$9,559.50 DOWN THE DRAIN

by Kevin Degidon

Students, do you ever wonder what happens to the money you put into this college? Are the fees you pay benefiting you or wasted away for the fattening of faculty? On January of 1994, Student Government requested a $8,000 budget in order to co-sponsor the Annual Student Conference. From the amount approved, Student Government only spent $4,559.50 for the conference which was to cover expenses for their members and some of their associates. The remaining amount of funds were transferred to the Florida conference budget which totaled $9,852.15. The conference was attended by 13 students. The remaining cost for the Annual LaGuardia Student Leadership Conference was charged to the Student Activities Committee.

Records have indicated that Student Government has regularly advanced stipends for sessions before the end of the session and that work has been performed. Throughout the semester, Fall II and Spring I (winter to spring '94), $1,395 was advanced to Student Government President William Negron and $1,000 more by Vice President Larry Abercrombie who left the college after Fall II. On March 1 '94, $400 was approved by William Negron, Natasha Warburton and Mohammed Hossain by phone. 

WHAT A WASTE

by Todd "One" Williams

On February 10, 1994 Student Government held a Valentine's Day party in the gym in the main building at LaGuardia Community College. It was said to be an exciting occasion.

Tables were decorated with red balloons and matching table cloths. Entertainment was provided by a live band and a DJ. There was even an ice sculpture nicely placed in the center, and yes, there were some fresh flowers. Working the room was a well known photographer taking pictures of members of Student Government and their invited guests. There was good food to eat and a lot to drink. What's wrong with all this? Is the amount of student activity fees spent on the Valentine's Day party.

Ten thousand two hundred and fifty dollars ($10,250.00).

Add maintenance and security to the list of expenditure and I couldn't see why the party cost that much money. As a journalist and a student I decided to let my fellow students in on what I uncovered.

"$10,250.00 for a party worth only $100.00", was student Kenuski Sasaki's reaction. Valentine's Day is a special occasion and it should be celebrated but not at the expense of LaGuardia student's activities fee. It is bad enough students are forced to pay $52.85 each semester, but to have members of Student Government squander their fee is questionable. This is a blatant abuse of power and privilege. By all reasonable estimates, the party's cost was not warranted.

$10,250.00 is enough to rent a night at the Cotton Club, party, and still have money left over! Instead, it was held in a gym. I have recently learned, from sources that wish to remain anonymous, that perhaps some
$9,559.50 DOWN THE DRAIN

stated in their constitution, Student Government is required a "majority" of the 12 member board to approve a stipend. After Vice President Abercrombie left LaGuardia, he was paid an additional salary of $400. The check was signed only by Dean of Students Ruth Lugo-Alvarez after it was alleged that he had threatened and make public the misuses of college finance by Dean Lugo-Alvarez and Bill Negron.

The following April, College Senator Michael Cox charged Student Government with "misuse of stipends privileges." Since then nothing has transpired from the charge.

To reach Chancellor W. Ann Reynolds call (212) 794-5382, Fax (212) 794-5671. President Raymond C. Bowen call (718) 482-5050, and Dean Ruth Lugo (718)482-5292.

THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Joseph N. Smith Editor-In-Chief

Todd Williams News Editor
Kevin Degdon Photo Editor
Karrine Montaque Managing Editor
Tyrone Farley Features Editor
Arthie Pascal Sports Editor
Gary Blake Assistant Editor
Jerry Frohnhoefer Faculty Advisor

LAGUARDIA STUDENTS!

THE BRIDGE MEETINGS ARE IN ROOM M118-E EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 2:15 TO 3:15.

RACISM AT LaGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

by Joseph N. Smith

On October 5, 1995, I requested in writing funds for the editors of The Bridge newspaper to attend the ACP/CMA National College Media Convention in Washington, DC. The request was denied by Irene Sosa, Coordinator of Student Life and Development. She stated in a memo dated October 10, 1995, that after "Consultation with Dean Ruth Lugo and Dr.Milton N. Silva, Director of Personal Counseling/Student Life and Development, concerning your request for funding to attend the National College Media Convention in Washington, D.C. It has been determined that pending the election of an Editorial Board for The Bridge, no travel expenses may be authorized", and that the current Editorial Board of The Bridge was not elected democratically. The Bridge elections are held every November, and its editors are elected for a one year period. Dean Ruth Lugo's decision was made in bad faith and intended to humiliate and embarrass the duly elected editors.

This is a predominantly Black group of student editors with GPA's ranging from 2.75 to 3.63, and the Dean's continued actions against these students are meant to defeat their accomplishment as capable writers and editors. To link illegal acts to Black people is a strategy long used by racist, when trying to deny Black men and women equality of opportunity. This strategy had already been used by some at LaGuardia College when they claimed that The Bridge November 1993, elections were not conducted fairly, simply because Todd 'one' Williams and Joseph N. Smith, the only Black editors, were elected to News Editor and Editor-In-Chief respectively.

The paper was shutdown by Dean Ruth Lugo, but a sub-committee appointed by the College Association, conducted an eight month investigation and concluded in a March 14, 1994, report that the elections were conducted free and fair. Another attempt to prevent student editors from the enjoyment and privilege enjoyed by other students came last February, when Dean Ruth Lugo and Lance Seunarine, then Co-Director of Student Life and Development, tried to prevent editors from attending a student newspaper conference and workshop, by insisting that they determine how many students should attend. It was only after considerable prodding that they relented, and just two hours before our flight that funds were received to travel.

Further proof of racist policies at LaGuardia College. Last February President Raymond Bowen, Dean Ruth Lugo and Lance Seunarine pulled off one of the most disrespectful acts aimed at the Black community. There was no college wide event planned for the 1994-95 calendar year to commemorate Black History Month, not even one event to educate students about the many contributions made by many African-Americans to this great country. President Bowen held a rather lavish and expensive event dubbed "The President's Jazz Concert" which was thrown for him by invitation only. The President had such a jolly good time that he could not finish his speech, and perhaps only the late Foster Brooks could have understood the beginning. As a patronizing gesture, President Raymond C. Bowen, Dean Ruth Lugo and Lance Seunarine, had Allan Scribner dust off the video tape "Eye On The Prize" and ran it from about the week of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. birthday (Jan. 18) through the month of February (Black History Month), in front of room M115. Then there was the defacement of club boards. When the Jewish club bulletin board was deface in April, 95, the college responded by buying and mounting a surveillance camera over the board. When the Black Student Union club board was deface, and someone destroyed the pictures of Martin Luther King, Marcus Garvey and Malcolm X, Dean Ruth Lugo and President Raymond C. Bowen turned the other way.

An event championed by President Bowen in May of '95, called "Multi/Cultural Appreciation Week" came off as an, in your face; my culture is better than yours atmosphere; that provided an opportunity for people to clique with their own kind. It also had an overriding message that there is no White American culture, since there was almost no representation of America's majority.

It is no surprise that at LaGuardia Community College an organization calling itself "The Network to Confront Racism" sent out a college wide memo dated April 5, 1995, that states: "The current political climate created by state and city cuts to education has made both students and faculty feel vulnerable. The Network to Confront Racism believes that this atmosphere may contribute to tensions in the classroom. They wrote "(1) When incidents of bias or instances of hate speech have occurred in your classes, how have you handled such incidents? Do you believe it is appropriate to try to handle these incidents directly in class?" What are they implying here?

Finally, there is the question of Sam Amoako as advisor to The Bridge newspaper. The editors of The Bridge have told him that they do not want him as their advisor, but he still doesn't get it. Ironically the college continues to pay Sam Amoako about $5,200 or the equivalent of teaching a class for doing nothing. The college insist that this man is the advisor to The Bridge, but he has not done anything for the newspaper for more than a year. The editors have chosen Professor Jerry Frohnhoefer as the advisor to The Bridge, but the college refused to pay him for the work he has done. Instead the college claimed that after teaching at LaGuardia College for more than ten years Professor Frohnhoefer is not a real professor, and therefore they cannot accept him as the Editorial Board's legitimate choice as advisor to The Bridge.
At LaGuardia College:

By Joseph N. Smith

The punishment, President Raymond C. Bowen, brought to bear on The Bridge newspaper editors, for publishing an opinion piece, "'Who's The Real Problem" by Todd 'one' Williams, in the Sept. '93 issue, is frightening, and may have given many reasonable people who otherwise differ, to question his logic of such a conspiracy. It is also quite clear that LaGuardia Community College has infringed on the rights of Mr. Todd 'one' Williams, and any other student who wishes to challenge other people's views, or express their personal opinion in The Bridge newspaper. This Stalinist type of behavior, crudely disguised by those who wrap themselves in the Politically Correct/Multiculturalism flag, while deliberately seeking to subvert the students First and Fourteenth Amendment rights of the United States Constitution, is in itself an act of treason.

Williams on Jewish and Black relationship
Among some of the things, Mr. Todd 'one' Williams alleged in his Sept. '93 opinion, was that Jews were trying to "extinct Blacks out of everything including existence." As harsh as such statements are, Mr. Williams reasoned that his statements were not born solely out of the need to be anti-Semitic, but rather out of other life experiences, and he felt that David Dinkins, one of only a few Black men he ever looked up to was being torn apart by members of New York Jewish communities. When questioned about the reality of such statements, Todd 'one' Williams would passionately reference to the Jewish Professor, Michael Levin, or the Yiddish racial epithet that depicts Blacks as inferior to Jews, but more so to the "Arsenio Hall Show," and the "Phil Donahue Show." He said that both talk show hosts at one time or the other had as their guest, Minister Louis Farrakhan, the leader of an organization that advocates that the Holocaust never existed. The Quad's editor at the time was Andrew Wallenstein, who is White, had both Minister Louis Farrakhan, and Khalid Muhammed on his NBC afternoons talk show, and there was no call by the ADL, and those other powerful members of the Jewish communities for Phil Donahue's show to be taken off the air.

Another important example he used was our situation at The Bridge newspaper, or compared to the Quad, a Queens College newspaper that published a controversial ad from Bradley Smith, the leader of an organization that advocated that the Holocaust never existed. The Faculty's editor at the time was Andrew Wallenstein, an Orthodox Jew, while the editor of The Bridge, Joseph N. Smith, is a Black student. The Quad was allowed to continue publishing, and its editors received favorable coverage by CBS's news program 60 minutes, and other New York City media. Interestingly, in a New York Newsday article about the controversial ad titled, "Free Speech Vs. History," by Bob Koester, published Feb. 10, '94, not once was the word "anti-Semitic" used about Bradley Smith. Whereas, The Bridge was shutdown by the LaGuardia College Administration, and its editors demonized as anti-Semitic. Particularly in a Nov. 22, '93, New York Post article titled, "Anti-Jewish Journalist Promoted," by David Seifman and Alex Monsky. The article made insinuating and unfounded allegations, by implying that everyone who was part of The Bridge's Editorial Board election process was part of a conspiracy that dictated the outcome of the elections. These two journalists seemed quite angry after learning that Todd 'one' Williams and Joseph N. Smith, were elected to the positions of News Editor and Editor-In-Chief respectively. They wrote, (sic) "It has alleged that the outcome of the election was rigged through stacked votes by cronies of the winners." Even a commission appointed by the College Association, that is for the most part, hostile to The Bridge's Editorial Board, could not find one piece of evidence that would support the "alleged" allegations. The article also had quotes from Professor Peter Rondinone, Director of Journalism at LaGuardia College, and Professor Michael Blaine, two former advisors to The Bridge newspaper. Peter Rondinone, (sic) "the administration's attitude gives credibility to these students who published the anti-Semitic article. He said the election was a sham because Smith wasn't even qualified to run. "The newspaper's basically been seized," he said. Michael Blaine, (sic) "I view this as giving the appearance that they are being rewarded for racist speech." Both Professors Peter Rondinone and Michael Blaine, have personal agendas regarding The Bridge newspaper, and an ax to grind. Especially Peter Rondinone. When he was advisor to The Bridge newspaper, he was paid an extra nine credits of teaching time, approximately $7,200 of a $10,000 Bridge budget. Peter Rondinone, was fired by the Student Government for poor job performance, because the students had published two papers in Spring '89 with about one hundred and eighty errors all together.

A case of Libel
Their obsession with The Bridge newspaper, and their determination to determine its editors and the advisor Jerry Frohnhoefer continued. In a memorandum sent to Dean Lugo-Alvarez, dated October 26, '93, and written by Professors, Dr. Sandra Harson, Peter Rondinone and Michael Blaine, they slandered my name and lied about my writing capabilities. They wrote that, (sic) "Mr. Smith, who failed an elementary writing test in the spring administered in the Writing Center at the behest of Student Activites, was elected editor-in-chief." Not only did I not take the writing test they mentioned but, as a Business major, I had already completed all my required English courses, which was Eng.99, Eng.101, and Eng.102, of which I passed all with grades of B, A, and B, respectively. Also, it is particularly presumptuous of Peter Rondinone, to question the qualifications of Professor Jerry Frohnhoefer the Faculty advisor to The Bridge, considering the errors found in his Oct. 26, '93, continued on pg8
Earl Graves Jr.'s Encounter with the Police

By Todd von: Williams

Last May many people were angered by the way a Black businessman, Earl Graves Jr., was treated by two white police officers. He was stopped and frisked because he was a Black man in the wrong place at the wrong time.

There is something wrong with the way this entire situation was handled beginning from the time Mr. Graves Jr. was stopped and frisked by two white Metro-North police officers, to the public apology written in The New York Times. The Metro-North police officers were acting on a tip from an anonymous source who wrote a letter to Metro-North, stating that at times there is a 5'10'' black man, with athletic build, carrying a briefcase with a gun. Mr. Graves Jr. is a 6'4'' black man about 6'4''.

Earl Graves Jr.'s encounter with the police, and a little one at that, was a wake-up call to him and other prominent African-Americans. A call to let Earl Graves know that being "Senior Vice President" of Black Enterprise and having a wealthy father who is the Chairman of the company does not excuse the fact that he is Black. Many African-Americans, young men and old women, are stopped and frisked by the police on a daily basis and in some cases are shot to death or beaten to a pulp like Rodney King. The fact that it happened to a prominent rich "powerful" Black man whose "father has connections no one else has" is supposed to mean something. Wake-up brother!

Don't you hear the call? It's from life you have to face it.

No one deserves to go through what Mr. Graves experienced but, the outcome is, it happened and it happens. He should be lucky he didn't end up like Rodney King. If it were any other working Black man or I in his situation, someone who doesn't have the money, prominence or power as an Earl G. Graves Jr., the story would not have even made it to the front door of the New York Times, let alone on six pages. If I were to demand an apology after being involved in an incident exactly like that, I would get anything from a laugh in the face, to a good ol' fashion ass whipping accompanied with a volley of racial epithets and a couple of nights in jail. Mr. Graves walked away in one piece and in good health unlike others who had been stopped by police officers in the past.

From the way he describes the ordeal, he was not assaulted or verbally insulted but yet he demanded an apology. He not only got an apology, but got it in a major newspaper, on television, and on the radio. Rodney King has not gotten an apology yet, and he almost lost his life. Earl Graves Jr., walked away without a scratch and with an apology from the Metro-North Police Department. Was it because he is rich?

Victimization, A Self-Fulfilling Prophecy

From sociology to the Donahue show, a new trend has begun in the land of political correctness: victimization. Victimization is a social "purple heart medal," a Visa that covers all misdeeds, making the case that victims and their actions are mere results of cruel fate or abuse by those better off. The qualifications of victim membership are broad: you can be of any ethnic minority, possess any physical or psychological problems. If you are African, Asian, Latin American, if you're overweight, slow, homosexual, abused, alcoholic or had an alcoholic parent, you qualify.

"If you are African, Asian, Latin American, if you're overweight, slow, homosexual, abused, alcoholic or had an alcoholic parent, you qualify." From sociology to the Donahue show, a new trend has begun in the land of political correctness: victimization. Victimization is a social "purple heart medal," a Visa that covers all misdeeds, making the case that victims and their actions are mere results of cruel fate or abuse by those better off. The qualifications of victim membership are broad: you can be of any ethnic minority, possess any physical or psychological problems. If you are African, Asian, Latin American, if you're overweight, slow, homosexual, abused, alcoholic or had an alcoholic parent, you qualify.

Sykes displays a case of Political Correctness authority at prestigious Kenyon College. A handout was distributed in "Biology 14" setting class rules. "For women, participation means making verbal contribution to discussion... for men, discussion-attending to women's discussion and making contributions where you are strongly motivated by your knowledge of women in your experience of thought..." Noted one student publication: Given the conditions for male participation, "an absurd concept itself", the rules effectively silence men.

Entering mental illness into the victim club he adds, "Once the language of disease and addiction could be applied to behavior rather than merely to biological disorder almost any aspect of human life could be redefined in medical terms." Once again the power of the individual can be conquered by riding that individual of responsibility.

To declare a person or group as victims is not an act of sympathy but one of patronization. To accept victimhood is to accept a lifetime of defeat. The P.C. police think they can rally every form of oppressed minority to unite and take on their rich, white, male, heterosexual, normal sized, unabused, sane, right handed oppressors... good luck.
ABORTION: SHOULD MEN HAVE ANY SAY?

by Gary Blake

Since the 1970's, abortion has been one of the most controversial issues in the United States of America. In order to ease this dispute, the Supreme Court on January 22, 1973, in the case of "Roe versus Wade," gave women the right to her own body. Ironically, this ruling has only intensified the issue of abortion and with this increased intensity, the country became divided.

Two groups emerged, namely the pro-life groups and the pro-choice groups. The pro-life groups believe that abortion is wrong and thus, are against the ruling of the case. The pro-choice groups support the woman's right to choose groups support the woman's right to choose abortion. But, what about man's right to choose if his spouse has an abortion?

There are two type of abortion - spontaneous and induced. A spontaneous abortion is a premature birth occurring before the fetus can survive. An induced abortion is an encouraged expulsion of a fetus after, accompanied by, or followed by, its death. Abortion has been controversial because no one agrees when a fetus becomes a person, although historically and legally the fetus has not been regarded as a person. Even scientists and doctors cannot establish when a fetus becomes human. The late Dr. Lewis Thomas of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, in his testimony before the Senate said "the question of when human life begins...lies beyond the reach of science."

Many persons have their own opinion as to when a fetus becomes a separate human life. Some people believe that human life begins when the mother's egg is united with the father's sperm. Others believe that a fetus becomes a person when its brain develops. Still others believe that the fetus is not a human being until it can live outside of the womb or until it is actually born.

Abortion affects everyone in our society. From the upper class to the lower class, the educated to the uneducated, and even, men are affected by the issue of abortion. According to The Abortion Controversy written by Carol Emmens, most Americans support abortion in the cases of rape and incest, where the fetus is abnormal, and when the mother's life is in danger. A smaller amount of Americans support abortion for social reasons such as when the family is poor, when the woman is single, or when the woman doesn't want anymore children.

Pro-choice groups support abortion all the time because they view the fetus as being human only when it is born. Pro-lifers are against abortion except in cases of rape, incest and when the mother's life is in danger. These fiery debates about the rights of the fetus and when abortion is correct, have shadowed and put aside the rights of the fathers.

Since the 1980's the lower courts of the United States have heard many cases where husbands, ex-husbands and boyfriends have demanded that their wives bring their pregnancies to term. Most of these cases have generally been brought to court under the banner of a liberation movement; the idea being that the mother is not the only one who has an interest in the future of a fetus. In other words, men also want to have a decision as to whether to abort the fetus or to save the child.

In the case of "Roe versus Wade," the Supreme Court gives a woman the right to decide for herself and thus, the sole right in deciding to have an abortion. On the other hand, a father also has a constitutional right to the care, custody and companionship of his child; his rights are in conflict when the mother wants to abort the child. While most groups of men support some aspects of this case, women pro-choice groups say that a father's rights do not extend to dictating abortion.
compulsory pregnancy, and that no one, male or female, has the right to have the court system force another to procreate with him or her. Once again, these cases have put men against women, pro-lifers against pro-choice.

Lower courts have granted requests by lower courts to stop their spouse from having an abortion, but when the cases reach higher courts, their requests have been turned down. These men have been encouraged by the ruling in the case of "Planned Parenthood of Southern Pennsylvania versus Robert P. Casey," where it states that it is required that wives notify their husbands before they have an abortion. Women are excluded if they have been raped, if they are in fear of being beaten or fear for their lives, sexual abuse or fear of the future of their marriage.

The fathers are further encouraged and supported by the fact that their roles have changed since the 1960's and 70's. Now, fathers' have been drastically changed from the days when the father came home, put up his feet and watched the ball-game on the tube, to fathers who do the dishes, change the diapers and share equally in the household chores. Also, many fathers have custody of their children in divorce suits because they have proven to be more sensitive and responsible as a parent. Thus, "in this new equal opportunity atmosphere, fathers..should have some say over the termination of a pregnancy that they helped to create," said Peggy Orenstein.

The law states that if a man and a woman divorces, and they had a child between them, as people buying the records. Most of Elvis song is not his own but was from such artists as Little Richard and Otis Blackwell just to name a few. His dancing came from intense practicing and good teaching. Good teaching from a black man. Those moves are sure of Hell couldn't have been made up by Elvis himself because as Ray Charles said, "Blacks have been shaking their hips for years but nobody started paying attention until Elvis did it." Also, it has been proven over the years that White people lack that kind of rhythm. Basically what you have here is a man who had great admiration for many Black musicians, and at times sang other people's song and got credit for it. Based his style of clothing on a race of people which he was not very fond of, and copied his dance moves from that race. Coincidence, I think not. So, Is Elvis the "King of Rock", or A BIG CROOK? You be the judge.

For more information on Black musicians and their struggle for equality during the mid 1900's read The death of Rhythm and Blues, and Where did our love go. Both books are by Nelson George.

ELVIS continued from pg 5

the man is forced to support the child financially, until the child is eighteen years of age. Therefore, if the man is forced by law to support his child, even if he did not have input in the decision of the child's birth, he should have the right in deciding if the baby lives or dies. It is only fair, that he should be able to have a say in the abortion or birth of the child.

Men all over the country have been devastated and traumatized by the decisions made by their wives regarding the abortion of a child and thus, their marriages have been damaged. For example, a husband and his wife decides to have a baby. They make plans to build a new room, to move out of the city to buy baby things, to change jobs and so on. They begin to think of names and where to put the crib. They become emotionally and psychologically attached to the baby. Suddenly, the wife decides to terminate the baby, concluding that the child will be a burden to her. The father offers to take custody of the child and bear all the costs of the pregnancy, birth and nurturing. The mother says,"no."

In a similar example, the father pleaded with the mother. Don Bredes says in his article titled "Rights and Choices," the pregnancy has imposed on us a crisis, yes, but also a wonderful opportunity. One that obliged us to act now out of faith in our love." The mother still goes ahead and has an abortion. The husband is mentally, psychologically and physically devastated. In some cases, these negative effects on these men could mean impotency, little interest in women, a dislike for children, or abusive attitudes toward other women. In most cases, where the husband and wife are indecisive as to whether to abort or to save the child, the marriage will end in divorce.

In my opinion, men should have a right in deciding if their spouse has an abortion. I believe that when a man and a woman enter into marriage, they do so in the hope of living together forever. Someday, they may decide to have children. They decided to do so together, therefore they should decide together whether to abort or to save the child.

In the case where the conception of the child was not planned, they should both decide what to do with it, because they both made the mistake. They are a team bounded together by love. They should make decisions together because they were together before the conception and they will be there after the decision. They should not let the decision of whether to abort or the keep the child destroy their love for each other. After going through this devastating experience, Don Bredes, a freelance writer in Vermont summed it best. In the last paragraph of his article, he wrote, "Now, months later, I still can't comprehend it. I believe in every woman's right to choose - not as zealously as I used to, may be, yet I continue to support that right. But what about a man's choice? Who, I need to know, will believe in that?"

WHAT A WA$TE continued from pg 1

members of Student Government pocketed some of this money for themselves.

First you need to ask yourself, who voted to have a Valentines' Day party, when and why? Second, does SGA led by William Negron have the responsibility to throw these lavish parties with student funds? Who is responsible for watching over SGA, president Raymond Bowen or Dean Lugo-Alvarez, the Dean of Student Affairs? Finally, ask yourself, where in Gods' name did a price like $10,250.00 dollars for a small Valentines Day party in a gym come from? There is an urgent need for the federal, state, and city government to look into the financial wastage of this college, and all students at LAGuardia must do whatever they can to bring public attention to these financial wastes. (Bill Negron has since been ejected as USS Chairperson)

From: The Freedom Forum

First Amendment is an essential part of cultural policy because it gives the artist, the thinker, the social commentator, the right to speak freely without...intellectual restraint of kind.

John Frohnmayer attorney, First Amendment advocate 1993
Some consider the U.S. to be an experiment in whether a healthy productive society can thrive without a central authority constructing a road map and regulating procedures to follow that path. For many of us however, this country has a far more divine meaning than a social lab study. To us the Pledge of Allegiance has a significance second only to God. For what was the purpose of the Revolutionary War, why shed the blood? For that matter why did the Pioneers bother to risk dying from starvation since there were no refrigerators then, the food stored on the Mayflower all had early expiration dates?

In their tireless quest for the New World, laid a passion for things of greater importance than riches or even comfort. Back in Great Britain, kings were living lavishly off the common peasant’s taxes and those who dared to practice a denomination other than the Anglican Church (a church founded by King Henry VIII to grant himself ultimate power) had their land owning rights restricted if not nonexistent. America was founded on a dream that people should live free. That is why in the founding of the Constitution, they broke government into a judicial, legislative (Congress) and executive (president, cabinet) branches. It was the reason why they ruled that, “Congress shall make no law abridging religion or prohibiting the free practice thereof.” And why the right speech, assembly and the right to bear arms were written. They also wrote that only Congress had the power to declare war. They had no interest in getting entangled in the conflicts of the land they fought to escape. We may take these ideas for granted today but back then they were unheard of and never before practiced.

Unfortunately, there are some people today who do not share those values. Here in New York State, during the last few months, $3 million dollars have been spent by state and municipal unions for the sole purpose of keeping government and its expenditures growing and to ensure that the Board of Education remains one of the hands of voters through their elected officials. Many of these people have also raved against the Contract with America.

The Contract calls for more power of regulation to states, a limit on Federal borrowing and a limit on deployment of U.S. troops in U.N. missions. I’m sure such things would have disgusted Jefferson.

Simultaneously, the administration at LaGuardia C.C. has blocked publication of the Bridge Newspaper. With no other paper on campus and the college radio station not functioning, LaGuardia students have practically no form of communication. Since a controversial piece entitled “Who’s the Real Problem?” was printed, the Dean of Student Affairs Ruth Lugo-Alvarez hand picked Faculty Advisers Sam Amoako and Lance Seunarine to block votes on going to press and have refused to recognize Jerry Frohnoffer the advisor elected by the Bridge Editorial Staff. Seunarine’s position as Director of Student Life and Development is a duplication of a position already held by Vincent Banrey. As a result of the silence, Student Government and the College Association members have abused their power in going on trips paid for with student fees. One of them was a trip to Florida which cost $9,652.15. Throughout the semester, Fall II and Spring I of ’94, $1,395 was advanced to Student Government by President William Negron and $1,000 more by Vice President Larry Abercrombie the following June, after leaving the college.

It comes as no surprise that faculty members and student government have proudly joined the Anti-Contract crowd. They have illegally pulled the fire alarm to get students to join anti-budget cut rallies. They have invited Fidel Castro supporters into the college and posted “join or die” in red letters throughout the campus.

Most recently, College President Raymond Bowen decided to hold classes on Good Friday. After almost two years as a student, it is painfully obvious to me what is being done here. The administration has been making a concerted effort to turn a college ironically named after a Republican mayor into a communist training camp. They have hand-picked professors who believe that government should control all major U.S. industries and reject traditional American views. As for the press, they will only allow it to circulate if they can screen what goes through it and see that it squares with their philosophy and personal interests.

As the American Express commercials say “it can happen to you.” You must be vigilant and watch out. After all, had the pioneers been so apathetic, would we be here speaking freely of such a topic? What would Thomas Jefferson have had to say about all of this?
Are CUNY Newspapers Truly Independent?

CUNY's student newspapers are not independent. The Brief, the CUNY School of Law Newspaper, was intimidated by then Dean (Burns), Dean of Students (Ortiz), Adjunct and Ortiz's lover (Elrod), tenured Professor (Copelon), and Acting Dean (Rosse) et al. or conspired with them to violate the author's U.S. Const. Amend. I & XIV rights. (See Leeds v. Meltz et al. 95 CV 602 (EDNY). The Brief refused to print the following noncommercial speech, tendered with payment:

INFORMATION WANTED
I. ANY material that could DISCREDIT:
Haywood Burns, Victoria Ortiz, Jennifer Elrod, Rhonda Copelon, and Merrick Rosse in use for federal civil rights action. CONTACT JACKSON LEEDS: 142-24 61st Road, Flushing, NY 11367-1202, (718) 461-1209.

Press Censorship and The New York Times "The Jew World Order"

memo and his original memo of May 26 '93. It prompted Professor Jerry Frohnhoefer to question whether the memo had come from a Journalism professor, that "The presence of three errors in such a short document occurred, I assumed it could not be from a director of Journalism."

Furthermore, in the Fall '94, survey "Perspectives On Multiculturalism & Diversity From The Nation's Campuses," conducted by the United States Student Association Foundation, and funded by the Ford Foundation, The Bridge newspaper received recognition as one of the twenty best college newspapers in the nation, along with Harvard University, Indiana University at Bloomington, Iowa State University, Jackson State University and State University of New York at Stony Brook.

The ADL's threat to free speech

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL), an ethnic lobbying group for Jewish people was outraged by the opinion piece, "Who's The Real Problem," and demanded that the President, Raymond C. Bowen, take much more forceful actions against The Bridge newspaper.

The ADL, in a letter to President, Raymond C. Bowen, dated October 15, '93, wrote, "We have seen your letter of response to this egregious act of racism and sadly we feel it was not forceful enough and did not express the outrage we would have expected from the president of an institution of higher learning." The ADL was responding to the president's stated position in the first memo-randum he released to the college community, dated October 4, '93. In part it states, "It is clear that we live in an academic community where academic freedom allows the wide spectrum of opinions some of which may even be reprehensible. Reason and good judgment must prevail, nevertheless, if we must avoid being absorbed into anarchy."

Driven by a series of events, coupled with his condescending attitude towards members of The Bridge editorial board, President Raymond C. Bowen is unwilling Zealot. On October 18, '93, the President wrote a letter to City Council Speaker Peter Vallone, the letter was harsh, and much more critical of Todd 'one' Williams. In it he outlined what he called a "three-point plan for ensuring responsible journalism in student publications," which meant: restitution, censorship, and shut-down of The Bridge newspaper that's funded by student activity fees. During a meeting on Nov. 8 '94, President Raymond Bowen told three editors, Kevin Degidion, Todd 'one' Williams and Joseph N. Smith, that he had to separate "Bowen the man from Bowen the President," and that by an executive order he had the right to see what goes into the paper before publication. In a memorandum to "Council of Presidents" from Robert E. Diaz, CUNY's Vice Chancellor, dated Jan. 11, '95, [pg.3] Diaz wrote, "The First Amendment protection of freedom of speech and of the press apply to student newspapers and other publications.

Therefore, a public university may not impose any content-based prohibition on such publications except to serve a 'compelling state interest' (again, a standard that is very difficult to meet). Similarly, a public university may not take adverse action against a student newspaper (such as withdrawing its funding) or against a particular student because it disagrees with the content of a student newspaper. While a college may not interfere with the content of student publications, it may, consistent with the law described earlier, promulgate time, place and manner restrictions regarding the distribution of student publications. This serves as further proof of President Bowen's resentment to the First Amendment Rights of college students.

The New World Order

"The Jew World Order" an article written by Frank Rich that appeared in the Op-Ed section of the New York Times on March 9, '95, might have alarmed some people depending how they interpret its allegations. It alleged a link (conspiracy) between Louis Farrakhan and Pat Robertson of the Christian Coalition against the Jewish people, by common use of the words "international bankers." By using the same standard of judgment, Republican Presidential candidate Bob Dole, can be linked to this conspiracy against the Jewish people, for questioning whether money was the sole reason why "Time Warner Record Company executives," signed acts like "Nine Inch Nails." Nine Inch Nails, is a popular Rap group that has a song with explicit lyrics depicting sex...
A 79 YEAR OLD MAN VICTIMIZED BY NEW YORK CITY

WHAT KIND OF A JUSTICE SYSTEM IS THIS ANYWAY?

My name is Robert Stevenson, and I reside at 242 West 76th Street, New York, N.Y. 10023. I haveots a serious problem and desperately need help. I thought I could best bring my situation to your attention regarding the year 1986 when I purchased a building of ten apartments located at 504 Manhattan Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10027. After becoming the landord of this building, I soon discovered that a tenant (Kathlyn Sullivan) in apartment 5-R had removed all partitions in her apartment, except the bathroom partition. Therefore, Miss Sullivan's apartment looked like a loft. To my dismay, I learned that four other tenants had also removed partitions in their apartments. I then became alarmed because of the possibility of damage to the bearing walls. I called the building inspector and asked for inspection of these torn down partitions. Soon after he explained that he had no choice but to post "no occupancy" on the five damaged apartment doors, which meant I would be deprived of receiving rent from these apartment. Soon after, I received a summons to appear at the Criminal Court in New York City. I appeared in court and was charged and accused of removing the partitions in each apartment. Needless to say, I was shocked and devastated by these false charges. Further investigation revealed that Miss Sullivan had told the inspector that she was the one who removed the partitions. The building inspector testified in court that he saw me remove the partitions. The inspector's name is Charles Walker, and he blatantly committed perjury on the witness stand. Docket No. 8N03008.

Before I purchased the building, on December 5, 1986, the City of New York was the landlord. The City of New York had possession of the building for two years back taxes. However, the previous owner paid all of the delinquent taxes and was able to retrieve the property back again. In the past, the previous owner would have me do repair work in his building, and he sold me the building because he knew I could repair whatever needed to be repaired, such as the plumbing, electrical work, etc. At that time, I believed I was getting a good deal. Unfortunately, I never had a reason to do repair work in the apartments where the partitions had been removed, for if I did, I would not be writing this letter. It was during the two years the City had possession of the building (from 1984 to 1986) that the tenants removed the partitions in their apartments. When I purchased the building, the partitions were already removed. The super's name was Richard Walker. He testified that he saw Miss Sullivan and other tenants remove the partitions in their apartments, while the landlord was the City of New York.

I appeared in court twenty-six (26) times on these false charges, over a period of four and a half (4 1/2) years. From records obtained from appellants by present counsel it is known that Kathlyn Sullivan of 504 Manhattan Avenue was originally charged with these violations in Docket No. 7N204792W. Richard Walker was then charged in Docket No. 7N204792W, as having removed "Load bearing" partitions in these five apartments. After that case was dismissed, An appellant was charged in Docket No. 8N224075W with the same offenses, which were dismissed on September 14, 1988. In addition, the court fined me twenty-five hundred ($2,500.00) dollars, or ten (10) days in jail. Miss Sullivan was fined fourteen thousand ($14,000.00) dollars and later all charges against her were dismissed.

I am a seventy-eight (78) year old man, and can you imagine having to appear in court back and forth twenty-six (26) times at my age? There were days when I did not feel well enough to go to court, however, I knew that if I didn’t appear I would be arrested. I have gone before at least fifteen different judges. I always sensed that Judge Ferdinand (and some other judges) felt that I was innocent, still justice did not prevail. On September 14, 1988 I went before judge stackhouse and all charges against me were dismissed. On the very same day, after the judge dismissed the case against me, the prosecutor in turn brought the same charges against me. Needless to say the judge was outraged and I couldn’t believe what I heard. Judge Stackhouse told the prosecutor that this case would not be tried in his court. Later I was fined twenty-five hundred ($2,500.00) dollars or ten (10) days in jail. My legal Aid Attorney appealed the case at the Appellate Court and thankfully on June 20, 1991 the Appellate Court ruled in my favor and I was cleared of all charges. I was told that I had experienced the worse kind of malicious prosecution within a period of four and one half years.

In July 1991, I retained attorney C. Vernon Mason to initiate a law suite against the City for false arrest. Mr. Mason’s retaining fee was seventy-five hundred ($75,000.00) dollars. In advance, I did not have that amount of money so we made this deal: I would remodel his two bathrooms plus paint one half bath for his services. I also worked with Mr. Mason during his campaign for City Councilman. I later discovered that Mr. Mason was not the person I thought him to be.

On August 27, 1991, Mr. Mason faxed my case to the City stating that he was going to file a law suite against them. I personally know that Mr. Mason deliberately let the statute of limitation (90) days expire. I know that Mr. Mason sold me out to the City because of the many judges and prosecutors having been involved, since at this time, he was to come before the Disciplinary Committee under investigation for the Tawana Brawley case. Mr. Mason filed my case some months later on February 4, 1992. I also believe because I am seventy-eight (76) years old, he felt he could use me, and he did. My health is excellent and my mind is alert and sharp.

Press Censorship — continued from pg8
THE U.S. AND BOSNIA: NO TIME FOR OVER CONFIDENCE

By Kevin Dugidon

After nearly half a decade of ongoing horror stories in the former Yugoslavia, it looks as though they may finally be reaching a resolution. It is clear now that Bosnian Serb leaders could only understand the international language of force. They have finally moved their artillery out of Serijavo and other Conquered regions and move to the peace table. The world community (to the extent one exists) is tippin' its hat to the U.S. and NATO for cooling the waters at least somewhat of Serbian aggression. Not everybody however perceives us as heroes, the U.S. Embassy in Russia has been the target of several protesters and one grenade.

The question we now face is what's next? Will the Bosnians and Croats take advantage of the situation to seek their vengeance, as they have begun, will a valid truce ever be abided? Are we responsible for the following faze after becoming involved and if so how do we best act on such responsibility? President Clinton believes we are responsible and has pledged 20,000 to 25,000 U.S. ground troops as part of a multilateral NATO peacekeeping force. He has failed to come up with more specific nor has he addressed what prospects and risks that may be entailed?

Historically, the U.S. had less than a stable relationship with the Muslim Community to say the least. The Cold War put us at odds with the Islamic World since The Soviets thought it a good strategic move to stand in support the Islamic leaders (that was until the war in Afghanistan). The U.S. and Western Europe on the other hand offered Israel to the Jews as an apology for the Holocaust. The U.S. supported the Shaw of Iran as a strategy to fence the Soviets from the region and help the oil industry. When the Ayatollah Khomeini took over Iran, the U.S. won the sole title of the "great Satan" of the world. When the U.S. stationed 200,000 troops in Beirut, Lebanon, the mission was unclear we were not officially taking sides but Muslim fanatics knew what side we were on. A Kamikaze terrorist in a truck filled with explosives killed 241 of our troops. How do we know such a scenario will not occur in Bosnia?

Of course some would argue that this time we are on the Muslim side, after all it was primarily the U.S. who led the air strikes that freed them from Serbian conquest. But that may not be enough for fringe terrorist groups who recognize the U.S. as a culprit in binding their hands by supporting the Serb biased U.N. led arm embargo and since our goal will be to restrain them from recapturing more than 51% of the land that was forced from their hands, it's not all that implausible to suggest U.S. troops could become sitting ducks for their outrage voiced though Middle East led Muslim terrorists.

Then there's the Serbian terrorist scenario. Although the Serbs currently may be in a compromising position, they have powerful friends in Russian Nationalists, even the moderate U.S. friendly Boris Yeltsin has struggled to appease such constituency has condemned the air raids and suggested it play harsh diplomatic ties to the West. What if Russian militants arm Serbian terrorist organizations to target U.S. GI's, not only could many American soldiers die and the peace process be left in shambles but it could send a devastating blow to U.S. Russian relations that would bare repercussions beyond comprehension. 

Let's not forget we are talking about the same explosive region that lit the match of W.W.I. Centuries leading to that time, the region was exploited for their natural resources by the Austrian Empire, the Austrians were experts at playing the divide and conquer card to prevent an uprising. As the Twentieth Century began tensions reached a boil, an anarchist assassinated the Serbian Duke in 1914, almost without a breath Russia came to the Serbs Aid followed by Great Britain and France, Germany and Turkey responded by siding with Crosisia. During W.W.I the Croats allied with the Nazis in massacring Serbians. After W.W.I. as the Iron Curtain inhabited the East, Yugoslavia as we know it was created as an economic province, a trading block for the Soviet Empire. Tito's rule tipped over the conflicts at best and the Worker Councils created in the late '40s created more polarity between the industrial and agricultural sectors. When Tito's regime collapsed he play to the history ethnic conflicts to prevent becoming another Ceausescu, who was shot and by his people. Sadly, peace now has no history in the former Yugoslavia.

Sending U.S. ground troops to Bosnia makes no more sense now than it did before the air strikes, if anything it makes even less. The U.S. has already alienated both sides enough to become a major target for extremist factions who dread true peace above all else. We have seen it before in Beirut, Lebanon and again in Mogadishu, Somalia, our profile is just too great for safe peace keeping. Do our leaders lack enough wisdom to learn from repeated mistakes?

Even if the best possible scenario pans out and U.S. troops bring a peaceful solution and enforce it successfully, how will the world look at the U.S? The fate of Bosnia has no economic impact on the U.S, it has almost no political impact and is not even in our hemisphere. Still we have already lost three top U.S. diplomats Robert Frasure, Joseph Kruze and Nelson Drew when they were killed in a plain crash. We also bared the bulk of the air strikes, what more do we owe them? If we get overly involved it will be a green light for every comer of the globe to post 1991 AMERICA on every embassy billboard. Is it fair to use our bravest as a free world police unit and can we afford to even dream of such a lavish foreign policy as we struggle to close a $193 billion annual nation deficit? The Pentagon has calculated that our effort in the Gulf War cost $20 a month, just imagine what the deployment of a three year peace keeping force in Serijavo would amount to.

If Clinton calls upon his pledge to send 25,000 troops to the region Senate Republicans would be wise to do anything in their powers to block his attempt, after all how many presidents have failed to get re-elected in the midst of battle? Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole has a great opportunity to be the hero who saved American lives and even a possible W.W.I. Let us pray that he's ready to take such an opportunity if it comes.
PRIOR REVIEW STATEMENT OF
THE JOURNALISM EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Approved March 31, 1990 - National Convention, Seattle, Wash.

The Journalism Education Association strongly opposes prior review of student expression.

Along with the Student Press Law Center, we believe no non-school sponsored or official publication, printed or electronic, should be reviewed by school administrators prior to distribution.

Prior review by administrators, school officials or teachers, other than publications advisers, is illogical, journalistically inappropriate and educationally unsound.

A journalism teacher working with students advises, counsels and supervises the editing process. Such internal discussions do not constitute prior review, so long a protected speech is not tampered with, and students make final content decisions.

IN PARTICULAR, PRIOR REVIEW:

* violates the concept that it is the school's responsibility to teach and maintain, through example, the principles of democracy;
* gives school administrators, who are government officials, the power to decide in advance what people will read or know. Such officials are potential news makers, and their involvement with the news-making process can interfere with the public's right to know;
* contradicts every principle of sound journalism education and constitutes blatant but indirect censorship;
* negates the educational value of a trained, professionally active adviser and teacher working with students in a counseling, educational environment. Prior review simply makes the teacher an accessory, as if what is taught really doesn't matter;
* establishes the possibility of viewpoint discrimination which destroys a free marketplace of ideas where a community can be fully informed and undermines all pretext of responsible journalism;
* leads toward self-censorship, the most chilling and pervasive form of censorship in schools. Fear like this can eliminate any change of critical thinking, decision making, or respect for the opinions of others.

INSTEAD WE BELIEVE:

* a newspaper serves its readers only when it is editorially independent;
* good journalism occurs when a qualified faculty adviser, clear publications policies and professionally oriented journalism curriculum exist;
* rights, not authority and discipline, prepare students for roles as citizens in a democracy;
* the potential for abuse is not sufficient reason to withhold a right or privilege;
* a student publication is a forum for ideas, and with

Learning must be a dynamic process, one in which an adviser helps students adjust to change. Censorship interferes with this change and its last resort of an educational system failing its present and future citizens.

Prior review is a weapon in the arsenal of censorship, and the Journalism Education Association opposes its use on America's schools.

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My brother my enemy
by Todd One Williams

Which is it, my brother or enemy?
It's hard to tell especially when I
turn on the TV, 
Black on Black crime
is all I hear all the time
I try to ignore it but it's always on
my mind
robbing, stealing, selling drugs,
killing for sneakers and don't
even give a f**k disrespecting my
Black sista
what's up with that?
all stuck up on getting large and "phat"
destroying our race a big disgrace
and can't wait to jump
in the White man's face
and blame it all on him
but forget it
blame yourself and straighten up
or you'll burn in hell.

Immigration or Devastation
by Todd One Williams

Why do they come here
as if we don't have
enough problems
soon we will be over
crowded
can't speak a word of
English
begging on the street
to feed their 29 kids
and the super duper
large family
why don't they stay
where they belong
going where your're
not welcome is illegal
and wrong.

Black pride comes
from inside
not from a gun
not from violence
it's standing up for
yourself
playing your hand
no matter how bad
the cards are
it's doing the right
thing even though
you don't want to
it's being able to
walk away from a
fight
even though you're
called a wimp
it's holding your
head up with pride
proud to be black if
God wanted to make
you white
he would have made
you white
always look up
never look down
always look forward
never look back
the time to live
that dream is now
this time my brother
and sisters
nothing is going to
hold us down.
HEAVEN’S GROCERY STORE

I was walking down life’s highway,
A long time ago.
One day I saw the sign that read,
“Heaven’s Grocery Store.”
As I got a little closer,
The door came open wide;
And when I came to myself,
I was standing inside.
I saw host of angels,
They were standing everywhere.
One handed me a basket, and said,
“My child, shop with care.”
Everything a person needed
Was in that grocery store.
And all you couldn’t carry,
You could come back the next day for more.
First I got some Patience,
Love was in the same row.

Farther down was Understanding,
You need that wherever you go.
I got a box or two of Wisdom;
A bag or two of Faith.
I couldn’t miss the Spirit,
For it was all over the place.
I stopped to get some Strength
And Courage
To help me run this race.
By then my basket was getting full,
But I remembered I needed some Grace.
I didn’t forget Salvation,
For salvation is free.
So I tried to get enough that
To save both you and me.
Then I started to go up to the counter,
To pay my grocery bill,
For I thought I had enough of everything
To do my Master’s will.
As I went up the aisle, I saw Prayer,
And I just had to put that in.
For I knew that when I stepped outside,
I would run right into Sin.
Peace and Joy were plentiful,
They were on the last shelf.
Song and Praise were hanging near.
So I just helped myself.
Then I said to the angel,
“Now how much do I owe?”
He just smiled and said,
“Just take them everywhere you go.”
Again I smiled and said,
“How much do I really owe?”
He smiled and said,
“My child, the Good Lord paid
your bill,
A long time ago.”

Bulletins from Modern America

By Ursula K. Le Guin

BULLETS stalking the streets with flashlights desperately in search of frightened prey...
BULLETS foraying through parks diligently looking for happy picnickers and joggers and busy lovers...
BULLETS whizzing through doors and windows of houses and stores and cars and bars...
BULLETS strutting the streets without diplomas, job ambition, control or breeding,
diligently looking for happy picnickers and prey...
goaded by gluttony, greed and a craving for fare...
windows of houses and stores and cars and bars and cars and bars...

BULLETS racing from a gun left negligently, conveniently and criminally in reach of a curious child...
BULLETS making orphans and widows and wheel-chair imprisoned paralytic and bed-bound vegetables...
BULLETS searching obsenely priced necker and jackets and radios and gold chains and book bags from showcasing diehards...
BULLETS swaggering in Timberlands and L.L. Beans and untied, tongue-flopping grungy boos...
BULLETS strolling in three-button suits with briefcases stuffed with cold cocaine and hot currency...
BULLETS whipping from breast pockets and briefcases and shoulder bags and bulging purses...
BULLETS lining out kilos of cocaine and crack and going on a binge of mayhem, long or direct, an innocent push, touch or brush

BULLETS “redissing” after a look too long or direct, an innocent push, touch or brush against an urban barbarian.
BULLETS converting communities, villages and towns and cities into cauldrons of terrorized wards and posthumous heroes.
BULLETS shopping, with platinum plastic in boutiques and delis and bodegas and supermarkets and pizzerias and barber shops and cafes and fruit and vegetable stands and drug dens and banks and gas stations and fast food joints...
BULLETS creating wealth for casket makers, undertakers, criminologists, florists, sociologists, security industry, gun makers and gunsmen and lawyers and doctors and patients and work supervisors and fast food servers and gang members and teachers and spouses and lovers and playmates and strangers...
BULLETS nursing babies in their cribs and tots in their beds and in the playgrounds...
BULLETS blasting from a gun left negligently, conveniently and criminally in reach of a curious child...
BULLETS making orphans and widows and wheel-chair imprisoned paralytic and bed-bound vegetables...
BULLETS searching obsenely priced necker and jackets and radios and gold chains and book bags from showcasing diehards...
The ninth annual leadership conference workforce 2000" was held in the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Kingston, New York from December 16-18, 1994. Members from the senate, student government, clubs, and regular students attended this informative conference which other students should take advantage of in the future.

On Friday December 16, the bus departed from Laguardia at 4 p.m. and arrived in Kingston about 6:30 p.m. Students registered and checked-in after which they had dinner. The conference then began with opening remarks from Vincent Barnrey, Director of Student Life and Development and William Negron, President of Student Government Association.

In a relaxed atmosphere, Andrew Sagula, Intramural and recreation co-ordinator of Laguardia taught a session on group dynamics. He explained the need for students to work together as a group, to develop group goals and how to receive and give feedback. One of his successful instructions was for students to remove the chairs aside and learn each other's names by throwing a ball around a circle. The close interaction allowed one person to know at least fifteen different student's names. That was the starting point of Mr. Sagula's definition of the importance of togetherness in leadership. Students then retired for the night looking forward to the next working day.

On Saturday, December 17, breakfast was served at 8 a.m. followed by workshops and seminars. These included topics such as 'The Legislative Process', presented by Carlos Hargrave, JSC/CUNY Legislative Coordinator. He talked about Mayor Giuliani's original plan to cut the college budget by 10 million dollars, which was brought down to 4 million dollars by the city colleges and further cut of 2 million by city counselors. He said that education should be the first priority of the students in Laguardia.

The workshop "A Vehicle For Students Advocacy" was presented by Robert Rosa, Director/Senior Administrator-Continuing Education of Laguardia. He talked about the role of the student senate and a possible change of the senate election from the fall to the spring, which would allow other students to learn about the candidates and be able to participate in the elections. Other workshops entitled 'Student Empowerment' presented by Anthony Giordano, Chairperson Of The University Student Senate, 'Time Management', presented by Bernard Teneiro, Human Resources Manager of Musicland Group Inc., Strategic Planning presented by Vincent Barnrey. Dinner was served at 7 p.m. followed by an after party where students were able to interact while others enjoy dancing to Merengue, R&B and reggae music.

On Sunday, December 18 at 9 a.m. there was a student assembly at which students expressed their concerns about the flaws in Laguardia. The panel involved Richard Elliot, Dean of Administration, Dr. George Hamida, Provost, Academic Affairs, Harry Heimimian, Dean of Co-operative Education. Dr. Ruth Lugo-Alvarez, Dean of Student Affairs, Judith L. McGaughey, Dean of Continuing Education and Dr. Roy Mccloud, Dean of Internat. Dean of Institutional Advancement. Questions involved: How can we improve registration? Answer: The college is seeking additional resources. Technology must be updated and there are attempts to improve self registration. Question: How can we prevent nursing program deferments from failing? Answer: There is a lack of facilities to accommodate nursing, physical therapy and occupational therapy students. There are difficulties transferring the grades in these areas and there is a need for strategic planning. Question: How can we improve foreign student benefits? Answer: There is a lack of foreign student groups to lobby for tuition decrease. New York State and City students should work as leaders to improve the legislative process and that the college has no influence on the tuition for foreign student. Question, which was directed to Dean Lugo: How do you see the future of The Bridge Newspaper? Answer: I am willing to work with The Bridge Newspaper. Media is important but it has an impact on the college. There were inaccuracies in the past newspapers which should be overcome in order for Laguardia to publish the best newspaper. Roy McLeod also responded by saying students should write regularly, inform other students of the positive and responsible things. Other questions were asked, certificates and plagues were distributed to students after which the session was closed at 12:30 p.m. for lunch and the conference closing.
The starting line-up for the New York Knicks is Derek Harper (point-guard), John Starks (shooting guard), Anthony Mason (small forward), Charles Oakley (power forward) and Patrick Ewing (center). The line-up is pretty much the same but the offense has changed. They are going to start running a bit more and all the players including the seven footer Patrick Ewing will spend time at the point guard spot. The new coach, Don Nelson likes to use his players in unorthodox positions, such as using the big guys to bring up the ball, posting the point guard and you know, having fun basically. Don Nelson's philosophy is that the game should be entertaining for the players as well as the fans. He also believes that by using players in different positions, he is maximizing their talents.

Questions is-Will it work? Can these old players run up and down the court for sixty minutes for eight or nine months? Will these guys be able to change from the tough, defensive, orthodox style to a flamboyant, running, easy-going style? Looking at the first preseason game against the Washington Bullets, the Knicks played well in their new offense. They pushed the ball leading to eight lay-ups, which is what they needed last year-easy points. As one problem seem to be solved, another rose-Will the Knicks be able to maintain this style of play with the average age of the starting line-up at thirty-one years? The players respond by saying age means nothing, and that one is as young as he feels. John Starks said, I am thirty years old and I feel good. The experienced coach plans on reducing the playing time of his starters, especially Patrick Ewing and Derek Harper so as to solve this problem.

Another question-Will the reserve players be able to maintain the same point production and defensive intensity? The coach plans to use a 10-man rotation using Charles Smith, Charlie Ward, Hubert Davis, Doug Christie and Monty Williams extensively. The preseason game is not a clear indication of the season, but watching the game we saw that the reserves did not play well. Charles Smith and off-guard Hubert Davis played good but there were too many turnovers, missed shots, forced shots and missed passes. The "backups" need to be more steady, especially inexperienced Charlie Ward who is going to be handling the ball a lot of the time. They need to improve their dribbling, passing and shooting skills in order to help the Knicks reach the Eastern Conference Finals and maybe, the NBA Finals.

Can Patrick Ewing propel the Knicks to a Championship season? (Ap Photo)

Dallas Cowboys: The Best In The NFL

by Pascal Arthus

A fter the seventh week of the National Football Association, it's become clear that the best team in the football league is the Dallas Cowboys. With a 5-1 record, and a very impressive offense, a superb special team that rank among the best, makes the Cowboys the only total team in NFL.

When you consider the average age of the players now signed with the Cowboys, they have the potential to be the best team in the league for the next 3-5 years. The lethal weapons on the team are playing at their best. Troy Aikman, Michael Irvin, Emmitt Smith are in their middle twenties, and the Cowboys' new million dollar man Deion Sanders is just twenty-five years old. Having these four guys playing a whole season healthy, and a solid defense spells bad news for the rest of the teams in the NFL.

After being knocked off in the division's final last season by the 49ers, the Cowboys started the season in good form with a 35-0 drubbing of the New York Giants, at Giants stadium. Since the cowboys has re-established themselves as the team to beat this season, just like they did in the 92-93 and the 93-94, season when they won back to back Super Bowls.

The Cowboys can indeed claim the right to be called the best team in the 90's with a victory at Super Bowl XXX in Arizona. That title will fit the Cowboys just fine, they are a fun team to watch, exciting and an excellent all around team. The trio of Aikman, Smith and Irvin make Dallas the ideal team of the 90's.
With the loss in week seven to the Philadelphia Eagles, making the playoffs is now a dream for the Giants of New York. The dream started last year when the Giants finished 9-7 and was expected to be a NFC championship contender this year. But, instead they have taken a step back into the lowly ranks of the NFC Eastern Division and thus, the NFL. The Giants with a 2-5 record, now are tied for last place with the Arizona Cardinals and Washington Redskins.

After finishing last season with a six game winning streak, a win against the mighty Cowboys, and a near wild card berth the Giants started to dream. They dreamt of moving up and catching the Dallas Cowboys. But dreams die. They started the season 0-3 after losses to the Dallas Cowboys (they were assaulted 35-0), Kansas City Chiefs and the Green Bay Packers. After two wins to teams with worst records (Arizona and New Orleans) and a loss to the San Francisco 49ers, the Giants stand 2-5 going into the bye week.

The Giants had hopes of turning things around, as they always say, against the Eagles, but they just reassured themselves that they have to rebuild and be better next year. That is what they said last year. The problem with the Giants is that every week a different unit decides to take a vacation. One week, the offense plays well, the other week the defense plays well and then, the following week the special teams plays well. The Giants needs to be more consistent. Since the start of the season the three units have not played well in the same game. The Giants have a good team but if the offensive, defensive and special teams do not play well in each and every game there will be no way they can challenge the Dallas Cowboys. As Dave Brown said, "If we can compile the two, we are gonna to be a bitch in this league. Until, we do that, we're gonna settle for losses in close games. And we can't do, that". Brown is absolutely one hundred percent correct. The Giants needs to combine these three units in order to be a winnable football team. Against the Philadelphia Eagles the defense played well, while the offense played terrible. The special teams almost won the game but yet still they lost. This has been the trend since the start of the season for the Giants. It is getting frustrating to know that New York has a team with playoff potential but they cannot get their act together. They are too erratic and they need to settle down and start winning some football games. The Giants needs to improve their level of play and show the rest of the NFL that they are a Super Bowl bound team.

Dave Brown is very capable of maintaining the offense. He makes few mistakes and plays within his game most of the time. The running game needs to pick it up. The Giants should have the best running game in the league. Tyrone Wheatley, Rodney Hampton and Herschel Walker needs to start earning their millions. The defensive unit is good but are not mentally prepared every week for a game and they need to settle down. The best unit, the special teams played exceptionally well against the Eagles and needs to maintain that level of play for the Giants to win more games. The Giants are definitely a playoff team, but not this year. They need to settle down and "start making the tough play, the tough pass, the tough catch, the tough yard" as quarterback Dave Brown said.