On Sunday, November 21st, at about 3 p.m., an explosion ripped through the fourth floor of the American Chicle factory, which houses the LaGuardia on 31st Street. The explosion damaged the building to the extent of at least 55 of the workers in the building at the time. Though they were immediate fatalities, at least four deaths have been reported.

The force of the blast was so great that it blew out windows on three sides of the factory building, sending machinery hurling to the street below. Flying debris hurtled through the area, smashing windows of a few neighboring buildings and causing considerable damage to LaGuardia, mainly to portions of the new building that were not in use yet. Two big sections of the skylight of the new students' cafeteria as well as some of the windows on the faculty cafeteria were shattered. The skylight above the new ramp was also damaged when two overhead sections of the wall fell off their tracks.

The worst of the damage occurred within and near the day care center. Windows a half inch thick were smashed and shattered across the room. The adjacent patio, used as an outdoor play area, was covered with twisted metal and other debris. A nearby ramp was also damaged when two overhead doors were blown off their tracks.

One of the firemen responding to the scene of the blast said that never, in all his career, had he seen such a disaster. When he and another fireman stepped into the burning building, they immediately spotted two men hanging over the rim of the blown-out wall. All of their clothing and large areas of their bodies were covered with burning debris. The firemen quickly lifted the seemingly lifeless forms and brought them to the street below. Upon their return to search among the wreckage for remaining victims, the machinery still panted and choked as if it might blow again.

It was difficult choosing who was to have ambulance priority since there were so many casualties. Then there was the problem of finding enough burn facilities to treat all the injured workers. Since there had been a tragic fire in the Bronx a week prior to the LaGuardia blast, New York's burn centers were left with little or no room, and cases were taken directly to LaGuardia. It was later confirmed by Fire Commissioner John O'Hagan that the fire in the Bronx was caused by a spark from faulty machinery. Since that time, workers have been wearing dust masks for protection.

Since the factory explosion, New York's burn centers were left with little or no room, and cases were taken directly to LaGuardia. Nervous LaGuardia students were immediately present at the scene of the blast to see the damage. The fire was quickly put out and the factory was assessed for damage. Fire marshals thought that the explosion occurred when a chemical dust in the air, composed of a highly volatile substance called magnesium stearate, was ignited by a stray spark. This was later confirmed by Fire Commissioner John O'Hagan.

As later investigations revealed, the facts were: it was discovered that the spark had come from a faulty machine and ignited a cloud of magnesin stearate. Through interviews with survivors of the disaster, it was revealed that the machine in question had been malfunctioning for about an hour prior to the explosion.

Commissioner O'Hagan stated that the factory had undergone an official inspection in April '76. Findings showed some minor violations, none of which contributed to the blast in any way.

The Cooperative Education Department has instituted a program of 18 credits specially designed for adult women. The purpose of this program is to revamp the career of women in today's society. Some of the courses offered are French, Spanish, English, History, Accounting, Business, Marketing, Management, Government, and Economics.

There is also an opportunity to be involved in a structured career education project. Along with these options there is a placement in a three-month internship which may be paid or volunteer, and either a full- or part-time position.

Anyone interested in this program should see Professor A. Branch, Room SB 50 between 1:00-5:00 p.m., or Cornella Boden, SB 50 after 5:00 p.m., as soon as possible for additional information since registration will probably be sometime in February.

Because the injuries were excessive and transportation was limited, there were many people, badly hurt and in shock, who had to wait some time for an available ambulance. Since LaGuardia has security patrol in the building around the clock, our doors were open—2 a.m.—to the victims of the disaster. About 25 persons were taken out of the cold and into the lounge in the basement of LaGuardia. There we were able to provide a temporary shelter and an area in which first aid could be administered.

LAG STUDENT INJURED

Lenny Podhajecky, a full-time worker for the American Chicle Co., was in the factory at the time of the blast. Apparently, he was working close by the faulty machinery because he was severely injured. His 18-year-old brother Jerry, also working that night, suffered bad injuries, too.

Lenny, a full-time accounting major at LaGuardia, began classes in the fall of '75. Lenny and Jerry Podhajecky remained with the critical list at Nassau County Medical Center for more than a month before recovering to be sent home.
QUIET L.S.C. AT WORK
by Toni Formica

Bureaucracies are the same the world over, awkward, inept and unwieldy in their activities, despite the contrary opinion of student bureaucrats and the optimism of original idealists, are no better than any other kind.

LaGuardia's very student financed (the tuition of $125,000) student-run bureaucratic machinery has finally got itself into gear and bumbled on, leaving, predictably enough, a trail of sticky red footprints in its wake.

The new Student Council came into power during the fall quarter. The exact date is not remembered, possibly some time during the fall quarter. The new Student Council shows signs of settling in permanently. The first major action undertaken by Council has been, besides the approval of their new i.d. cards with "Student Council" stamped on them (blue for officers and yellow for just plain members), the approval of club budgets.

As we wisely, wary prepare to view the machinations of bureaucratic Machiavellis amide a tangle of red tape and triplicate forms -- ad infinitum, at nauseum -- we can't help thinking it's going to be a long, dark, cold winter.

Student Council meetings are held Monday evenings at 5:00 p.m. in the President's Conference Room on the third floor of the main building, and are open to the student body. Join us. Please.

LAG PREZ:
"A STAR IS BORN"

LaGuardia's very own President Shenker has launched a new career as the color commentator on Channel 13's televised series of CUNY basketball games.

The president, a former basketball player at Lehman, made his debut January 30th in a game which featured, interestingly enough, his old alma mater against City University.

President Shenker, along with David Halberstam, a staff member at CUNY's central office, will cover several games for WNEW, including the big CUNY tournament slated for the end of the month.

The schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, February 23, Friday, February 25, and Monday, February 28 will all be CUNY Basketball Tournament games, and the starting times are to be announced; and the final telecast will be the "CUNY - SONY Legislative Classic," which will begin at 7:30 p.m.

ATTENTION STUDENTS

The emergence of the new Council was marked by internal conflicts and ominous rumblings that, unfortunately, were not fully verbalized. But the death throes of an old regime are notoriously non-verbal; they are more like the sounds someone makes when being strangled.

Now one month into the winter quarter, the new Student Council shows signs of settling in permanently. The first major action undertaken by Council has been, besides the approval of their new i.d. cards with "Student Council" stamped on them (blue for officers and yellow for just plain members), the approval of club budgets.

A number of disquieting rumors circulating college campuses may have caused you some uneasy moments last weekend. You certainly are not the only one who was queried.

Specifically, one rumor claimed the shutdown of all city universities, except for the Community College. The other change, called "5100 deductible," establishes a student's expenses to be made much easier to deduct. The other change, called "5100 deductible," establishes a student's expenses to be made much easier to deduct. The other change, called "5100 deductible," establishes a student's expenses to be made much easier to deduct.

In this statement two types of changes in college to develop a career education model of the U.S. "Department of Health" are mentioned. The contract, awarded during the summer by the Office of Career Education and Welfare, will enable the college to develop a career education model which can be adapted by other community colleges and junior colleges throughout the country.

LaGuardia was the only college in the nation interested in applying for a scholarship can be adapted by other community colleges and junior colleges throughout the country.

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JOIN THE FLUTE

The Flute is interested in conducting a survey of the co-op department. How effective is it? Does it live up to the promises it makes? What do students really know about co-op? These are some of the questions we are going to attempt to answer with your help.

All students who have just completed an internships during the fall quarter are asked to participate in the survey. Visit the Flute offices on Mondays and Fridays from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., in the back of the Sonia cafeteria. All information will be treated confidentially and names will be withheld on request. This is an independent survey undertaken by the staff of the Flute. We are not working with, for, or by the co-op department.
Carnsh's "SLICE OF LIFE REALISM"

Carnash purports to be slice-of-life realism, showing a day in the life of people working in a carwash shop in downtown Los Angeles. Each actor and actress makes a characteristic entrance, and exits in character at the end of the day, also the film's end. The film seems to be a stylized, rather, rather verbose about the workers and customers of the carwash. Essentially the film is about ways in which people turn work into play in order to get through the day. Betting, smoke, horseplay and sex are the diversionary tactics they use to remain sane.

Ivan Daxon is well cast as the strong, thoughtful family man/father figure who happens to be a former carwash boss while the cast are composed of lesser known actors and actresses. There are cameo appearances by George Carlin and Richard Pryor. Carlin floats in and out as a taxidriver in search of a "tall blonde, Black chick" who had hopped out of a houseboat before paying the $19.90 fare on the meter.

Richard Pryor shows up as a beautifully coiffed, house-draped preacher with an entourage of women (the Pointer Sistiras). Their segment is highly entertaining, and like the preacher's message, a soporific one at best.

The message of Carwash feeds into the hands of those who insist the working poor want little besides sex and self-destruction. A few serious lines are spoken by the stereotyped revolutionary who tries to rob the carwash and crumbles into the arms of Ivan Daxon with the words, "it's all coming apart," and "I know I'm not crazy but I can't stand coming to this clow's show every day." But his personal disintegration is so complete, it's clear he will never get it together.

The new realism of this second wave of blaxploitation films is probably more depressing than the first, which at least suggested Blacks were taking over aspects of the traditional underground which surges through the communities. Carwash reveals happy resignation into new dance steps, sex and smoke.

It is well-choreographed entertainment taking the long line of American plantation tradition literature. Some will be pleased that there are moments of affection and concern between Black men in spite of the other depressing messages of this diverting film.

JDC

TWO NEW SERIES BY S.A.M.

S.A.M., the Society for the Advancement of the Management and Department of Accounting at City College, is sponsoring two new series, Law in Action and M.P. / Room M 422.

The schedule for both series are as follows:

**February 7**

M.P. / Room M 422

12:00 - 1:10 p.m. (Division of Human Relations and Personnel Management)

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7
Last Day to Drop a Course Officially

21
Washington’s Birthday
NO CLASSES

12
Lincoln’s Birthday
NO CLASSES

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

1 2 3 4 5

6 7 8 9 10 11 12

13 14 15 16 17 18 19

20 21 22 23 24 25 26