

THE BRONX  
**J**ournal

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**Editorial**

Recently we celebrated World AIDS Day. It would be gratifying to report continued progress in stopping this modern plague, given that the world has had two decades to conduct medical research and promote awareness and prevention. But progress is still elusive, and major setbacks have occurred. The extent of HIV infection has reached new heights in some parts of the world, according to the United Nations. In Eastern Europe, the epidemic is "exploding," according to UNAIDS officials. The number of cases of HIV infections in Russia is expected to more than double this year, to about 300,000. And in Africa, UNAIDS says the epidemic is "catastrophic." A new report by the World Health Organization and UNAIDS includes these alarming findings: Worldwide, 36.1 million people this year will be HIV-positive, with 5.3 million new cases. Three million people, up from 2.6 million a year ago, are expected to die of AIDS this year. In wealthy countries, the spread of infection should be minimal. But UNAIDS predicts 45,000 new HIV cases this year in North America and 30,000 new cases in Western Europe. Africa is still by far the most ravaged region on Earth, with 25.3 million people infected. Of the 3 million people expected to die of AIDS this year, four-fifths are in Africa. In some sub-Saharan countries, an entire generation is being lost. The United Nations estimates that \$3 billion would provide the resources needed to create a foundation of relief from the AIDS scourge in Africa. But the world community has been slow to respond. The fight against AIDS must be embraced in "every community, in every country, on every continent" if the disease is to be conquered.



Miguel Pérez is a columnist for The Bergen Record

We call them "man on the street" interviews -- those unscientific polls that journalists do when we want ordinary people, instead of newsmakers, to react to a breaking story.

We do them quite often, and they are very effective in illustrating a variety of opinions on any given issue. Sometimes they require a lot of "leg work" -- seeking the people who are directly affected, and making sure they represent the whole spectrum of public opinion.

"What do you think of the new president?" I asked in Spanish on the airwaves of WADO Radio in New York City. "Will George W. Bush bring positive or negative changes to the nation, and to the Latino community in this country?"

"I was enchanted by that beautiful [inauguration] ceremony," said Flor, a

Republican from Manhattan. "God bless America and my beautiful president and his family."

"I think Bush is going to bury this country and I think that his so-called compassion is all rhetoric," said Agosto, a Bronx Democrat who voted for Al Gore. "How can he be compassionate when he is obviously controlled by racist elements?"

Edgar, from Jersey City, agreed. He said that by the president's conservative-leaning Cabinet appointments, he is already showing that he will deviate from the compassionate agenda he outlined during his campaign.

"Latin America should be forewarned, especially my homeland Colombia," Edgar said, "because these characters are warriors. Their solutions are by force instead of by dialogue."

*Interest in establishing a connection with Lehman's MLJ Program*

As per our conversation at the Lehman Open House last November, I am herein inviting you to schedule with us a presentation of your program to an audience representative of the large (and growing) diverse population here at White Plains High school.

I have spoken with Ms. Joan Kass, the coordinator of our ESL and Foreign Language programs, as well as with Ms. Michelle Goodmann co-advisor to our international Club. Both are excited by the prospective benefit our students will gain by learning about the unique opportunity to study multilingual communications at Lehman college. It is my hope that your visit to our campus will establish the first step towards what will be both an ongoing and productive connection between our institutions.

Norm Silverman  
North House Guidance  
White Plains High School

*MLJ is Offered Internships at LAVA*

The Latin American Video Archive is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to expanding the distribution of Latin American cinema and video in the United States. Our principle aim is to work with educational institutions to integrate the treasure trove of Latin America media materials into US college curriculum.

To this end, we have received a grant from the Rockefeller and MacArthur Foundations to administer a project in which we would work with professors and students to translate and subtitle Latin American films on video.

There are two aspects to this project. The first is for students and teachers to be involved in the translations of these films from Spanish to English. Once a literal translation of the film is completed, I would be able to work with your staff to train them in the art of reducing a literal translation into a subtitling dialogue list, the finalized text that will be placed onto the video in subtitle form.

The second part of the project is to place the subtitles onto the video. Our center, which is located in Greenwich Village, Manhattan, has a broadcast quality editing studio that will be dedicated to training students in the art of subtitling.

We would like to establish a relationship with your program to arrange for student interns to be trained on this equipment and to participate in the translation and subtitling of Latin films on video.

The students who participate in this project will learn an extremely valuable and marketable skill.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. I look forward to speaking with you soon.

Karen Ranucci  
Director

Letters to the Editor must include your name, address, and telephone number so we can verify your comments. The letters may be edited to conform to space limitations. Readers may also send comments via e-mail to: tbj@lehman.cuny.edu

**Commentary**

## Latinos quick to welcome, scorn a Bush presidency

Luis, from Manhattan, noted that he "would feel a lot better" if all the votes had been counted in Florida. "He was put there," Luis added, "but not by the people."

Olga, from Brooklyn, agreed. "When I became an American citizen, I did it because I valued my right to vote," she said. "But this is a president who fought to suppress the will of the voters."

"Morality has been restored to the presidency," said Hilda, from West New York. "The White House must be happy to have a moral family living there again."

To which Elbert, from Union City, responded, "I don't believe that electoral fraud is somethin moral."

As for what Bush will do for Latinos, there are as many theories as countries in our Latin American rainbow.

"I don't think Bush will do anything for us

Hispanics," said Manuel, from Manhattan, who said he fears that Bush's military-minded colleagues will lead this country to war.

Rosa, from Manhattan, noted that she was not impressed because the Republicans had Puerto Rican singer Ricky Martin performing at one of the inaugural ceremonies. "That doesn't help us feed our children," she said, noting that Bush is going to have to do a lot more than superficial acts to inspire confidence among Latinos.

On the street, the jury may still be out on the Bush presidency. But on the radio, he has already been tried and convicted, or exonerated -- depending on the caller.

This commentary was edited with permission from The Bergen Record