Details on ‘Grades Scandal’ Still Murky

BY WALTER IWACHIW

A grade-fixing scandal broke at LaGuardia Community College in December. For an undefined time, students could order a grade change for a price or bottle of wine. According to the 137-count criminal indictment, at least one student had testified about the facts in the case and raised some real questions about what repercussions those individuals and the general school population will face.

The alleged perpetrator, Mr. Elvin Escano, a graduate and employee of LaGuardia Community College, graduated with a bachelor's from Empire State College in 2000, a SUNY college in Rochester, N.Y.

Mr. Escano allegedly exploited his multiple roles, as a Computer Math Lab Technician (CLT), computer programmer, tutor, and a Mathematics Action (MAT096) teacher. Mr. Escano acquired computer access rights and privileges that allegedly permitted him to change student grades entered in the older centralized CUNY SIMS registration program, now supplemented or replaced by the 2007 eSIMS counterpart.

A review of internet sites found that for two students, Mr. Escano was rated a 3.8 on overall quality and 4.0 on ease at RateMyProfessor.com.

As a business, grading was doomed to fail because the advertising of the service must expose the enterprise to discovery. It seems ironic that a statistical sampling of grades in the computer database compared to the departmental paper records exposed Mr. Escano's, a CLT, grading scandal and not the advertising.

The repercussions the college may employ will be governed under CUNY rules, which cite that "[A] member of instructional staff ... shall be subject to ... [a] range of penalties," vary from a warning to an arrest if they engage "in any manner in conduct prohibited under this [CUNY] policy." Mr. Escano's case is based on the 137-count indictment brought by the Queens County District Attorney.

CONTINUED ON P. 4

eSIMS: A New Age of Registration Frustration?

BY ALEX ALI

AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2007, LaGuardia Community College completed the transition of the college's registration process from RegXpress to eSIMS. RegXpress, the program which many students are familiar with, will be gone. Students will have to learn how to use the program, for all of their registration needs.

The change to eSIMS, a CUNY-wide process, and most CUNY colleges, either have the program currently, or will make the change soon.

The Enrollment Service Center located in room 107 in the C Building is the office that will be using the new program the most. This is the office that students go to when they have problems such as enrollment, financial aid, and any course issues that may arise. Ms. Christine Hill, an enrollment center specialist, commented about the program, "eSIMS is wonderful. It is much easier to use and is very user friendly. eSIMS approach faster than the old program."

Where RegXpress would take a long time to load, eSIMS is much faster.

CONTINUED ON P. 4

for entertainment news, look in the back >
Editorial

From the Editorial Desk

Happy New Year! Will this year be exciting? Perhaps. Will we learn anything? Maybe. Hopefully, you have seen our issues spread across the campus. We are a paper that dates back to 1982 (that’s the oldest issue that we found in our archives). The paper used to be dance to the same tune.

Last year, we held our first focus group that asked you, the students, what you really thought of our newspaper. We listened and here’s what we changed:

- A smaller newspaper size
- A smaller, but readable font
- Color newspaper
- News that matter to students

Unfortunately, some of the content was cut, like the Spanish Section because there wasn’t enough staff to support it. The section was going to be transformed into an international section, featuring articles of various languages, but again, we wanted to focus more on transforming into a newspaper of quality.

A lot of people asked for a newspaper the size of Student News, but we are not Student News and we don’t want to be a newsletter. Bridge’s The Real Connection appeared briefly in May 2006 as part of a test run. It featured the same size as the Student News. However, it was not met with much success and was also eliminated too. I apologize if we misled anyone who thought it would appear again.

As we journey into the new year, a new staff is taking over. The Bridge along with a new Editor-in-Chief, Nora Stock, effective February 1, 2007. After a year and a half of building The Bridge into its present state, I’m glad to say that the staff of The Bridge has accomplished a lot. Many thanks to our great staff, who worked tirelessly (for free) to bring the readers news and a quality paper. There remains much more to be done and I’m confident the new staff will make The Bridge even better.

Best wishes,

Aleksandr Sidorov
The Bridge Student Newspaper
Editor-in-Chief

OPINIONS

In One Year, Out the Other

BY JOHN KNOX
21ST CENTURY CURMUDGEON

One adage you understand only when you’ve had enough years under your belt is ‘the more things change, the more they stay the same.’

I’ve been alive and aware in the 60s, the 70s, the 80s, the 90s and now. As a small boy, I watched Walter Cronkite comment on the Vietnam War on television. As a teenager, I wore those horrible polyester shirts and danced those even more horrible disco moves. As a young adult, I watched the Challenger shuttle explode and take most Americans dreams of space travel with it while I did my time in the Navy. At the end of the millennium, I re-married and looked towards the future with as much hope as I could muster.

Seven more years later, and what has changed? Not much. Stuck in an un-winnable war, folks moving like they have a combination of syphilis and poison ivy (or however you’d describe ‘crunkin’), the shuttle program almost at the end of its slow death.

What’s changed is me: in the 21st century, I’ve returned to school to follow my dream. I’ve had some major physical changes (mostly bad, true) and I received the greatest gift a man could get – my son Bobby.

People can deny it all they want, but part of a man’s brain is hardwired with a desire to have children, to extend beyond ones natural life. Those who are unable to fulfill this imperative need to become sullen, miserable old men. Those who can tend to be called ‘grandpa’; a wondrous title which entitles you (under optimal conditions) to visits from children always happy to see you and a guaranteed seat at the table for Thanksgiving and Christmas. At worst, you’ve accomplished the sort biological imperative that we share with women: to procreate.

So if you have any question about whether you make a difference, if what you do in life will change the course of history, the answer is … probably not. That honor is reserved for very few. At best, you can become part of the tide of humanity that evolves as a whole.

It’s not so bad, really, especially in this age of instant immortality where your blog can live on after you. Think of all those poor people over the course of history whose playboys are lost forever because technology had not been capable of archiving them.

Despite all of this, things will most likely go on pretty much as we remember them for as long as there are people around to recall events. Things do change, but slowly enough so that it doesn’t change for us, the ones currently alive. I’m sure life was awfully different in the Middle Ages, but you never hear about any sudden change that ended the Plague or gave birth to a country. It happens over time, which in turn gives us time to adjust.

So it does ring true that the more things change, the more they stay the same. Because we really couldn’t handle it any other way. I just want you to know.

john.knox@mail.laguardia.edu

BRIDGE CREW

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Letter to the Editor

On Commencement

BY ANTHONY PAPPAS

Commencement should be about the students and less about unrelated issues. It is this belief that led other members of the Student Government of '99-'00 and myself to ask that the administration let the students walk across the stage, receive their diploma cases, say their names and a few words of thanks if they wished.

As the vice president of the Alumni Association, I have been invited to attend commencement and sit on stage - which I feel is a great honor - for the past 5 years. I remember the first time I did this it got very hot under the lights. Wearing my Stut underneath my robe, I thought to myself for the briefest of moments, "wow, when will this ceremony end?" But I quickly remembered why we were there.

Sure, students walking across the stage might take a little longer than simply making a short trip to the podium, but witnessing their joy when they give a "shout out" to their families or thank their favorite professor is worth every minute of it. I would much rather sit through that than boring politicians and other speakers that give their speeches and false praise. I sit there every year, feeling to see or hear the graduates. I volunteer my time and personally hand them their Alumni member pins, because the ceremony is about them.

If people are uncomfortable sitting there watching the students walk across the stage then they should remember that this is the culmination of 2 or more years of their educational experience. The least we can do is be there and take a little discomfort for them. If anyone can't do that they should think about that beforehand. I know lots of people attend and just sit in the audience because they do not wish to sit on the stage.

If one can't be happy for the students, be patient while they express their gratitude, then one should stay home. No one is forced to attend the ceremony.

Anthony Pappas is the First Vice President for LaGuardia Community College Alumni Association.
LAG’s Illegal Change of Grades Scandal

LAGCC Administrators Silent on Grades for Cash, Favors

Details on ‘Grades Scandal’ Still Murky

BY ALEX ALI

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, HONOR AND INTEGRITY are the hallmarks every college and university strives for, but this does not appear to be the case at LaGuardia Community College. The honor and integrity of LaGuardia Community College was desecrated by several students, who allegedly paid for the services of Mr. Elvin Escano, a computer science lab instructor who was employed at the college.

According to the Queens County District Attorney’s (QCDA) office, "a 137-count indictment with soliciting and accepting payment - ranging from cash payments of $200 to $2,500 or items of value, such as wine." - Queens County District Attorney charging Elvin Escano, the alleged perpetrator

Professor Millman provided his comments on this subject. Professor Millman is a senior tenured professor for the Department of Mathematics. He also maintains a website, lagcorruption.com. Professor Millman, who did not speak on behalf of the college, said, "I have known Elvin for 17 years. He made a big mistake, and I am sure he had other people working with him; he could not have done this by himself."

When Professor Millman was asked about who would be working with Mr. Escano, he said, "A lab tech can only do this with cooperation in the Registrar’s office. Elvin needed someone in that office to be impossible. I am not saying he is guilty, but there is a lot of evidence." When Mr. Millman was asked how something of this nature could be done at our college, he replied, "The daily atmosphere at LaGuardia Community College is one of corruption, fraudulent remedial exams, conspiracy in the promotion and tenure committees, and a general feeling of chaos. Nobody will ever find out what he did here, because of corruption, union, and incompetency."

Professor Millman was asked about his opinion about the college he stated, "I love the students, they are the best people, which hard-working kids are the heroes who got through the New York school system. The administration is so corrupt and beneath contempt. They are responsible for the low quality of education."

The majority of faculty and staff are up-to-date on the scandal. Essentially, students nearly universal sentiment is that only those who participated will be affected. According to the official press releases inside of the LaGuardia President’s Office and recent pronouncements that Mr. Escano was only a lab technician.

Students responded by expressing their concerns about these issues.2 Mr. Escano was only a lab technician. Students responded by expressing their concerns about these issues.

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

Dec 6, 2006 and after a six-month investigation, in short, it’s up to the D.A. The scandal has placed a lab technician. Students responded by expressing their concerns about these issues.

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eSIMS: A New Age of Registration Frustration?

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

and possibly crash, eSIMS is great, and the students will love it." Mr. Keith Lewis with enrollwise services said, eSIMS from CUNY. CUNY has implemented this at other schools, and after Fall Session 2006. LaGuardia will be another school which uses eSIMS. Mr. Lewis elaborated on the differences between RegXpress and our eSIMS.

During the transition period between Fall II and Spring I, students cannot change their major, and have to come into the enrollment services office for this process, this should be corrected by the spring semester.

Keith Lewis

There is one problem with this program, which some LaGuardia students may have faced and Mr. Lewis addressed the issue, "During the transition period between Fall II and Spring I, students cannot change their major, and have to come into the enrollment services office for this process, this should be corrected by the spring semester.

eSIMS will be the only registration program used at LaGuardia beginning in February. The opinions thus far, have been positive by the staff, which are familiar with this program. The opinions thus far, have been positive by the staff, which are familiar with this program.
SGA awards clubs

DURING THE FIRST WEEK of January the SGA (Student Government Association) held a party where clubs' achievements were honored by receiving certificates of appreciation. Only 8 club representatives were at the event.

People that went enjoyed the food and the music. Tina Albright, a student, said, “I like the food, music. The party [had] a great turn out.” Karin Burke, also a student, said, “It’s a great party but nobody can beat the Bachata and Merengue one.” We will just have to wait to see if another club can beat that party or if Bachata and Merengue keeps surprising us with theirs.

BY JESSICA ISLAS
Asian American / Asian Research Institute
The City University of New York

CUNY Asian Faculty & Staff:
Lunar New Year Reception

Date: Friday, February 23, 2007  Time: 6PM to 8PM
Place: 25 West 43rd Street, 19th Floor
between 5th & 6th Avenues, Manhattan

* All CUNY faculty & staff involved in Asian American
and Asian subjects are invited to the reception.

This reception will introduce the new CUNY Asian faculty and staff to the Asian American
Research Institute; our mission as a university-wide scholarly research
and resource center that focuses on policies and issues that affect Asians and Asian
Americans; and the programs that are available for them. Attendees will have the
prime opportunity to create new relationships and network with colleagues like themselves,
from different fields across the twenty-three CUNY colleges.

For details, to register, or to view past events, please visit our website @
www.aaari.info
Tel: 212-869-0182  Fax: 212-869-0181  E-mail: info@aaari.info

Natural Hazards Revisited
Evening Lecture Series

Time: 6PM to 8PM
Place: 25 W. 43rd St., 19th Floor,
between 5th & 6th Aves., Manhattan

03.02.07  Charles Merguerian (Hofstra University), "NYC Earthquakes: Fact or Fiction"
03.09.07  Emma Christina Farmer (Hofstra University), "The Race to the Top: Is Sea Level Rise Accelerating Due to Global
Climate Change?"
03.16.07  Charles Mandeville (American Museum of Natural History), "Krakatau"
03.23.07  Nicholas K. Coch (Queens College, CUNY), "Unusual Vulnerability of the New York Metropolitan Region to Hurricane
Destruction"
04.13.07  Kristina R. Czuchlewski (Columbia University), "Landslides, Volcanoes, and Wildfires: Views from Above"
04.27.07  Charles Mandeville (American Museum of Natural History), "Volcanoes of the World"

Language Corner
$200 (Non-Member)  $100 (Member)
Cantonese 1  02/13/07 to 04/17/07, (7PM-8:30PM)
Cantonese 2  02/20/07 to 04/12/07, (6PM-7:30PM)
Cantonese 3  02/27/07 to 04/19/07, (7:40PM-9:10PM)
Korean 1  02/06/07 to 04/11/07, (6PM-8PM)

What makes Marymount Manhattan, makes New York New York.
Transfer your dreams to the big city.

The small college in the big city is here for you—and transferring credits is easy.
With special community college scholarships, job placement and affordability, these are some ways to find your way.

SPRING OPEN HOUSE  Saturday, February 10, 2007 begins at 11 a.m.
Make the call for a change 1-800-MARYMOUNT  www.mmm.edu
his sixth 'State of the Union' whose approval rating has equally as important is what he did not say, or what he managed to avoid altogether. This article will delve a little into all these areas.

You have to hand it to the president; for someone whose approval rating has slipped from 82% in 2001 to 29% in 2006 he sure acted like someone who had the support of the entire nation. Congress helped to continue that illusion by giving Bush every opportunity, even when the faces of those standing and clapping were ones who so obviously didn’t agree with what was being said. I don’t blame them, really; they’re just acting the way they’ve been taught to. Like the old adage states, “Have the gaze, not the place.”

Speaking of play: the only genuine display of humanity came from Wesley Autrey, the courthouse conversion worker who saved someone from certain death (or suicide) when he was recognized by Bush during the speech. The audience loved it; there were many vapors, no major event

Reducing ‘Earmarks’ - ‘earmarks’ (or ‘riders’, if you prefer) are those mini-bills attached to a larger, more important bill before it voted on. For instance, your local Congressman might attach an earmark for a federal land so that one of his richer constituents can build a factory on it on an education bill that is almost certain to pass. The later they attach this earmark, the less chance someone will have a problem with it. As even the president mentioned, the ‘earmarks’ that cross his desk attached to bills he’s never even heard of before are the ‘earmarks’ that cross his desk attached to bills he’s never even heard of before. Bush emphasized a tax relief that would give poor workers the funds needed to pay for private health insurance. It’s a good idea in theory, but in practice how many workers, making too little as it is, are going to use the monies they don’t pay in taxes for things like food, rent and other necessities they can barely afford instead of health insurance? More than a few, I bet. Since signing up for private health insurance won’t be compulsory (and it shouldn’t), we will still have people without proper healthcare.

No Child Left Behind the Bushes

The president asked Congress to renew his ‘No Child Left Behind’ law, which is due to expire after 5 years in effect. Response to this seemed mixed, as it should be; the statistics Bush quoted regarding upward improvement were based on polling done by those who supported the bill, so the results are bound to be, at the least, a little murky. The only new - and positive - addition to this was his recommendation that parents be given the right to place their child in another school if they felt the child’s educational needs weren’t being met. That is a good idea, as long as it isn’t abused. Too often, good students end up in bad schools due to testing issues. If implemented properly, it should show a city’s education department better than any report which schools are failing.

Bush’s ‘Green Dream’

The president spoke briefly on energy issues, including alternate fuels and power. Nothing specific, just how he hoped we could all be less dependent on oil from the Middle East (see how he ties this into what’s going on now?). No actual legislation was mentioned, to take the food you will.

Every Day is 9/11

Of course, no Bush speech would be complete without a long discourse on security, terror and Islamic extremism. “The war on terror we fight today is a generational struggle that this president’s administration must continue long after you and I have turned our duties over to others”, Bush explained. So ready to ‘Mission Accomplished’. As was expected, the president formally asked Congress for a troop increase of 92,000 soldiers within the next five years. Iran was singled out as the nation this administration is currently concerned about, publicly stating that the United States would not tolerate a nuclear Iran. To be continued, I guess...

Bush's 'Civilian Reserve Corps

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ARRIS LOFTS LIC, STILL under construction, offers loft space 5 minutes from Manhattan. Although pricey (ranging from $525,000-$2,995,000 depending on the space), you get a lot of bang for your buck with 24-hour doorman and concierge service, a fitness center, lap pool, and a 3,000 square foot lounge with a screening room and gaming area, among a long list of amenities. The building should open later this year. 70% of the lofts have been taken.

MTA IS BUILDING A $7 billion branch of its Long Island Railroad (LIRR) to connect it with the Grand Central Station via the 63 Street tunnel, which is currently used by the F train. The project is called East Side Access. A new Sunnyside station will be built, while tracks are being laid in the Sunnyside Yards. MTA is working on a tunnel connecting the Sunnyside Yards and 63 Street Tunnel. If the project continues as planned, it will be finished in 2012 and the Grand Central will have an additional 8-track station underneath the main terminal. Some concerns have arisen about viability of the project, since MTA is $1.4 billion overbudget for its 2005-2009 capital plan, which covers the East Side Access, Second Avenue subway as well as No. 7 line extension to 34 Street projects and many more. The installation of ventilation ducts for the Grand Central add-on are also in doubt, since the area around the station is dotted with historic buildings.

CITIGROUP, INC. IS BUILDING a $290 million 15-story office tower adjacent to its 50-story office building, Court Square One on Jackson Avenue 45 Avenue. Citicorp sold Court Square One building for $470 million to Reckson Associates Realty Corp. New York City agreed to improve the nearby area, obtaining $17 million from the federal government. The money will be used to make the area more attractive. Citibank agreed to pay elevators and escalators between Court Square G and 7 stations. Court Square Two should be completed later this year.

BY ALEKSANDR SIDOROV AND NORA STOCK

Construction in LIC: What are they building?
Sinking in the Atlantic (Division)
Knicks, Nets Struggling to Keep Afloat in the NBA's Worst Conference

BY ANDREW ARINI

As the NBA approaches the halfway mark of the 2006-2007 season, the New York Knicks and New Jersey Nets find themselves fighting opponents, getting injured, and losing games. The bright side is they both play in the mediocre Atlantic Division, where one team can string enough wins together. Out of the five teams in this division, four of them are separated by only one or two games. Each team has more numbered losses than numbered wins.

This will make for an interesting second half of the season since no one seems to have the ability to put away teams at the end of games. The Nets have lost six games when having the lead by the six-minute mark of the fourth quarter. The Knicks have had better luck in overtime games, but they have lost nine fourth quarters.

In the end, the team that wins the Atlantic Division this championship by obtaining first place will secure the third playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. Since the beginning of the season, no team has made any significant progress, and the Knicks and Nets, who have to cope with injuries, off-season personnel changes, let downs and fighting, which in many ways has impacted their season.

The Knicks began their season with overall sloppy play, inconsistency, and losing more games at home than on the road. But their new coach, Ishah Thomas, has changed the complexion of the team, and has gained the players' attention by earning their trust, and forming a positive rapport with his players in the media and in game situations. There has been less inter-team fighting and accusations, especially during press conferences. In return this has established the Knicks as a team with an image, and not just a group of players trying to play with each other. The team has been looking for the open man, and has been using the extra pass offensive to get others wide-open shots. This has contributed to this new team identity of 'us vs. the world.' Slowly the team's essence is being established.

This season the Knicks are trailing teams by a lower points in the fourth quarter than last year. They have been consistently getting destroyed by four points in the second half of the game. The Knicks have only one player that is playing at a high level offensively, David Lee is averaging double-double in points and rebounds. On the other side of the coin their defense, individually and collectively, is allowing their opponents to score 100 points each game with no problem. This is where the Knicks have to improve in order to secure the first place in the Atlantic Division.

The biggest story about the Knicks is the fight between them and Denver. You cannot expect anything less from a team that is coached by Isiah Thomas. Thomas was an original member of the Denver Pioneers, a team that has made it to the playoffs. There is no question that the Knicks are averaging double figures in points. David Lee is averaging double-double in points and rebounds. On the other side of the coin their defense, individually and collectively, is allowing their opponents to score 100 points each game with no problem. This is where the Redskins have to improve in order to secure the first place in the Atlantic Division.

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As for the fight, Nate Robinson was wrong for getting in the middle of the aftermath of the flagrant foul. His actions lead to the fight, and Carmelo Anthony's apology. It wasn't a cheap foul, or Collins trying to hurt someone, it was simply a flagrant two foul.

The foul was committed to stop the Knicks' momentum of how badly Denver was beating them. With all the ejections and suspensions, the penalties and the slips, in the end both teams are responsible, as well as their coaches. Yet, when all is said and done, this type of playing has definitely helped to unite the Knicks in such a way that last season has been ended, for better or worse.

The Nets have not played up to their level, or expectation. Beginning with the talented big three, (Jeff, Carter, and Jefferson), that their bench the Nets have suffered most losses significantly. By the end of the first quarter the Nets are finding themselves scoring about 15 points. They are the only team in the Atlantic Division, as of Jan 5 they are in first place. The biggest story about the Nets is the fight towards injury to their third year center, Nouel Katin. Katin was playing the best ball of his career. Before the injury the Nets were averaging almost 13 points, and almost seven rebounds a game. What the Nets do is reduce the center position. They are matching up to each team they play when it comes to who will start for Katin. Reserve such as eight-year veteran, Malik Moore, and rookie Josh Boone have been called upon to produce, and play more minutes in Katin's absence.

Moore, who is used for his speed can match up with smaller opposing centers. He has been a renaissance man in the old Nets season, finding his way on Denver. Moore is energetic, passionate, and creates a winning vibe on the court that is somewhat like the 'Bad Boys' that played in the Eastern Conference.

If the Nets do not secure first place in the Atlantic Division, they could find themselves budging making the eighth playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. If that happens, it would not give the Nets the much-needed home court advantage in the first round of the playoffs. Although the eastern conference doesn't have one main team, the Nets have had a lot of losses that would be considered a disappointment, and a let down for the Nets season. But most NBA professionals feel the real season begins with the playoffs. So the regular season, at least for the Nets, is being used to hone the teams' skills, as well as testing certain veteran players in order to be well prepared for the final run.

The Nets are built to play, and win, the NBA Championship. The Knicks are a team built to rebuild, entertain, and make strong run for a playoff spot. As the game of basketball is a numbers game, anything less than a third position in the playoffs would be considered a disappointment, and a let down for the Nets season. But most NBA professionals feel the real season begins with the playoffs. So the regular season, at least for the Nets, is being used to hone the teams' skills, as well as testing certain veteran players in order to be well prepared for the final run.

It was as sad as it could get early Christmas morning for all who woke up to the news reporting the passing of James Brown. The "Hardest working man in show business," as he was called died of pneumonia at the Emory Crawford Long Hospital, in Atlanta, Georgia, leaving behind devastated fans, and a rich legacy in the music and entertainment industry. He was 73 years old.

Some of James Brown's greatest hits including "On Our Side," "Say it Out Loud— I'm Black and I'm Proud" and "I Got You (I Feel Good)," brought the house down wherever he performed. With his moves, faster than the speed of light (does Michael Jackson or Mick Jagger really remain you of something as they are sputtering their stuff performing? It probably ES [Essex Rastamani] one of the bestsounding not only for African Americans but for anyone who has a soul," he delivered the "F" in funk and the "D" in disco and dance. His music probably sent people into the emergency room with best exhaustion. A love record of James Brown being played at a dead party would resonate it, consequences being everyone sweating profusely, dancing their butts off on the dance floor.

Some honors he had received, besides adoration by millions of devoted fans, included a Grammy in 1965 for "Papa's Got a Brand New Bag," for best R&B recording, a Grammy for "Living in America," in 1987 for best R&B Black vocal performance, and most recently in 1992, he won a Grammy Award for lifetime achievement. He was also one of the first Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees in 1986, along with the likes of Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry and other legendary performers.

Revolutionary, groundbreaking, civil rights warrior, the "Godfather" was a true tour de force. He was a man who had run-ins with the law and injustice but "money didn't change him." Time unfortunately did "take him out" (this based on him quoting that "while money won't change you, time will take you out)." Wherever James Brown may be, his legacy will carry on for generations to come. His music and style has profoundly influenced current and future musicians.
Bend It Like Bai Ling
Shangri-La Acrobats
Delight and Mesmerize at LaGuardia

BY SAMANTHA STONER

The recent Shangri-La Chinese Acrobatic Performance, which took place at LaGuardia Performing Arts Center, was well received. On Nov. 30, the act opened at 8 p.m. and was welcomed by a large audience. The Shangri-La Acrobats performed at a family event that was fun for all ages.

Adults and children alike were entertained by the amazing feats demonstrated at the show. One acrobat was riding a unicycle while balancing everything but a kitchen sink on a tube that was in her mouth. Another acrobat layed on top of a see-saw while turning a coffee table with her legs. The applause would've never ended if the tempo of the music didn't change and the following act came on stage. This invited total silence and curiosity. Children in the front rows were hanging off of their seats.

While the female acrobats performed an assortment of remarkable spectacles, like whirling six plates on sticks while on all fours, and the men carried out a series of very courageous stunts. The male acrobats' simulated long-fu stunts that reminded me of flicks like 'Rush Hour 2' and 'The Matrix' with such accuracy and effortless that it made me feel as if I were on the set of an actual action movie.

A majority of the stunts were unique to each individual. There were a couple of cases where the men performed in groups, for example, two men bent a wire with the applied pressure of their neck while another man crashed a pyramid of bricks on top of his teammates' head.

Essentially, the women used a lot of beauty, grace and stunning costumes in their act while the men commanded attention through their body language and upbeat music with loud drums throughout their act, and gongs at the end.

The acrobats restored the idea that style is an important element in a performance. Some shows go so fast that you feel that your eyes are deceived. The acrobats instead gave you the element of surprise with such a tasteful delivery that the energy of the stunt was felt in the crowd. Simply put, the crowd was moved. The Intern Managing Director of LPAC, Steven Hitt, commented about the performance saying "The kids are energetic in the way (the acrobats) are performing and the [acrobats] are just spectacular!"

Uncle Johnny's Silver Small Screen
Review: DEXTER

BY JOHN D. KNOX

OBS: I could write about the 1 or 2 films I've seen over the Winter break; how they were disappointments of one kind or another.

Then, it occurred to me: why not write about something I saw that I did enjoy, even if it wasn't at the theatre? Isn't it more important to get the word out about things worth watching than things that are not? And so...

DEXTER SHOWTIME
Season One

Best

Who Made It? Clyde Phillips, co-producer, from the book 'Darkly Dreaming Dexter' by Jeff Lindsay

Who's In It? Michael C. Hall (Six Feet Under), James Remar (The Warriors), Julie Benz (As Good As It Gets)

What's It About? Dexter Morgan, Miami blood spatter expert for the Metro Dade Police Department, has a hobby: his co-workers probably wouldn't appreciate: he's a serial killer.

Fortunately for most people he limits himself to others of his type, killing other serial killers as part of a grander 'code' his adoptive father, Harry, an honest cop, instilled in Dexter while he was still impressionable.

Unfortunately (for Dexter) someone's shown up who's better at killing than he is, and it's not too long before the problem becomes very serious...and very personal.

Is It Worth It? Most made-for-cable series let me down after the first few episodes: even 'The Simpsons' didn't hold my attention all the way through its first season. But this...this is something else.

Like I mentioned at the top, this series is based on Lindsey's first book. 'Roughly based' might be a better description, as Phillips & Co. take the barebones story built around Dexter and flesh it out to an enormous degree. Oddly enough, this has the effect of greatly improving not only the main character but all the supporting characters as well, each person from the book is expanded upon without losing any of their original flavor. In fact, some characters from the book are given complete makeovers, transforming them from mere mentions to serious candidates for your attention.

Even the body count is increased from that of the book, a bold move since they are where you expect to see Dexter show his true face the most. But again, the new material is seamlessly added to the point that if you had not read the book you wouldn't think Lindsey had thought of them himself.

Michael C. Hall is wonderful - no other word for it - as Dexter Morgan. You don't want to be friends with a serial killer unless it's this guy, he's so damn likable. His confusion to normal human interaction is often worth a chuckle, sometimes worthy of a guttew. But then again, every character was well- cast. Debbie (his cop sister with more ambition than ability), La. La Guetta (from media whore to responsible crusader in 12 episodes), Sgt. Deakus (the nemesis) and the rest. If I'd had the space, I'd comment on them all but suffice it to say you accept every actor as their characters.

Some new twists and a different ending leave a few conflicting plotlines that will not really interfere with one's enjoyment of Lindsey's second Dexter book, 'Dearly Devoted Dexter' it's translation onto the small screen. I only hope they continue to improve upon the source material without completely deviating from it.

Dexter Has His Work cutout for him.

Showtime on Demand and see the entire first season of this great show as soon as you can. If you don't, ask someone to tape it for you. You'll be glad you did.

John.Knox@mail.laguardia.com
These are the dreams of enough to leave this land each person walking two steps above but now I'm something, promised denied with surrounding's disguise. Sometimes I can't get things right, and the only time I write is at night to make the feelings of the past light a spark, and create some perfect dark. Which brings me to my reason for writing this sort of Goodbye letter to all I know I must leave, and you know I can't stay I'm being on a fast train, and stuck in this no man's land. And there is no way back, and no helping hands, so I just sit back. And watch as the walls of my room slowly turn to black. I fade to the darkness, and begin to accept the truth that surrounds us in smoke. Exhale the beautiful intoxication, and watch the night choke. As we kick back, and fade into the background, disappearing with the night. Always leave them smiling and wanting more, but I can't be sure.

"Alex Irish was a prolific contributor to The Bridge during his time at LaGuardia. He has moved on for bigger and better things, and the poem above is his farewell to The Bridge and its readers."

So long Alex, you will be missed.

the beauty of the present moment
By Mona Toor

Now, in this present moment, free your mind of negativity. Fill your mind with optimism. Don't be harsh, be real. All your wounds will surely heal.

Become aware of the here and now. Become fully aware of the present. Your mind will create infinite solutions. Your mind will then not invite any problems. Your problems will surely be solved. Remember, that your mind is the creator of problems of disguise.

So real, so wise, this moment on earth will become a bit like paradise!

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY, MY FRIENDS
By Teresita Benliru Villaruz

Friendship needs to be nurtured in order to be strengthened and remain forever. Real and true relationships will be valued if it is properly handled with care. Indeed, it is better to lose something than to lose a genuine friend. Eveready to help in times of problems, and never turn his face when it is urgently needed.

Nobody is perfect, but, at least it is better that you have done your best to help a friend in need. Doing great kindness in every difficult situation that a real friend has encountered. So, dear friends, my simple greetings to all of you, enjoy the day of "HEARTS" and Happy Valentine's Day once more.

L.I.E.
by Nora Stock

Steam rises from a Superhighway while mother calls us for dinner.
No Escape: Gwen Stefani's new CD a Gliterry Mess

The Great Escape makes it obvious that Gwen is not an MC. A particular low point of the album is a song entitled, "You are My Rock Steady," which is a pop record that revolts. It is produced by the Neptunes, who said earlier it may have been time to go. Although the turnout was smaller than expected, most of those who showed up enjoyed themselves nonetheless.

BSU Bash Right on Target After Slow Start

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Spicing It Up: Bachata & Meringue

The party DJ did not disappoint. He played a great variety of music, despite being a Latin party. The strobe lights were too much of the music. Without music, they would have been more pleasant to the patrons, who only have eaten more at the event if they had been.

All in all, the event was a success, but could have sold more, which to choose. What they did have was a variety of music, despite being a Latin party. The strobe lights were too much of the music. Without music, they would have been more pleasant to the patrons, who only have eaten more at the event if they had been.

The performance was OK, but untimed, since others on the dance floor were not getting into their grooves. Had they performed their routine earlier it may have been better received. DJ Sparkz threw an encore while more and the attendees party away until it was time to go.

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