Clinton and Ferrer at LaG

By Edward Gordon and Annais Morales
Writer and Co-Editor

The Little Theatre in LaGuardia Community College in Queens was the stage for a big event on Friday, Sept. 16 as New York State Senators Charles Schumer and Hillary Clinton formally endorsed former Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer for mayor of city of New York.

Faculty, students, local politicians, the press and others eagerly awaited the arrival of these prominent political figures to LaGuardia and the auditorium buzzed with anticipation as the excited crowd filled the small venue that usually hosts student theatre productions or regional events showcasing local artists. CUNY security staff controlled the growing masses outside the theatre, while inside Secret Service agents and police officers manned the auditorium as news cameras and photographers lined the back of the house. "Celebration" and "Cup of Life" boomed from the loudspeakers, heating up the crowd and giving a festive atmosphere at what promised to be a memorable occasion.

After a momentary delay, a hush fell over the crowd, as things finally got under way. Dr. Gail Mellow, president of LaGuardia Community College was the first presenter and welcomed the capacity crowd while noting that the student population of

CUNY and LaG catch a cold

By Annais Morales
Co-Editor

On Friday, Sept. 30, LaGuardia Community College suffered a Denial of Service Attack on its computers all throughout campus, only a week after the social security numbers and other personal information of hundreds of students and staff members from Hunter and Queens colleges were leaked onto the internet and were only a double-click away from identity thieves. Students could not access the Internet from early Friday morning to Saturday afternoon.

According to CERT (cert.org) Coordination Center's website, a Denial of Service Attack (DoSA) is characterized by an explicit attempt by attackers to prevent legitimate users of a service from using that service. It involves an attempt to "flood" a network, thereby preventing legitimate network traffic. Ted Dec, Director of Network here at LaGuardia, likened it to 2,000 people trying to get out one door, "They cannot get out. The door is only for ten people." Mr. Dec said that he and a few CUNY technical officials spent all day Friday and Saturday trying to correct the problem. "We had to turn it [Internet] back on floor by floor to isolate the problem."

When asked if this attack was done on purpose, Mr. Dec said, "Whenever someone spreads a virus, they don't have good intentions. It is hard to catch [virus] in terms of you may have all of this protection but, it can still happen. Viruses are getting very sophisticated. Someone may down-
Culture in America: melting pot or soup of lies?

By Edward Con
Managing Editor

What is culture and how does it define us as human beings? Why does a person pretend to vomit when another person tells him or her about the curried frito rat he or she had the previous night for dinner? How come when a friend tells them about their arranged marriage, people get defensive and start with a series of “Aw, that’s a shame?”

Does it ever occur that without our distinctive cultures, we would not be defined as individuals, but rather as a group of similar creatures, with all of our driving forces the same? We would probably all drive the same vehicle, eat the same foods, attend the same schools, buy the same clothing, and have similar social events. There would be nothing but our levels of intelligence and maybe not even that, to separate us from one another.

Culture is defined as the knowledge, language, values, customs, and material objects that are passed down from person to person and one generation to the next in a human group or society. Culture shock can be described as the feeling a person gets when they meet someone that’s culturally different from him or her. Ethnocentrism happens when one assumes that his or her culture is better than other cultures. Both terms can be tied together in a sense. A person who is not accepting another’s culture can be considered ethnocentric.

Many consider the United States to be a country driven by ethnocentrism. Our culture suggests that arranged marriages are barbaric, 14-year-olds should be allowed to date, having more presidential election or even the pre-emptive war in Iraq was responsible for damaging 48% of Americans’ trust in the Bush Administration. It would be simplistic to say the debacle of the 2000 presidential election or even the pre-emptive war in Iraq was responsible for damaging 48% of Americans’ trust in the Bush Administration. It goes much deeper than that, extending into the field of science, long known for its neutral position on politics. In fact, it is the distrust and anger of this traditionally conservative group which really demonstrates that the public’s trust in the current administration has been deeply damaged and will be difficult to restore.

The Union of Concerned Scientists, a non-profit group of citizens and scientists created to combat the misuse of technology and science in society stated on their website that, “[On February 18, 2004 over 60 leading scientists – Nobel laureates, leading medical experts, former federal agency directors, and university chairs signed a statement voicing their concern over the misuse of science by the Bush Administration.” In it they said that the White House pressured the Environmental Protection Agency to change a major report dealing with human impact on climate change. They also stated that the administration “manipulated the process through which science enters into its decisions … by placing people who are professionally unqualified or who have clear conflicts of interest in official posts and on scientific advisory committees.” This raises the question: for whom is this Administration working?

This accusation has been corroborated by Leon G. Billings, President of the Clean Air Trust, a non-profit organization created to educate the public and policy makers on the Clean Air Act, and one of the principle people who drafted the Clean Air Act. He testified before the Democratic Platform Committee that Bush appointed a mining industry special interest lobbyist, Steven Griles, to the number two job in the Department of the Interior … even allowing him to continue to draw compensation from his prior employers after he was confirmed.” To the public, this could appear to be an example of conflict of interest at best and pandering to big business at worst.

While the issue of Mr. Bush’s mismanagement of scientific policy has been covered by reputable media organizations such as the New York Times and Washington Post, local news organizations have hardly mentioned them at all, thus causing a large portion of the American public to remain ignorant and therefore inactive when it comes to confronting Bush about our science community’s perception that he is abusing his presidential powers.

The only way to repair the public’s trust in our president is best explained by quoting the Union of Concerning Scientists statement, “…to restore scientific integrity in the formulation and implementation of public policy, we can all on our colleagues to…request that the government return to the ethic and code of conduct which once fostered independent and objective scientific input into policy formation.”
Protesting: a reflection

By Caitlin Lemmo
General Assignment Writer

To some people, protesting is considered unpatriotic. Lately, to me, it seems like a way of life. I've been to two different protests at two different states, New York and Washington, D.C. I personally do it because I believe the way the government is headed is wrong and I feel that I love my country enough to get out there and try to make a difference. I have several problems with the current administration. First, I believe we are at war under false pretenses. I don't agree that my friends and your friends should be in Iraq doing Bush's dirty work. Secondly, I believe Bush is out to wage a war on women. Iraq is not the only war going on - he systematically is weeding out women's rights. Rights that we have worked so hard to attain, he is just delimiting. You may not agree with pro-choice or pro-life but that's still a woman's decision. If all goes to the President's plan, that choice will no longer be available. It scares me that I may sooner rather than later lose control of my body.

I protest to get others to see that not all is right with the world. The world looks at America and thinks everyone backs Bush. I can assure them, not everyone does. I'm out to change the world's opinions.

The first protest I went to was in the heart of Times Square. We marched where normally "Total Request Live" kids stand, we marched. As we circled the little island, on a much bigger island, we were confronted with several unhappy New Yorkers. Some insisted on yelling, "Stupid hippies!" and, "Take down those signs!" Personally, I was offended but, it's not about me, it's about a much greater issue.

It didn't seem to faze the other marchers, who just continued going on and must have been used to this kind of ridicule. Carrying black taped cardboard coffins, holding picket signs and holding up banners we started to chant and bring more attention. If that wasn't enough, a huge eagle emerged on stilts holding a sign around its neck telling people how many Iraqis have died since the start of the war. I was very proud of this event. It drew massive amounts of attention from onlookers who stood on adjacent sidewalks. Several television stations were there, so we got some media coverage.

The march in Washington, D.C. covered the same ground. People gathered from all around the country to talk politics, mostly about the unfair wages in Iraq and how millions of jobs that have been lost under the Bush administration. Several banners displayed messages spanning from, "When the troops come home, support them with fair pay, housing and health care," to, "Bush will draft students."

Down in D.C. it is very remote and isolated so when me and my friend went to look for some food we had to walk down the block. As we were walking, several security guards started yelling at us. I yelled back cursing at them, but it didn't stop them. When you go to protest there is always crowds feelings. Many people cheered on, while others felt like yelling at us. Both are entitled to their beliefs. The choice is yours. If you want to get involved in protests there are many different organizations that tell you what is going on: moveon.org, now.org, nohanname.org, refiningdream.org are some just to name a few.

If you wish to comment on any of the articles in this edition of The Bridge or have articles to submit yourself, you can e-mail them to thebridge@lagcc.cuny.edu, bring them to the Student Life Office in Room M-115 (ask for The Bridge mailbox) or to The Bridge Office (Room M-159).

Florian H. LaGuardia Community College • CUNY

October 2005
Enrollment Service Center open for business

By Edward Cen
Managing Editor

It is often the case that a LaGuardia student experiences anxiety and frustration when attempting to resolve an administrative issue. Whether it is attempting to obtain an official copy of a transcript, withdrawing from a class or getting a concrete answer to a basic question - many students complain that the answers they get vary from staff person to staff person and a majority say they are fed up with the running around.

Much of the frustration that students face is due to the fact that although many of the school offices complement each other in many administrative processes, they are inconveniently located in different buildings, leaving students with little to no option but to squeeze time out of their already busy schedule. For instance, last semester, in order to personally request a copy of an official transcript, the process obliges students to first pick up a transcript request form at the old Registrar's office, which used to be located in E-242, then walk down and over to the old Bursar office in MB-55 to pay their $4 fee. Finally, they must return again to the Registrar office with the receipt and completed request form. This is an example of the type of process that has driven students to much frustration.

Now it seems as if the complaints that students have made were actually have been noted. On June 6, 2005 in a point to address this ongoing problem, LaGuardia Community College opened the Enrollment Service Center. "This innovative 22,000 square foot center," Student News said, "is designed as a ... model for the delivery of more student-friendly enrollment services." After many years of planning and approximately $2.5 million, a figure given by Dean Buckley from the administrative division, the Enrollment Service Center, which serves as a "one-stop center," is open to all students at LaGuardia.

Director of Educational Planning Services, Robert Park, says that the Enrollment Service Center (ESC), located on the first floor of the C building, was "envisioned to merge primary student offices such as Registrar, Financial Aid, and Educational Planning" purposely "putting these services in one area to avoid the run around" that students often face today.

Students can now refer to the Enrollment Service Center for a variety of administrative issues, ranging from academic advisement, speaking to a representative from Registrar, Financial Aid, testing office, and many more. When asked why plans for such a center came about, the Vice-President of the school, Peter Jordan, stated that, "Much support came from the school administration and faculty, but the students themselves became the real empathy for it" with the goal of decreasing "the amount of effort students expend in the run around and "reduce student frustration and anxiety."

Besides being a step forward in a bettering the enrollment process, the ESC seems to have been creatively designed. Mr. Jordan encourages students to pass by and see how it is here to serve them. He also believes that all of this will help support students better.

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The Enrollment Center during its operating hours (top). The ESC combined functions that were done by several offices. The ESC during its construction (bottom).
College have overstayed their welcome. The LaGuardia Community College battles rodent population of a hardy family Muridea originating in China’s Grasslands, migrating to Europe and crossing the Atlantic Ocean to America in 1775. Apparently, “G.R.” is also the probable vector for the Haunavirus that move to the Americas.

On June 5, 2005, the Administration has ordered that “G.R.” be removed from the inner courtyards between Building E and Building M for apparently taking one too many bites out of the LaGuardia Apple and living in the generous environment at the College. Wang has also seen the species briefly entering the building in the early evenings through the partially open doors to the courtyard. The preliminary goal was to initiate acceptable competition or predators.

According to Peter Jayasekara of the LaGuardia Community College Environmental Health and Safety Office the application of bromadiolone in the form of a formulated dry bait contained within a black bait boxes began on June 20, 2005 and the inner courtyard was to be closed for safety reasons while spring traps and the black bait boxes were used. On July 5, 2005 the spring traps were decommissioned but the black bait boxes will remain. The College has a responsibility to coordinate the application of rodenticide with the NYC Department of Health according to guidelines promulgated under the city wide integrated pest management program and endeavors to time the applications at all the College buildings to coincide with student vacations to minimize accidental exposure.

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) disclose, bromadiolone, as the type of rodenticide used. Exposure to bromadiolone during pregnancy should be avoided. Anyone can examine the MSDS in E-409.

The product choice of bromadiolone indicates a second generation rodenticide used in populations that have built up a resistance to first generation rodenticides. The compound listed has the same effect on other wildlife should they ingest the rodenticide or feed on any carcasses, which pose a secondary poisoning effect on prey species and scavengers. The emergency treatment for exposure is the ingestion or ingestion of KI vitamins.

VOLUNTEERS LIKE JUSTIN Pastor (right) were found all over LaGuardia on September 29. Students helped out by putting $1 in bottles $3,615.21 that set a precedent we can build on,” said Batts.

LaG students help storm victims

“Humans are born to help each other,” said Mark Bran, Student.

The idea was that every person entering the building was to donate one-dollar for the Hurricane Katrina Evacuees, said Kazembe Batts, LaGuardia Community College Disaster Relief Committee coordinator, who led the donation relief efforts.

“Humans are born to help each other,” said Mark Bran, LaGuardia student.

The preliminary goal was to initiate a “change concept” where people could give spare change where there was a high exchange of currency like the bookstore, at well as the cafeteria. “It was slow implementing, so I took the base concept, expanded on it, and made it more available. We decided to hit all the entrances,” according to Batts.

“Everyone was cooperative. We raised the doors were duck taped shut, black baiting boxes and wire spring traps are clearly visible, but no rat sightings. “G.R.” has been sighted in the past by Dave Wang, a Physical Education student of LaGuardia Community College, recalls that the rodents have been in the courtyard for some 8 months and has noticed them especially in the evenings while sitting in the café side of the courtyard. Wang has also seen the species briefly entering the building in the early evenings through the partially open doors to the courtyard.

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A trade-off exists in the use of rodenticide, preventing the spread of Haunavirus, Lyme disease and other Health related diseases, versus any possible chemically induced health effects caused by accidental exposure to the chemical. One of the most significant effects of exposure to this class of poison is the postulated effects on developing embryos during early pregnancy. Exposure is postulated to cause transposition of the great arteries in infants with maternal exposure.

Early studies do not identify any particular herbicides or rodenticides nor do they identify any quantity or any particular herbicide or rodenticide product proved to do so. Alternately, the basic non-poison rat control is to remove the source of food for the rodents or provide acceptable competition or predators.

Will “G.R.” survive the administration order to remove them or are they here to stay? Only time will tell. Report any sightings of rats to E-409 or the security staff.

For more information students can start an internet search on the key term “Rodenticide” which will return many web sites on the subject.
Early Childhood Learning Center helps LaG students

Laptop use now available in library

By Annaís Morales

Co-Editor

The Library Media Resources Center at LaGuardia Community College is offering free laptop services to students; however, many are unaware of this advantage. Any registered LaGuardia student can visit the media desk at the library and ask to borrow a laptop for campus and home use for up to three days only.

The service is on a "first come, first serve" basis and the laptops are equipped with Windows XP, Wireless LAN (on-campus internet access), Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, Access, Frontpage and PowerPoint), Adobe Acrobat 6.0 Professional, the statistical program SPSS and the graphics program Maple.

According to the school’s website, the laptops were funded through a capital grant from the Office of the Queens Borough President. Abelardo Tamayo, a college assistant at the media desk, adds, "They are paid for through the library’s budget and a new deal with Dell." In order to borrow a laptop, you must have a Bursar receipt with a $0 balance and an identification card validated for the current semester. You will then have to fill out a form that asks for your personal information. Once you sign the form, you are agreeing to abide by the rules as stated on the form and to abide by the rules and regulations of the City University of New York Computer User Responsibilities.

There is a steep late fee - $10 for every day that it is late. If the device is lost, stolen or damaged you must pay $250, which is the cost of the device. "We already had one student lose one," says Tamayo.

When the services were first introduced during the 2004 Spring semester, there were only thirty-four laptops available. Due to the high demand thirteen more laptops were ordered which brought the current total to fifty laptops. There is no word on whether or not the library will order more laptops in order to meet the demand of a college that is attended by about 41,000 students.

Tamayo points out that, "It is always the same group of students who come to borrow the laptops. Once there was a kid who stood here for four or five hours waiting for one laptop."
LaGuardia had grown to 41,000. Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan (D, District 37 - Long Island City), followed saying that as a long time advocate of Ferrer she was endorsing him for his leadership in women's rights issues and his support of "neighborhoods and the people who live in them." Ms. Nolan also thanked the politicians in the audience, including Councilman Eric Gioia (D, District 26 - Long Island City).

Senior State Senator Charles Schumer spoke next, saying he was endorsing Fernando Ferrer because he represented a "quintessential example" of leadership and that he would bring the same "broad leadership to City Hall." Schumer also praised LaGuardia for the "great institution that it is," saying how the community college represented a ladder up for tens of thousands.

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Many were surprised when two senators would endorse Ferrer considering that Bloomberg is highly popular with Democratic voters and politicians although he is a Republican. Both Clinton and Schumer share close ties with the city's mayor. According to the New York Times, Schumer's wife, Iris Weinshall, is the mayor's transportation commissioner. Bloomberg has even invited Clinton and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, to his Upper East Side townhouse for dinner.

By far the biggest ovation was saved for Ferrer, as the crowd chanted, "Freddy, Freddy, Freddy," and banners proclaiming, "Fernando Ferrer - For All of Us, For a Change" waved enthusiastically from the stands. The Former Bronx Borough President took the stage. Recounting how he was born and raised in New York, Ferrer told the audience that his success was due to opportunities that found him adding that although he had received college scholarships, he still had to borrow money for books. Ferrer also said that too many however, are forced to let educational opportunities pass them by, adding, "Too many say, 'I got mine, Go figure out a way to get yours.' "

After noting that the two biggest increases in New York have been the rate in top salaries and the rate in poverty, Ferrer ended with, "Let's bring back hope and opportunity for New York." In response to a question in Spanish asking how he felt about the Senators endorsement, Ferrer said it was "impressante y poderoso" (impressive and powerful) adding that the Latino vote could not be bought, "Nuestro voto no se compra." Mayor Bloomberg has also cut into the heart clearly aims at the Latino voters. The ad features salsa singer Willie Colon asking New Yorkers to reelect the mayor. Bloomberg has also hired a tutor to help him with his Spanish so that he can better communicate with the Hispanic voters. Hopefully for Mr.Ferrer, this new endorsement will help persuade more and more Hispanic voters, including the ones attending LaGuardia, to vote for him in November. LaGuardia's student body is made up of 34% Hispanics.

BLOOMBERG AND FERRER will face each other in the upcoming November election along with Thomas V. Ognibene, Martin Koppel, Audrey Silk, Jimmy McMillan, Seth A. Blum, Anthony Gronowicz, according to city of New York Board of Elections website.

SENATORS SCHUMER AND Clinton and Mayoral Candidate Fernando Ferrer listen to a question from an audience member.
LaGuardia introduces engineering program

By Alex Sidorov

Most students are not aware of the fact that LaGuardia is now offering an associate’s degree program in engineering. It was created in conjunction with City College, so that LaGuardia students can graduate the school and go to City College (CCNY) as juniors with an engineering background.

The program was being developed in its current form for about three years by the Math Department and was only approved last spring. It was finally announced during the Math and Engineering Job Fair in May 2005.

Since the program is in its inception stage, however, it doesn’t have its own laboratory, where students can work on their engineering projects. As a result, students have to attend a lab that was not designed for engineering projects.

The Math Department hired three teachers last year in order to facilitate its needs for its new program. The teachers currently teach math and physics. Dr. Frank Wang, who is one of the teachers hired for the new program, is so far the only professor who teaches SCP 231, on physics for engineers. The course was introduced this semester along with MAE 101, which is a lab course for engineers and is taught by Dr. Hendrich Delchin. It was created so that students can grasp basic engineering concepts.

“There are currently 20 students in SCP 231...” and “15 students in MAE 101,” Dr. Kamal Hajallie, Math Department’s Chairperson, said. According to Dr. Hajallie, the program has 25 people enrolled and is doing well so far.

Students who are enrolled in the program are eligible for the SCEMS (Computer Science, Engineering and Math Scholarship), as long as he or she maintains a 2.7 GPA, completed at least 12 credits and has a status of a permanent resident or citizen. The award can be as much as $3,125 per year. The deadline for the scholarship is the first week of Fall I (which has already passed for 2005 academic semester) and Spring I semester.

For more information, students can visit the Math Department (E-218) or Financial Services (C-107) and ask the secretary about the program. Students can download the form at www.lagcc.cuny.edu/sfs/NSF_Scholarship_app.pdf or pick it up in room E218 or room C-107.

PERSONALITY PROFILES

Teacher Spotlight: Professor Victoria Brown

By Ryan Keogh

The Bridge: What do you teach at LaGuardia?

Victoria Brown: I teach the basic writing courses, Composition, English 101, English 102 Writing through Literature, and sometimes I get to choose an elective.

B: Where are you from originally?

VB: I was born in Trinidad in the Caribbean.

B: Where did you go to school?

VB: Up to secondary school I was educated in Trinidad and then I came to America in 1989. I actually attended LaGuardia Community College. I took part in the exploratory transfer program which is a wonderful program that LaGuardia has in treating students to other liberal arts options outside of the CUNY system. This takes place at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, NY and it’s a five week program. You go up to Vassar and take courses taught by CUNY and Vassar professors. I participated in it while I was in LaGuardia in 1996, then I transferred from LaGuardia to Vassar in 1996.

B: What was your major?

VB: At LaGuardia I was a Liberal Arts major then I transferred to Vassar and there I majored in colonial and post colonial literature. My interests lie in early and Post Independence Caribbean Literature and also in the history and contemporary culture of Caribbean migrants in New York City. At LaGuardia we have a substantial number of students from the Anglophone Caribbean (of which I was once one) and I am interested in the paths that led them to the college and their future plans. Do they intend to remain in the US, did they come to NY strictly for school, what majors are they primarily enrolled in...

B: What is your favorite book? It would have to be VS. Naipaul’s “A House for Mr. Biswas”.

VB: How did you discover that book? Naipaul is actually a Trinidadian author. He would flip if he heard someone so describe him, but he was born in Trinidad and we’ve always known his literature on the island. In 2001 he won the Nobel Prize for literature and he received wider acclaim, but he’s always been one of my favorite authors and I’ve always had a love hate relationship with his writing. He takes a particular tone when he writes about the Caribbean and there are a lot of people who do not like him frankly, but as I said I have a love hate relationship with his literature.

B: What do you want to do when you grow up?

VB: (Laughs) I want to write books. I am a writer so when I grow up I want to be the next Nobel Prize winner for literature from Trinidad.

B: And what do you hope to achieve in the meantime?

VB: In the meantime I’m actually applying for a PhD.
Teacher spotlight: Professor Spatafora

By Annais Morales

Co-Editor

HELLO!!! That is the sound of Professor Pauline Spatafora's favorite phrase bellowing from her tiny little frame. She is a self-proclaimed eccentric who attracts her students with her erratic approach to teaching. She believes that learning should be fun. "I've always been that way. What you see is what you get."

Professor Spatafora has been teaching at LaGuardia for more than nineteen years. She earned her Bachelor's degree at Queens College and her Masters degree at New York University. She once shared an amusing story with her students about an evil English professor she had in graduate school. "I was taking an English course on the writer Thoreau and I had written a really good paper. When I handed it in he [the professor] wrote on it, 'How dare you slashed my paper. I couldn't do anything about it because he was ready to retire. He was really nuts.'"

"I was very strict and proper and he was really tough. It was kind of like in the movie Grease. I liked that toughness because he was the forbidden fruit." Rarely has any marriage lasted so long and both parties remained so committed to one another. "What keeps us strong is that we have learned to enjoy the same things, there is trust and he lets me be myself. I could not be with someone who wants me to change."

The blissful couple have three children together. Their son, who is a junior high school teacher, got married recently. "He married a beautiful Taiwanese woman. The wedding was a lot of fun. It was two completely different cultures, Taiwanese and Italian, coming together. It was Chinese banquet style and my family ate a lot of stuff that they've never eaten before. There was karaoke and it was wonderful seeing the two cultures mix," she says. Professor Spatafora's husband has recently won his battle with cancer of the larynx. "The ordeal has had a big impact on their marriage. "We don't take things for granted anymore. He lost his business, which was his life. He was a barber and his hands became numb because of the chemotherapy. We had money issues and I ended up having to work more. We basically had to reverse roles. I had no problem with it but he did. He was very uncomfortable with it. Being a professor is what saved my sanity from his illness."

A few months ago Professor Spatafora had foot surgery. "I had lost the carriage in my foot because I used to be a toe dancer." Her personality presented itself when she was told that she had to remain off of her feet for 4-6 weeks. "After 3 weeks I was driving."

"I love all of Tennessee Williams' plays," Professor Spatafora mentions one of her favorite authors. "I like the setting in the South, the theme of illusion and passion and all of the imagery. I want my students to feel what I feel."

Her favorite form of literature is women's literature. Her favorite author is Nadine Gordimer, a South African writer. She also enjoys reading works by Anne Tyler, an American writer. "All of her characters are eccentric just like me."

B: Have you enjoyed your time here?
VB: I wouldn't say that I'm nervous. I'm concerned. I'm concerned about them and myself. That I'm going to share something with them, that I'm going to make a difference and that they are going to want to hear what it is I'm saying. It's a huge, huge responsibility to know that you're the educator and are responsible for transmitting knowledge to them and I'm always so concerned whether or not every single student is getting what I'm saying. Sometimes I tend to over-teach and then I stop myself and say 'OK. I'm over-teaching. You guys have got this right.' It's very important for me to have that from my students because I need to know that they're getting what it is that I'm saying.

B: You have enjoyed your time here?
VB: Immensely. I love LaGuardia students. I think they're the most inquisitive bunch. I remember being here as a student, being an immigrant and finally getting into college and having that energy and excitement and I see that reflected in my students. They're so full of ideas. They want to know everything and they're such a diverse group. It's just a pleasure to go into the class and have this multiplicity of perspectives. You have the area students and the foreign students, the new students and the returning students. No two days are alike in the classroom and I really like the unpredictability of that.

Florence H. LaGuardia Community College • CUNY

Cont'd from Page 8

Program so far I'm going back to school, part-time obviously because I'm a full-time becouse here, to get my PhD in English. At the moment I'm making my contribution to LaGuardia and the English department, while on my way to getting my PhD. So I can be Dr. Brown.

B: How do you feel at the beginning of class when you first stand in front of your students? Are you nervous?
VB: I wouldn't say that I'm nervous. I'm concerned. I'm concerned about them and myself. That I'm going to share something with them, that I'm going to make a difference and that they are going to want to hear what it is I'm saying. It's a huge, huge responsibility to know that you're the educator and are responsible for transmitting knowledge to them and I'm always so concerned whether or not every single student is getting what I'm saying. Sometimes I tend to over-teach and then I stop myself and say 'OK. I'm over-teaching. You guys have got this right?' It's very important for me to have that from my students because I need to know that they're getting what it is that I'm saying.

B: You have enjoyed your time here?
TWO SISTER STORMS, Katrina and Rita ravaged the Gulf Coast, causing flooding in states of Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. In Louisiana, about 1000 people have died from the two storms. The two storms caused mass evacuations from coastal areas, clogging up highways as well as temporarily halting oil production and refinement, causing some gas stations to run out of gas, while the oil prices rose to record-high $70 a barrel. The storms caused disruptions in transportation service in New Orleans. New Orleans' schools and colleges remain closed, causing an influx of students in other states.

CREATIONISTS AND SUPPORTERS of Theory of Evolution started a new debate with the Dover Area School District in Pennsylvania approving the questioning the Theory of Evolution. The district and its schools are saying that the theory is just a theory, not a fact. This has sparked a debate that has been going on ever since Darwin's "Origin of Species." Creationists believe in intelligent design—an idea that argues that life is too complex to be created by simple randomness and natural selection. Theory of evolution supporters argue that evolution is an ongoing process that takes a long time.

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NASA UNVEILED ITS plan to go to Moon by 2015 on Sept. 22. The project will involve an Apollo-like command capsule "but will be three times larger," NASA reports. The new ship will be reusable up to 10 times. Unlike its predecessor, Apollo (its launch rocket was the Saturn V—far right on the size comparison chart), it will not have water landings and will have solar panels. NASA decided on Soyuz-like landings on dry land. Splashdowns will still be a back-up option. The delivery systems or launch rockets are composed of Space Shuttle-inspired components. There will be two rockets—one for cargo (far right), which will contain the rocket that will get the crew to the Moon as well as the moon lander and the crew delivery rocket (second from the right), which will have the astronauts. The passenger and the cargo section will dock in orbit and then head to the Moon. NASA's plan calls for a lunar outpost to be able to house Moon explorers for up to six months. The plan will include a replacement for the Space Shuttle (second from the left), which has been in active operation for more than 20 years. The new Apollo-like ship is also able to deliver supplies and people to the International Space Station and will be ready in 5 years.

PRESIDENT BUSH NOMINATED Harriet Miers to the Supreme Court on Oct. 3, replacing an empty chair left by Chief Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. The President emphasized that the nominee will not make the laws, just interpret them. Miers has been loyal to the President but not inexperienced in judicial matters and is the second selection in three months. The other nominee, John Roberts has been recently approved by the Senate to be a Chief Justice, after a hearing.
Fear of airplanes: reality or media hype?
By Alex Sidorov

On Sept. 21, a JetBlue Airways Flight 292 had a malfunction with its front gear — it was locked in a position that is perpendicular to its forward motion. This incident, like many other aviation incidents, was covered in depth by the local, national, and even international news media. The Airbus A320 that was involved was being fitted by several helicopters. The film footage was almost instantaneously transferred to the passenger of Flight 292, who watched their own fate unfold on their PTVs (Personal Televisions).

This incredible experience took place during the time of the DC-10 that fatal day as well as provoking the question of the division that made the Concorde, Hermes Perrier.

After being grounded for four years, they were retired and donated to museums (Author’s note: the Concorde was retired because the airplane, being a supersonic passenger airplane that used afterburners, was fuel-inefficient. This was the primary reason for their retirement).

The answer may lie somewhere in that people don’t like prototypes, such as the Concorde. One little mishap can ground the whole fleet. Of course, it is better to ground the whole fleet and not just one plane. The pilots also have to make sure that the airplane is a prototype and there are fewer of them, it is easier to ground the aircraft and improve the model. However, Flight 800’s model, Boeing 747-100 was almost as old as the Concorde and hundreds were in service and had more incidents than the Concorde.

The answer might also lie in that the media loves air accidents. Of course, they prefer that everything and everyone is well, but it doesn’t prevent them from blowing the incident out of proportion and causing some people to be afraid of flying — in some cases to the extremes. The media creates the illusion that flying is more dangerous by telling us the tails of an airplane crash. A lot of times news reports death tolls in hundreds — that’s what makes the story so incredible. Many people don’t know that, with some exceptions, most big airliners are safer than regional airplanes that are popular with the airlines these days. Many people don’t know that there are more people killed in car accidents than in plane crashes. Or is it that they don’t pay attention to this fact? On an airplane, people don’t feel in control — they sit while their fate is in the hands of a few, pilots.

Another factor the news media forgot to outline after the JetBlue incident is that the gear malfunction is quite common. It was nothing special. The Concorde was locked in a position that is not allowed. The pilots also have to make sure that the system is set properly, or in some cases, the gear is malfunctioning. This is why the pilots are trained to deal with the safety of the airplane and happen at random. This is why the pilots are trained for such an occasion. The airplane is brought down gently, with the nose as high as possible, as long as that’s possible. The pilots also have to make sure that the plane lands in a straight line.

Great times studying in Salzburg
By Ginger Albertson

Photo Editor

Studying and great times don’t seem like words that belong in the same sentence but the study abroad program in Salzburg, Austria was just that: a wonderfully exciting learning experience. On April 22, 2005 students and advisers from the City University of New York traveled to Europe to participate in “Global Citizenship: America and the World” at the Salzburg Seminar. For the following week, we worked hard, studied hard and played hard, getting little sleep; but we built such solid friendships with each other and learned so much about our changing world that everything we did seemed to feed into our evolution as world citizens.

This incredible experience took place at the Schloss Leopoldskron. The palace was built by Prince Leopold von Firmian in 1736 as a family estate. Over the centuries it passed through various hands, from a sponsor of Mozart’s to the Nazis, and was eventually returned to the estate of one of its owners, Max Reinhardt. Later, the estate was offered for use to three Harvard students that wanted to create a hub for intellectual exchange. The Salzburg Seminar was born in July 1947 and continues to thrive and foster change to this day.

From the moment of arrival we were inundated with the natural beauty of the landscape surrounding us and the warm educational leadership of our hosts. The schedule was packed with presentations from prestigious professors — men and women who not only taught at universities but were also working with various organizations and groups to facilitate acceptance and understanding between different societies and cultures. Following their informative presentations,


Great times studying abroad in Salzburg

Cont'd from Page 11

we were given the opportunity to discuss and question the ideas put forth in the presentations as well as our own, and each other's, preconceived perceptions and ideals. This process led to the stretching of who we were and to our understanding of the changing world in which we live.

We grasped more clearly the idea that the world is swiftly evolving and the only way to evolve with it was to constantly challenge the things we knew, or thought we knew, through critical evaluation of information and exploration of other world cultures.

We were also afforded the opportunity to get work with our fellow CUNY students when we were placed in groups and asked to investigate the immigration policies and trends from various countries and put together a presentation to be shared on the last day of the seminar. Each student was put into a group with students they didn't know. Clearly, working together creatively presented an enormous challenge as all participants were very smart and aggressive students. However, the successes of each presentation more than made up for the difficulty of the creative process. It was a hard won lesson, but worth every minute of it since we learned that in that microcosm we could accomplish the task of weaving together our needs and desires with those of another, there was no reason it couldn't work on a larger scale, say internationally.

Then there was the trip to Dachau, a former concentration camp. It would be impossible to discuss our experiences at the seminar without touching on the discussions of the Holocaust and the subsequent visit to Dachau.

Because of the painfulness of the topic, it is tempting to gloss over the experience but that would be a fallacy since it generated much reflection and not a little grieving over the potential baseness of man and how to combat it. The day was dedicated to understanding the calamity and discussing the responsibility of the world in changing the thought processes that have caused, and continue to cause, such unspeakable events to take place.

The following day we were afforded the wonderful opportunity to meet our counterparts from the Salzburg College. This started with a panel discussion. The panel was populated by

Photo Editor
France, Germany, New Zealand, Japan, Korea, Senegal, Vietnam... What do all these places have in common? No, they are not the places you dream about visiting while on holidays. Even though they may seem fun and exotic places to visit, these are also places you can go to either study or do an internship. Places that can enrich your educational experience, and enrich you as a person. Oh yes, and they are exciting! Just ask Ms. Alison Douglas-Chicoye, the Study Abroad Director, or the person in charge of helping students take advantage of the Study Abroad Program at LaGuardia.

The first thing a student should be aware of is that before they leave for their host country, they are required to have completed 24 credits with an overall GPA of 3.00 and all of their basic skills requirements completed, according to the Study Abroad Program's website (lagcc.cuny.edu/studyabroad).

If that is accomplished, then these are the steps they would follow to participate in LaGuardia's Study Abroad Program:
1. Pick a country;
2. Fill out the application;
3. Write an essay that explains why they want to study abroad, how it will benefit their education and future career, and what they will contribute to their host country;
4. And finally, go through an interview to determine eligibility and complete the selection process.

If you are interested in the International Internship Program, you must first talk to your Cooperative Education faculty advisor who will then refer you to Ms. Douglas-Chicoye.

The same process applies, except that you are required to successfully complete the Cooperative Education Course Gateway to the Workplace as a prerequisite to application and enrollment in the Co-op Internship course and Co-op Seminar while abroad.

There is also what Dr. Fakhari calls a "self-developed" program in conjunction with the International Pacific College (IPC) in New Zealand. This operates as a sort of student exchange program where a student from LaGuardia studies at IPC, with tuition completely paid for, and a student from IPC comes to LaGuardia to study and their tuition is paid in return. The only financing to think about then is room and board, the plane ticket, and any miscellaneous expenses incurred by the student. Carlos Sevillano, a transfer student from LaGuardia, stated in IPC's brochure, "... I like IPC's international environment where both students and lecturers from different cultural backgrounds interact very closely. It is stimulating to learn, see and discuss things from different perspectives with them."

What about the cost? Can you afford it? Fortunately, FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) does apply to most study programs abroad. CUNY also has a program that is called STOCS, Study/Travel Opportunities for CUNY Students, a scholarship program that would apply toward travel expenses which any student can apply for. Also, LaGuardia can meet up to 50% of the total cost of going. You would have to come up with some money for your trip, $1,000 to $1,500 for a semester and less for a shorter stay, but for that this hasn't been a problem. Where there's a will there's a way.

It is important to remember that now, more than ever in human history, we have a responsibility to learn about and try to understand other cultures in our world. We have become a global community and the whole purpose of the Study Abroad program, as far as former Study Abroad Director Dr. Reza Fakhari is concerned, is to promote "learning the responsibilities of global citizenship" and being able to "see the world as other see it."

The best way, and the most fun way, to learn about a new culture is to be immersed in it and that is what the Study Abroad Program offers. Oh yeah, and it would be exhilarating to live and study in a different country, having new experiences, and making new friends.

CUNY students and Salzburg students, and at times the discussion was a little tense. It made one realize that when difficult topics are exposed to discussion with people from different cultures and countries, there is going to be some discomfort and in the end, as in our case, some closure and a discovery of common perspectives. Then there was, of course, the very rewarding celebration of our differences and similarities, which took place in the Schloss and, later that night, in the town of Salzburg. We made many new friends during this portion of the seminar.

It is very hard to try putting the entire experience into words. It seems as if what we've experienced is a life-altering experience. We were not only exposed to different cultures and countries, but also to new people and new ideas. The week was so full and rich that the students who attended pulled together into a close knit group and cannot resist emailing each other the wonder of our time in Austria. As trite as it sounds, this was a life-altering experience and one that is ready to be had by all who have a desire to gain a greater understanding of those around the globe who are increasingly becoming our very close neighbors.

Visit these helpful websites:

www.lagcc.cuny.edu/studyabroad
www.salzburgseminar.org
www.cuny.edu/studyabroad
Finding the best fare for the holidays

By Alex Sidlow
Co-Editor

With the price war between airlines raging for more than five years now, it is we, the consumers, who are feeling the impact, both negative and positive. We have all heard stories about the Davids like Spirit Airlines (spiritair.com) taking on Goliaths like American Airlines (aa.com). However, are these so-called low-fare airlines cheaper in reality? The answer is yes and no.

With the legacy carriers, also called the Big Six (American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, United Airlines, Continental Airlines, US Airways and Northwest Airlines), cutting costs and lowering fares to match those of low-fare airlines, it is we who can now choose between airlines.

The bad thing about low-fare airlines is that some of them rarely fly anywhere but popular destinations, like JetBlue, which flies lucrative markets, such as coast-to-coast, Florida, and Caribbean flights. All of which are popular vacation spots. Airlines such as Southwest, which don’t have hubs, are known for their nonstop flights, unlike the legacy airlines, with their hub-and-spoke system. Most of the time you have to connect once, twice or even three times to get somewhere. Low-fare airlines, however, do not generally fly international routes. JetBlue is one of the few low-cost airlines that fly internationally.

Its international destinations include Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic. JetBlue also has plans to launch Cancun, Mexico service, according to Christopher McCloskey, who is the Inflight Policies and Procedures Specialist for JetBlue Airways and, according to its CEO, David Neeleman, and has not ruled out Canada either but still doesn’t plan to expand beyond North America. If a traveler plans to go overseas, he or she will most probably end up on a Big Six airline, but not necessarily a United States airline.

With all this said, how does one find the lowest fare? Well, the answer lies somewhere in planning ahead. For example, if a person books within two weeks of his or her departure with any airline, he or she will find that ticket prices will rocket up. So a smart move would be to plan ahead, avoid getting the ticket just before the departure. Another tip travelers can find useful is to avoid booking through the travel websites. It is true that a prospective traveler can sometimes find a lower price on a travel site, such as Travelocity (travelocity.com) or Orbitz (orbitz.com). However, before hitting the “buy” button, check with the airline’s website first for the same flight. Make sure that the date and the flights are the same as they are on the travel agent’s website.

The reason behind this is that travel agencies hit you up with a service fee, which is usually not that high. Travelocity, for example charges $5. On an airline’s website, that fee is not present, the same fare might be cheaper and you have the opportunity to register to be a member of the frequent flyers club.

On Song’s website (flysong.com), Delta’s low-fare subsidiary, you get a bonus 1,000 miles every time you book there, which is similar to other airlines too, like Continental (continental.com) and Northwest (nwa.com). If you travel often, the miles can mean a free upgrade to an upper class or even a free trip. For example, with American Airlines, you can get a free trip when you accumulate 15,000 miles. On JetBlue (jetblue.com) and on Independence Air’s (flyi.com) sites, you get double points for booking on their websites instead of over the phone, at the airport or with a travel agent.

If you plan on staying over a week or more, you should book your ticket on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays because that is also when the fare is lowest. You can find some low fares on the weekends, but not as much on those three days. If you plan on going to a city that is small and not by low fare airlines, you might want to switch out for the oil prices. If there is an oil hike predicted, you would be better off by booking the fare fast, otherwise the fare might go up tomorrow. You might also look at Southwest (southwest.com). Southwest usually operates from small cities and has a good low-fare business structure. Now that it has a code-sharing agreement with the ATA, they serve LaGuardia Airport through ATA (ata.com). The closest airport to New York that they serve themselves is Islip Airport.

There is also another factor that you might consider. Driving to another city to find a cheaper fare. Nowadays, some people from New York City go to Philadelphia to find very low fares because the drive and parking or the bus is cheaper than going from New York airports.

You might also consider taking the bus. Although it is not recommended it on long distance trips, but if you are strapped for cash (and considering we are college students, we should be), go ahead. Unlike airlines, they would not charge you extra for not booking online or not booking through their system. You might also check out Amtrak (amtrak.com). It is not always the cheapest way to get somewhere, but it is the most scenic way. And, if you are afraid of flying and hate the bus, you can either take Amtrak or drive.

If you are going to Florida and want to take your car with you, Amtrak’s AutoTrain can take you and your car there. The downside is that it only serves two cities, Sanford (near Orlando) and Washington, DC (Union Station) and is not cheap.

If you want to go to a location that is not far away, such as Buffalo or Boston, low-fare airlines do fly there. On JetBlue, it costs $49 each way and up to anywhere the airline.

Cont’d on Page 14
Military recruitment on college campuses

By Annaís Morales

Co-Editor

Military recruiters are an all too familiar sight on CUNY campuses, including here at LaGuardia. They stand in the busiest spots, hoping to entice young men and women with the promise of paid tuition, skills training and the opportunity to serve our country. However, many people believe that their presence should not be welcome and they are taking a stance against the soldiers who they feel are impeding on their education.

According to the Campus Anti-War Network's website, on March 9, 2005 the City College of New York (CCNY) held a career fair where the National Guard set up a recruitment table. Several students decided to stand in front of the table and chant anti-war slogans in order to protest the military's presence. Allegedly, security officers immediately surrounded the protesters, shoved them into an empty hallway outside of the fair and assaulted two student protesters and arrested a third who was taking photos.

CCNY student Justino Rodriguez was arrested and charged with assault. CCNY student and protestor Hadas Thier was charged with assault. According to the City College of New York website, the idea is to create a petition campaign to bring together activists all across CUNY.

The Solomon Amendment of 1996 states that the Secretary of Defense has the power to deny federal funding to institutions of higher learning if they do not allow ROTC or military recruitment on their campuses. Some say this is a cruel way to prompt certain colleges to allow military recruiters because they rely on federal funding in order to run their schools. Earlier this year, a legal action group called the Forum for Academic and Institutional Rights (FAIR) which consists of several law schools from across the country sued the U.S. Department of Defense over the Solomon Amendment. They state that the amendment forces them to comply with the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy or risk losing valuable funding. Under this policy gays and lesbians are allowed to serve in the military as long as they abstain from homosexual activity and do not disclose their sexual orientation. FAIR claimed that they do not allow discriminatory groups on their campuses; the military discriminates against homosexuals therefore, they should not be allowed on their campuses. According to the Chronicle of Higher Education website, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, in Philadelphia, found that law schools have a First Amendment right to exclude recruiters.

No one knows how long this battle will last but when everything is all said and done, students will demand to know whether or not it is in our country's best interest to send in young men and women for what some say is a "war for oil."
THIS WAS a common display on computers all over CUNY campuses, due to a Denial of Service Attack, a virus that was possibly caused from within networks.
The Bridge Student Newspaper

October 2005

Help available for CUNY Proficiency Exam

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SAC meets to distribute club funds

By Alex Sidorov

On Wednesday, Oct. 12, Student Advisory Council, or SAC, held a meeting to discuss the allocation of funds to LaGuardia's clubs. It was able to come up with $550 to distribute among 28 different clubs. Most of the clubs will be getting "$150. SAC meets the first Wednesday of every month to discuss events that will be happening around the College.

LaGuardia has many clubs and organizations that allow students to participate. Greg Faulkner says that 75% of employers would rather have a 3.00 GPA student with a history of volunteering rather than a 4.00 GPA student with no such background. The reason for this is simple: companies are looking for leaders, not followers.

Help available for CUNY Proficiency Exam

By Edward Gordon

Help available for CUNY Proficiency Exam

Available for free to CUNY students registering for the CPE, "The Guide to the CUNY Proficiency Exam," says the tutorial was designed in response to research indicating that many students weren't able to pass the exam because they didn't "understand what was expected of them," adding, "We designed the tutorial to help students understand what they need to do to prepare for and pass the CPE," Kognito Solutions, a company founded by Baruch alumni that specializes in creating interactive learning products.

Offering a somewhat different point of view is Dr. Susan Young, CPE Liaison and English professor at LaGuardia Community College, who while acknowledging Baruch's effort in creating a study tool, also points to "historical evidence" showing the "ineffectiveness" of C-CD-ROMs as a tutorial resource. "They [students] simply don't use them enough," says Dr. Young, who strongly advocates a workshop approach led by trained facilitators as the ideal learning model. Indeed, the CPE passing rate for LaGuardia Community College has gone from second-to-last to first place among CUNY community colleges. An achievement "accomplished without a technological route or stick with a tried and true method," Kognito Solutions who also notes that CPE interactive CD-ROM was in no way created to replace instructor-led tutorial assistance, but was designed to complement traditional learning resources.

So what's a stressed-out student to do? Go to the technological route or stick with a tried and true learning method? Initial student feedback has been very positive with students giving the CD-ROM rave reviews, according to Kognito Solutions who also says, "50% of users who took the tutorial said they would recommend it to others who were preparing for the CPE," Kelly Ming, a sophomore at LaGuardia Community College preparing to register for the CPE, says that she'd be interested in seeing it while admitting that she's just been so busy preparing for her finals that she may not be able to get around to it.

Fiorello H. LaGuardia Community College CUNY