 I can't turn my back and completely leave you.  
 Like a clown in a blind-fold, I hold on to you,

hoping you show me the way.  
 Instead, I sit and wait for the world to escape from behind your curly waves  
 But if I've gone to the other side, and surrounded by the darkness of night,  
 Would you risk death to save me, and bring me back.  
 This is what makes love kinda crazy with a spooky little girl like you.  
 Or maybe I'm confused...I just don't know what to do.  
 Sometimes I can't get things right, and the only time I write is at night  
 To make the feelings of the past light a spark, and create some perfect dark.  
 Which brings me by to my reason for writing this sort of Goodbye letter to all  
 I know I must leave, and you know I can't stay  
 I'm being on a fast train, and stuck in this no man's land  
 And there is no way back, and no helping hands, so I just sit back.  
 And watch as the walls of my room slowly turn to black  
 I fade to the darkness, and begin to accept the truth that surrounds us in smoke.  
 Exhale the beautiful intoxication, and watch the night choke.  
 As we kick back, and fade into the background, disappearing with the night.  
 Always leave them smiling and wanting more, but I can't be sure.  
  
*\* Alex Irish was a prolific contributor to The Bridge during his time at LaGuardia. He has moved on for bigger and better things, and the poem above is his farewell to The Bridge and it's readers.*  
  
*So long Alex, you will be missed.*

## WORLD

By Lawrence Stranges

3 hands divided that touch  
 One never truly moves  
 But is moved by the other's soul  
 the other moves gently, as the second keeps  
 by the , the second like's to walk by dragging its feet  
 reaching its hand to touch One  
 no not with haste but longing for One all the way  
 around  
 the last, thing, never cared for, runs to touch  
 someone  
 anyone's hand  
 begging to have  
 meaning it loses it's  
 meaning  
 moving so quickly, it can't exist with use  
 meaning, superficial by it's meaning  
 touch  
 it hopes for the two to care  
 the two share an embrace over fifty times greater  
 embrace for so long it runs in hope, for the next  
 touch  
 only to make it last, feeling for a second  
 no longer  
 touch.

## HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY, MY FRIENDS

By Teresita Benlirio Vilaruz

Friendship needs to be nurtured in order to be strengthened and remain forever.  
 Real and true relationships will be valued if it is properly handled with care.  
 Indeed, it is better to lose something than to lose a genuine friend.  
 Eveready to help in times of problems, and never turn his face when it is urgently needed.  
 Nobody is perfect, but, at least it is better that you have done your best to help a friend in need.  
 Doing great kindnesses in every difficult situation that a real friend has encountered.  
 So, dear friends, my simple greetings to all of you, enjoy the day of "HEARTS" and Happy Valentine's Day once more.

## the beauty of the present moment

By Mona Toor

Now, in this present moment, free your mind of negativity,  
 Fill your mind with optimism  
  
 Don't be brash, be real,  
 All your wounds will surely heal  
  
 Become aware of the here and now,  
  
 Become fully aware of the present  
  
 With infinite wisdom and judgment of good and bad,  
  
 Your mind will create infinite solutions,  
  
 Your mind will then not invite any problems  
  
 Your problems will surely be solved,  
  
 Remember, that your mind is the creator of problems of disguise  
  
 Be real, be wise,  
 This moment on earth will become a bit like paradise!

## L.I.E.

by Nora Stock

Steam rises from a Superhighway while mother  
 Calls us for dinner.



### ACROSS

1. Virginia zip 22938
6. Romanian money
9. High
14. Andes beast of burden
15. Footed vase
16. One who has disrobed (slang)
17. Aweigh
18. Sharp point
19. Bee-like
20. Porridge dish
22. Colors
23. Female deer
24. Fe
26. Having equal share (Greek)
30. Measures distance vehicle travels
34. Lowest point
35. Mixture
36. Wrath
37. Contract
38. Harass
39. Wail
40. 45 inches
41. Sinned
42. Physicist Curie
43. Kinship
45. Schoolmaster
46. Storage hut
47. Ladies' undergarment
48. Although (informal)
51. Relating to Rheology
57. Type of salmon (pl.)
58. Stupid, clumsy person
59. Eskimo home
60. Rippled surface pattern
61. Monoamine oxidase
62. Muse of lyric poetry
63. East Silver Spring Elementary School (Abbrv.)
64. Scrambled \_\_\_\_
65. Car

### DOWN

1. Wave up and down
2. Range between soprano and tenor
3. Actress Roseanne
4. Arabic for prince
5. Fast (comparative)
6. Sudden thrust
7. Native Americans formerly in N. Ohio
8. Freed from restriction
9. Detailed examination
10. Characteristic of wolf
11. Supreme Scandinavian deity
12. European car company
13. Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation
21. And not
25. Number at which polynomial equals 0
26. To imply
27. Philly university, La \_\_\_\_
28. Illinois zip 60460
29. \_\_\_\_ tape
30. Mary Kate and Ashley
31. Adorns princess' head
32. Austrian physicist Schrodinger
33. To let anew
35. Shed for housing airship
38. Mold-ripened whole milk cheese
39. Late 80s album by MJ
41. Characteristics tone of organizations (pl.)
42. Com (pl.)
44. Opposite of aboard
45. An expert
47. To mystify
48. Highest point of achievement
49. Toilets in Britain
50. \_\_\_\_ or that

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### Answers to December 2006 issue's crossword

52. Den \_\_\_\_ (The Hague)
53. Giant who eats humans
54. Experiencing joy
55. 9<sup>th</sup> letter of Greek alphabet
56. \_\_\_\_ skin cap

## No Escape: Gwen Stefani's new CD a Glittery Mess



1  
Don't

BY AXEL OROZCO

A single spin of Gwen Stefani's sophomore solo disc, *The Great Escape* makes immediately obvious what an abysmal musical failure the record is. Further plays illustrate

**STEFANI'S NEW DIS-GUISE TO** avoid the angry fans who hated her 'Escape'...

the many reasons why it's such a failure, each time offers a different reason of what makes the album so bad.

The big obvious factor is lack of decent tunes. She seems to opt for loud, trendy production, mostly catered by super duo production team, The Neptunes. I was very impressed with their official 2003 release, *The Neptunes Present...*

Clones, a potpourri of tracks featuring artists on their same label, Star Trak. In that CD, The Neptunes made use of a brand of a hip-hop sound that has been (for better or for worse) revolutionizing Top 40 Radio for almost a decade now. But with Stefani, either their imagination failed them or she just isn't right for the genre. I personally think it's both of those reasons. Gwen Stefani spends too much of the record rapping instead of singing, when it's her vocals that always distinguished her. I miss the old Gwen Stefani, the lead singer of No Doubt. Nowadays,

she doesn't make use of her voice much. Take the lead single for example, "Wind It Up," which is a successful club track, but as an album track from a woman who used to churn in some fine vocals within a guitar framework, it's disconcerting. "Wind It Up" samples from a cherished tune from *The Sound Of Music*, and aside from this sample it really doesn't have a melody of its own. She just talks the lyrics amid The Neptunes' unimaginative production. The only time we hear Gwen's singing voice is when she yodels twice in the song. The rest of the songs suffer similar fates. Listening to *The*

*Great Escape* makes it obvious that Gwen is not an MC. A particular low point of the album is a song entitled, "Yummy," also produced by the duo, has Gwen rapping out throughout the entire song, culminating in a wacky musical effect that lasts about a minute where the music sounds like one of the music themes of *Bowser's castle* in a *Super Mario Bros.* videogame.

There is one honorable mention in the CD, the fourth track, "Early Morning," one of two songs produced by Nellee Hooper (who produced a couple of tracks on the last *No Doubt* record, the dance-

oriented *Rock Steady*) and I am not exaggerating when I say that "Early Morning" is the only good song in the record. The fact that it's such a fine track makes the rest of the record seem all the more pale and insipid. Stylistically the song, which has indie pop/rock overtones clashes with the rest of the tracks. Without it and the other Hooper track, the 80s styled "Wonderful Life," placed at the end of record, the CD would have had a more balanced feel to it, even though it would have sunk in its own dead weight, instead of floundering awkwardly as it does. ■

## Spicing It Up: Bachata & Meringue Begin the Year in Style



**BACHATA PREZ. JUAN TORRES** and SGA's Virginia Ramirez.

**NATALEE BRODERICK**

The Bachata & Merengue club event got off to an early start. The venue for the party was tastefully

decorated in a silver and black theme. There were few people inside of the venue, but there was no wait around for more people to come; the patrons that were already inside the venue went straight to the dance floor.

The party DJ did not disappoint. He played a great variety of music, despite being a Latin party. The strobe lights made for a club feel and

the young patrons danced away, apparently forgetting that food was going to be served. The food was served at approximately 8p.m. The menu was limited to chicken, rice & beans, and pork, but it was still delicious. Some of the personnel serving the food could have been more pleasant to the patrons, who may have eaten more at the event if they had been.

After those who chose to eat had their stomachs filled, they went back to the dance floor.

All in all, the event was a success, but could have sold out if the Bachata club did more promotion of the event, considering that Latinos make up the largest percentage of students enrolled here at LaGuardia Community College. ■

## BSU Bash Right on Target After Slow Start

**NATALEE BRODERICK**

The BSU (Black Students Union) Bash, on Nov. 17, 2006, got off to a very slow start; several would-be partygoers just stood around, waiting for something to happen. I spoke with the BSU president, Mr. Ian Reynolds, who said more patrons would be coming in later. The \$2 entry fee had a negative effect on attendance; all other club events so far for this calendar have been free. The music selection was good when this reporter arrived at the party. However, a little bit more diversity in the music would have satisfied a greater

number of attendees.

Unfortunately, BSU started serving food in the dark (The lights were dimmed to create a club atmosphere). After a while, patrons finally got some well-needed light so they could see what they were eating. BSU did not have any main courses from which to choose. What they did have was a variety of sandwiches and wraps, as well as with buffalo chicken wings. Apparently, the food was not a hit with the crowd. Many of the sandwiches remained uneaten by the end of the party.

Around 7:30 pm, the DJ changed the music to an up-tempo beat and the patrons

got onto the dance floor. As the party got into high gear, more people came in. There was an impromptu dance routine by a group of young women. The performance was O.K. but mistimed, since others on the dance floor were just getting into their grooves. Had they performed their routine earlier it may have been better received. DJ Sparks blazed the turntables a while more and the attendees partied away until it was time to go.

Although the turnout was smaller than expected, most of those who showed up enjoyed themselves nonetheless. ■

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