

CAMPUS

undergraduate newspaper of the city college since 1907

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Friday, December 9, 1977



CAPTURING AN AWARD: Mort Kapton, vice president for institutional resources, honors Sgt. Hamby one of nine members of the College's security force to be selected for outstanding service to the community. Director of Security Albert Dandridge looks on. Also recognized were Capt. Dominquez, Sgt. J. Cotto, Sgt. V. Gross, Lt. D. Ahmad, Mr. Barrios, Sgt. S. Saunders and F. Richardson.

Photo by David S. Eng

2 year test status still unclear here

By Jerald Saltzman

At a long, five hour meeting on the two year test this week, College administrators admitted that the status of the controversial exam is unclear.

In Tuesday's session of the Steering Committee of the Policy Advisory Council, Alan Fiellin, dean of general education and guidance said, "Some things I don't know. The task force has not yet reported back," he continued. "I have not been told precisely what [academic] level will be required. We haven't established which test or tests might be used," Fiellin said.

"The two year test is very much alive," said Ed King, treasurer of the day student senate. Questioning an article in the Campus last week which reported that the College will not be administering the test, King said "The final decision on the test at the College is far from certain." The test could be "anything that the three tasks forces or the Policy Advisory Board decides on," he added.

The task forces have been set up by University Chancellor Robert Kibbee to study all phases of the planned examination, including the level of proficiency and which students would be required to take them.

The examinations, called the Skills Assessment Tests, could be administered as early as this spring to entering freshman and transfer students enrolling into the CUNY system. "The tests do not apply to any students currently enrolled in the University," said Fiellin.

The College has proposed a procedure for instituting the exam. Failing students will be put into one of the already existing

remedial programs at the College. No student will be allowed to take more than 61 credits without passing the reading, writing and arithmetic sections of the test.

Alice Chandler, provost and vice president for academic affairs said that a student "can't take upper division work in English without having passed the Math proficiency."

The College could conceivably maintain its current placement exams, which according to King, could mean that students would have to pass both tests for admission to the College.

King said the focus of the tests have changed. "Originally, they were meant to retain students but now the tests are trying to eliminate them." King cited "political motivations" behind the move to eliminate students, specifically with the city's desire for a CUNY-SUNY merge.

"Students can stop the test," King said. "They should visit other organizations and speak to their parents to let them know what's going on," he added.

Physics fracas:

Shpiz faces conduct panel

By Michael Arena and Linda Tillman

President Marshak has formally charged Prof. Joseph Shpiz (Physics) with "conduct unbecoming a member of the faculty", stemming from an alleged October 17 rumpus between Shpiz and Prof. Joseph Aschner (Physics).

The accusations are expected to be presented before a three member University panel next month. If Shpiz is found at fault, the panel could recommend penalties ranging up to dismissal.

Dean Morris Silberberg, faculty relations, said that the charges have been levied against Shpiz but refused to specify the allegations, saying that he "didn't want it to be argued in the papers."

Dean Gerald Kauver, special assistant to the President, verified that allegations have been levied and a committee to hear the charges has been formed.

However, Shpiz would neither confirm or deny the charges. "I am not at liberty to advise of counsel to discuss any charge that may or may not be brought against me in the past or the future," he said. "In the possibility that there was such a hearing scheduled, I would see little gained by the parties involved."

It was learned independently however, that the only charge that had been brought against Shpiz involved the October 17 incident. At that time it was reported that both Shpiz and Aschner allegedly traded raps after arguing over delayed distribution forms for listing additional faculty employment.

Aschner said that Shpiz hit "me in my back when I was turned" and Shpiz said that he was "kneed in the groin" but he wasn't sure that Aschner did it.

Shpiz was quoted as saying that "I'm pretty sure it was Aschner who hit me but it could have been Erich Erlbach," the chairman of the Physics Department and sole witness to the altercation.

Aschner claimed that he did not strike Shpiz. Both men were taken to hospitals and treated for minor injuries.

According to the CUNY-faculty union contract, the three member tribunal must be composed of a faculty member from the College, a University Faculty Senator who is not from the College and a chairman selected by the two. Kauvar said that Prof. Brooks Wright (English) has been named

to the panel. The names of the other two appointments could not be determined.

The committee can recommend acquittal, reprimand, suspension with or without pay or removal; however, its decision can be appealed to the Board of Higher Education.

Shpiz, 40, who has been at the College for 14 years, said that he did not believe he was being persecuted by the administration. "I have been critical of the administration and I think that there are many administrators who are critical of me because of that," he said. "However I would not say that they are persecuting me." He said a newspaper report on him would be "unfortunate" and suggested that the funds that are used for physics tutoring be

investigated.

Kauvar said that the October 17 scuffle was the first time Shpiz had used physical violence but there had been several verbal confrontations before. "I think that there have been several incidents in the last few years. The dean and the provost have tried to talk to him, but to no avail," he said.



Prof. Joseph Shpiz

89 percent of freshman class need remediation, report finds

By Laurie Mauro

Capping a seven year climb, 89 per cent of the 1676 matriculated freshman registered at the College this term were assigned to at least one "must take" remedial course.

The six per cent jump marks the largest single increase in required remediation since 1972. According to a report compiled by Michael Ribaldo, office of institutional research, "while the overall improvement in high school averages seems to have slightly reduced the percentage of students who were placed in the various remedial courses this year, that improvement has not changed the probability of any given student being assigned to at least one remedial course."

Dean Philip Baumel, curricular guidance, tried to reach the fundamental problem "Some part of it is that people can get high school averages that are surprisingly high, without having learned to read and write," he said. "High schools are giving grades that they shouldn't be giving."

Sixty per cent of all first time matriculated freshman had to take a College Study Skills course, 80 per cent Basic Writing 1 or 2 and 70 per cent must take the algebra-geometry series. Last year 58 per cent required College Skills, 79 Basic Writing and 69

Mathematics. The percent of students needing remediation in all three categories, however, decreased from 50 to 49 this year. Although the percentage of matriculated freshmen who

attained an average of 85 or above has remained the same as last year — 27 per cent — there has been an eight per cent increase in non-SEEK students with an 85 or better high school average.



Graph by W. Kwang

More freshmen are being required to enroll in remedial courses this year according to a report released by the Office of Institutional Research.

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Pundit

Of utmost gravity

Jo Ann Winson

"For every right answer, there is an equal and opposite wrong answer." This is Newton's First Law of Physics Homework, which you will verify experimentally as you study physics.

In physics The Force is always with you. As you explore springs and strings and the quirks of quarks, you will become aware of several concepts of physics that operate in daily life:

Friction will develop between you and your prof as you argue for extra points on your exam grade.

After a particularly boring lecture you will agree that hot air expands.

When you run out at the end of class you will demonstrate escape velocity.

Before an exam when you are faced with undone experiments, unread text chapters, and unwritten lab reports and homework assignments, you will finally understand the meaning of entropy.

The three components of a physics course are lecture, recitation and lab, throughout which you must try to maintain equilibrium.

"This is true," your prof will comment on a point in lecture, "because of Newton's First Law," implying that it wouldn't be true if Newton hadn't make up the law. Your lecture prof. will do helpful demonstrations, such as dropping a pingpong ball to show that things fall down instead of up or sideways. The prof will claim that demonstrations help students grasp and retain concepts, but you will suspect he does them in order to play with the toy cars and balloons.

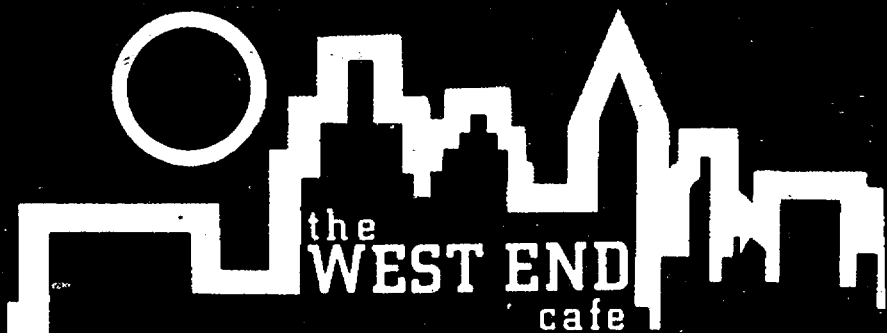
Your recitation instructor will solve problems using different methods from your lecture prof, confusing you completely.

In lab you must prove by experiment what you were perfectly willing to believe in the

textbook. You will suspect the equipment is rigged anyway to give the results the prof wants. It will give you a sense of security to know that students have done the same stimulating experiments with the same precision equipment since the College opened in 1847.

Your lab instructor will demonstrate how to set up an apparatus, but it will not work. "This is how not to do it!" he will then exclaim triumphantly. When you have to ask a critical question in the middle of your experiment, your instructor will have stepped out of the room. There will be a power failure while the class is doing electricity experiments.

Your lab instructor will try to stifle his yawns at the end of class as 20 students hand in reports stating they have verified Ohm's Law. But he will refuse to listen when you tell him that your results actually disprove Ohm's Law.



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Blackbirds swoop mermen

By Kennard Garvin

In collegiate swimming, the word depth has two meanings; the deepness of the water and the bench strength of the squad. Last Friday, at Mahoney pool, the water conditions were fine, but the home team came up shallow, as they sank to Long Island University 59-53.

For the Merman, who finished sixth last year in the Metropolitan Conference, Division 2, it was the first meet of the season, while the Blackbirds were swimming to their third win. As it turned out, the depth was with the visitors.

"We have quality swimmers, exclaimed Beaver coach Marcello

Rodriguez, but we don't have many experienced swimmers. We lost Peter Piekola, who was an excellent freshman for us last year, and today we are without Jose Aristy our top diver."

The match opened with City taking the 400 yard medley relay. Lead by Rubin Addarich, and

with an impressive finish by Jose Arias, the Beavers captured all seven first place points at a time of 4:02.6. But, that was the highlight of the evening, for the CCNY swimmers.

L.I.U. tied the score by taking first and second, in the 1,000 yard freestyle, compiling eight points, while City gained only one.

However, the Beavers managed to keep their heads above water. Jose Arias, who turned in a fantastic time of 51.8 seconds in the 400 yard medley, placed first in the 50 yard freestyle. Ralph Perea took the 200 yard backstroke in 2:37.3, and Rubin Addarich took first in the 200 yard freestyle, as well as the 200 yard backstroke in times of 2:01.9 and 2:16.9, respectively.

However, the Blackbirds were not to be outclassed for this one as they took enough second and third place spots in all the swimming events to keep up with the fast-paced Beavers. The visitors won both diving events, the high and low boards, and the 400 yard

Icemen rally to tie

By Rich Mancuso

Like a pressure cooker at its boiling point, the hockey team released its steam against Lehman College in their second confrontation of the season.

After getting walloped by the Blues 12-2 last week, the Beavers discharged their frustrations Monday night in a rematch, skating impressively to a 5-5 tie. City's fierce checking and aggressive defense highlighted the tightly fought stalemate, as the home team went on to out-shoot their opponents in goal attempts 29-28 in 2 out of the 3 periods.

"We played one-hundred and fifty per cent," expressed first year coach John Meekins. "The team really played hard."

Lehman lit the scoring board first when center Howie Wagner flipped a loose puck pass CCNY goalie Elliot Myers. The Beavers waited only three minutes to neutralize the score on a beautiful shot from rightwinger Vinnie Cuomo off an equally impressive pass from John Luke.

The first period ended with a last moment Lohman tally but Beaver defenseman Mario Nudelfuden knotted the score on a solo attempt in the next period.

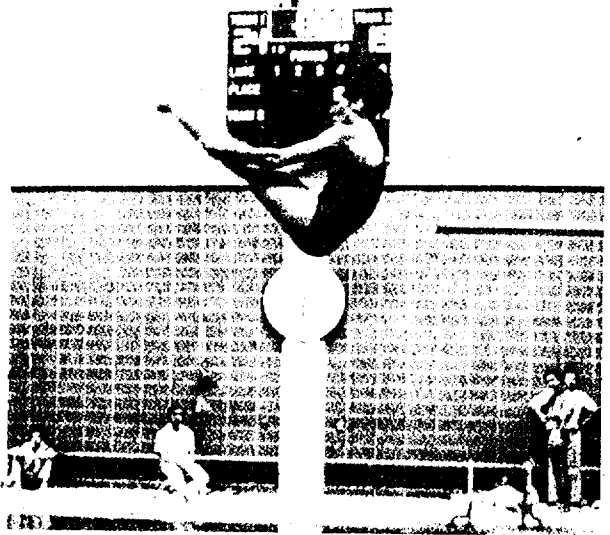


Photo by Vinny Jacobo

Elizabeth Haughney executes a one meter dive to no avail as City plunges to defeat at the hands of LIU.

freestyle to win the contest by six points.

"I was very pleased," said Rodriguez. "You're always pleased when you do your best, but you can't compensate for

depth. Some of our guys had to swim two or three times, and that's not good. If we could have had a little more help we could have won."

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