On Sunday, November 21st, at about 3 p.m., an explosion ripped through the fourth floor of the American Chicle factory, which faces LaGuardia on 31st Street. The powerful blast injured at least 55 of the 150 workers in the building at the time. Though there were no immediate fatalities, four deaths have since been reported.

The force of the blast was so great that it blew out windows on three sides of the factory building, sending machinery hurtling 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 weren't in use yet. Two big gaps in the skyline of the new students' cafeteria, as well as some of the windows in the faculty cafeteria, were shattered. The skyline above the new gym was also damaged.

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 flesh were charred, yet their breath was still warm. 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.

Fire marshals thought that the explosion occurred when a chemical dust in the air, composed of a highly volatile substance called magnesium styrate, was ignited by a stray spark. This was later confirmed by Fire Commissioner John O'Hagan. The air is normally thick with this powder during the manufacturing process, and equipment, even telephones, must be sparkproof.

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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 similar tragedy in the Bronx a week prior to the factory explosion, New York's burn centers were left with little or no room for cases that were taken directly to LaGuardia airport and flown immediately, via army helicopters, to out-of-state burn centers. The others were taken to vacant hospitals throughout New York State.

The worst of the damage occurred within walking distance of the factory building, sending machinery hurtling 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 weren't in use yet. Two big gaps in the skyline of the new students' cafeteria, as well as some of the windows in the faculty cafeteria, were shattered. The skyline above the new gym was also damaged.

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All photographs by Jose Sierras.
ATTENTION STUDENTS

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 get for the money? Ask the 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 internship during the fall quarter are asked to participate in the survey. Visit the Flute offices on Mondays from 3:30-5:30, in the back of the Sony 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.

The emergence of the new Council was marked by internal conflicts and ominous tremblings 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.

The new Student Council came into power during the fall quarter. The exact date is not remembered, possibly because the elections didn't incite sufficient interest among the student body to note the date in LaGuardia's annals. In fact, the elections incited so little interest that the students student quorum necessary to hold elections was not met. In spite of that, elections were held and so we must assume the special permission that's needed in such cases was granted.

RUMORS RUN RAMPANT

A number of intriguing rumors circulating college campuses may have caused you some uneasy moments last weekend. Specifically, one rumor claimed the shutdown of all city universities, except for the original 24 that began the university system, was imminent.

"Absolutely not!" claimed LaGuardia's president, extrapolating the rumors that were diverted. The President went on to say that he had been the office of question repeatedly ever since the beginning of the city's financial crisis, and, at each hearing, the people "refused to believe" that "there was never any question" of the college's (LaGuardia) closing.

Another part of the rumor was in reference to a TV program which appears to be a rehearsal for the future. The President, along with David Halberstam, a staff member at CUNY's central office, will cover several games for WNET, including the big CUNY tournament slated for the end of the month.

The schedule of games is as follows:

**Radio Station: If the radio station appears to have two budgets, it does. One budget ($2,000) appears to be for office expenditure; while $6,758 appears to be for new equipment and the installation of new broadcast lines to the Main Building.**

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, was quoted as saying, "Absolutely untrue," and "I refuse to comment on the subject." Lightning Shenker went on to say that he had been the office of question repeatedly ever since the beginning of the city's financial crisis, and, at each hearing, the people "refused to believe" that "there was never any question" of the college's (LaGuardia) closing.

The new Student Council has taken the reins of student affairs. 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, and, as we wisely, wisely prepare to view the machinations of bureaucratic Machiaveli amid 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.

STUDENT COUNCIL BUDGET REQUEST 76-77

First passed in Student Council on January 19th and chaired by President Shenker, Richard Little and Tyrone Thompson, chairperson and vice-chairperson, respectively, gave the request.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Spend

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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<tr>
<td>Student Activities Committee</td>
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<td>Human Development Center</td>
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<td>Radio Station</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation</td>
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<td>Flute's Day</td>
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<td>S.F.A. Payroll</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>$15,500</td>
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RUMORS RUN RAMPANT

LaGuardia has begun implementation of a $208,000 federal contract which calls for the development of a national model of a comprehensive career educational approach to post secondary learning.

The contract, awarded during the summer by the National Center of Career Education of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, will enable the college to develop a career education model which can be adapted by other community and junior colleges throughout the country. LaGuardia was the only college in the nation to receive the contract.

The schedule of games is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Game</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 23</td>
<td>CUNY Basketball Tournament</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, February 25</td>
<td>CUNY Basketball Tournament</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, February 28</td>
<td>CUNY Basketball Tournament</td>
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USC/ROME AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships, in the amount of $400, are now being awarded by the State University College at Utica/Rome (Upper Division College) to qualified students who are planning to continue their studies beyond graduation from a two-year college. The scholarships are being awarded on the basis of academic achievement, with special consideration given to students who have demonstrated leadership qualities.

Students entering the Upper Division College as juniors are eligible. Scholarships are being awarded now for the spring semester of 1977. Students interested in applying for a scholarship can obtain the necessary information from their academic advisors or by writing to the Admissions Office, State University College at Utica/Rome, 811 Court Street, Utica, N.Y. 13502.
CARNASH: "SLICE OF LIFE REALISM"

Carwash 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 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 survive.

Ian Dixon is well cast as the strongest, thoughtful family man/father figure who helps keep the shop together. He is the glue that holds the cast together, leveling known actors and actresses. There are cameo appearances by George Carlin and Carlin's co-star in "Carny," Carlin Les.

The audience also had the pleasure of hearing Van McCoy's "The Hustle," "Jesus, Superstar." This album was another winner, its second, in a series of albums LaGuatdia music department presented.

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To end the evening, there was a well-choreographed entertainment, joining 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 in this diverting film.

The two new series by S.A.M.

S.A.M., the Society for the Advancement of the Department and the Management of Accounting, is sponsoring two new series, Law in Action and Management in Practice.

Everyone is welcome to attend the lectures, and students wishing to participate are advised to contact Prof. Ronald L. B., M. of 202A. The schedule is as follows:

**February 7**
- M.I.P. / Room M 422
  - 2:40 - 3:50 p.m. "Space Management" by Victor Lambert

**February 10**
- L.I.A. / Room M 426
  - 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. "Personnel Policies"

**February 14**
- M.I.P. / Room M 422
  - 2:40 - 3:50 p.m. "Training, Office & Personnel Policies"

**February 17**
- M.I.P. / Room M 422
  - 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. "Human Relations and Personnel Policies"

**February 22**
- M.I.P. / Room M 422
  - 2:40 - 3:50 p.m. "Dissolve of Contracts"

**February 24**
- L.I.A. / Room M 426
  - 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. "Training, Office & Personnel Policies"

Jim Levine, a co-owner of the carwash shop in downtown Los Angeles, has found it hard to keep up with the demand for his services.

On Tuesday, November 16th, the LaGuardia faculty roster for your amusement. No one would come out and say it, but the atmosphere of the basketball team is toxic.

The University of New York has unveiled the official logo of the newly formed CUNY Basketball Conference which will begin meeting on a regular basis. The name of the conference is "City College Basketball.

The new realism of this second wave of blaxploitation films is probably more depressing than the first, which kills off Black heroes.

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 survive.

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February, 1977