

# the meridian

THE STUDENT VOICE OF LEHMAN COLLEGE

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Bronx, New York

## Nearby Developments Hold Promise to Revive Lehman's Neighborhood

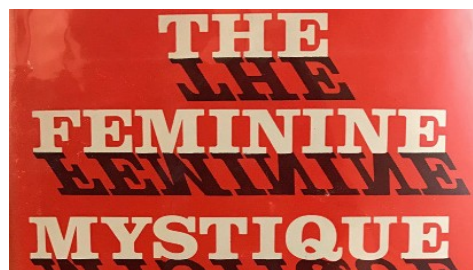


Protruding from the trees in the background are the new Jerome housing development and the gigantic Kingsbridge armory across; both seen from Lehman's Old Gym. Photo by Perla Tolentino. Article by Perla Tolentino and Tom Stoelker on Page 3.



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WRITERS: PERLA TOLENTINO, TOM STOELKER, FELICIA RIVERA, CHARLOTTE LINDE, ABRIAN DE LUNA, D. LEON SMITH, JENNIFER DEL CASTILLO

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# Nearby Developments Hold Promise to Revive Lehman's Neighborhood

By Perla Tolentino and Tom Stoelker



Goulden Avenue. To the west of the road is the Jerome Park Reservoir and to the east is Lehman's Science Building, Gillet Hall, Public Safety, Child Care Center, Shuster Hall, Davis Hall and Carman Hall. Photo by Perla Tolentino.

The Lehman community anchors crucial changes in nearby development and infrastructure that holds the promise to transform the Kingsbridge area. Lehman sits at the heart of a large tract of public land that's just over a mile long and nearly half a mile wide. Educational institutions, train yards, parks, and the city's water supply cluster together. The properties run from Kingsbridge Road in the south to Mosholu Parkway in the north. There is a considerable history of improvements on Lehman's campus (See *Lehman College Past To Present* by Felicia Rivera on page 5). Contrariwise, external developments have arrived slowly.

The largest and most significant proposed development is the

Kingsbridge National Ice Center (KNIC), set for the armory located between Reservoir and Jerome Avenues, which is expected to transform the former military facility into the world's largest ice rink with nine rinks and a 5000-seat stadium. The total cost of the project is expected to be \$355 million. Last summer, developers told "Crain's" that they had negotiated \$170 million in financing with Citibank to cover the first phase of the construction, though the bank did not confirm. Aside from the support of the city, the developers, Citibank and other governmental agencies uphold the project.

"NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC) remains committed to supporting the Kingsbridge National Ice Center,

which is anticipated to boost economic development and recreational activities for young children and families in the North Bronx," said EDC's Assistant Vice President of Public Affairs, Shavone Williams.

The rank "largest" was also given to the military complex in 1914 when the New York Tribune named it the largest armory in the world. The armory transformation saga began in 2009 when City Council rejected a remodeling plan to turn the armory into a mall by the Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment Alliance.

The Ice Center plan, led by New York Rangers legend Mark Messier, launched in 2013.

In that same year, an [environmental impact statement](#) published by EDC revealed the projects' site plan, which includes a perspective view from Reservoir Avenue and West Kingsbridge Road, the main and upper ice levels, east-west-north-south sections and elevations, and an overall conceptual view of the project.

The Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy (NWBCCC) and 25 other community organizations won a historic Community Benefits Agreement for the project to move forward. The agreement assures KNIC will provide living wage jobs, of which 51 percent will be reserved for Bronx residents. Also, 51 percent of procurement will be reserved for minorities and women-owned businesses. Free access to ice rinks will be granted to Bronx Title I schools and community-based organizations. Finally, a technical assistance fund will be developed for local small businesses and a commitment to no big-box retail or supermarkets within the facility.

Nevertheless, some business owners doubt the project will eventually take place and believe the armory is only attractive for profit and won't benefit the community.

"All these projects were announced but never accomplished. I think the armory looks good to make money. People come, request funds and then disappear. I think it's pretty obvious," said a small-business-owner whose store operates across from the armory. In a 2018 interview with the Meridian, the merchant, who asked to remain anonymous, said most owners near the armory operate their business without a lease. Organizations such as the Commercial Lease Assistance Program have been offering help. Some Lehman students are also concerned with the ice-rink development.

"My concern is how this project will affect Lehman students, neighborhood residents, and local business owners being pushed out because of high rent, caused by a new attraction that is at the expense of the community," said Lucinda Jones, a sophomore majoring in social work who lives near Yankee Stadium. "I'm also concerned with the parking around the area. For me, that is very important. I imagine how hard it will be for everyone who lives in this area to park their vehicles once this project ends."

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**"My concern is how this project will affect Lehman students, neighborhood residents, and local business owners being pushed out because of high rent."**

**-Lehman sophomore  
Lucinda Jones**

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Meanwhile, as the Ice Center plan continues amidst a foggy future, other projects have already started.

The Jerome Park Reservoir located across the west side of campus is currently undergoing a \$15 million revitalization that will strengthen the 770 million-gallon water supply system and make it more attractive to pedestrians. According to the NYC Department of Environmental Protection, the modernization of the 94-acre reservoir will end in 2021. Inaugurated in 1905, Jerome Park Reservoir was built as an additional source of water storage within the city. Previous renovations in 2000 and early 2010 connected the water-supply to the newly constructed Croton Water Filtration Plant activated in

2015. Current restorations include a full rehabilitation of two water gates, the installation of a security camera system, and the replacement of the 10-foot-high fence with a view-friendly 4-foot-high fence. The basin serves a small but crucial purpose. Today, 10 percent of New York City's drinking water is processed through this basin. Some students think that city funds shouldn't be used for remodeling.

"I'm not familiar with some of the changes occurring around the community or the importance of it, but I think there should be more libraries and more access to knowledge resources," said Joshlyn Rodriguez, a 26-year-old English and professional writing senior who lives in Castle Hill. "It would be nice to see more funds used towards the renewal of the system of public schools."

Remodeling projects similar to that of Jerome Park Reservoir are taking place east of Lehman. The Jerome Avenue Retaining Wall reconstruction across Jerome Avenue gate consists of the installation of a new water main, the remodeling of the sidewalk, curb, side streets, landscaping of Jerome Avenue and Parkview Terrace. The project is operating under a budget of \$15 million and is projected to end in the summer of 2019 according to the NYC Department of Design & Construction's spokesperson, Shoshana Khan. Some students agree the community is changing slowly yet progressively.

"I think there are not many changes in the community, but I've noticed some new buildings," said Yireh Trimarchi, a 24-year-old health services administration senior. "Maybe in the future things will change and there would be a noticeable difference that will make a big impact."



# Lehman College Past to Present

By Felicia Rivera

Many Lehman students strolling across campus may not know that they're walking on a historic campus. This is the same ground that newly enlisted women and participants in the first United Nations Security Council also walked, containing a great deal of history and interesting facts. In the 1930s, Lehman's Campus was previously Hunter College and named "Hunter in the Bronx" or "Hunter Uptown Campus." It opened in 1931 and served as a two-year college for female students in their freshman and sophomore years. After a decade, Hunter College Uptown was to serve other purposes, too.

During World War II, Hunter College vacated the premises and the uptown Bronx campus was leased to the United States Navy. In 1943, it became a main training site for women in the military. The US Navy named the campus the USS Hunter and trained thousands of Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES). This

was the location where elite women of the US Navy went through boot camp. Three years later, after the war ended, the US Navy closed up shop and vacated the premises. The US Navy, in honor of this period, donated the bell of the USS Columbia, which according to the National Museum of the US Navy, was a ship that saw action in World War II. The ship's bell can be found on the side of the Old Gym Building right across from the library for anyone who wants to give it a ring.

According to an article written by Hunter College's sixth President John J. Meng, in March of 1946, the UN Security Council convened in its first home in this country, the gymnasium on the campus. In August, the Council concluded its first session and the 30-acre campus was again taken over by Hunter College and in addition to women, had separate classes for former veterans. Hunter College gradually became coed in 1951. By 1967, Hunter College departed from the Bronx Campus altogether.



Donated by the U.S. Navy, the Bell of the Warship U.S.S. Columbia. Photo by Felicia Rivera.

In 1968, Lehman came into existence. After consideration of many names, the college was named after Herbert H. Lehman, in honor of his public commitment. Herbert H. Lehman was born in New York City to German immigrant parents. According to the Hall of Governors NY Government website, he was a successful businessman, four-term-serving governor and US Senator. In addition, he was the first director-general of the UNNRRRA (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration).

Lehman opened its doors in July 1968, according to the Lehman website and Dr. Leonard A. Lief, who was a former faculty of the English Department at Hunter College. He became its first President, a position he held for more than 20 years. When on Lehman's Campus, one can find the library, which opened in 1980 and was dedicated in his honor.



The Lehman College Old Gym Building is where the bell of the U.S.S. Columbia warship can be found. Photo by Felicia Rivera.

# At the Leading Edge of the Women's Movement

## By Charlotte Linde

"The personal is the political." This was a slogan of the Women's Movement (or what we now call second-wave feminism). I offer some reflections on being part of a social movement without explicitly recognizing that a social movement was happening and that I was part of it.

I entered Hunter College in the Bronx (later Lehman College) in 1961, at the age of 16, after 5 years at Hunter College High School. (I like to say that I was a high school dropout, but formally, it was an early enrollment.)

Hunter High School was at that time, an all-girls school. The most dramatic part of moving to college was being in a coed environment. Half my fellow students were boys! (I use the terms of the time, in hopes of giving a feel for those times.)

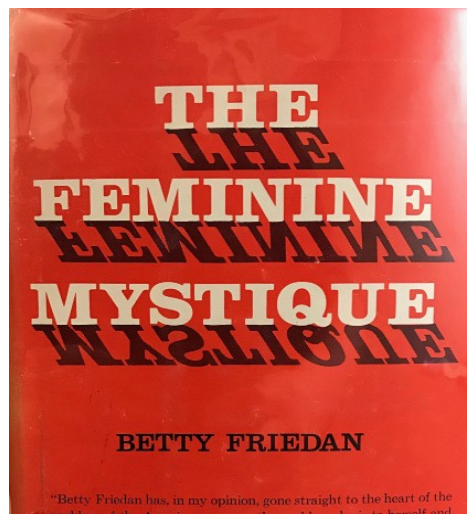
Although Hunter High School as a college prep school was academically demanding and very competitive, there were still aspects of the culture's view of the place of women. In speech class, a required class, someone asked why we needed to learn Robert's Rules of Order. The answer was "When you are married, you could very likely find yourself as the president of the local chapter of the Women's League of Voters, and you'll need to know them." Nothing about needing them in Congress.

In both high school and college, part of my education came from magazines for girls and young women avidly: "Seventeen Magazine," "Mademoiselle." Not yet "Cosmopolitan." I needed to know how to style my hair, how to choose lipstick, and how to be in the world as a girl. All these magazines gave the same message. Be smart but not too smart. Be competitive but not too competitive.

Be a good enough tennis player to give your boyfriend a good game, but be sure to lose to him most of the time.

From the earliest moment that I noticed these messages, I was frustrated and outraged. If you didn't want me to be smart, why did you even bother to teach me to read? I felt that I was being asked to hold one arm behind my back and gracefully pretend I only had one arm. Other women were having these same frustrations, but if there was an ongoing conversation about this, I was not part of it. I never spoke about it to anyone. At that point, my personal experience was not political.

In 1963, Betty Friedan published "The Feminine Mystique," now considered one of the markers of the beginning of second-wave feminism. I found it in the library, and read it again and again. I was an 18-year-old college student, not the frustrated suburban housewife she wrote about. But I recognized perfectly the constraints and deceptions she described and felt an astonished relief that someone was seeing and naming what I saw, but as she said, did not have a name for.



Betty Friedan's revolutionary book *The Feminine Mystique* sparked the beginning of second-wave feminism

Again, I did not speak about this to anyone. It was not yet for me a movement, or the subject of political activism. There may have been organizations forming in college around women's issues, but I was not aware of them. I did not join a women's group until the early 70s, when I was in graduate school.

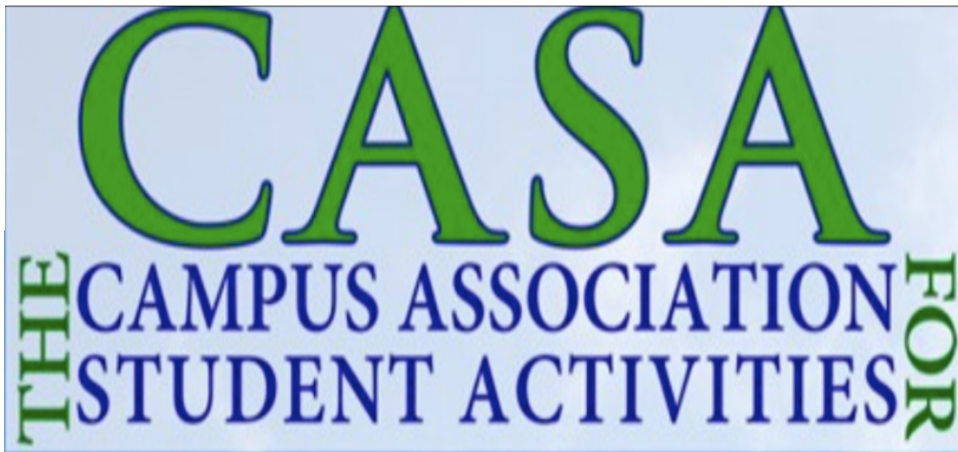
My college experience also contained a counter-theme. I joined the college newspaper as a cub reporter, and worked on it throughout my college career, finishing as editor in chief. I never intended to become a journalist. I think I joined partly because I liked to write, and partly because I liked the people on the paper. And amazingly, to someone coming from an all-girls school, it was a coed group, men and women working together. I learned not only how to work with male colleagues, but how to have male friends. Not boyfriends. Friends. That opened up to me an astonishing vista: a world in which women and men were all people, with feelings, capacities, desires, fears, eccentricities.

We have now moved on from second-wave feminism to fourth wave. I hope we can come to a new metaphor, because the problem with waves is that there is never an end to them. On the newspaper, as we were writing, editing, doing layout, taking the paper to the printers, we were colleagues. It was not perfect, of course. There were many instances of what would come to be called sexism, many misunderstandings and unfair acts. But perhaps the most important thing I learned was that there could be a weakening of the barrier between the "opposite sexes," in which at times, for a moment, I could live in a world in which everyone is people.



# February 5, 1981: CASA's President Wins In Disorderly Election

By D. Leon Smith



Arnold Burton, President of Mr. Shine and swell support for her C.A.S.A. at Lehman, has been party.

elected Vice Chairman for Fiscal Affairs to the University Student Senate. Burton, a member of the party opposing incumbent Lenny Shine, will assume responsibility for his new position immediately. Garth Marchant succeeds shine as Chairperson of the organization. The election was full of tension and ill-manner. Delegates from colleges supporting Marchant led the meeting in anger and anarchy. Elizabeth Garcia, senator delegate from Lehman, questioned Shine on a lawsuit brought against him and Chancellor Kibbee by an old inside associate, Fredi Washington. Delegates backing Mr. Shine were visibly annoyed with Garcia for bringing up this issue, which had never made it to litigation proceedings. Shine replied that the suit is unjust and that he was always open to questions and Garcia was trying to discredit

Two other parties opposing Shine were led by Jerry Savage and Nathaniel Dolphine. Savage received 6 votes and Dolphine a humongous 3 (try not to laugh). A second vote was taken after Dolphine and Savage were eliminated. The end result, Shine 17- Garth 24, was an unexpected defeat.

Shine's reputation as Chairman of the U.S.S. was of the highest esteem and credibility. He had very close ties with several members of the Board of Trustees and a trusting relationship with Chancellor Kibbee.

Among Shine's contributions to C.U.N.Y. in 1980 were his blocking Mayor Koch's proposed tuition increase and a secure commitment for Governor Carey to

block implantation of the Education Department's new TAP regulations. He later initiated a lawsuit against the State Education Department to overturn the new TAP regulations.

All three delegates from Lehman were voting with the opposition. Immediately after Garth was announced the victor, Elizabeth Garcia, his ally from years past, threw herself into Burton's arms in celebration. While the voting was going on, Sam Farrell, President of the Black Student club was seen communicating with members of Garth's party. It was Sammuel Farrell, a public accountant , just back from Africa, who had planned the defense.

Mr. Marchant in his election speech to the delegates, promised to make an issue of the 10-year plan, a report submitted by the Board of Trustees as a guide for future policy making. He also said the plan was dangerous to the students of CUNY. Marchant also spoke against the new GED regulations saying that they have a tremendous effect on the students of CUNY. Shine gave his farewell speech to the Board of Trustees on January 25th, after Marchant introduced his Executive Committee, including Arnold Burton.

# September 24, 1998

## Giuliani: Out For Blood Regardless Of The Vein... I'm All Tapped Out!

by Jennifer Del Castillo

In May, some unexpected news about Assessment tests came from the Board of Trustees, due to what many view as unfair pressure from Mayor Giuliani. Whereas CUNY students previously were "allowed" to attend any city university (if accepted), regardless of whether or not they had passed all three required tests, now, according to the dictated standards of Giuliani, if you don't pass the test, you should not get a decent education.

Not to knock Bronx Community College, but some students decided to go the college with a somewhat higher level of education and a greater challenge. Some students decide to attend Lehman rather than going to Bronx Community, but as of September 1999, if you fail any of the three tests, you will no longer have a choice. Only community colleges will be offering any remedial classes, so as a student, you will have to sacrifice your desires, goals and personal

preference, once again.

The three tests are given in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics, (the RAT, WAT and MAT). These are basic tests that show your basic level of high school education, which in the city isn't normally too great. The problem is, they're punishing students for not having what they weren't given to retain. And despite the fact that all students have to pass these tests sooner or later to graduate, the



**Rudy Giuliani made controversial changes to CUNY's assessment and admission policies in 1998.**



Board of Trustees, by passing this new law of sorts, is making the assumption that people are taking these tests seriously.

The problem with the test is that most people don't really know how to student for them...so they don't. NUT, when they do fail the tests, they take part in tutoring programs, and classes that help students' study for and better understand these tests. I for one failed for my mathematics assessment test. When I heard the news, I enrolled in a free tutoring session in the Gillet Hall Math Lab. I, like most Lehman College students, came to school because I wanted to be here. Who has time to neglect work and party? Nobody I know on campus at Lehman College. It's about doing what has to be done. So, for me, like many other students, there was no problem studying for the test, going over my mistakes, and learning something from them by the time I had earned my 61 credits. The current alternative though, deprives me of this option. I think if this rule has existed back when I first enrolled in 1995, my college career probably wouldn't have ever existed. Not that I want to speak on my own behalf, it's just that I'm the perfect example. I know for a fact, that the time when leaving the atmosphere of high

school, I was not ready to go right into an unpleasantly similar scene. If it had come down to going to a community college or coming here, I probably wouldn't have even come to school. And look at me now. I am a college senior with a 3.0 GPA, and enough professorial residue lurking about inside my head to actually feel like I've learned something. I find this to be the better alternative than a 50 cent raise every six months. But we don't really matter. And what do the efforts of daily tutoring sessions mean when you have a point about how much slack you exactly can pull. Shoving weight around when he can't even lift it. Giuliani pulls a muscle trying to look at the burdens we carry every day.

And it's not just a few people who will suffer because of this new rule. Up to 13,000 entering students fail at least one of these tests per year. And with the already lacking situations that most Community Colleges face, many are wondering how these schools are possibly going to be able to carry the burden. "I don't know where we will put them," said Carolyn Williams, the President of Bronx Community College.

Schools enacting the new rule

in September 1999 are Baruch, Brooklyn, Hunter and Queens Colleges. Other schools will be enacting the rule in September 2000, such as our very own Lehman College, John Jay, Staten Island, New York City Technical, and City Colleges. Last but not least, Medgar Evers College plans on enacting the rule in September of 2001.

The supposed reasoning behind this that they want to abolish all remedial courses at senior colleges. And since City Universities are trying to establish themselves as academic contenders to other people, they're forgetting exactly who it is that they're supposed to be serving. They're relying on sacrificing the education of one man, to show the already learned man something he already knows, but doesn't much care about anyway.

Many people are calling it discrimination based on the fact that CUNY is a 70% minority system with 40% minorities failing all three of the tests. I call it another case of Fooliani striking again, after midnight, during the day, it doesn't matter, as long as he gets his point across. We can wear our garlic necklaces or stock up on silver bullets, the choice is ours.

# March 2016

## CUNY Faculty Protests Funding Cuts

By Abrian De Luna



**A CUNY rally against funding cuts on March 10, 2016. Photo by Dave Sanders.**

Arnold Burton, President of C.A.S.A. at Lehman, has been elected Vice Chairman for Fiscal Affairs to the University Student Senate. Burton, a member of the party opposing incumbent Lenny Shine, will assume responsibility for his new position immediately. Garth Marchant succeeds

Shine as Chairperson of the organization.

The election was full of tension and ill-manner. Delegates from colleges supporting Marchant led the meeting in anger and anarchy. Elizabeth Garcia, senator delegate from Lehman, questioned Shine on

a lawsuit brought against him and Chancellor Kibbee by an old inside associate, Fredi Washington. Delegates backing Mr. Shine were visibly annoyed with Garcia for bringing up this issue, which had never made it to litigation proceedings. Shine replied that the suit is unjust



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