

CAMPUS

undergraduate newspaper of the city college since 1907

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Friday, February 24, 1978

Report on skills test expected today



Photo by David S. Eng

Dr. Martin Abend: The WNEW-TV commentator speaking on "Should the USA Support Israel?" at Hillel House yesterday. Beginning at 12 noon, the event was attended by a crowd of approximately 50 students.

By Linda Tillman

After a four-week long review of the City University's interim report on the controversial Skills Assessment Program, a College committee will today present its findings to Alice Chandler, provost for academic affairs.

Chandler, who established the committee to "critically review" the proposed exam, will study its recommendations in an effort to determine the exam's impact on the College.

Dean Alan Feillin, committee head, said that the committee supports the exam, but it "questions the University's procedures for implementing standards." A focal point of concern to the committee is that test standards are lower than those presently required by the College's freshman placement exam.

Since the University's proposed standards are lower than the presently required freshman placement exam, Feillin said the

College will probably continue administering most existing exams "to maintain our higher standards."

One of the differences between the current exam and the proposed one is in the mathematics section. Students are now tested in algebra through beginning calculus. Under the proposed exam students will only be required to know basic arithmetic skills and algebra, excluding the more advanced material.

Feillin said exact writing requirements were unclear but stipulated that "students will probably be given essays" and judged according to the composition's "maturity of thought," rather than an error count.

According to a CUNY mandate, all Fall 78 freshman will be required to take the new exam instead of the current freshman placement test.

Students will be expected to

attain an 11th grade minimum reading level. Students who fail the exam the first time will be allowed at least one opportunity to take it again. If a student does not pass the test after he accumulates 64 credits, he will not be permitted to move to the upper division.

According to Feillin, the University has yet to set up an appeals procedure for students who fail the test.

Feillin said the committee was convinced that the College's enrollment would not be effected by the test. "We are convinced that the test will have almost no effect on our students," he said, adding that, "it's not a serious threat of turning students away."

Senate opposition

A number of student organizations as well as the Day Student Senate voiced opposition to the proposed exam. Senate member Ken Glauvar said "the test would turn away many students."

Saga contract renewed

By Emily Wolf

College officials have decided to renew for one year the contract of Saga Dining Halls without the recommendation of the student-faculty Food Services Committee, it was revealed at Tuesday's Policy Advisory Council meeting.

The Committee was to make its recommendation on whether to renew Saga's contract, now in the second of a three year agreement, at least four months before the contract runs out on June 30. Edmond Sarfaty, dean of Finley Student Center, said the Committee failed to evaluate the performance of Saga because he "could not get the seven student representatives to attend any scheduled meetings."

"I must confess that I am upset that the Committee did not meet," said Sarfaty, adding, "I thought there was an excellent chance that it would not be renewed had the Committee met."

The College reached its decision, in part, on the basis of a study conducted by Business Manager Richard Morley of Saga's compliance with the contract.

Portions checked Morley arranged for several members of his staff to purchase various Saga menu items during different hours and days of a two

to three week period. The portions of each menu were then weighed and checked against contract specifications. Finding that the portions met or exceeded the required specifications, Morley stated in his report that he found no basis for non-renewal.

Morton Kaplon, vice president for administrative affairs, said "I don't like giving the contract to Saga by default. But at this point," he added, "it would be a major disservice to all concerned if we took the current specifications and went out and

bid with them."

When Saga's contract was up for reconsideration last spring, Student Senate members on the Committee opposed renewing the contract. Ann Rees, vice provost for student affairs, said "their opposition was supported by no concrete evidence and was not transmitted to the central administration until April."

Senate boycott

Because last Spring's recommendation was not taken into account, several members of the Day Student Senate decided to boycott Sarfaty's meetings.

"We felt attending them would be an exercise in futility," said Andre Josephs, DSS vice president for campus affairs.

Fee records opened; Low student turnout

The second week-long public review of student activity fee expenditures in the College's history ended with Campus reporters and the student ombudswoman the only students taking advantage of the "open book policy."

Last spring after much discussion and dispute between the student press and Ann Rees, vice provost for student affairs, it was determined that all students have the right to examine the current financial books of any organization funded by the \$25 student activity fee.

Because she simply "forgot" to designate a week of inspection during the Fall semester, Rees selected two time periods for students to view the budgets this term. The books will be open for inspection upon request again during the week of March 27.

A partial review revealed the following expenditures:

Day Student Senate
 * \$625.00 to the City Store Gate Manufacturing Corp. for a gate installed in the Senate office
 * \$163.80 to The Village Voice in payment for an ad on the Randy Evans murder case
 Evening Student Senate
 * \$377.55 to Nelsons Restaurant, Broadway and 170th

* \$38.21 to Broadway Liquors
 * \$116.00 to Saga Dining Halls
 * \$1048.00 to the National Student Travel Bureau
 Student Ombudsman
 * \$1370.00 to the City College Store for supplies
 * \$6.00 for Holiday Party Cards
 * \$140.00 to a research coordinator for 28 hours of work
 Newman Club
 * \$45.00 for refreshments
 Children's Advocate Club
 * \$1200.00 in supplementary tuition payments for children
 American Institute of Chemical Engineers
 * \$153.20 in party expenses



Photo by W. Kwang

Vice Provost Ann Rees

Regina Eaton, vice president said even though no recommendation was submitted "the College is well aware of the fact that student feelings have not changed since last year." Eaton added, "The administration just never had any intention of getting rid of Saga."

Expressing similar sentiments, Evening Student Senate president Robert Dolphin referred to the College's decision as "another successful move by the administration to do what they want to do."

Security report due for release in June

By Meryl Grossman

After a two year administrative hold up the College's annual security report is expected to be submitted to President Marshak in June.

According to Vice President Morton F. Kaplon, the report was set aside for the past two years in order to give administrators more time to concentrate on re-structuring the College's budget.

"We had to deal with the fiscal mess first," Kaplon said. He added that the report "will hopefully" be submitted to President Marshak this June.

The report, referred to as the Annual Security Report to the President, is a summary of College security conditions, problems and statistics for the year. Each individual academic department, as well as the security, registrar, and business offices submit an evaluation of security conditions and problems for the year. Also, the computation center supplies crime statistics based on reported campus incidents.

Over the past few months the number of crime incidents on campus has taken a turn upward. College officials continue to stress precautionary measures to prevent thefts, assaults, and rape. However, those leaving classes late at night remain somewhat fearful about venturing around campus.

Escort Service

A late night and weekend escort service for faculty members, from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m., is provided by the security office. After notifying the office, faculty members are escorted to nearby subway stations or, under special arrangement to 59th Street and

Columbus Circle.

According to administrators, the idea of a similar escort service for students would be difficult due to the large number of students leaving the campus each evening.

"I don't know how something like an escort service would work, but it would be a good idea to set one up especially for evening students," said senior Carol Jsalon.

"I would like to see something worked out like an escort service," agreed Lynn Wilson, an evening student. "Right now I don't get out until nine and I have to walk to 135th Street to get the train."

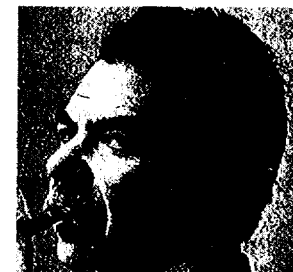


Photo by David S. Eng
 Morton Kaplon

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Letters to the Editor

On the proposed skills test...

To the Editor:
There is a maxim I hold to be a universal truth and it is: "Don't cut off your nose to spite your own face." This quote is most appropriate when describing the present furor over the proposed junior skills test. The major complaint against the exam seems to be that it is racially discriminatory and designed to impair minority students from receiving diplomas. If I may be so crude (and as I am not a diplomat or an administrator, I will be) the allegation is asinine. As no one has even seen a proposed copy of the exam, to deem it racially discriminatory or culturally biased is admitting to a clairvoyance of sorts. Our college is in a dire predicament at present, both financially and academically. to

the outside world, the City College diploma is not a testament of a good education or an adequate one, but a simple piece of stationery sometimes not worth the paper it is printed on. As an applicant to law schools, I have had the opportunity to meet with the Dean of Admissions of the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He candidly informed me that the quality of an institution is considered when the law school evaluates applicants, and that my having received a high GPA at City College is less valuable than my having received the identical index at a school like Columbia. This admission reinforced my growing conviction that in order for the education we are receiving to be viewed as valuable, certain academic standards must be re-evaluated and significantly strengthened.

education to all; but it simultaneously raises exit standards, by justly demanding that the fruits of your freely granted education be visible. The student who passes such an examination proves himself capable of meeting the more stringent demands of the junior and senior levels of his education. His diploma is then an accurate reflection of his knowledge and competence; it becomes his passport to the working world rather than a decoration adorning his living room wall. To vehemently attach an unseen exam because it goes against the status quo is in this instance self-defeating for if the system remains as is, the value of the diploma will continue to degenerate and consequently become meaningless. It is our responsibility as the present City College community to overcome whatever personal misgivings we may have about the test and realize the potentially positive effects it will have on ourselves and on the future of our institution. Let us not be in such a damn hurry to cut off our noses to spite our own faces.

"Shocked"

To the Editor:
The tone and content of your recent editorial on the indictment of Robert Carroll came as a shock and disappointment to me. I have been at City for almost ten years, as a student and tutor, and for most of that time found your editorials to be sane and thoughtfully written. This one, however, reeks of vengeance and backstabbing. It is clear that The Campus was not on the best terms with Mr. Carroll. Be that as it may, it is inexcusable for you to write that "... he is gone, a victim of his own wrong doing." How do you know that? I was under the impression that he had been indicted, not convicted. Do you know something we don't? Or have you decided that the vestiges left us of American justice simply do not apply to you? for one am not yet ready to assume, as you would have us do, that the College is already suffering from one of its officers errors; I am willing to let the facts come out as they will.

I do not wish to pretend that the junior skills test is the optimal solution to the problems plaguing the City College's reputation, and hence the value of its diploma, but it is a definite start in the right direction. It allows for the continuance of the Open Admissions Program, thereby providing equal opportunity of

R. Lerner

The death of humanity here

To the Editor:
On the morning of January 3, 1978, a dear friend of mine died at his own hands, a victim of the inhumanity commonly called The City College of the City University of New York. Dr. Pei Chao Li, formerly an Associate Professor in the Department of Student Personnel Services at the College, took his own life so that his wife and young children could collect his insurance and thus exist. Why was this extreme measure necessary? What role did the College play in precipitating this very drastic act? What has happened to a great educational institution that its long history of humanistic concern has so badly deteriorated?

hum an considerations were of any importance to those sage and omniscient leaders of The City College. The only consideration apparently worthy of their concern was the dollar sign. So, Dr. P.C. Li received a mimeographed letter from the President of the College terminating his position and thanking him for his "service to the College." A human being was being destroyed by those who little knew what he did and little cared what he felt.

Dr. Li was a member of the faculty from 1955 to 1976. With a budget crisis requiring a large cut in August 1976, the leadership of the College, using a broad blade, devoid of any sensitivity, eliminated Dr. Li's Department. Did it matter that he was 59 years old, an age at which obtaining another position was most doubtful? Did it matter that he could not receive his pension for another four years? Did it matter that he had a wife and two very young children? Did it matter that he was a person with pride and a deep sense of personal commitment to young students? No, obviously, none of these

It was my good fortune to have been a close friend, fellow graduate student and City College colleague of Dr. Li's over the past 27 years. I mourn the passing of a dear and sweet and gentle human being. His death leaves me greatly distressed. I also mourn the death of humanity at The City College. The pallbearers who currently lead its fortunes are doing an excellent job. I also mourn the reality that our society today is so callous that it permits tragedies like Dr. Li's to occur at all. When the young people of the 1960's condemned the system, I struggled to understand them. I now know what they were talking about and I salute them. Perhaps, if some of their human concerns had infected the current City College leadership, my friend Dr. P.C. Li would be alive today.

Dr. Harry A. Meisel

Thursday Night is College Night

... Ice Skating at Sky Rink

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Language debate lingers on

To the Editor:
I disagree with Nancy Meade's statement ("Language at the College," January 25) that "the most flagrant offenders of our language are the pseudo-intellectuals who spend Friday nights reading dictionaries to obtain an instant, multi-syllabled vocabulary to impress others with 'ethnomusicologist' and 'existential import'."

It should be noted that all the language Meade was intrigued by in her column was slang, and all the words indeed had a few syllables. However, one's appreciation of and learning of educated English should not end when one begins college.

Language not only reflects, but influences thought. New words convey new ideas and nuances of meaning. Remember that a tool of the dictatorship of 1984 was the people's use of Newspeak. The limited language led to limited thought. All Newspeak words were of one syllable.

New concepts and new fields call for the coining of new words. The appropriate specialist deserves the correct title of "ethnomusicologist" as much as another deserves that of "microbiologist." They are both scholars in recognized fields. Although the former title is newer and less familiar, its meaning is self-evident.

Further, a field develops its own jargon to aid in fast, clear communication. It is far easier for people to say "existential import" than to resort to an involved definition of the term each time. Most people who know something about philosophy understand the term.

Compound and polysyllabic words are necessary and have merit: words such as "ethnomusicologist" are precise and phrases such as "existential import" are concise. Correct usage of these words comes not from "Friday night" dictionary cramming for "an instant, multi-syllabled vocabulary," but from reading, thought and understanding.

The column has many errors in usage. Words misused are "adage," "quip" and "colloquialism." It is not recognized that "historicity" has a different meaning from "history." "Spiffy" is not recognized as "in" slang of an earlier day. There is a run-on sentence, "affect" is used instead of "effect," and "students" should have been in the possessive case. Why then does the column criticize someone who uses an educated word correctly?

Good, grammatical, varied, descriptive language is a joy to the ear, mind and spirit. Perhaps in time Meade will expand her horizons as a "language freak" to appreciate words of any number of syllables and to appreciate phrasing that reflects the clarity, beauty and majesty of which our extraordinarily expressive English language is capable.

Jo Ann Winson

Correction
In last week's "Shipz decision expected today" story, it was incorrectly reported that Dean Harry Lustig was the third person testifying at a University hearing panel. It was Bertha Danzig, a secretary with the Physics department, who testified.

Losers can find their ways

By Marina Psaltoudis

You haven't seen all of the College's sites until you've beheld the Lost and Found collection of Finley Student Center.

A rare assortment of wallets, eye glasses, books, T-shirts, keys and other items that have lost their owners patiently wait to be reunited.

"Let it stay here until someone claims it"—that's the College's policy on lost property, according to student aide Gilbert Gonzalez of the office in Finley 227.

In addition to the second floor Finley office, students may report their missing articles to F152 or Goethals 04. Items of no substantial value are transferred to F227 while valuable belongings such as jewelry, handbags, documents and money are filed in safe-deposit boxes kept in F152.

"Most of the stuff found is empty wallets; the last valuable

item was turned in back in November," said Shirley Debel, assistant to the Center's director. "If there is any kind of owner identification on the item, we try to trace him and have him identify the object," continued Debel. "If after a period of 60 days an item is not claimed, the student who found it is entitled to it," she said.

Fewer returns

It appears as if the number of students claiming missing items is greater than the number of those who return found property.

"Ten years ago this office was full of things but not today," reports Rulox Merlin, a Center employee. Gonzalez suggested that fewer books are returned because students find selling them more advantageous from an economic point of view.

Do you doubt ever laying eyes on that old umbrella you lost a few semesters ago? There is reason for optimism. Last year, one graduate student appeared in F227 to claim her recently lost wallet. She left carrying a jacket she lost during her sophomore year as an undergraduate at the College.

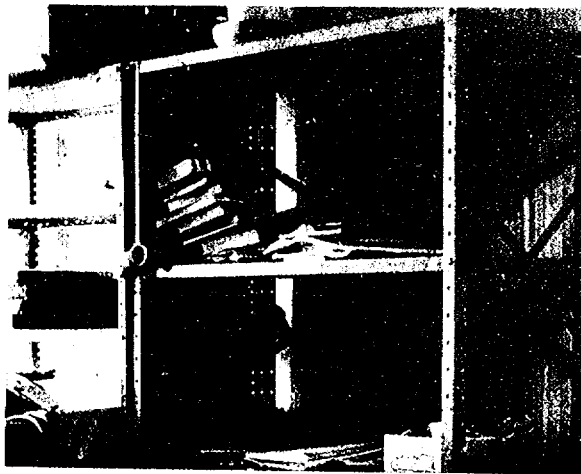


Photo by W. Kwang

Is it possible that something in the box on this shelf belongs to you? Get reacquainted by reporting to one of the College's Lost and Found offices.

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Faculty urged to take part in student affairs

By Stewart Wurtzel

Calling the social environment of the campus "not terribly pleasant" Vice Provost of Student Affairs Ann Rees has drafted a letter to the faculty requesting them to become "personally involved" in student activities.

According to Rees, the need for increased student-faculty interaction was one of the College's priorities established last year at a faculty meeting. The letter to be mailed out this week represents one of the first steps of a multi-phase plan outlined by Rees.

In the letter dated Feb. 9, 1978, Rees promised the support of the Division of Student Affairs in order to promote such ideas as faculty-student projects, increased lounge space for student and faculty use and the improvement of campus communication facilities.

Rees claims that even though participation in extracurricular activities has decreased substantially over the last ten years, the College campus is "more active than many other campuses." Among her reasons cited for a decrease in student involvement are changes in the make-up of the student body, a reduced budget and low morale. In addition, Rees added, "Students today are more serious. They are more career oriented and they spend more time worrying about the decreasing job market."

Rees optimistic

Rees is optimistic about the response to the letter and the future of student activities. She hopes that when the North Academic Complex is complete and campus activities become more accessible there will be an increase in student activity.



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Semi's tonight

Beavers bop Lehman

By Michelle Williams

Making full use of the "home-court advantage" the Beavers out-ran Lehman College, 81-36 in the 13th Annual City University basketball tournament Wednesday night in Holman Gym before a crowd of 3,000.

The Beavers were led by captain Richie Silvera and Clark Elie with 17 points each. The win advanced CCNY to the semi-final round against York College.

"It was so easy," said Silvera after the game. "We played our type of ball and set the pace."

Lehman entered the game with an equal number of advantages and disadvantages. Listed as underdogs, the shorter Lancers were unaccustomed to playing on a full-size court. On the other hand, they had a healthy bench (9 reserves as opposed to City's 3), and during the regular season they had lost to the Beavers—but only by four points.

After leading 8-6 early in the game, Lehman tired out and City took over for a 33-18 halftime margin.

"We played together," Elie explained. "Everyone did what he had to."

Teammate Dudley Biggs added, "We had better preparation since we had played tougher schools." During the regular season the Beavers took on Columbia, Cornell, Detroit and Virginia.

City's victory was an all-out team effort—seven of the eight Beavers scored, including Biggs with 16 and Joe Holman, 14 and Silvera contributed 13 rebounds and seven blocks to the cause.

Hunter, Brooklyn Win

In other second-round action Wednesday the Hunter Hawks defeated Medgar Evers, 65-51; Brooklyn outlasted Queens, 78-74; and York squeezed by John Jay, 43-41 with a field goal five seconds before the buzzer.

Tonight in Holman Gym the Hawks, seeded number two in the tourney, take on Brooklyn at 6:30 p.m. The Beavers meet York in the nightcap starting at 8:30 p.m.

How about predicting the result of the CCNY-York game?

Biggs: The same as Lehman. We'll beat York by a few points.

Clark: I'll toss that up.

Silvera: York will try to slow it up, but if we can set the pace and break open early...

Admission to the game tonight as well as Monday night's final at 8 p.m. is free.

CUNY Standings

- Feb. 21
 - Medgar Evers 79, Baruch 75
 - Lehman 64, Staten Island 57
- Feb. 22
 - Brooklyn 78, Queens College 74
 - York 43, John Jay College 41
 - Hunter College 66, Medgar Evers 51
 - CCNY 81, Lehman 36
- Feb. 24 (Tonight)
 - Hunter vs Brooklyn
 - CCNY vs York College



Photo by ASHU-TALAMO

Dudley Ellis goes up for two against a helpless Lehman defender.

Beaver Corral

Setting a new school record for the triple jump in the Metropolitan Indoor Track Championships was Beaver Gene Day, who took first place with his 48' 10 1/2" effort on Monday at Princeton University. The leaper also took fifth in the long jump at the meet with a 22' 2 1/2" flight. His seven points boosted his team to a seventh place out of 12 competing colleges. Rutgers College took first... Ruben Addarich set a new Metropolitan and school record in the Met. Swimming Finals last week, with his 4:37.6 finish in the 400 yard individual medley. The merman also sailed away with second place in the 200 yard individual medley with 2:10.5—2/10ths off his own City record. The Beavers placed eight in the contests... The men's gymnastic team out tumbled Glasboro College 131.05 to 85.7 Wednesday in Goethals Gym. The win boosted the Beavers who are now qualified for the National Collegiate Athletic Association Championships next month with their score of 168.1. Captains Daniel Plaza and Alex Petrunia both qualified for the championships at the Glasboro match with their parallel bar scores of 8.6 and 8.65 Jose Travers' long horse score of 8.55 also qualified him for the NCAA's.

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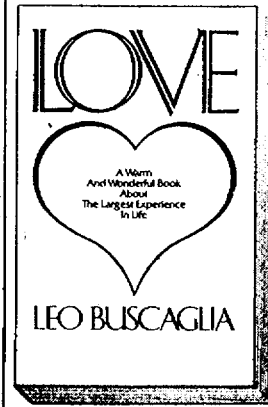
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Photo by W. Kwang

Richie Silvera soars high to reject a Lehman field goal attempt in the Beavers' 81-36 romp Wednesday.

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