Tanya Smith on Contemporary Art

Health Services Expanded!

Edwin Dominguez on College Discovery

Multi-Cultural Week

Photo Extravaganza

Dean Lugo's “The One-Stop Shop”

Simone Clarke on The Center for Women

Tara Perez on Child Care

Jasmin Nogueras on Kosovo

Club News Poetry

The New Farm System: Are we the Crops?
The staff of "The Bridge" would like to thank Dean Ruth Lugo, Patricia Garrett, Michael from computer services, Prof. Terrence Julien, Student Body President Carlos Bonetti, Irene Sosa, for making this issue possible.
"From 1982 to 1993 the Instructional faculty at public institutions of higher education increased 28.5% while the number of correctional officers increased by an astonishing 129%. From 1985 - 1995, state government expenditures on prisons increased by 30%, while spending on education decreased by 18%.” -Justice Policy Institute

We are entering a new millennium and our nation has more people in jail today than ever before in its history. The doors of opportunity for inner-city youth are being slammed shut while politicians scream “let them eat cake!” For many of us, life has held the real options of death and prison before school. Rome is burning -ladies and gentlemen- can you feel the heat?

welcome to

"The New Farm System"
African Americans only make up 13% of the general population, but make up over half the prison population. The rate of incarceration is almost five times greater for African Americans than it is for their white counterparts. One out of every fourteen black men is now in prison or jail. The odds that a black person will go to prison are 16.2%, Latinos 9.4%, and whites 2.5%. Professor Jody Armour commented that “It is unrealistic to dispute the depressing conclusion that for many Americans, crime has a black face.” The ratio of the minorities in prison to the other population is disproportionate. Not only because of the judicial system but also because of police action.

Racial profiling is the discriminatory practice of linking minorities with criminal activity. In 1992, The Orlando (Florida) Sentinel found that although “only 5% of people driving on an average night were minorities. Nearly 70% of the people stopped were minorities.” According to The (New Jersey) Region, “a Gloucester County judge found that minorities are five times more likely than whites to be stopped on New Jersey highways.”

Most young African American and Hispanics do not know that they have the right to object to being stopped and searched as stated in the Fourth Amendment. If the officer cannot prove probable cause and reasonable suspicion this would constitute an illegal act.

In the 1980s, Congress passed the mandatory sentencing laws. The sentences that are handed out under these laws are based solely on the amount of drugs in the offence. They are also based on the amount of evidence found in a conspiracy case. A judge is prohibited from considering any other facts in these cases, including the actual role of the defendant. The only way of escaping the mandatory sentences is by providing information that the prosecutor can use against somebody else.

Kemba Smith is an example of the flaws in the judicial system. She was tried and convicted on the charge of conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Although the prosecution admitted she had never actually handled or sold drugs she was convicted. Kemba was held accountable for the entire 225 kilograms of crack cocaine distributed by the drug ring. Because of the amount that was involved, Kemba was punished severely. Her sentence was 24 years with no possibility of parole.

As we move closer to the millennium, isn’t it time for the police force and the judicial system to realize that a change is needed? Can we as minority communities really afford another hundred years of archaic practices of the police and laws of the judicial system? Due to these laws and practices Kemba Smith is in prison for 24 1/2 years with no chance of parole. Kemba is just one example of injustices that continue in this country today.
The stripes of the red, white and blue have been traded in for the black and white of the prison life for many young Latinos and Blacks. Although the striped uniform is no longer in use, the prison system exists and is sadly growing. The focus of our society has shifted. We are preoccupied with how to punish criminals, keep them off the streets, and we have neglected one of the most important factors in life: education.

Over the past decades the amount of money put into prisons has far surpassed the amount of money put into education. We have thus been denying our children a basic tool for survival yet laying out the red carpet to jail.

How did this begin?

Nelson Rockefeller started the spark that would create our tough-on-crime society. He developed mandatory sentencing for minor drug possessions. His followers proceeded with The Carjacking Law (Chapter 308, Laws of 1995, A-5091/S.3021) which makes carjacking a felony resulting in the maximum penalty of 7 to 15 years and the Cyberpornography Law (Chapter 600, Laws of 1996, A.11154/S.210-e) which punishes people with up to seven years in prison for providing pornographic material to minors or soliciting minors for sex on the internet. The Trademark Counterfeiting Law (Chapter 535, Laws of 1995, A.6325-b/S.3620-b) has two degrees. The first degree states that if the retail value is $100,000 or more the crime is punishable by 15 years in prison. On the second degree, if the counterfeiting is up to $1,000, it is punishable for up to four years. These crimes are serious but prison isn’t the only answer. Eric Schlosser states, “The failure to spend enough money on relatively inexpensive sanctions such as drug treatment and probation, has forced the state to increase spending on prisons.” The building of new prisons or paying for the now popular “private” prison has reduced the funds badly needed for education. A private prison is a facility that is run separately from the government but paid for by government funds. This is the latest business venture for entrepreneurs. It is reported that the chief executive officer of Wackenhut Corrections, a private prison, made $366,000 last year, not including his bonus of $122,500 or his stock option grant of $20,000 worth of shares. It is the prison’s interest to keep the inmates as long as possible.

In reality, the whole prison system is seen as a business. The profit rendered from prisons is 100 million dollars a year. Major finance companies like Merrill Lynch, Allstate, Shearson Lehman and American Express invest in private prisons. The private prison market of the prison has grown to involve long distance communications companies and building contractors who eagerly await their next task; at this rate it seems like there will...
always be a next task. MCI Maximum Security installed free pay phones in prisons at no charge because they knew the revenue would exceed the cost of the free installation. An expert states, “A pay phone at a prison can generate as much as $15,000 a year.” Inmate phone calls are like magnets that phone companies can’t resist.

**The business that now employs entire towns has taken away our future.**

This business that now employs entire towns has taken away our future. Whether it be subconscious genocide or not, it has created a cycle that makes us Latinos and African Americans their crops. We are heavily harvested. On every corner lies an anxious farmer waiting to pick, pack and ship us away.

The prison life has had an unbalanced effect on minorities, especially Blacks and Latinos. The percentages are significantly larger than those of any other group. They are incarcerated for minor drug possession. Young Latinos are jailed up to five years for a minor crime when they in fact could be in a rehabilitating program much more effectively than being locked up for five years. They already are victims of the system and putting them in prison only makes them a statistic.

Before the new tough on crime laws came into effect the number of prisoners was distributed equally, white/black and Latino. After the laws the numbers drastically changed.

Ironically enough the majority of drug users are white people. Yet the number of people caught for drug possession are mostly minorities. Society through profiling, a poor education system and lack of funds has facilitated the road to prison so that Latinos and African Americans are the main ones receiving the jail sentences. We cannot let this go on. What are we waiting for? Is half the minority population to be behind bars, a generation of jail babies? We have to wake up or get locked up.

**Table 2. Changes in Annual Drug Offense Commitments, by Race.**

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Whites % Increase</th>
<th>Latinos % Increase</th>
<th>African Americans % Increase</th>
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Beware of the Prison Industrial Complex if you are a minority who wants to hang out this summer! They are looking to harvest fresh young people in rural areas. Our elected state officials pour billions of dollars into the prison system because they want to create jobs in economically depressed regions. These officials past and present, have included Barry Goldwater, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Mario Cuomo, and George Pataki, just to name a few. They have been spending our tax-free education funds on an ineffective, costly, criminal justice system for more than a decade! Every $100 million spent on new prison construction commits taxpayers to $1.6 billion over the next three decades. The cost of operating a prison bed averages between $22,000 and $25,000 per prisoner per year, which often does not include food and medical services contracted out to private companies. These off-budget items can increase incarceration expenditures by about 25% or $8 billion annually. With the high costs of simply building the prison, some states cannot afford the operation cost. In South Carolina, two prisons that cost $80 million dollars each stood empty due to a shortage of money.” Is this the bridge to the 21st century that Bill Clinton wants? We must remember that we live in a democracy that is supposed to entitle everyone to equal opportunity.

As you can see, prisons are a priority over education in this conservative society. The lack of education spending affects students who have the potential to make a difference.
nation deliberately segregates society by replacing incarcerated minorities with Caucasians from other countries. Vincent Shiraldi says “If Whites were arrested at the same rate, we would not be building prisons. Governor Pataki would be declaring a state of emergency. People would scratch their heads and ask Why is this happening to our children and not their children?” This proves to be a racist ideology. Our government should spend money to educate minorities so that they can be equally represented in the workforce and contribute to society. The state governments are attacking many minority college students because they are not a cohesive unit. They are powerless because they are not supported by lobbyists like workers who are represented by labor unions. Some minorities live in the urban communities. These communities are always outnumbered by the state when a candidate is being elected. Many minority students are also weak because they choose not to vote for social change. We must remember that bad officials are elected by good people who do not vote.

The crime laws deliberately set up many minorities to be imprisoned because our state officials do not want to finance education. What does this imply about the future of our society? Why should minorities be the majority behind bars? Let’s take a look at the effects this has on universities. According to the Justice Policy Institute, “From 1982 to 1993, the instructional faculty at public institutions of higher education increased 28.5% nationally, while the number of correctional officers increased by an astonishing 129%. From 1985 - 1995, state government expenditures on prisons increased by 30%, while spending on education decreased by 18%.” This shows us that many poorly educated minorities continue to fall through the cracks of our society.

The opportunities that CUNY and SUNY have offered to students are diminishing. According to the Justice Policy Institute, “Governor Pataki vetoed $500 million dollars for school construction, $77 million for teacher salary enhancement, and cut $17.32 million from the State University of New York, and $8.6 million from the City University of New York budget. Governor Pataki also cut $8.8 million from SUNY, and $7.5 million from CUNY for the hiring of more faculty, and $13.5 million for a program that would have given students $65 credits for textbook purchases. He also wants to raise SUNY’s tuition by $750 which has caused 10,000 to drop out of school in 1998. The last three years have seen the biggest jumps in tuition in New York history.” This affects many students because it places financial barriers on them to continue education and raise a family.

According to data compiled by the Student Association of the State of New York, “Tuition has been rising at above the rate of inflation since 1991. The cost of attending SUNY has gone from $7319 in 1991 to $11,201 by 1997 - a 35 percent increase. Over the last decade, class availability has dropped so dramatically that in many state universities, it takes an average of 5 - 1/2 years to get a 4 year degree. CUNY colleges have been hit with a $615 million dollar loss since 1988.” Are you aware of the consequences of these inhumane acts? If we ignore these recent decisions, the City University of New York will lose precious funding and suffer by losing its status as one of the best public education systems in the world.

C.U.N.Y has eliminated remedial classes in the senior colleges and affirmative action is not saving the students. The minority students who have not been prepared in the city’s crumbling high schools are forced into a crowded workforce without hope of careers because they are not ready for college work. How are these individuals going to support themselves? They will end up making meager salaries in dead-end jobs. These dilemmas may influence many minorities to lead a life of crime be-
cause there is nothing else that they know how to do better. These are the reasons why a high percentage of people in prison are homeless, mentally ill, drug dealers, drug addicts, alcoholics, violent sociopaths, and illiterate illegal aliens. It seems that there is a market for the incarceration of the victims of our nation’s problems, which encourages little chance of rehabilitation. Politicians are elected to correct these social ills.

In 1991, CUNY saved ex-offenders and youths at risk by starting a program called C.U.N.Y Alliance for Transitional Career Help. The purpose of the program is to help youths at risk and ex-offenders continue their education. At LaGuardia Community College, it is located in the Correction Education Office, C 238. John Chiarkas is the director of the program. When asked about how his program helps minorities he said, “This program starts at Rikers Island Prison. 10,000 inmates attend G.E.D preparation classes in the four high schools that are located in Rikers Island. Our program continues in LaGuardia Community College after the prisoners are released. These ex-offenders can continue their education in the C.U.N.Y system. We provide guidance counseling and vocational training for these individuals. We also set up interviews for them with many employers. Many of our students get hired because the employer knows that C.U.N.Y supports our students who realize that they made a mistake.” This shows us that C.U.N.Y is dedicated to serving the leaders of tomorrow and people who seek opportunities.

As we can see, the state governments spend $35 billion dollars a year on a shiny new prison system. Some of this money comes from higher education funds. Those education funds are ours! As students, we have to become active by lobbying for our rights as minorities. We cannot accept the stereotypes that minorities are criminals. We have to fight for education because it is the only avenue that is going to lead us to a bright future. DON’T LET THEM TAKE IT AWAY FROM US!! SAVE OUR FUTURE! VOTE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE! VOTE IN THE MAYOR’S RACE! VOTE IN THE GOVERNOR’S RACE! VOTE OR SUFFER!

THE GAME

By Doreen Charlton

Shackled by the color of my skin
Yet I stay in another man’s land
Dear God, have mercy on me
Another day began
I work, yet though it vain
We are all mentally enslaved
by this historical game

The sweat from my brow
Droops as though it is lead
I am scorned and verbally abused
But nothing is done, nothing is said
Emancipated mentally was just a thought
We are all fools
That are easily bought

Is it not blood, that runs through my veins
Do I have equal rights and justice
If you slashed me with a knife
do I not feel pain
Why is it that the color of my skin
Makes such a significant contrast
Why is it that we are trapped today
By the monuments of the past

Freedom, freedom,
I’m crying out to be free
Freedom is what I am yearning
Stop, look, listen, do you know
What our children are now learning
Think before you aim
Don’t you think that this is a psychological game

Playing in the danger zone
trying your best to survive
The cotton-picking days of yesterday
Are now still alive
Though my skin color may affect my future
Even though I am trying hard
for it not to be
They may take away my chance
But they will never take away my dignity
With all of the negative aspects associated with prison, the question remains: What else can be done with the criminals? The practical response would be to first assess prisoners according to their needs (e.g., prisoners who receive jail time instead of the mental health service or physical health care that they immediately need). This does not discount the fact that they have committed crimes and do in fact owe a public debt, but sending hundreds of thousands of non-violent convicts to jail with no means of reformation produces the chance of repeated criminal behavior. Rehabilitation in federal U.S. prisons is something that is sorely lacking compared to private prisons (those run by companies hired by government agencies). Rehabilitation in government controlled prisons is far less: many inmates will probably never receive treatment that may help them to reform. Yet we condemn these criminals for not learning their lessons the first time. What they actually learned was how crippled they job prospects are and how to become worse.

Admittedly reform is not an option for every inmate. Each individual is different. But perhaps for every juvenile offender convicted of a misdemeanor or non-violent felony crimes, the draconian outdated Rockefeller laws seem only to keep the steady flow of young minority males in the criminal justice system rather than address the real problem.

Reasoning for rehabilitation simply is that although these types of crimes are serious, the convicts responsible for committing them have not taken a human life, the cardinal sin amongst all crimes. By instituting a policy of reform for prison inmates it may be possible to affect them positively- get them to think rationally about crime and its effects, before they think of committing more dangerous and possibly deadly acts. Reform those who can be reformed and perhaps their example will encourage others to change their ways, or better yet, never begin exploring criminal activities.

Other solutions are on their way. The recent legislation concerning the residence of police in New York is a positive step in the right direction. It helps remove the color line between those going upstate to the summer house and those going to the big house. Finally, but foremost, we must police ourselves, we must understand how our communities have fallen, how our behavior is affected by our defeatist morality. We are kings and queens reduced to player and hoe’s because we have lost the sight of our predecessors. They died for the right to vote yet we play ourselves every November. We cannot complain about the Institution of Law lynching us if we don’t even exercise our own legal rights. Conclusion: LOOK, LEARN, LISTEN, REALISE REAL LIES, THEN VOTE!
Meet Big Brother
Open Admissions, Surveillance and Armed Security
by Orlando Green and Jerry Munoz

When a LaGuardia Community College student, Clifford Newport, was arrested on March 23rd 1995, he did not know that he would end up on an enemies list put together by CUNY's central administration and the New York City Police Department (NYPD). In 1995, lawyers working with CUNY student activists subpoenaed public information concerning students arrested in protests and surveillance notes of undercover security officers following students to demonstrations.

Copies of the lists contain racial and ethnic information, birth dates, home addresses, social security numbers and enrollment statuses of dozens of young men and women arrested in March, April and May of 1995.

CUNY spokeswoman Rita Rodin denies there is a sinister motive to the lists. "It was an informational list" to tell concerned parents in case their children were arrested. Atty. Ronald McGuire disagrees with this. In a WBAI interview in 1996 Ron McGuire compared this situation to the Richard Nixon era when "Nixon would ask the IRS which journalists had problems with their tax returns." Copies of the list were circulated to different campus administrators and security. Administrators were asked by CUNY’s Central office "which students are in bad academic standing?" "This is an intelligence operation and it stinks", said McGuire.

What is the context and reason for such a list? Ron McGuire feels that it is because CUNY has graduated more Black and Latino students in this nation than any other university system. There is a fear of their political maturity. Although this list was subpoenaed in 1995, it does not mean that it stopped with 1995. In 1998 at Baruch College, campus activist, Orlando Green was politically barred from the campus and students who were politically and socially involved with Green were harassed by SAFE security. One young woman, who never got arrested at rallies or political actions, was approached by security officers who illegally cited her grade point average. The officer told her that if she became politically involved that she would "fail her classes."

To get a view from CUNY students on this issue, we asked Octovia Butler, a Black student from LaGuardia College, what she thought on the subject. "There is a fear of Black and Hispanic youth getting educated to lead their communities. Open Admissions was meant for that in 1969 when 250 Black and Puerto Rican students took over City College for our people to be..."
here today in CUNY. Some of them were members of the New York Black Panther Party who had a vision of a CUNY for our youth.

In relation to Open Admissions, students organized in CUNY from 1989, 91, 95-96 and 98 - the present for the preservation of programs that racially integrated CUNY to mobilize against educational budget cuts and tuition increases. During that time period CUNY experienced building takeovers by students in response to the policy attacks on the university. Students seized LaGuardia several times in 1991. Although the security buildup is sometimes attributed to the Puffy Combs incident in CCNY in 1991, the building takeovers are the primary reason.

Chancellor Ann Reynolds, decided to build a security force that rivaled any small town police department. During the campus takeovers in 89 and 91, campus presidents on numerous CUNY colleges protected the students from arrest by the police. Because of this Reynolds created the SAFE Team that served the campus president in the decision-making of arresting students in times of emergencies. This SAFE team is led by Jose Etique and has cost almost $100 million dollars in six years. For eleven years Jose Etique served as the head of the Port Authority Anti-Terrorist Squad. Why is the former head of an intelligence agency against terrorism selected for college security?

Att'y. Roger Wareham believes that because of the racial composition of today's CUNY students and their lower class backgrounds "power players in this international city fear a Second Coming of the radical politics thirty years ago." Wareham cites that from demonstrations in the 80s and the recent CUNY protests, that many of the current SAFE officers are "twenty year police veterans that used to do intelligence work for the NYPD in the 80s." He adds, "In many of my protests in the 80s with the December 12th Movement, I remember many of these campus cops from New York's infamous BLACK DESK." The BLACK DESK was an NYPD counterintelligence program in the 80s that monitored the activities of community activists in New York City. The BLACK DESK was very reminiscent of the counterintelligence programs that activists believe the FBI used against Malcolm X and the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense.

According to CUNY security officials, this security buildup is necessary to maintain peace. However, CUNY's own records show that violent crime rates in CUNY colleges have remained constantly low in the past 15 years. On all the CUNY campuses, there were less than a dozen recorded incidents of violent crimes. After all the money spent, is this armed security force here to protect the students or to protect the powers that be from the students?
Thanks to the students in the college, the Health Services Referendum Proposal was approved during the Student Government Elections, which were recently held.

May 4-6, 1999 during the petition signing, stage I, 796 students signed their names on petitions to have the Health Services Referendum appear on the ballot so that the entire student body could vote on the issue.

The Student Government Association, The Bridge and other student groups were in favor of the proposal, but it needed LaGuardia students to make the final determination. The question remaining was would a majority of students vote yes, to have assessed an additional $5.00 Student Activity Fee per semester per student (part/full time).

On May 7, 1999, the day following the elections, the results were in. Out of 1,202 students (10.3% of the student body) voting in the elections, 570 voted yes, 282 voted no and 350 abstained. Consequently, the Health Services Referendum was approved. President Raymond C. Bowen will present the item to the CUNY Board of Trustees at their June 1999 meeting. If it is approved, the fee increase will go into effect for the Fall 1999 Semester.

What will this mean to LaGuardia students? To start off, it means that free additional health services will be added and they could possibly include the following:

- **Free Physical Examinations:** General physical evaluations (heart, lungs, blood pressure work, etc.)
- **Medical Treatment:** Diagnosis, Follow-up and/or Referral for illnesses, etc.
- **Wellness Health Education Workshops:** HIV/AIDS, Nutrition Education, Stress Management, etc.
- **General Health Care Information:** Printed literature on heart disease, Diabetes, Cancer, Tuberculosis, Pre-natal Care, etc.
- **Gynecological Exams**
- **Pregnancy Testing**
- **Prescription of Medication for Illnesses**

At this point, we are in the process of identifying the specific health services that will be provided on campus. Once these services have been identified, notices will be placed throughout the college. The new health services delivery model will go into effect sometime during the Fall 1999 Semester.

On behalf of the Student Services Cluster/Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, I would like to thank all of the students who voted. In addition, we appreciate the support and assistance we received from the Health Center's Peer Health Educator's who went out throughout the campus for several weeks prior to the elections to educate and promote the proposed health initiative to students. Job well done!

Vincent Banrey
Associate Director
Student Services Cluster

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The College Discovery Program

The College Discovery Program provides services to eligible students from counseling, supplemental instruction, tutorial services and a financial aid stipend. According to the State Education Law and the City University of New York a student is considered eligible for the program only if he or she is economically and/or academically disadvantaged, and has not previously attended a college or university except students enrolled in HEO or EOP programs. A student also needs to be a graduate from an approved high school or has earned a New York State high school equivalency diploma or its equivalent.

Steve Dauz, director of the College Discovery Program, said that “in this program students get as much help as they need.” One of the great things about the program is the relationship each student builds with a counselor. Dauz added that College Discovery students have the same counselor from the first day on the program until it ends. This helps the counselor place special attention on special needs students might have.

Carlos Bonetti, student body president, said that the College Discovery Program helped him build more techniques in his study habits. “One of the best things about College Discovery is the one-on-one counseling,” Bonetti said. As with many other students, the College Discovery Program has been very important in the development of their college life.

The College Discovery Program is located in C-229. Hours for the program are Monday, Tuesday and Friday, 9-5; Wednesday and Thursday, 9-6:30. The phone number for the program is 718-482-5270.

- By Edwin Dominguez
  Staff Reporter
Succeeding with Ethnic Pride
By Anna Ramos

“Never lose your culture,” suggested Manuel Colon when we had the opportunity to discuss his academic and personal achievements. Manuel Colon, known to his friends as Manny, is the former president of Latinos Unidos. He is also a college senator, a newly elected student governor, and is widely known throughout the school by students and faculty for his dedication within the college.

Latinos Unidos is a social organization that has been in existence for over two years. It offers Latino students a chance to unite and learn about each other’s different cultures and perspectives. Manny’s main concern is culture and the importance for Latinos to come together and recognize one another. The greatest reward that touches Manny’s heart is when a student approaches him with appreciation for his support and for the difference that he made in that individual’s life.

Manny told me that running the club took intensive work and energy. However, he was lucky to have dedicated students working beside him. “I had an excellent executive board that took care of most of the work,” he noted. Latinos Unidos runs many helpful events during the year. The club holds a toy and coat drive during the fall and a food drive in the spring. One of the most enjoyable events held was the Puerto Rican Parade last June. Forty-five people from LaGuardia marched, including deejays, cheerleaders, and the president of the college, Mr. Raymond Bowen.

Latinos Unidos and other clubs coordinated the Second Annual Hispanic Heritage Showcase. Manny, with help from club members, obtained funding for the showcase from the College Association and from President Raymond Bowen. Manny personally contacted most of the outside performers that participated in the show. The performances included salsa, Peruvian, Colombian, and Mexican dancers and musicians, a Latin rock band, a mariachi band (an ensemble of traditional Mexican musicians), and much more. Three hundred twenty-five LaGuardia students and family members attended the showcase. For next year’s showcase Manny plans to advertise the affair citywide and invite all CUNY students and faculty members, as well as the president of the borough of Queens, to introduce them to an enjoyable night filled with delightful Latin culture.

Manny is a Business Administration major. He expects to graduate from a senior college with a Business Management degree, which will open doors for him to start his own business one day. He plans to continue working in the college senate and serving as an advisor to Latinos Unidos. Manny is now a student governor who enthusiastically said, “When the election results came in and I saw that 400 people voted for me, I felt very proud. Now it’s time to start making positive changes in this college.”

Manny was born in New York City; however, his heart belongs to his homeland, Puerto Rico. Once he finishes his college education here, he hopes to return to his native land. Manny prefers to live in an atmosphere where he can admire the presence of his country’s nature and a place that he can call home.

Manny Colon has recently been elected to judicial review in our student elections. Congrats from The Bridge.
Chairperson Anne Paolucci resigns from CUNY Board of Trustees

Dr. Anne A. Paolucci has resigned her post as chairwoman and member of the Board of Trustees of the City of New York effective June 1, 1999.

In a letter of resignation to Governor George E. Pataki on Monday, Dr. Paolucci indicated her desire to step aside after nearly three years as a CUNY Board member, 27 months of which she served as a Chairwoman. In accepting her resignation the Governor said: “Throughout your career, you have been an untiring advocate for public education. Never willing to settle for second best, you have insisted upon the highest standards, always demanding the best from students and the best for students.” He also said, “your efforts have helped make the City University more efficient, more accountable and better prepared to equip students with the knowledge and tools they will need to meet the challenges of the new millennium.”

Dr. Paolucci said today that she decided to return to her own scholarly work, and cited her belief that the University was “entering a new phase in its restructuring and that a new chair should be in place for that purpose.”

CUNY Interim Chancellor Christoph M. Kimmich praised Chairwoman Paolucci as a “prominent scholar and university educator who worked tirelessly on behalf of the university.” He thanked her for her “deep dedication to the mission of the City University of New York and her unwavering commitment to providing and education of high quality to the people of New York.”

Major CUNY initiatives begun during Dr. Paolucci’s tenure include:

* The phasing out of remediation at the senior colleges, and expanded collaborations with the city’s public schools to improve the academic preparation of students prior to college entry;

* The establishment of a University proficiency examination to assess students’ progress and the revamping of teacher education programs, including new admission standards and incentives to recruit and retain high quality teacher candidates;

* The designation of an acting president at Hostos Community College following an intensive review of the academic standards of the college;

* The comprehensive revision of the college presidential search procedures and the designation of a president for New York City Technical College.

The City University of New York, the nation’s leading urban university, comprises 11 senior colleges, six community colleges, a graduate school, a law school, and a medical school. Nearly 200,000 degree-credit students and 155,000 adult and continuing education students are enrolled throughout the five boroughs of the City of New York.

Now that Paolucci has left us, Mr. Herman badillo has been appointed by Governor Pataki as the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees. He will continue the work on the restructuring of the CUNY system.

More information is available on the CUNY website (http://www.cuny.edu).
The Following speech was written and given by Professor Brian Gallagher of Laguardia’s English Department at the commencement ceremony of The Exploring Transfer Program last summer at Vassar College. We at The Bridge want to display all forms of beautiful “Wordcraft” and feel that Prof. Gallagher’s speech is a great piece worthy of contemplation in our present academic times.

It is rather odd and surprising, though also very pleasurable, to find myself, at my age and after more than a quarter-century of teaching, a “rookie” but in terms of E.T. (Exploring Transfer) I am a rookie, and it is as a rookie that I have been asked to speak, the rest of the present E.T. faculty having given their commencement thoughts in previous years. In other words, I am yours by default for the next few minutes.

We are, all of us, contradictory creatures, able to hold in mind thoughts, opinions, impressions and emotions at variance with one another. The task of education, as I see it, is not so much to obliterate those contradictions, but rather to make us more conscious of them and, at education’s best, to suggest some possible syntheses among them. Towards that end, let me attempt a vaguely Marxist dialectical analysis concerning impressions about being here at Vassar. Impressions I think that some, perhaps many, of you may share. Thesis: those of us who study (and teach) at community colleges and, indeed, people from the Vassar side too are bound to feel some righteous resentment that a certain (relatively small) segment of the population in so supposedly a “democratic” country as the United States is allowed to study in such propitious circumstances, with such a wealth of resources, and with such freedom from many of the pressures of workday life as Vassar represents. At its best, I may add, this feeling is altruistic: you have come here and succeeded, marvelously, despite coming from understaffed, underfunded, underappreciated institutions; however, it should not in our society take such heroic efforts for decent people to get a decent education. Antithesis: Vassar is a beautiful place, spread out commodiously on hundreds of acres. I think my own, horizontally challenged, college might well fit on the library lawn, acres set off from the larger world in a way that can help create a more knowing, more intellectual, more thorough view of that larger world. And to find, down by the lake or in a library nook or under a grand, 150-year-old tree, a personal space to read in utter calm and quiet is an extreme pleasure both sensual and intellectual. Synthesis: ultimately, education does not take place in space but in mind, and in this regard there is an affinity between the institutions most of us have come from and the institution we are momentarily inhabiting. All are but means to an end, to produce educated human beings.

Education is, and should be, hard work, for it demands serious consideration of material we may find, in turn, challenging, distressful, self-certifying and just plain hard to master. And education alone shall not make anyone free, for knowledge can be put to preserve uses or merely traded for gold. But if you believe in ideals like equality and justice and charity, you certainly have a better chance of working to attain them if you are educated than if you are ignorant. And make no mistake: there are forces in our society which desperately want to keep the mass of people ignorant, for ignorant men and women are the most easily controllable of human beings. People who know little or nothing are ripe for exploitation, and easily set at each other’s throats.

You have all in these five weeks taken an immense educational leap forward. All I would ask as an educator, to make the thrill of this experience complete for me, is that as you keep going forward that you remember from whence you came. When powerful cliques of the wealthy and their political minions insist that a through going education should only be for those persons you can afford it, fight their view to the death. When the privateers, descendants of Veblen’s only real estate speculators, insist that public education should only exist so a few speculators can make a fast buck on it, throw them out of our educational town. And when anyone insists that there are people unworthy of being educated, rise up and proclaim, “No, in thunder!”

Thank you.
The Student Center for Women is a place where women can go for counseling on balancing career and family, relationships, violence toward women, women's health and other problems that women may face.

However, the Student Center for Women is not only a place for women, but also for men who are interested in learning about women's issues.

This program has been at LaGuardia since 1992. The purpose of this program is to meet the needs of our women. However, to continue this program, which has changed the lives of many of our women, the Student Center for Women needs your support. The student center needs some students, both males and females, to bring their ideas to the group. It also needs students for discussions on whatever problems someone may face.

If you are interested in joining the staff of the Student Center for Women, please go to room M114, and talk to any of the staff on duty or call Dr. Bandalamundi at (718) 482-5188.

Photos by Tara Perez

Registration is a time of total chaos and frustration. There are always discrepancies between departments and it takes hours and sometimes days to register for classes. Well, Dean Lugo believes that registration should be a quick and painless process and she is making moves to make it just that.

Dean Lugo wants to designate an area by the terminal room that will serve as a single stop-off point. This point will "provide both information and a "light" service for admissions, registrar, financial aid, and advisement. Included, is a student-friendly service area that provides a complete understanding of the enrollment process.

She also has made a proposal for a centralized filing system. She says "There is a great need for one master student file. We need a central loc..."
The Center for Women
by Simone Clarke

The Student Center for Women provides many workshops for women’s needs. Above are pictures from the self-defense for women workshop held on April 19th and instructed by Carlos Carmona, president of The Martial Arts Club.

The Office of Student Life and Development is always trying to improve the lives of LGCC’s students. In this spirit, Dean Lugo stated, “I am very interested in what the LaGuardia student body thinks and I am having focus groups to find out what the students would like to see change that will better serve them. I want to enhance the whole process of advisement and by accomplishing this goal I feel I am planting a seed for the future.” At this point in time Dean Lugo is preparing to make this proposal tangible by taking it before the College Association to discuss budget possibilities.
LaGuardia Student Receives National Academic Award

An international student at LaGuardia Community College received a prestigious national award for his outstanding academic record and extensive college and community service. Eric Tan, a 37-year-old native of Singapore who came to this country in 1995 with the hope of receiving a college degree and going on to a career in the health field, was selected to the All-USA Academic Third Team for Community and Junior Colleges. The award, which attracted 1,400 nominations from two-year institutions throughout the country, is sponsored by USA Today, The American Association of Community Colleges, and Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society. From the pool, 60 students were selected to the first, second, and third teams.

"Eric is a fine example of many of our foreign-born students who come to this country and look to the City University of New York as a gateway to a better life," said LaGuardia President Raymond C. Bowen. "Despite the many economic and personal challenges that so many of our international students must overcome, Eric strove to excel academically and to develop admirable leadership qualities. We are grateful that the three organizations recognize his wonderful accomplishments."

Mr. Tan decided to follow a new path in 1995 when he left his job as an airline steward at Singapore Airlines, and with his international student status moved to the United States. He arrived in New York in August and by September he was enrolled in the physical therapy assistant program at LaGuardia. "I wanted to achieve something now before I would regret it," said Mr. Tan. At the college he quickly excelled in his studies. He went into his semester with a 3.64 grade point average. "It is not very good," said a modest Mr. Tan who explained that the competition is very stiff in his field of study.

Although he is not impressed, scholastic organizations did take notice. He recently won the New York State First Team Award of the All-USA Academic Award. In 1997, he was placed on the National Dean's List and was named All-American Scholar by the United States Achievement Academy. He also collected a number of academic honors presented by the college. His glowing academic record also gave him entrance into the college's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and in 1997 he was elected the chapter's president.

In this leadership role, Mr. Tan established a new service in a peer tutoring program for the College Discovery Program, which is a comprehensive program for students who require basic skills courses. He went out and recruited his fellow Phi Theta Kappa members who served as tutors to students who needed extra help in particular classes. "The project proved to be a success and is now permanent," Mr. Tan proudly said. "I am glad that I will leave something behind." His volunteerism also extended into the community, At the Park Avenue Christian Church, he coordinated a community lunch program for the homeless, and he joined the United Hospital Fund Volunteer Service. With his associates degree now in sight, Mr. Tan said he is busy concentrating on the next step toward his career goal: acceptance into the physical therapy program at the senior college. "I am getting closer to fulfilling my goals of helping people with health problems," he said.
The Early Childhood Learning Center, located in room MB-09, is a daycare center that provides a variety of programs for children between the ages of two years and ten months to six years of age. In the past the ECLC has been involved in the media to spur legislation regarding requirements for child care programs, advocate continuation of funding, and impart information about campus child-care programs and their positive effect on student retention.

Many students benefit from daycare programs provided for by our college, but some are ineligible because their children are under two years and ten months of age.

Renee Butler, Executive Director of the Learning Center, discussed the difficulty in obtaining additional space in the college. She informed me that additional space was requested in room M-169.

The ECLC is waiting to hear a decision. The Campus Affairs Committee reviews the request and makes a decision. I also found out from Renee Butler that there have not been many requests from students for additional space for children under the age of two years and ten months of age. Loretta Capuano, assistant to the Associate Dean of Student Affairs, also discussed other proposals that were made for room M-169. Requests were made for general space, faculty and student events space, and space for the Early Childhood Learning Center.

For any students interested in day care reforms for the school, please make requests to the student government, which meets approximately every one to two months to vote on any concern that affects the student body. While requests were made by the Early Childhood Learning Center, it is up to us as students to attend student senate meetings, write letters to government officials and make a positive change for our own future, as well as that of our fellow students.

For more information, please contact Renee Butler in Room MBO9, 718-482-5295.
and Your Money
- By Alejandro Huertas

Student Government is an organization that was founded on the principle of being able to represent the student body and fight for students' rights. Student Government, is an organization which also serves to provide information to students on what is going on in the school culturally, academically, and even politically. However the most important role the student government has is to represent the voiceless in a never-ending political struggle to fight for students' rights.

Sadly throughout the semester students were subjected to random acts of brutality by the CUNY board of trustees and even by your own student government. What do you mean brutal attacks by student government? Simply put, student government has wasted your money on convention trips to Florida, Chicago, and even Washington D.C. and dance parties at your expense (not that students wouldn't mind a party or two!). But what is even more startling is the fact that student government which has gone to these wonderful convention trips has not bothered to at least have some workshops on what information they have received, or learned so that it can be beneficial to you. To point out that student government spent $10,000 of your money for the 36th National Conference on Student Services in November of last year in Washington D.C. is kind of interesting to me. However, what is even more disturbing to me is that somehow student government came back and provided nothing to help service the clubs within your school with any information a National Conference of Student Services would provide! Before I continue on with my article I should just point out a couple of things to make you more aware of what is going on with your student government and the government of your school:

A. Student elections are done and your present student government President is no longer president after July 1st 1999.

What does this mean to you?

B. A new government has been elected including your new U.S.S. Representatives who represent you on a CUNY wide level.

What does this mean to you? And what the heck is the U.S.S.?

Now I have pointed out some of the things that you as a student may not be aware of or are just not informed of. Point A: there's a whole new student government in town that was just elected a week ago. Do you know that your new student government has a whole new pot of ideas that they want to use for you? The name of the new student government slate is NEW DIRECTION and 90% of them got into office. New Direction wants to continue the fight against remediation cuts, for advanced labs
and expansion of the day care center, just to list a few. So the question is; can you live with these ideas that the new student government July 1st is willing to work with? Can you the 10% that voted in a new student government begin to see more negative aspects of the new student government or more positive aspects?

How will student government use its influence to make sure that the new president of LGCC is a student-oriented candidate? You may ask, “What influence?” Student government has access to approximately one and a half million dollars in LGCC reserve funds. This money comes through the College Budget Committee of which student government controls six seats. Student government also will control $60,800 of its own funds which they do not have to ask permission to use and can allocate at will. This means that any event, any production, any improvement, and any lobbying on this campus can be sponsored by student government.

Point B: U.S.S., what the heck is it? U.S.S. unlike the U.S.S. Enterprise is the United Student Senate that meets ever so often. Not that the students know who they are or what they do, but they meet to represent you within a bigger body of other students on academic issues such as the open admissions policy within CUNY. They discuss attacks made on CUNY by outside forces like the Benno C. Schmidt Mayoral Task Force. However, somehow you as the student body don’t know these things because of one very important reason: you don’t have a strong student government! And because you don’t have a strong student government you are not well informed on what’s going on within the school. Departments may crumble and you may not know, and you’re left wondering why departments are closed on Fridays. It may seem that I’m blaming student government for not informing the students of what is going in school. Maybe it seems like I’m blaming the school for not providing some kind of information or even a newsletter to let you know that the President is leaving us or even when the grading policy has changed or even if we have enough full-time faculty!

Perhaps we all need to be informed of what is going on in our own school. But to be informed in a way that allows students to feel that there is something being done to help improve our school. To let students know that if you have a problem with a professor or with a paper it is nice to know that there is something a student can go to when he or she needs help. To sum it all up, we as the students hope that the new student government will be one of peace. One that will fight for the right things and one that will go on conventions and always keep students of LaGuardia informed on how they use your money. But the most important thing to do is to keep the students informed on what’s going on within the school and what's going on outside the school that's relevant to you!
Let’s take a look at the big picture. Let’s really look at it; turn the flashy technology down, and see America for what it really is: Black and White. Let’s appreciate this wonderful piece of work. Let’s point fingers and name names. Let us start at the top and work our way down, but first, let’s learn our palette. Remember this simple fact:

In America if you are African American
You Black.
Si tu eres Puerto Rican
You Black.
If you are Dominican
You Black.
If you are Jewish
You Black.
If you are Gay
You Black.
If you grew up in the five boroughs, poor, white, and identify more with Jeru than Jewel
Guess what?
You Black.
If you do not understand this system, come see me in Rm. M118 E, we’ll talk.

Now that we have our colors laid out, let’s look at the period. We are at the end of the 20th century. Social programs initiated by “The New Deal” are under attack. Social Security is running out. We spend billions to wage war but fail to provide ourselves with decent healthcare. We vilify single mothers but stay mute when it comes to corporate welfare. Cults get blamed for heartland shootings yet the NRA increases its membership. Affirmative Action is being dismantled and in New York, the Open Admissions Policy of CUNY has been abolished. Hate crimes have reached new heights and police brutality continues ignored. Little boys and girls play Ringolivio as FBI agents search for shells that killed Diallo.

If you are Cuban
You Black.
If you are Bangladeshi
You Black.
If you grew up in
the five boroughs, poor, white, and identify more with Jeru than Jewel
Guess what?
You Black.
If you are Jewish
You Black.
If you are Gay
You Black.
If you are Gay
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The period is definitely “post-modern.” But the piece is so avant-garde that it may send us into the New Dark Ages. Its subject: The Machine. The machine is known by many other names like The Man, The System, Bureaucracy, etc. In the words of Andrea Peyser, reporter for The Daily News, “The very nature of a bureaucracy is that it exists to feed itself. That is why those in the education establishment hang on, tooth and nail, against all reason, to perpetuate, the hoax that pays their salaries.” It seems that
The Machine has developed a new Triangle Trade and inner-city youth have replaced slaves as commodities. We have traded in sugar-cane refining and cotton picking for license plates in the New Farm System.

The fields in the New Farm System are well tended, they ensure crops for a declining industrial and agricultural economy upstate. Governor Pataki vetoed $500 million for school construction while he pushed through legislation for a shiny new 180 -million-dollar prison upstate. He also cut 8.6 million from the CUNY budget, 7.5 million for the hiring of new faculty and 13.5 million for a program that would have given students $65 credit toward textbook purchases. Mayor Giuliani's appointed henchmen on the Board of Trustees have just killed opportunity for thousands of inner-city youth in the name of "standards". Chancellor Rudy Crew gets a yearly salary reaching $245,000 yet fails to prepare his high-school graduates for CUNY entrance test. Our windows of opportunity are being outfitted with bars.

And how do we react? How do we deal with being born into bondage? We turn our backs to the keys to our cages. We refuse to vote. We glorify the ghetto mentality. We walk around afraid of each other because we act like we're treated; like animals. We call each other scrubs and chicken heads while our communities suffer from a lack of families. We fall into their traps and have no one else to blame but ourselves. We learn only what we think we need to know, but we don't even recognize what we need to know. Ignorance is bliss, or is it?

In the recent climate of our city, the editorial board of The Bridge felt that it was necessary to give LGCC something to be aware of before it hit summer streets. We took consideration of the fact that the severe hot weather in Los Angeles contributed to the riots and if the Diallo shooting had happened in New York during the hot months its aftermath would probably have been worse. Knowing this we felt it was our duty to inform you of your place in the multi-billion dollar prison panorama.

B-Boys, B-Girls, be wise. Next time you have some hardcore, H.S. diploma/ G.E.D., waiting list, third generation, long Island/ Jersey, crew-cut, flat foot, badge-brain cop breathing down your neck, let it slide, let it slide. Rubber, glue whatever, don't give them what they want. Assume a higher position. In the immortal words of Booker T. Washington, “I will never let a man drag me so low so that I hate him.” Have a good and safe summer and make sure this year's crops are low.

Hopefully, The Bridge will continue to bring you clear pictures, will continue to show you the rosy technicolor experience as well as the hard truth in Black and White. In September, The Bridge will have its annual election for a new Editorial Staff. I hope that the next generation of individuals understand the vital importance of their contributions. I hope that they will do this in spite of individuals who would rather have them silenced. I hope and have faith that they will. Why?

Because I have seen the resurrection of The Bridge. I have held a full color glossy magazine put out with heart. I have seen people juggle jobs, families, school to write and produce what you are reading right now without any promise of pay or reward. I have seen the critics' arrows used for fire wood. I have seen the disbelievers change their views. I have seen this happen through the perseverance of a wonderful staff. This staff was always with you. They are the people you see in the hallways, the people sitting next to you in class. They might be you and you always had talent. The Bridge is not over. This was not just a random show of talent. This was the unstoppable energy of academic souls living in desperation. This was you.

- Shawn Torres
Editor-in-Chief
I'm sure that at one point you have heard something about Kosovo lately. Whether you found out about it by watching your television or reading the paper, it doesn't matter. The fact still remains that Kosovo is the hottest and most controversial topic on the table right now. The question is, do you know why it is all so heated up?

The region of Kosovo is historically important. In 1389, Kosovo was the scene of a famous battle between the Ottoman Turks and Serbian Principality. Kosovo also came as a farm from Serbia, as did all the Balkan Turks. By the end of the nineteenth century, an alliance of Serbian nationalism was forming the time of Kosovo. Serbia became a focal point for the flare-ups of wars against the Turks. This caused an animosity that has become ingrained in the culture and national psyche of Kosovo.

Later, during the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, there was a period of nationalist uprising based on ethnic hatred. This occurred especially with those of the Serbs during a war in 1913 and 1914. This war caused clashes between the “Black Hand” of Serbia and the Turkish soldiers. Later in 1914, Gavrilo Principe, caused the First World War by assassinating Arch Duke Francis Ferdinand. The Empire of Austria-Hungary included Serbia. Russia was drawn in thus causing alliances to start the Triple Entente-UK, France and Russia and the Central Powers- Imperial Germany, Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Turks which went to war against each other.

In 1919 the Versailles Treaty caused the realignment of Europe and the creation of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia-Serbs, Croats and Slavs. The king was a Serbian and this caused a bitter antagonism in Yugoslavia. Meanwhile, fascism was brewing in Italy, Germany, Spain, Hungary, and Romania and the old antagonisms were let free. The Serbs, who are Pro-Soviet were massacring Jews and Muslims who were Pro-Beau because of Brand Mufti of Jerusalem, who killed Croats who were Pro-Nazi as well. This caused already vicious hatred to become almost pathological. Yugoslavia later became a communist country. Amazingly, Joseph Broz Tito kept his country together until his death in 1980 and then a chaotic government came into existence with the breakup of the former Soviet Union. This caused Serbia to claim suzerainty over Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro and Macedonia.

With almost a moment’s notice, the Balkans returned to the practice of massacre. Kosovo was eighty percent Albanian. Serbians caused a situation in which Albanians in Kosovo were treated as second class citizens. They were denied health care, education and other basic services. This caused the formation of the Kosovo Liberation Army, which stands for independence, but Serbia has a connection with Kosovo because of the battle of 1389. This caused an uprising, forcing Kosovo Albanians to rise up and show the Serbs. Right now we are on the verge of it all over again. The United Nations government is with the Serbs in the fighting or not dealing at all. Things like, women being raped, things of that nature. These are some of the atrocities going on right now. George Santayana said, “Those who forget the past are doomed to repeat it.” Every day we are hearing of more massacres and if people don’t acknowledge the problem and try to solve the disputes in a more rational way, there will be a very violent conclusion.
Have you gotten word yet?  An interview by Shawn Torres

When you meet Adam Hadzovic his quiet mild manner does not let on the seriousness of his worries. The deep set windows of his soul have blinds. On May 15th Adam Hadzovic, a native Albanian Muslim raised in Montenegro, and his wife Mivadeta await word from their families who were in Kosovo when the bombing began. Presently Adam works at the Association of the Bar of New York City where we met, LGCC helped place me in the library as an assistant. He supervises the cleaning crew nights and was kind and his wife Mivadeta await word from their families who were in Kosovo when the bombing began. Adam fluently speaks English with a slight European accent. He converses in grave tones as he slowly weighs the content of his words:

**Why did the fighting begin in Kosovo again?**
Ibrahim Rugova, the President of Kosovo tried to make deal to ethnically separate the country.

**Why?**
He wants all the Serbian people in power.

**How can you tell the Muslims from everyone else?**
The government has records of where you live and what your parents names were.

**How did the people of Kosovo feel about this deal?**
The government controls newspaper, T.V. and media so the general population does not know or is confused. In 1989 Milosevic was elected president of Serbia. He kicked out all the politicians, business owners and closed all the Albanian schools. If you were a politician for Kosovo autonomy you were jailed. He started to force the Albanian children to learn the Serbian language. No one fought.

**Why didn’t they fight?**
In 1989 I lived with my wife’s family in Montenegro. The police went from house to house collecting all the weapons. One is at their (police) mercy, if they feel like taking your T.V. they could; if they felt like stealing or killing you they could; if they felt like raping your wife they could.

**Was this part of the ethnic deal?**
Milosevic did it on purpose, he wanted to force us out. How are you going to feel, are you going to stay there? Are you going to get weapons and fight or are you going to leave? They just want to make you feel horrible...that is racism.

**Why such hatred between Christians and Muslims?**
When Tito was there, everyone was treated equally. No one cared about being Serbian, or Albanian, or Croatian or whatever. We had no hatred before Milosevic came.

**What changed when he came?**
Because I’m Albanian-No job.
Because I’m Albanian-No school.

**Was race Milosevic’s method of gaining power?**
Yes! In 1991 Milosevic attacked Slovenia and lost, next Croatia in 1992 and lost again. Then in 1992 Bosnia/Herzegovaria Serbs killed 250,000 Muslims. Because of the war in Croatia 100,000 Serbs left and moved to Kosovo in hope of taking the houses of Albanian people Milosevic displaced.

**In spite of the horrible things Milosevic has done, the Soviet Union has taken a stance condemning the United States. Do you think they are on Milosevic’s side?**
Yes- this is not just Milosevic’s war, this is also Russia’s war.

**How?**
The Russians are called the Serbian’s brothers because they are originally from the same slavic nationality and community. Russia does not have alot of Albanians but many Checknya and if Milosevic succeeds then Russia can again try to overide Checknya’s government with his help.

**Perhaps this is why the U.S. is suddenly interested. Strange how the Cold War pops up from time to time. How do you feel about the possible necessity of NATO ground troops being deployed?**
Because of Albania, we don’t want Americans or any other outside nation to lose their lives fighting for our freedom. We just want the weapons to fight for our own. The Kosovo Liberation Army fights for free Kosovo, for Democratic Kosovo, to protect its people. But the problem: we need weapons.

**Are you going to bring your family over?**
I have not tried. I did not realize that it would get so bad. Burning houses, ethnic cleansing, not even NATO realized this.

**How do you feel about the bombing?**
There is no other way to make Milosevic listen.

*Pastor Martin Niemoller*

“In Germany they first came for the communists- I didn’t speak up because I wasn’t a communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn’t speak up because I wasn’t a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn’t speak up because I wasn’t a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics and I didn’t speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me and by that time no one was left to speak up.”
F.H. LaGuardia Community College Celebrates:
Multi-Cultural Week

-by Ayaka Sato

It was the time for all LaGuardia students to have fun! Our college presented Multi – Cultural Appreciation Week which was held on May 18th through May 20, 1999. The purpose of the festival was to recognize our diverse cultures and respect them as a whole.

The first event was Arts and Crafts. This event featured art exhibitions from around the world displayed by the faculty, staff, and students in the E – Atrium. The second event was called Springfest, which was a fun event with different foods and beverages. It was conducted by administration, faculty, and staff as well. The third event was called “Day of Respect”. This event featured a celebration of our society through music, songs, poetry, and dance.

Since LaGuardia Community College serves a large number of immigrants and foreign students, it is significant for all the students to acknowledge our diversity. It is also important for them to have fun!
Life
By Theresa Rose

Life is full
But,
It is empty.
Life is found by looking out.
And yet,
It looks in.

It is a sphere
A ball of crackly, spinning, tainted glass.
And from within,
Something shimmers.
It's an hourglass.
It is perpetual within its orb.

It is linear.
It is like
the grain of sand.
Each single grain will fall
For, after being spent
It must fall down.
Down,
into the antepacive depths below.

It is timeless.
It is like the darkness of space.
It embraces the innumerable stars above.
And like a single star
Set in the middle a full, shimmering, sky
It embraces the glimmer.

It spends you.
it is spinning you.
And yet,
It holds you still.
Motionless,
Within your own cosmos.

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STRANGE GESTURE

Ebullition came in my heart,
Had a strong complication to decide.
The love masonry in my entrails
Which swayed my inner thinking,
Could not find a way to deal with it.
It was time, who was very obstinacy,
Compelled me to think emphatically.
Later it was obvious to predict
And to understand what it was.
It coughed, blew in my heart
Was a sound to leave my life-companion —?
And to go on lonely on a strange land...
Which I never thought about.
You would not think about me——
Forget, if you dream about my love.
That occurrence might occur or might not
But you would not cry for me
This is me who kept your love in my nerves
And will be pleased with a hope of your dream
Then, I would have to slip away from your shadow
For to find a sufficient way to make you a prisoner,
In my heart caged as a soul which is in me forever...

-Ashok Kumar

The Moonlight

I saw the moonlight.
It came at midnight.
Woke me up from sleep.
I saw the moonlight.
It hugged me,
gave me a silver bath.
I saw the moonlight.
It was hiding behind a cloud
and lighting the sky.
I saw them dancing in the garden,
I heard the cooing of a cuckoo from the forest.
I saw the sparkling of the angel,
smelt the scent of the flowers.
I heard the laughing of the wind
and the sound of the cascade.
I saw the river in glossy pearls.
It was the moonlight, I had seen.
WordCraft

Spring

Garden of happiness,
Treasure of beauty,
Paradise of Earth.
Where eyes please heart.
Where soul releases.

Gift from heaven,
Where anyone can taste the joy
of life.
Where the nature shows
the color of every flag.

Moment where flowers show
the seven colors of rainbow.

Time where birds sing
the world's Anthem.

Where trees get their freedom.
Where the sun reads
the peaceful accord.

Where butterflies caress
the flowers' perfume
Where the rain shakes hands
with the earth.
Where the sky smiles to
the rivers,
and the sea waves to the
sunrise.

By Eddyson Jean-Baptiste

Society
by Edwin Hernandez
An uttermost anxiety that burns
in my soul; disturbs me
annoys me.
To attempt, to try....
but not overcome
to yearn, to hunger the wants
that I cannot obtain.
I curse my state for not having,
I curse my fate for not succeeding.

I curse you, not me...
I hate you...
I will not blame myself, but you...
you are to blame.
You are my scapegoat,
you will save me from the flames
you will take my place
It is not my fault.

How We Bonded Naturally?

So short yet so true
This broken heart belongs to you
Hold it in your hands
Put it back together
Tell me you were wrong
We were meant to be forever
Stormy weather
Sudden rain
How will I learn
To ease this pain
Your warm embrace
And loving touch
I can’t deny
I’ll miss so much
Goodbye has come
Remember me
And how we bonded naturally

David Brown

Your Eyes
By D E CHARLTON
You, my eyes may betray
And often times leave you in dismay
Wondering if I’m thinking good or bad
Wondering why they seem so sad

Your eyes are the mirror of yoursoul
A story that is often told
But do you believe everything you hear
How can you trust something that can
Confuse your mind by tears

Your eyes speak without a tongue
And are first to portray your frown
Many times through you they flirt
Many times you ——— it hurts

But what ever is believed
What ever is perceived
Your eyes are as beautiful as a star
And if you look at them carefully -- they
might tell who you really are.

For The Guys Who Fought For Us

There I stand so tall and proud
when our guys came back safe and sound.
Then I sat down and cried for our guys
who did not make it back alive.
I just think of what they did for us.
I just can’t thank them enough.

When my heart raced by the amazing sight
that they made it home, it proves them to be a symbol
of our country’s might. Then the anticipation starts to disap
as the boats start to appear and the families pour in.
The feeling of anxiety has to wait no more.

By Lisa Wild

Agony
by Edwin Hernandez

A burning sensation penetrates me,
Pierces me, impales me with so much force
Crushing all the life out of me. I see
The waves come, one by one with no rem
Pain can be seen in my face...can’t react.
Such shattering pain. I break as if glass
Due to the force of every impact.
I am trapped as if I were a prize bass...
My temperature rising, heart pacing
Faster and faster. I attempt to run.
I’m nervous, sweaty, scared...it is chasing
I turn my head and know I am done.
I await more pain and even my fate.
I shut my eyes...open, and see the gate.
The night slowly crept upon me and that was when I finally realized that it had been a long time since I last dreamt. So I went to sleep and dreamt about you.

This dream was so extraordinary. I saw you standing on a top of a mountain, one that was bigger than the imagination itself. And your face shone with such radiance it was almost blinding. What really struck me as odd was that I could feel your presence. We were both there. As I reached out to hold you, you were gone in the blink of an eye and I was left on the top of the world to cry.

When I woke up, I asked myself whether this was a dream or not. I then realized then that it wasn't, for I was left alone with a memory of a love so pure and innocent. A memory that will never fade away.

As I laid my head down on the pillow to go back to sleep, I heard myself utter three words that made me cry.

DREAMS
1993
Puki
(Jose Arias)

Warrior’s Creed

Bound by flesh bound by Blood.
Brotherhood comes not undone.
Tightly woven in protection,
Warriors look in every direction.
Live for me I live for you,
For this reason I'd die for you.
Continue to fight,
With warriors might.
Look for nothing to retreat to,
Stand brave. And live for me,
As I live for you
For this reason I'd die for you.

Did you know that God above created you for me to love? He picked you out from all the rest, because He knew I'd love you best. I had a heart and it was true, but now it's gone from me to you. So take care of it like I have done, for now you have two and I have none. If I get to Heaven before you’re there, I'll carve your name on a golden chair.

For all the little angels to see, just what your love means to me. If you're not there on Judgement Day, I'll know you went the other way. I'll give the angels back their wings, golden harps and those things. And just to show you what I'd do, I'd even go to Hell for you...

by Angel Viruet

Carlos Carmona

Life undulates like the glistening expanse,
which radiates navy and white
The clouds dispense their dewy delight,
and sometimes contain the murkiness of strike
But, lightning electrifies and thunder evocatively roars
As the haziness of life dwindles
and passes us by
Left in its place is azure peace
and clouds like cotton balls that absorb
misdirected purity

Tara Perez
On May 20, 1999, the LaGuardia Stars showed their hoop skills against LaMega, radio station (FM 97.9) in an exhibition basketball event organized by Irizarry. Unfortunately when faced with the gargantuan death ringer squad, our team was blown out, 76-130, but we give the players some credit; at least they showed LaGuardia could have a decent sport event. After all, we are not ex-Georgetown and no one is here on scholarships. We at The Bridge feel the players did great in spite of being pulled together at the last minute. The crowd was truly alive for the beautiful cheerleaders who entertained us during the half-time show to mention how live they got at the Sodom and Gomorrah-like afterparty). These are your LaGuardia All-Stars:

E. Mouscardy
J. Edusei
D. Fobbs
C. Chen
J. Foster
F. Diaz
D. Sansary
A. Forinyer
S. Dean
M. Smith
D. Movre
F. Room

Better luck next time!
Maybe next year we can play the Eng Department.
We heard Pete Terry Cole be coaching...
Help Wanted

Editor-in-Chief
This individual will work very closely with the present Editor-in-Chief until he graduates. This person shall oversee all operations of “The Bridge,” manage the Editorial Staff, assure that all deadlines are met, chair all meetings, represent the newspaper when necessary. This individual will learn all of the aspects of publishing a magazine from coming up with the concepts until final layout. This individual must be organized, confident, creative, thick-skinned, patient, dedicated, and an analytical thinker. This person will be the future of “The Bridge”

News Editor
Oversee the assignment and editing of all new stories. Assist in layout and design. Recruit new and talented writers. Investigate and write stories on issues concerning LaGuardia stories.

Managing Editor
Oversee all financial matters of “The Bridge.” Oversee all advertising accounts such as ads sold, billed and paid. Keep up-to-date records of available scholarships for staff. Work very closely with the Office of Student Development.

Photo Editor

Arts and Entertainment Editor
Oversee all arts and entertainment stories, club spotlights, music, sports, etc. Also make suggestions for future stories.

Persons interested in these positions must attend designated weekly meetings and be prepared to devote 4 hours of office time per week. We would like to make this the best magazine that CUNY has ever seen. If you are interested in joining “The Bridge” please pick up an application in room M115.

These positions do not pay but they enrich

New Engineering Program @ LAGCC

by Ralph Hasbun

It is not very often that a student encounters a professor such as the one I am about to describe. His name is Dr. Hajallie, and his genuine dedication to his students, along with his ample teaching ability, makes him a great asset to LaGuardia Community College.

Dr. Hajallie works in the mathematics department. Regardless of whether it is Math 96, Pre-Calculus or any advanced Calculus class, Dr. Hajallie will help students make sense of complex mathematical terms that may have sounded like another language when first heard by them. His door is always open. Come in, ask him any question, you might even get coffee and candy.

It is not uncommon to find Dr. Hajallie, on his day off, holding a math tutoring session that all students may attend. Everyone is welcome. Whether you are in his class or not, you can come in and have “fun” with math for a couple of hours.

Dr. Hajallie, and a few other faculty members, are working hard to start an engineering program here at LaGuardia. The program will work jointly with the engineering program presently at City College, to where students graduating from LaGuardia will transfer smoothly.

The initiation of the new engineering program at LaGuardia should be within the next two years. The professors for this program will come from the math department. A few of the professors in the math department, including Dr. Hajallie, already hold engineering degrees. The faculty in the math department is working hard to raise the money needed to purchase equipment, including computers and robotic arms, for the program.

If you love the possibilities of “Pie Square”, if you love mathematics, and have a desire for a bright future, please look into this program.

For more information, please contact the math department.
When the election results were announced in the evening of May 6, 1999, all the winners were speechless. It was a great learning experience for all candidates, especially for those who were elected for Student Government. LaGuardia students entered approximately 1,300 votes in which they had a choice between two slates, New Direction and Diversity. There were eleven winners from New Direction: Masaru Arimoto, Qaisar Awan, Shamsul Haque, Muna Hoque, Jocelyn Iglesias, Eddyson Jean-Baptiste, Jasmin Nogueras, Anthony Pappas, Mike Pirtskhalachvili, Norma Tabora, and Keith Walker. It took dedication and hard work for all, but more significantly, according to Mike Pirtskhalachvili, "the results proved that teamwork works."

Manny Colon was the only candidate elected from his slate, Diversity. He felt very proud of his victory since he was running against New Direction, which was a much larger and diverse group. He described it to be a unique challenge and suggested that he won his position “by believing in myself and never giving up towards what I most wanted.”

The new elected student government has several plans for the college. Its primary goals are to improve the registration process, to bring in more tutors for math and ESL labs, to purchase additional computers for the library, and to increase services for evening students by extending open hours of LaGuardia’s facilities. The new student government also wants to focus on fighting against vicious attacks waged by politicians on CUNY. According to Shamsul Haque, a student governor, LaGuardia can help the fight by providing students with information and organizing rallies to confront those who want to harm CUNY students.

Most importantly, the student government wants to gain back students’ trust in the organization. "Students have lost faith in the student government and are trying to get back that faith by making positive changes," said Shamsul Haque. He added, "Winning the election was the easiest part, completing our job will be the toughest."

The new elected student government will be in office effective July 1, 1999. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the college, stop by Room M160 in the main building and the governors will be happy to assist you. And remember, “if students don’t demand, they are never going to receive,” said Mike Pirtskhalachvili.

The New Direct Diversity
by D. E. Charlton

Now that they are elected
We are waiting to see,
Who will carry out the duties
That were pledged to be.

The school need this
Oh, the school needs that
We are here for you students
And that is a fact.

Sitting back in their offices
Trying to look cool
I hope they remember
The policies of the school

Being a governor is not
Just about having fun
There are criteria to be met
And many things to be done

The New directions
With a mix of diversity
I hope you will carry out your duties
To the best of your ability.

JLATIONS!

by Anna Ramos

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by Anna Ramos
A nice little chat with Dr. Mettler—by Jose Eraso

Dr. Sally Mettler has been teaching at LaGuardia Community College since 1985. In 1994, she was elected to be the head of the Faculty Council.

When I first walked into her office, I saw art posters surrounding the room. The art posters reflect different cultures. They bring life to the room. Dr. Sally Mettler is a big art enthusiast and sees each of her art posters as diverse as the people of New York City. She sees each art poster to be unique in its own way.

A second-generation American, her grandparents came from the former Austria-Hungary which today is part of Eastern Europe. She grew up in the “Melting Pot” as New York was called then. She thinks New York is not a “melting pot” anymore. She sees New York as a “tossed salad.” New York today is more raw and separate. A tomato is a tomato. A cucumber is a cucumber. Each group of people retains its cultural identity and at the same time they try to live harmoniously with other groups in the city.

Interestingly, Dr. Mettler went to school in two totally different time eras. A student at Syracuse University in the fifties, she saw a conservative time of non-controversy. The civil rights movement was in its infancy and McCarthyism was sweeping the country with its anti-communistic ways. After graduating from Syracuse in 1995, she started a family. After she became a mother, she started teaching part-time at CUNY.

At that time the women’s liberation movement was nowhere in sight and women were staying home. However, the book Feminine Mystique changed the lifestyle of women. Dr. Mettler thought that this book opened the eyes of women and told them what they were accepting was wrong. Change was inevitable. The civil rights movement and the women’s liberation movement loosened everybody.

During the seventies she went to Columbia University as a graduate student. She also spent seven years as a teacher at Lehman College. In 1985 she became a full time teacher at LaGuardia and earned her doctorate four years later from Columbia. She says it was her parent's confidence in her that helped her the most. Her parents keep telling her she can do anything. She believes that parents are “teachers of young people.” They can influence their kids and are a support base for them.

If somebody wants to go to school let them. She feels that in these two topics, the city and the Board of Trustees are doing the unjustified.

It was also on her mind that LaGuardia has no lounge for the faculty to relax and converse with each other. She also thinks the size of the classes is too big now. We need to trim the class size down to enable the students and the teacher to have a more one on one feeling. It is all about interacting with one another and knowing about the school on a personal level.

When the students were protesting last year against the remediation cutback, she was glad to see the students get together and rally behind a cause. There is one thing she pointed out: many students do not vote. Only a small number of students vote. The politicians and the board members know this. This is why this school needs a voice. Dr. Mettler wants to see the revival of The Bridge to fill this voice. She thinks enough time has passed since the paper stopped circulating and says that this is the time to revive The Bridge.

Dr. Sally Mettler hopes that she can still be here for years to come. She wants to be here to see LaGuardia thrive well into the future. She is especially enthusiastic that she is a grandmother. She can see a new generation grow. She says that watching her grandchildren grow up will give her a new energy to make the city a better place for young people.
Its presence is ubiquitous. It is an impulse as natural to humans as breathing. Its name is music. Music is the art of beautiful, creative expression. It has the power to inspire the creativity in all of us. The music of Professor John W. Williams has a particularly strong inspirational quality. He is a professor that uses his creative ideas to inspire the students at LaGuardia Community College. Professor Williams, who heads the Performing Arts division of the Humanities Department, is in tune with the rhythm, and harmony of this timeless art form. He also is very responsive to the life-beat of LaGuardia's students.

Williams, a Jackson, Mississippi native, admits that his career in music almost never took off. “My first thought was that I would become a scientist. I was always interested in science, and no one in my family was involved in music.” Ironically, his attention and interest were diverted from the table of elements to the elements of music. At a young age he developed an attraction to music. He began by singing in choirs in the fourth grade. He continued his music education to finally earn a Master's degree from Howard University. In the process he became a classically trained musician. As a graduate student he participated in quite a few choirs. He traveled extensively across America and Europe, sharing his musical interpretations of the human experience.

Williams admits that his initial inspiration for pursuing a music career had a lot to do with the financial aspects of the music field. “At first it was the money, because that was what helped to pay the bills. I then began to enjoy the camaraderie of fellow musicians in New York City.

The subject of education immediately sparks little gleams of light in the eyes of John W. Williams. He has had a professional teaching career that has spanned over 18 years. Throughout this time period he has seen his share of young, ambitious individuals with a desire to achieve to their fullest potential.

While seated in his office adorned with framed plaques of gold, numerous performance photos and many works of art, Mr. Williams reflects on his career as an educator. An enthusiastic “Yes!” is Williams’ reply to the question of whether he derives joy from teaching college students. “I find it fascinating because these young people are going through a phase that is important and transitional. For many, what they experience at this college may be their only encounter with the arts. It’s important because [a music education] puts people in a position where they can share their learning experiences. They can also become appreciative audiences through those experiences.”

Music has had a strong and distinguishable impact on the quality of human life. It influences everyone from young children that are still building their ideals of the world all the way to older people that are already hardened by life’s experiences. Williams believes that music is the one of the most immense, universal forces that can maintain sanity in an insane world. “It is paramount that we keep music education in our schools. It’s a fact that the students who learn music do better in other subjects. Music helps to balance and it invigorates.

Music is a natural, creative energy...an art form that deserves just as much attention as any other academic subject. It actually incorporates elements from math through the use of its rhythm by using meters and measures.”

The intimate relationship between an art and the artist not only perpetuates the art form, it also enriches the life of the artist. Anyone who spends any time with John W. Williams will be able to see this. Music is an innate and deeply personal medium for expression. Thinking about this leads one to wonder about the horrors of a life lacking a means of an outlet for expression. Professor Williams says that his future plans consist of becoming involved in organizations that are geared toward helping children. The logical choice of an artist with a kind heart.
Circle K has been one of the newest successfully growing clubs in La Guardia Community College. Originally a fraternity that was started in 1936 by Jay N. Emerson, a member of the Pullman Washington Kiwanis Club in Washington State College, the society converted into an international service group to help and assist the community in projects and other charitable events. The La Guardia Community College Chapter of Circle K was founded in the spring of 1998. Under the first president Troy Antoine’s leadership, we completed our first event by going on a Six Flags Great Adventures trip. Since there were less than five members in the club, our future looked dim. In fall 1998, Andrew Calder was elected Chapter President and Barnabe Fanord was chosen as Chapter Vice President. Although it was only our second official term, Circle K expanded with 25 members. Furthermore, we became a more active society by participating in more events. As the new leadership took place, Circle K participated in the Halloween Candy Wrap where members wrapped candy for senior citizens at a home in Sunnyside. On Thanksgiving Day, we visited the Bowery Mission to serve breakfast and lunch to the unprivileged and homeless, as well as sort out donated clothing for distribution. We followed up with a Christmas event where we collected toys and clothing for homeless and underprivileged patients at various hospitals and clinics. During the next semester, we continued with some more key events. First, we attended the district convention in March in Rochester NY from March 26th to the 28th to find out more about fellow Circle K members in New York State. We then coordinated the Blood Drive from the 18th to the 29th of April in various locations at La Guardia Community College in various rooms to help needy people. In addition, during the same week on the 24th of April, we celebrated Christmas in April by painting and renovating a church in the Bronx. On the 7th May, we celebrated our charter night with a ceremony held at the college. Under successful leadership and guidance, Kiwanis International chartered us and members were inducted into the International Organization. We returned to the Bowery Mission on May 22nd and volunteered our services. We plan to return to the Mission on June 26th. All students are welcome to join us. Although our future and destination are not clear, we hope to involve more students and expand membership status for Circle K. For those interested in joining the club, our office is in room M118B. Our meetings are held every Wednesday from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. You can also email us at: circleklg@hotmail.com.
This semester we at the Straight And Gay Alliance have decided to use our club period and advertising outlets to tackle and discuss issues that are of concern to Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual, Transgender and Questioning individuals. Two of our main focuses are on safer-sex and abstinence, topics which often do not get discussed in substantial detail along with all the other issues that affect us as a community. We want to make it clear that we are aware that not all queer people are engaging in sexual acts; however, we are not going to dismiss this issue and pretend as if nobody is doing it. Recent statistics show that while there has been a decline in AIDS-related deaths, the rate at which people are becoming infected (especially women and Black and Latino gay and bi-sexual men) has not decreased.

We have made it our goal to give out as much safer-sex material and literature as we can. We distribute lubricated and non-lubricated condoms, finger condoms, flavored dental dams and pouches of lubricant, among other things. This term, we began a safer-sex kit wrapping group during our club period. It was extremely successful. We put together over 500 condom packs in one hour, each equipped with two rubbers and a pouch of lubricant. For those in our club who are Lesbian, don’t fret; we haven’t forgotten you. We will have a lesbian safer-sex kit wrapping group as soon as we gather all the supplies needed.

We plan to start our own safer-sex tabling team, like that conducted by the Health Center in the E-Building Atrium, starting in Fall 1 ’99. We will use that platform not only to gain popularity, but also to specifically target the queer population of the college, who is underrepresented in the Health Center’s outreach efforts. We will distribute safer-sex materials and literature, as well as information on counseling support groups and places where you can get reduced cost or free HIV testing. Several members of our club will also be volunteering with the Gay Men’s Health Group at several pride events this year, Including Queens Pride (June 6), Manhattan Pride (June 27) and Bronx Pride (July 10).

The messages and themes of our club are stated proudly on our bulletin board, which is located outside of room M-107. We must confess that we use shock tactics, like the nude picture of Madonna and the cover of our handbook on Safer-sex for Lesbians, to grab your attention. I mean, let’s face it, many people are not going to take interest in a bulletin board full of news articles. We use our board space to express the diversity that makes up the individual members of our club.

We mirror our bold, safer-sex messages after an initiative in the HIV Prevention Department at the Gay Men’s Health Crisis called b.2K (Beyond 2000). It was established 2 years ago, by Prevention Department employees, with a mission to gather 2,000 or more Gay and Bi-Sexual men to aid in keeping uninfected men HIV-negative to the year 2000 and beyond. They do this through intense outreach at clubs, bars and events that Gay and Bi-sexual men frequent. They offer a plethora of services like ear-point acupuncture, SUCE (Substance Use Counseling and Education), one-on-one A-team Counseling for sex, health and other personal issues, among other services. They also conduct in-depth workshops (usually on Tuesday and Thursday) that range from Newlywed Groups to HIV Testing to anal penetration and the issue of masculinity. There are also initiatives within b.2K that are specifically for higher risk groups.

“Soul Food” is an initiative that caters to the needs and concerns of Black Gay and Bi-sexual men; “Papi” is for Spanish-speaking Latino or Hispanic men; and “Peer 2000” is for the youth of the gay community who are into the voguing and ballroom.
A Message from The Law Society and The Student Center for Leadership

LaGuardia Community College
Student Center For Leadership
Room M-115 Suite C
31-10 Thompson Avenue
Long Island City, New York

Dear Student,

In recent months LaGuardia Community College along with all CUNY entities have been under attack. Governor Pataki and Mayor Giuliani have as a student body do not stand idly by as students our education experience will change as we know an effort to change the Governor’s or CUNY, the Student Center for Leadership along with The Law Society is sponsoring a lobbying workshop. The date for this workshop is Wednesday, 14, 1999, from 3-5 in the Atrium. For more information contact the Student Center for Leadership in Room M-115 Suite C.

Hope to see you all there.

Abdul K. Gaibi
Student Center For Leadership

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Scene. In October 1998, the Coordinators of b.2K reached their first goal when the number of participants surpassed the 2,000 mark. They are well on their way to doubling it. Like b.2K, we find that talking openly about the sex you’re having, have had or want to have can aid an individual making the best safer-sex decisions when or if they decide to participate in a specific sexual act.

We would like to extend our appreciation to Beyond 2000, The Lesbian AIDS Project and the Gay and Lesbian Community Center for supplying us with the knowledge, literature and safer-sex materials we distribute. We would also like to thank the Sci-fi, Martial Arts, Circle K, Island Paradise and Razz ‘M Tazz Mambo Salsa clubs for their continuing support. If you wish to know when our club meets you can e-mail us at SAGAcontinues@hotmail.com or you can stop by our club space M-118C or visit our bulletin board.

Amin J. Harris
President of The Straight And Gay Alliance

The Martial Arts Club

The Martial Arts Club of La Guardia C.C. is the second club to come along to offer students free lessons in the club’s area (ex. Razz M’Tazz Mambo/ Salsa Club teaches salsa). The Martial Arts Club gives free Martial Arts lessons and also provides demonstrations of several Martial Arts such as: Karate, Tae Kwon Do, Kung fu, Capoeira. The lessons begin at the most basic level and the students also get in shape with aerobic/circuit training and calisthenics.

The club was founded by Julio Mercedes and co-founded by Carlos Carmona the current president of the club, the club was designed to bring the students a chance to experience the atmosphere and the benefits of a martial arts school. The programs are designed to get students to feel good about themselves while learning martial arts skills.

Next semester the club President (Carlos Carmona) has big plans for the club’s future, such as strips, parties, show demonstrations and perhaps future workshops on self-defense. Come join us. Get in shape and learn the basics with us. The club meets every Wed. from 2-4:30 p.m. or E-mail us:MACLUClM@HOTMAIL.COM or visit our office in M-117G.

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The Martial Arts Club
Bob Marley and The Wailers

Bob Marley and the wailers are the sole Jamaica group to have achieved global superstar status. The original group was formed during 1963. In that same year their first record, “Simmer Down” was released, and went to number 1 on the JBC radio chart in January 1964. It held that position for two months and reputedly sold over 80,000 copies. During a period of 3 years The Wailers made over 70 tracks for Dodd. In 1967 they recorded the hit “Bend Down Low”. Then in April of 1973 the band went to the UK on a tour. In July of that same year they supported Bruce Springsteen at Max’s Kansas City Club in New York. After that the band continued to make hits, and later was defined as the “International Reggae Sound”, until the death of Bob Marley in 1981.
As time draws nearer to my retirement date of September 30th, I realize that I will sorely miss working with the students who have been involved in the production of The Bridge. It has sometimes been very challenging, but overall, very rewarding to see this student newspaper grow from a black and white report to a sophisticated color publication.

Our students come from 129 countries and speak 75 different languages. Currently, we are becoming involved in the pursuit of expanding our programs in the Dominican Republic, China, South Africa, and now Morocco.

The college is now very involved with computer technology and has set a goal of providing training for all faculty staff. When I went to school, computer technology and internationalization were of no consequence. Like some of you, I worked to pay my way -- even took remediation in math, physics and English. My efforts paid off; I earned my degree.

And, like you, all I really wanted was to get my diploma and begin my career. My college degree was going to be my ticket to the world. What I discovered surprised me. I had learned that no one was about to hand you success simply because you had a college degree. The challenges I took on in college prepared me for the hard work of advancing in life. I had learned that judgment is as important as knowledge, in many cases. Now, I see that I received a lot more than just a degree. I had received the basic preparation necessary to compete in graduate school and in the workplace.

LaGuardia’s dedicated professors have challenged you with knowledge and wisdom. They’ve built self-assurance about who you are and what you can become.

They’ve given you that sense that you can compete with anybody if you have a right to compete with everybody. I am confident that LaGuardia has prepared you for success. On September 30th, after 37 years in higher education and being LaGuardia’s president for 10 years, I will step down. I will miss you.

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Women in Music: Our Time to Shine

by Chanita Williams
In recent years the entertainment industry has produced a number of artists who enrich the art of music and the lives of listeners. A major feature of these incredibly talented musicians is that the majority of them are self-contained. They do it all from writing and arranging to producing and performing original music, the kind that leaves a full lasting impression. An equally significant feature of these artists is that they share a common bond, a solidarity which cannot be broken by any force. This bond is known as sisterhood, and these are the women in music.

Three of the most popular types of music on the airwaves today (Rhythm and Blues, Popular and Alternative Rock) have a heavy concentration of women in the mix. On the R&B side of things we have the much-loved Fugees member, Lauryn Hill, the prolific Missy Elliot and the always smooth Faith Evans. All three platinum-selling artists have captured international attention and the respect of fans for their self-composed unique works of art; audiences love Lauryn for her full throaty alto voice, Missy for her diverse vocal arrangements and eccentric image and Faith for her consistent, angel-like vocal quality. These are the women who give depth and definition to R&B music.

Moving over to Pop music we find Jewel, Paula Cole and a recent addition, 17-year-old Britney Spears, more young women who rule the airwaves. With hits like “Hands,” “I Don’t Want to Wait” and “Hit Me One More Time” these women musicians have already established a comfortable place for themselves in pop music in just a few short years - with the exception of Spears - who blew up the pop music scene with both a #1 album and single on the Billboard charts. A feat like this hasn’t been seen since Kriss Kross’ arrival in 1992. They were the last performers to set the record. Notably, Cole and Elliot were part of the all-star lineup of female musicians to who last year participated in the Lilith Fair tour, a showcase celebrating the women in music.

Last, but not least, the ladies of Alternative Rock deserve their due. After selling 17 million copies of her critically acclaimed album, “Jagged Little Pill,” Alanis Morissette returned last year to the music scene with a follow-up smash single “Uninvited” from the “City of Angels” soundtrack. Morissette enjoyed a string of top ten hits including “You learn” and the unforgettably always appropriate “Ironic.” And who can forget about the great Girl 6 and Luscious Jackson or Shirley Manson, the front woman for the popular group Garbage, who made their debut in 1996 with the hit “I’m Only Happy When It Rains.”

The time has come for individuals to recognize the important impact that women have in the music industry. No longer are we playing the part of a puppet on a string. We are now creating, directing and owning our music, labels, publishing and distributing companies and more. The women in music have become a force to be reckoned with. To borrow words from Alanis Morissette, Missy Elliot, Garbage and Lauryn Hill, “You ought to know” that whatever the weather, be it sleet, hail or snow, the women in music will continue to “rain” on heads everywhere. We will always keep it “special” and keep you coming back for more of “that thing.” Take heed of the women... It’s our time to shine.
“La Loba de la Salsa”

Nayobe, a name synonymous with clubs like Roseland, the Octagon, the Fever and the "Legendary" Palladium. A true Diva of this fusion of percussion and drums has been gracing stages all over the United States and Japan with hits like “Please Don’t Go”, “Second Chance for Love” among many others. This native New Yorker has been on stage since age 9, doing off-Broadway productions and Teddy Riley’s The System. Lately she has been heard as the vocal voice of Salma Hayek in Studio 54 the movie. On April 26, 1999 Platano records held a private party announcing the release of Nayobe’s salsa debut album entitled “Como Un Loba” scheduled for release in late May or early June. I was among the press invited that evening to hear a sample of her extraordinary voice and speak to her about her very fascinating career. I had a chance to ask her Promoter Eddie Cruz for his opinion of the album here is what he said “I believe it will be one of the greatest albums of all time in the Latin market...It is very high energy and danceable”. Platano record’s owners Jose and Martha Hernandez both believe that her first Latin project will not be her last, and I have to agree with them on that because her sultry voice and very energetic charisma will make sure that she will be around for a long time.

- Rocky

HIP HOP CORNER

BY JANINA PEREZ

The up and rising art form of underground hip-hop has always been the shadow of most famous rap artists. They start out in the scene that accept the raw and fresh talent of a new lyricist. They then leave the stage that nurtured them to fly off on their own to produce platinum records. Nas, the Notorious B.I.G., and The Roots are all products of the hidden scene. House of Reps is one of the many underground groups that are currently on the setting. The clique is composed of Absolute, A.L., Benny Blanc and Jeff - Son of - Spock. They are the new, up and coming Latino rap stars. They all have different styles of rhyming that compliment each other equally. The styles vary from rapid word play to melodic twists of the tongue. The hooks are strategically planned to have an explosive effect. They also possess the ability to fluently switch their lyrics from English to Spanish and vice versa. They are talented your brothers who are in search of their dreams in the world of the rap world. Don’t get me wrong, they are educated Latino men who want to share their talent with the world but do not have marketable skills without their talent.

Absolute has been on the Lyrist Lounge Album along with Common and Black Thought. A.L. has worked with many artists including D.J. Howd who passed away recently (may he rest in peace), The Beat Nuts, and Emine. He is also on the Lyrist Lounge album. Jedi - Son of Spock has a new single out entitled “The Journey” on Head Bop Entertainment. He is on the Lyric Lounge album and on Safire’s Spanish album. May success follow you steps. Let the Hip-Hop soar!

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Socrates Park is located in Astoria, Queens, off the waterfront adjacent to the East River in Long Island City. Socrates Park was formerly an illegal dumpsite that was leased from New York City's Department of Ports and Trade for $1.00 per year. Recently, the 4.5-acre landfill was renovated before the first installation of sculptures was to arrive. Since 1977, sculptor Marc di Suvero and the Athena Foundation have worked together to encourage the arts, and expand the arts culture to create a space for the interaction of people and art. The park opened its first of contemporary outdoor sculptures since 1986. Since that time, Socrates Park continues to re-vitalize the economic, educational, social, and cultural life of the community. The park's existence is based on the belief that reclamation, revitalization, and creative expressions are essential to the survival, humanity and improvement of an urban environment. Socrates Park presents a diverse selection of work by many different working artists today. Sculptures from all regions of the United States, Europe, and Central America have been joined by musicians, dancers, painters, and filmmakers to create a multi-media modern art showcase in Astoria. At a ceremony on May 23, 1993, Socrates Park officially became a part of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. Moreover, in 1995, Socrates Park was designated as one of sixty-three "Great American Public Places". Since the park is an exemplary model of a well-built environment, the Greek community takes great pride in the renovation and renewed face-lift given to their neighborhood. Although they are surrounded by factories and warehouses, they continue to enjoy the breathtaking view of the Manhattan skyline as well as recapture a small sense of Athens. This is why it serves as a great organization geared to help target youths at risk. A visual arts program was set aside for future artists, as well as grants, year-round exhibitions, a fellowship program, a visitors program and an employment training program for the community. Long Island City can surely be proud of a site well served.
Welcome to the Factory.
the notorious