

Graffiti: The Revolution (p.7)

QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNIQUE

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Is that Picture Really Worth it? (p.9)

President Barack Obama's Free Community Colleges Plan Gets Mixed Reactions

By Carla Demartini and Stephanie Rodriguez

President Barack Obama's proposal for a tuition-free community college may excite some, but it also has its critics. The leader of the United States has come up with a plan to make community colleges free for part- and full-time students that maintain a 2.5 GPA or above.

His purpose is to help those who are unable to attend college due to their financial constraints. Obama's argument is that this plan is fundamental for Americans to have affordable, quality education. Students will need to meet the academic requirements, and so will community colleges in order to be part of this program. Their requirements will be to offer courses credible for transfer to a four-year college.

"I want to spread that idea all across

America so that two years of college becomes as free and universal in America as high school is today," Obama stated.

The plan has its selling points, including the fact that the standards to obtain a job in America have risen, and will only continue to rise. People are expected to have an associate's degree at the minimum in order to obtain any kind of job, making educational credentials more important.

"President Obama's proposal to offer free tuition at community colleges sends a powerful message on the importance of access to a quality education," said Queensborough's Assistant Dean of Enrollment Management Laura A. Bruno.

Some community college students come from low-income families that lack

financial and social support. According to government statistics, only 35 percent of enrolled students receive a degree within six years after attending a two-year college. Only 57 percent of students enrolled in four-year institutions graduate from those colleges. These rates are getting lower each decade.

Some students express concerns about the potential impact of Obama's plan.

"This idea of making community colleges free may seem appealing to many, but in reality it is just promoting an easier or less challenging education," said Scarlet Cruz, a liberal arts major at Queensborough Community College (QCC).

Making community colleges free may encourage students to not work as hard,

opponents argue. Instead of education being a privilege you earn, it will now be handed to students. It will take away the value of community college as a whole. Due to overcrowding, the pace in classrooms will slow down. This will mean fewer resources and larger classrooms, and the demand for professors will increase.

"I feel people will take advantage of the free tuition because it will make them feel as if it is high school all over again," said, Joel Luna, a current student at QCC.

Luna felt that this would be due to the fact that students might not feel as pressured to excel in their education now that they would not have to pay for it.

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The Equal Pay Act

By Sajida Sakhi

The gender pay gap is a universal phenomenon. Over the years, many women and even some men across the United States of America have raised the question, if women have the same credentials as men, shouldn't they earn the same salary? However, women are still being paid less.

The Obama administration is trying to address this problem with the Equal Pay Act. President Obama is committed to achieving equal pay for women in the United States. Administrators across America have taken critical steps to ensure equal pay for women



Photo by Jerry Nedler "Obama Signing the Equal Pay Act."

and made explicit plans to further build on these measures to help women achieve their pay parity.

"When more women are bringing home the bacon, they shouldn't just be getting a little bit of bacon," Obama has said.

The gender wage gap issue has been problematic for many years and has been targeted through legislation. The Equal Pay Act has been debated since 1963. According to Pew Research Center, at that time women made only about 59 cents for every dollar

that men made for the same work. Many years later, women are still only earning 77 cents for every dollar men earn. The gender wage gap has slowly decreased over time; however it's not out of the picture yet.

"If [women are] bringing home more of the income and that income is less than a fair share, that means that families have less to get by on, for child care or health care or gas or groceries," said President Obama in a recent release. "It makes it harder for
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Should American Sign Language be offered at QCC?

By Dayna Stropkay

Foreign Language is a requirement for a degree at Queensborough Community College (QCC). The school offers languages such as Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hebrew, Italian and Spanish. One language however is not included in this list. The language is American Sign Language or ASL. It is a language that is complex and used in North America utilizing signs made up of the movement of the hands, along with facial and posture expressions. It is a language used primarily by people that are deaf or hearing impaired. Like any other foreign language it allows us to learn values, cultures, and awareness of others.

On QCC's website under "Why Study a Foreign Language?" it states that, learning a foreign language fosters respect for others of different backgrounds, enhances your career and travel opportunities, cultivates your intellect and sharpens your thinking skill, and enriches your appreciation of your native language and culture. ASL encompasses all of these and therefore an important part of any college's foreign language department. I had the pleasure of speaking by email with Dr. Maurizio Santoro, who is the

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Campus News

Become Part Of The QCC Community Spring Activities

By Stephanie Sharkey

Do you know what's happening on our campus? Have you ever looked at the event calendar located on the school website?

Of course not—for many of us, the number of events can be overwhelming and it can seem to take too long to find the ones you're searching for.

Yet there are many opportunities to attend or participate in great events that students may miss out on if we're not keeping up with the schedule.

To help you find the ones that interest you most, the *Communiqué* has compiled the following list of events from the end of March through April. While our list isn't comprehensive, these are important events well worth your time because they are beneficial to your future and to your community here at Queensborough Community College (QCC).

Free Tax Preparation

Date: March 12, 2015

Time: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Location: Upper level of the Student Union Building

If you work, you have to pay taxes and they can be expensive. However, the college is offering support in preparing your taxes for free and what's better than free? Nothing. So come get your taxes done for absolutely nothing and take advantage of this great opportunity.

Dean's List Ceremony

Date: March 17, 2015

Time: 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Location: Humanities Theatre

Did you make the Dean's List? If so, come celebrate your great achievement with your community, faculty, friends and family. This is your time to shine and soak up all the praise!

Counseling Center Event- Let's Chat About Social Media

**QUEENSBOROUGH
COMMUNIQUÉ
222-05 56th Ave.
Bayside, NY 11364**

Editors

Jalexus Apollon
Lourdes Carballo
Joseph Wolkin
Michael Wong
Brendan McCormick

Photo Editor

Michelle Vohra
Sajida Sakhi
Jinny Park

Sports Editor

Russell Berliner

Copy Editor

Joseph Wolkin

Typesetting and Design

Jeannie Buxo

Faculty Advisor

Elisabeth Toohey
Alisa Cercone

Date: March 24, 2015

Time: 2:10 p.m. - 3:10 p.m.

Location:
Administration
Building, Room
204

Have you ever used social media? Most college students are constantly on Twitter, Facebook or other social media websites. Here is a chance to gather with other QCC students and participate in a workshop that focuses on the effects of social media. Take this opportunity to see how social media affects your life.

Job Fair

Date: March 25, 2015

Time: 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: Student Union Building

Do you have any idea what you want to do with your future? QCC's Job Fair is a fantastic opportunity for you to meet over 50 business employers and potentially earn a part-time, full-time, and/or internship position with one of these businesses. Don't waste this chance of a lifetime to secure your future.

Student Government Elections

Date: March 26, 2015 - April 1, 2015

Time: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Location: Administration Building Lobby

Come cast your vote for student government. This is an opportunity for you, as a QCC student, to register your opinion as to who should run student government and represent you and the rest of the community here at our great school.

Art Gallery Exhibition

Date: April 16, 2015

Time: 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Location: Oakland Building - Art Gallery

Come show some love for students in your community. This exhibition will be showcasing selected works from fellow QCC students that are majoring in Arts and Design programs. What better way to become a part of the community than by showing your support attending this wonderful event?

Walk to Aspire: Raising Money for Student Scholarships

Date: April 22, 2015



Time: 12 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: QCC Athletic Field

Not only will your participation help raise money for future students who need the scholarships in order to further their education, but this two-mile walk around the track field will quick start your body back into that bikini wearing (for you girls) or girl magnet (for you guys) body just in time for the summer.

Asian Cultural Festival

Date: April 29, 2015

Time: 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Location: Student Union Building

Do you like food, arts and crafts and live performances? If so, this event is for you. There is nothing more fun than a festival and how convenient for you that it's located right on your campus. Even more convenient is the free food and entertainment, and there is nothing a college student likes more than that. Come join the festivities and try out the Asian culture for a few hours.

Campus News

What Can I Do for You? Finding Support at the QCC Career Services Offices

By Michelle Vohra

Whether you are in your first semester or last semester at Queensborough Community College (QCC), the Career Services Office (CSO) is a great place to get on the right track for one's profession. Located in room 428 in the Kurt R. Schmeller Library, the office assists students to help them find and be prepared for jobs.

According to www.ncsl.org (the National Conference of State Legislatures) the national unemployment rate is 5.7 percent. Approximately nine million workers remain unemployed, and 2.8 million people are considered unemployed on a long-term basis. Unemployment is not only a problem for the economy, but for those who are struggling just to get by as well.

Many students are not aware of the Career Service center and the services they provide.

"I have no idea what that is," said Anthony Gonzalez. "I've been here for two years and this is my first time ever hearing about this."

Other students who have visited the office can confirm that it is beneficial to speak with the staff.

"The person I had actually helped me choose my major, which is Early Childhood Education, and they basically match you to a career you'd best fit," Stephanie Lopez explained. "Then, they tell you how to fulfill your major and they give you really good advice. They also gave me tons of internships. I think students shouldn't let this opportunity slip away because it's hard to choose a major on your own, and

the workers are always ready to answer questions and encourage the students to be able to find the best jobs."

On the QCC website, the Career Services section allows students to build their own resumes and even their own websites, along with interview prep. These tools can provide guidance for students and aid in perfecting their skills.

Also, Focus-2, which is an online, self-guided program introduced in ST100, will help students explore and make decisions about their career goals and major area of study at QCC. It is a very useful tool and great starting point to work on before making an appointment at the office.

"What makes our day is when students come back to us and tell us they've gotten a job or an internship," said Constance Peluso, director of the Career Services office. "Getting a career or job is all about competition. It's not a last minute thing, it is something we need to think about all the time."

On the QCC website, there are many success stories posted that you can read about to learn how students achieved their goals. With professional help from the staff, resumes can be improved and students can practice their interviewing skills so they can be ready for the big day.

"We want students to make their mistakes here so we can help them grow and become more successful."

The CSO provides career advisement and professional development to QCC students and is determined to meet the educational needs of the students. These are just a few of the aids they offer that can also be found on the school's website:



Photo by Lucille Umberto, "The Staff at the Careers Services Office"

- Resume/Cover Letter formatting
- Finding Jobs
- Career advice
- Choosing the right major
- Finding Internships
- Job fairs

On March 25, the Career Services Center is holding a job fair from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Student Union Lobby, including over fifty employers. The office encourages students to come in and prepare themselves to have their resumes ready for the event. Students are required to dress appropriately and have their student I.D.

On Thursday, April 16, the Etiquette in Action event takes place at 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Oakland Dining Room/Loggia.

This is exclusively for QCC students to get a chance to have a business dining experience, and it is limited to the first fifty students who apply. Students can go to the library in Room 429 to pick up an application to be completed and returned by March 19. More information about the job fair and Etiquette in Action can be found on the QCC website.

The Career Services Office welcomes and encourages all students to visit and talk about what steps they need to take. In a world where jobs and careers are very important making a visit to the CSO is an opportunity you don't want to over look. Students may gain more advantageous advice from these experts and may be able to discover more options for the future.

Smartphones and the Effects on Human Behavior

By Joyce Han

It has already snowed and before you even look out the window, you already hear children talking and laughing outside. Instantly, you recognize that laughter and yelling as children are enjoying their play-time in the snow. For some people, this might even "lighten up" their mood. Nice lead?

As human beings, we are hardwired to instantly recognize and decipher other people's voice and the emotional state they are in. However, over the past five to seven years, the increase use of Smartphone devices has made it difficult for the youth to recognize nonverbal and emotional cues.

We are slowly drifting away from the importance of human interaction. We can be walking around anywhere in New York City and we will see almost everybody looking down as they are walking.

In the article, "Smartphones Replacing Real Interaction" by Alex Cnossen, he wrote, "Our generation is growing up in a world where face-to-face communication is less common than digital interaction."

As a society that has been living in this rapid growth of technology and social media, we often overlook the essential role of human-to-human interaction. It has become easy for us to still communicate with others while we are in bed, eating at home, or even watching TV. Our society has grown more susceptible to communicate with our "thumbs" than our lips.

According to the UCLA Newsroom article, "In Our Digital World, Are Young People Losing The Ability To Read Emotions?" by Stuart Wolpert, a group of UCLA psychologists studied two sets of sixth-graders. The purpose of this study was to see if one group of sixth-graders, who did not

spend any time on their smartphones or social media, would be able to easily recognize and read other people's facial expressions. This was compared to the other group of sixth-graders, who were given access to their smartphones and their social media.

As a result, in the UCLA Newsroom article, Stuart Wolpert wrote, "The children who had been at the camp improved significantly over the five days in their ability to read facial emotions and other nonverbal cues to emotion, compared with the students who continued to use their media devices."

We can conclude that it is not necessarily the smartphones or social media that are "making" us unfriendlier. Rather, it is by our own individual decision to isolate ourselves from others and mask our human nature and enter into this new world call Cyber world.

Campus News

“Are You Failing?”

By Alicia Bobb



If you're a stressed out college student who is currently thinking about giving up and just failing everything, there will be repercussions for your actions. There are many consequences that come with failing college courses, and these can negatively affect you and your college career.

The effects of failing harm students financially, academically and emotionally. It also prolongs your time in college, and transferring out into another institution becomes a difficult task.

When students fail a course, their grade point average (GPA) decreases dramatically. Students must achieve at least the minimum GPA of 2.0 based on the number of credits they have earned, in order to receive financial assistance. If they fail to do so, financial aid will no

longer be provided to them, or the aid given to the students will be reduced by a substantial amount.

“I literally found out I was not receiving financial aid for this semester two days before classes begun,” said Elisa Charles, a Queensborough Community College student. “Thank God I had money in my savings account to pay my tuition off, or else I would of had to drop all my classes.”

Students usually aren't aware of this requirement until it is too late, and then they may feel forced to drop out because they can't afford tuition. A large number of failed classes will eventually put a student under financial pressure and become an unpleasant burden.

When students fail and their GPA falls under a 1.5 for a semester, this can consequently put them on academic probation. Academic probation is an official warning from the college that tells the student they are not academically performing in accordance with the institution's expectations. Once students are on academic probation, they must attain a minimum GPA of 2.0 or higher by the completion of that semester. If one

fails to meet the requirements specified by their school, they will be subject to dismissal, and will no longer be eligible to continue their studies at that college.

“I received a letter in the mail that told me I was on academic probation, but unfortunately I still ended up doing poorly the next semester,” said Melissa Scotland, a former QCC student. “When I called trying to figure out what I could do to return, they told me it was not possible for me to come back.”

Failing too many of classes can lead to being kicked out of school for good.

Many students are stressed out enough as it is, and seeing an F at the end of a semester can emotionally take a toll on them. Failing one or more classes shatters a students' self-confidence, lowering their self-esteem.

“I felt so emotionally drained last semester when I saw that I got an F in two out of the four classes I had taken,” said Shaquille Kata, a current QCC student.

Students can begin to feel discouraged and disappointed with themselves.

Another effect that failing college

classes has on a student is the social stigma of retaking classes and wasting time. Failing a class means the course must be retaken, which extends your time in college, prolonging your graduation date. Future accomplishments are pushed back, and obtaining your degree becomes a longer process.

“Failing means a sacrifice lost and nothing gained,” said Robert Baker, a QCC psychology professor.

Failing college courses can also effect students negatively when trying to transfer out into another institution. Students who come to the realization that they are doing poorly often feel that they have a chance of doing better at another college and try to transfer. Each college has specific requirements that have to be met in order to accept transfer students, and sometimes students aren't aware of the college standards. Most schools want students with a GPA of 2.5-3.0 or higher, along with a resume in progress.

All student wants to pass their classes to feel like they have accomplished something, and failing means they have wasted time to accomplish nothing. It's an outcome to be avoided at all costs.

Where to Go When It's Cold Outside

By Russell Berliner

Winter. 'Tis the season for holiday glee and horrific weather. As the Q30 and Q27 let out, students power walk up the hill toward campus, scurry past the snow covered steps and benches in the quad and flock in droves to the warmth and comfort of Queensborough Community College's walls.

Given their warmth and comfort, these walls fill up rather quickly and often times, students find themselves asking, where is there to go after class? If students were aware of the variety of places in which to study or socialize, this would fill the void of having nothing to do during one's free time.

“I like the downstairs part of the library because I'm taking a lot of classes, and it's a quiet place for me to study and get my work done rather than going upstairs and having to deal with the noise,” said Melody Ramos, a first-year accounting major.

Ingrid Gonzalez, a nursing major, noted that although the lower half of the library is a great place to study, the place does fill up quickly, “especially during finals” and that often times “coming early is your best bet to get a seat.”

The upper level of the library consisted of students who were quietly conversing, perhaps succumbing to the demands of the woman at the reference desk who had given

multiple warnings to keep it down. After playing a game of Frogger at a seemingly impossible level while trying to avoid students bustling about, I finally make it to the main seating level where students congregate.

Among the swarm of QCC students sat Michael Williams, a second-year liberal arts major who was listening to music on his phone.

“I usually come here with some friends to spend my downtime. I kind of like it because we don't really have to be told to be quiet and it's a good place to eat and socialize. It gets really loud, so I just turn up the music and drown the noise out.”

Towards the back of the library sat Cinthy Montero, a liberal arts major valiantly studying for her biology class amid the deafening orchestra of noise. “This definitely isn't the best place to study but I usually just come here with some friends in order to let the time pass. There really isn't anywhere else to go”

In the lower level of the science café sat Jayon Gonzalez and Chris Garcia shuffling playing cards prior to a friendly game of Black Jack. Both students shared similar thoughts on the cafe:

“It can get pretty crowded and noisy. We come here because there's not much else to do or anywhere else to go”.

After leaving the café, I went to the Student Union to get some perspective in the place which, for many schools, is a hotbed for student interaction. Although the Union was rather bare, I spoke to one student, Chelsea Nunez.

“It's pretty boring,” Chelsea said. “I usually come here to go on the computer. Sometimes I watch T.V, but usually I just listen to music”.

I heard similar feedback from Eddie L. a second-year liberal arts major, who added that he didn't know anywhere else to go.

I had noticed a recurring pattern in my interviewee's answers. A lot of students stay stagnant and do not venture to look for alternative places to socialize or study simply because they are not aware of any. Many students like Carla Stewart and Joe Miller spend their downtime in their cars for similar reasons.

Contrary to what many students may believe, there are plenty of alternatives. The Learning Center located at the base of the library is a great place for students to receive tutoring and extra help with their studies. There are also an abundance of computers for students to simply browse the internet or type papers in a noise-controlled environment.

For an athlete or anyone who wants to stay active, recreational hours at the gym are

held Monday through Saturday, including access to a revamped weight room with new treadmills and benches for free weight and barbell exercises, basketball courts and the swimming pool. All are available to all students with valid ID.

For those more inclined towards art and culture, the art gallery located at the peak of campus is open Tuesday through Sunday with guided tours available with appointments. Here one can view a variety of cultural exhibitions such as the African collection, which “encompasses the full range of ceremonial and practical objects produced on the African continent.”

For those who appreciate gaining a deeper historical perspective, the Harriet and Kenneth Kupferberg Holocaust Center is also a great place where students can go to view multiple exhibitions depicting pivotal events in history. Group appointments can be made Monday through Friday and designated Sunday's.

With the completion of the science building extension steadily approaching, students will have yet another place to spend downtime during the bitter cold, adding one more space on campus where students can socialize or learn while staying warm.

City News

9/11's Effects on the Present

By Moses Mangalindan

September 11, 2001, is it really over or are we still experiencing the aftermath of that fateful day in 2015? In the short time after 9/11, America greatly altered its policies at home and overseas in an effort to counter terrorism. Nearly fourteen years later, ISIS, The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant has taken precedence over Al-Qaeda.

The Patriot Act was passed after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. How the Patriot Act Works by Ed Grabrianowski describes the Patriot Act, "Its goals are to strengthen domestic security and broaden the powers of law-enforcement agencies with regards to identifying and stopping terrorists." Critics of the Patriot Act claim that it limited the civil liberties granted by the U.S and approved by the Constitution. It also contradicts unreasonable searches and seizures as stated in the Fourth Amendment, and the rights of due process and fair trial by jury as mentioned in the Fifth and Sixth Amendments. One could argue that it has been effective since the U.S has not experienced a successful terrorist attack. It will be up to the events of the future to judge that.

In November 2002, the Homeland Security Act was passed by Congress, in order to coordinate and consolidate national homeland security efforts. The five core missions are, "Prevent terrorism and enhance security, secure and manage our borders, enforce and administer our immigration laws, safeguard and secure cyberspace, and ensure resilience to disasters." A recent article in The New York Times called, Funding Fight over Homeland Security Poses Dangers for the G.O.P, by Carl Hulse and Ashley Parker, mentions the D.H.S running out of funding due to President Obama's recent immigration policy that would give millions of illegal immigrants in the U.S work permits. However, on March 3, 2015, the House passed a bill that would assist the D.H.S for the remainder of the fiscal year. It is now up to President Obama to sign it or not. What kind of impact

could a shutdown of the D.H.S have on the U.S, especially in light of the recent threat directed at the Mall of America in Minnesota? "Mall of Terror: Lone Wolf Threat Is Real Say Officials" by Tom Winter and Robert Windrem, brings light to the recent threat against three major shopping centers in America, Canada, and Minnesota from a terror group by the name of Al-Shabab who posted an online video calling all Muslims to action. Back in 2013, Al-Shabab attacked a Kenyan mall resulting in almost 70 deaths, leaving over a hundred wounded. The Secretary of Homeland Security, Jeh Charles Johnson, who was recently on Meet The Press, said, "I'm not telling people to not go to the mall. I think that there needs to be an awareness, there needs to be vigilance, and you know, be careful obviously."

17 things about ISIS and Iraq you need to know by Zack Beauchamp on Vox.com, provides information cards that explain the situation from various points. ISIS used to be referred to as Al-Qaeda in Iraq. They split apart in February 2014 because of ISIS' defiance of official orders; disobeying orders to murder less people in Syria, and backing off from Syria. According to General Ray Odierno, the 38th Chief of Staff of the Army, "They want a complete failure of the government in Iraq. They want to establish a caliphate in Iraq." The dictionary.com definition of a caliph is, "A spiritual leader of Islam, claiming succession from Muhammad. So far, their territory spreads from Iraq to Syria with a range of almost 11,787 sq. miles. ISIS is able to sustain itself through selling electricity and oil to the Syrians they are fighting against, and extorting money from humanitarian workers. "ISIS: Everything You Need to know about the Rise of the Militant Group" by Nick Thompson, Richard Greene, Sarah-Grace Mankarious; and CNN, shows the Anatomy of ISIS. One of their infamous deeds includes the execution of American journalists

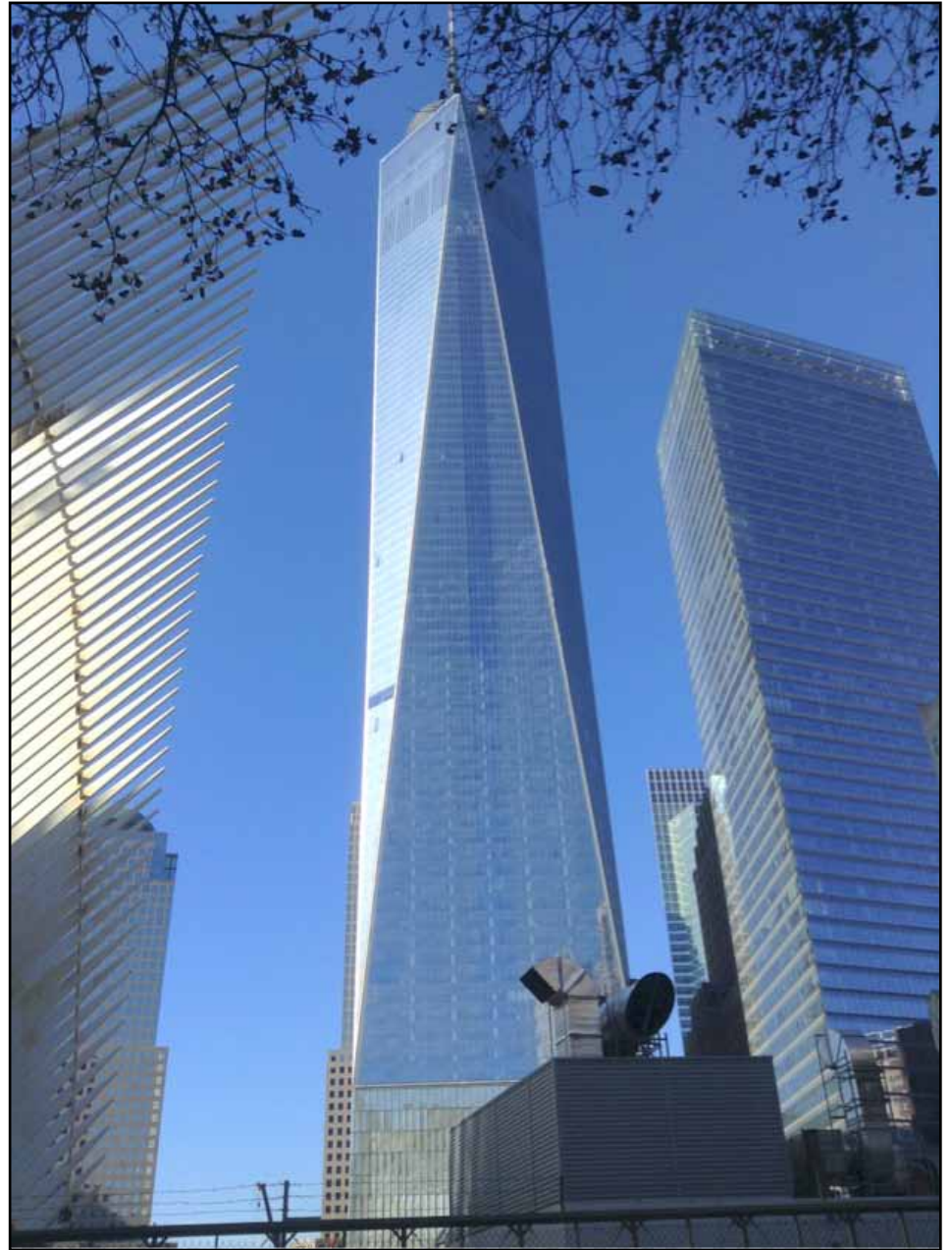


Photo by Moses Mangalindan "OneWorld Trade Center 2014"

James Foley, and Steven Sotloff. On August 19, 2014, a video showed both journalists was released. However, James Foley was executed while Steven Sotloff was left alive. On September 2, 2014, ISIS released another video showing Sotloff's execution. ISIS beheaded twenty-one Egyptian Christians of the Coptic Church in a video that was shown mid-February. A good deal of the victims came from low income families who went to Libya to look for jobs. In response to the attack, Egyptian President Abdul Fattah al-Sisi authorized bombing of ISIS targets in eastern Libya. One of the victims' relatives, Sobhi Ghattas Hanna said, "We feel comforted by Sisi's stance. He ordered the military to strike Libya directly after the video was published. We want the whole world to stand

beside Sisi in his fight against terrorism."

It is now 2015, nearly 14 years since that fateful day. History has seen many casualties, and many trials since then. Despite the Iraq War, the capture and execution of Saddam Hussein, and the passing of former Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, we are faced with the new threat of terrorism overseas, and at our doorstep. What will we as Americans do to prepare ourselves for potential attacks, and what will we do in the face of adversity should an attack happen to us or our allies? As we press onward in the middle of this decade, let us not forget the faces of those who have slipped away into the past, but carry them with us, learn from their experiences, and move forward.

City News

One of the Most Notorious Bridges in America

By Elianie Disla



Photo from wikipedia "The Tappan Zee Bridge"

The Tappan Zee Bridge is the most critical transportation link that spans across the Hudson River 13 miles north of New York City, and for years has been on the verge of collapse. This infamous bridge – with an age of 60 – isn't even half the age of the Brooklyn Bridge and is younger than the George Washington Bridge, yet it is in far worse condition.

The Tappan Zee's dire state is heavily blamed on its sloppy construction. An article from *The New York Times* titled "A Bridge That Has Nowhere Left to Go," noted that the bridge was deliberately built cheaply with a design life of only fifty years. It was not built to withstand heavy wind loads and is not earthquake proof. The Tappan Zee wasn't even built with a proper drainage system. Making it possible for rainwater, road salt, and dirt to steadily corrode the steel supports and peel away at the concrete. Edward Day – a legislator in Rockland County who appeared on the History Channel's *The Crumbling of America* – said, "There have been 'punch-throughs' in the bridge. That's

when a large chunk of the road collapses into the water below, and you can actually see the Hudson River." Getting a glimpse of the bridge's cracks has many of the ten of thousands of commuters afraid. Brett Ruskin, a commuter of the Tappan Zee who was featured in *The New York Times* article "A Bridge That Has Nowhere Left to Go" stated, "Every morning I go out there and I pray. I say, 'Please God, don't let the bridge come down today. Let me get across it first.'" Unfortunately, the most frightening thing that could eventually cause the bridge to give way has to do with its foundation.

According to the History Channel's *The Crumbling of America*, during the Tappan Zee's construction in 1955 the engineers used wood instead of steel for much of the bridge's foundation. The wood pilings used can last as long as steel, but only if it is treated with preservatives and buried in soil that is low in oxygen content. However, the bridge was never treated with preservatives due to the time consumption and price. This made the wood vulnerable to

shipworms – a type of water termite that thrives on wood. A group of scientists found evidence of the pest back in 2007 near the wooded foundation of the bridge. Experts are quite concerned that if the shipworms begin to colonize they could eventually eat away at the wood and put the bridge in the river.

Although there are many concerns about the bridge's deterioration, the New York State Thruway authorities aren't worried. The owner of the 3.1-mile long bridge has been quoted on the History Channel's *The Crumbling of America* as saying, "There is no chance that the Tappan Zee will collapse." However, *The New York Times* article "U.S. Says it Will Expedite Approval to Replace Deteriorating Tappan Zee Bridge," mentions that the New York State Thruway authorities have admitted that the deck, some structural steel, the concrete walkway, and the electrical systems have "deteriorated significantly." Regardless of the differing opinions on the actual state of the bridge, everyone does agree that replacing it is a better idea than constantly patching it up.

The many repairs have served an important role in adding years to the bridge than what was initially intended during its construction, but it was by no means economical. Robert P. Astorino, the Westchester County executive who was quoted in a *New York Times* article titled "U.S. Says it Will Expedite Approval to Replace Deteriorating Tappan Zee Bridge" said, "the bridge has cost the state 100 million dollars a year in repairs and 83 million dollars in studies about how to replace or fix it." Based on all the money that's been spent on its repairs should be enough to make a new bridge. Thanks to Governor Cuomo's leadership and the support of President Obama and the federal government the construction for a replacement bridge has officially begun.

The New York State website contains a page detailing the project, which states that the new bridge will be constructed and designed to last 100 years without any major structural maintenance. The new bridge will have eight traffic lanes, four breakdown/emergency lanes, state-of-the-art traffic monitoring systems, and a dedicated commuter bus lane from the day it opens. The first span of the new twin-span bridge is scheduled to open in 2016, with the new bridge estimated to be complete by 2018. The entire project is costing 3.9 billion, which is far less than what was expected.

President Barack Obama's Free Community Colleges Plan Comes Under Fire from Critics

continued from cover page

Overall, this plan could actually backfire and cause an even lower graduation rate, which is the opposite of what Obama's intentions are.

Critics from the Republican Party argue that this proposal is all a hoax, asserting that by not approaching the right people, Obama has not made enough effort to put this plan into effect.

According to the *New York Times*, Bradley Byrne, a former chancellor of the Alabama Community College System with numerous years of experience with junior colleges, questions Obama's seriousness to this plan.

"You would think he would have reached out by now to people like me who

have a background on it," Byrne stated.

Republicans generally feel "left out," which makes them debate Obama's true intentions. Many feel that the expense used to bring about this plan could be used for other programs that already help those that are underprivileged and cannot afford community colleges. They do not feel that this plan will be of any help to future generations because our current economy is already in debt; this debt will only increase with the plan.

Making community colleges free will allow more people access to obtain their associates degree. The question remains, to what effect?



International News

Graffiti: The Revolution

By Alexis Savva

Though graffiti has been documented since ancient times, our street-style graffiti was first seen on subways and building walls in the 1960s. It wasn't until the 1980s when people started to acknowledge graffiti as artwork.

Graffiti is often associated with the hip hop movement but has since evolved into an intricate art found in exhibits world wide. It has grown from its vain appeal of simply writing ones name over another to a vast amount of styles ranging from pop art to modernism.

In today's society, graffiti artists are no longer seen as delinquents! Many artists rise to fame through graffiti. One of the most legendary is British artist, Banksy. In 2007, Banksy wrote in his book *Wall and Piece*.

"Some people become cops because they want to make the world a better place. Some people become vandals because they want to make the world a better looking place."

Knowing of Banksy's legendary reputation, though his artwork was covered up in Manhattan the trip was not a total disappointment. Where Banksy's art used to "hang" were new fantastic portraits by another artist named Kobra. Brittany Morley, 20, said "Some say graffiti ruins the walls of the city and diminishes the neighborhood. However it brings life to these empty, lifeless brick walls."

People appreciate these portraits because they are so intricate. Emily Rilley, 19, was standing in awe staring at this piece and so was everyone else who was passing by. Emily said, "Art is created to express emotions and portray ideas visually. Most of all, art is created to be appreciated. You don't expect big, colorful murals on your way to work, but coming across one may just turn your mood around."

The painting in the picture above is actually one of (if not the most) famous pictures from World War II. The artist translated this old photograph into a modern pop-art style. When you eventually pull your eye away from that amazing art, you look underneath it and see another landscape. It contains the typical bustle of New York City



Photo by Alexis Savva "Street Art by Banksy"

with a 1920s vibe. "The best part of the piece is the little girl in the left corner with a crazy smile on her face, she reminds me of myself," said Rilley. The artist's style with complex detail and elaborate colors shines through in this piece as well.

Throughout the years graffiti has changed and will continue to change. We've seen this art go from simple form of tagging your name across a street lamp or a stop sign, to murals (like Banksy's) dedicated to social activism. Graffiti is no longer looked down upon; people pay millions of dollars for pieces of art like this to be hanging on their living room walls.

Graffiti does not only live on the streets of the city,

but below it as well. There is a graffiti underground, in abandoned train stations, and secret locations that only other artists know about. It has become a not so secret society since we know they exist, but that's all we know about it. The members do not seem to be ready to emerge into the public eye just yet. The revolution of graffiti will continue for years to come.



Photo by Alexis Savva "Street Art by Banksy"

**Do you like to write?
Do you want to share
your writing with
others?**

**Then write for the
Communiqué.**

The QCC *Communiqué* is looking for a few good writers for its Spring 2015 issues.

We are especially interested in micro-reviews (200-300 words) of new movies; editorials related to QCC, higher education, NYC, and the world; feature articles about college life; and book, theatre, and music reviews for our arts section.

Writing for the *Communiqué* is a great opportunity to share your ideas with other QCC students and contribute to the campus community. It's also an excellent way to beef up your resume and your college applications.

Interested students should contact Communiqué Faculty Adviser Prof. Elisabeth Toohey at EToohey@qcc.cuny.edu

**The COMMUNIQUE:
It's Your Paper!**

Technology

The iPhone 6 vs. The Samsung Galaxy Note 4: Which phone is really worth your money?

By Enoe Garcia

In a market full of thousands of different cell phones for users across the globe, there are two that have gone above and beyond. According to CNET, a site that reviews electronics, the two phones most highly ranked in today's market are the iPhone 6 and the Samsung Galaxy Note 4.

There are several technological differences that make these phones unique, especially with rival operating systems.

The iPhone 6 is known for its wide screen and its improved wireless speed. Apple also has made the camera's autofocus clearer and has expanded its storage capacity.

The iOS 8 upgrade means a high quality mobile operating system, with an excellent application selection. It has made several changes from editing photos to sending voice notes as text messages, and sharing photos and your location through iCloud at a quicker pace.

With the Samsung Galaxy Note 4 and its wide screen, along with front facing camera, consumers can take plenty of clear quality selfies and the battery is said to recharge up to 50 percent faster than any other phone. But even with its ability to charge fast, the Galaxy comes with an extra battery pack that you can carry around and snap on whenever your battery is low and there is no access to an outlet.

Also, the Galaxy Note 4 has internal memory, which

means unlimited application downloads. The Note 4 is known for having a stylus pen, which is used for writing notes, contacts and more. It also comes in handy when you do not want fingerprint smudges on your phone screen.

Now, there are always pros and cons to all phones.

Though the iPhone 6 has improved glitches from the iPhone 5s and made the screen a lot wider for consumers, many iPhone 6 owners said that the battery life has not been improved dramatically, and the screen could have been even bigger than what it is.

Critics of the Samsung Galaxy Note 4 note that the screen has a dim light, and the camera's quality is not as good as Samsung advertised it to be.

"The galaxy Note 4 is a lot better than the iPhone 6," said Naomi Rodriguez, a Queensborough Community College (QCC) student who owns a Samsung Galaxy Note 4. "It is very handy when it comes to reminders or when you need an assignment due next week, and you just take out your stylus and write it down on your screen and it automatically puts it in as a reminder."

Most students find this very convenient, but the iPhone 6 also has an application that reminds you of several different assignments that need to be due.

"I chose the iPhone 6 because it is a lot easier and has a compatible touch. Plus, the Galaxy is just imitating the

iPhone 6," said Gabriella Garcia, an iPhone 6 consumer. "The iPhone 6 is just so much simpler. I feel like the competition between the phones are not about the physical appearances. It is about what is considered socially acceptable."

"Socially acceptable" for these two phones has a price to be paid.

The iPhone 6, with a memory of 64GB, has a starting price (depending on its phone carrier) of \$299.99. Unlocked, the phone ranges from \$649 to \$849, according to Apple's website, depending on the amount of gigabytes purchased. The Samsung Galaxy Note 4 starting price is \$809.00, more than \$100 cheaper.

"Yes, the iPhone 6 might be more expensive than the Samsung Galaxy, but it is because no other phone will have the same quality as an Apple phone," argued Tasmia Lindel, another QCC student.

But another QCC student, Maria Rosalina disagrees, saying: "I would never waste a lot of money on an iPhone. It is just an expensive phone because it is a popular brand, but the Galaxy Note 4 can provide you with the same applications for less."

It will be up to consumers to make up their mind on which phone is really worth purchasing.

What do Students want from their QCC Connect App?

By Kevin Leong



Photo by Kevin Leong, "The QCC Connect App, does not require updates to be used"

Queensborough Community College (QCC) students were recently introduced to their very own app by the IT department. The app features quick links to everything a QCC student needs, including Tigermail, Blackboard, OneCard management and more.

One student, Desire Fluellen, said simply: "I love it."

However, not all students have had the same reaction. Another QCC student, Ashton, explained that she doesn't use the app. "I didn't think it's that great of an app," she noted, explaining, she "could not get in with her password," or easily access Blackboard.

By contrast, Kofi Hunter uses it everyday. "I think it's helpful," he says.

Yet Hunter did think there were changes that should be made. "Make it faster, [with] not so many channels. [It should be] quicker to get to stuff, with not as many detours."

Students should understand that even a small app serving a community college of thousands requires a lot of work. The project was originally conceived by former Vice President of Finance & Administration, Sherri Newcomb, and was created by Raj Vaswani

"Queensborough is always looking for ways to enhance and streamline the college experience for its students," said Vaswani. "One of the most effective ways to accomplish this is through advanced technology.

"Currently, we are working on several different alerts and subscription options that end users can control. This includes emergency, academic and club alerts. Also, we are nearing completion on a course schedule app which will allow students to search and plan for classes."

With technology and software, there is always room for improvement.

"Of course, in fact, we have made text changes, look and feel changes (transit logo) and added athletics based on student suggestions," Vaswani continued. "Students have also been extremely helpful in catching bugs."

A known bug with the app is the inability to log into Tigermail in the settings. The app itself has gone through four to five versions that didn't require students to update.

"We are in the process of identifying possible bugs and addressing the issue of where students need to 'logout' prior to logging in as a student," Vaswani explained. "As with any software, including web service or sites, apps can be improved."

Addressing the problems of accessing Tigermail, he noted, "As far as email, that tile is supposed to provide a preview of your inbox so you can see if you have important email. If students would prefer it to link to a login screen instead, that can be easily changed."

Vaswani also explained, "We have direct access to balances within the OneCard. However we can't take credit card deposits to the OneCard as that is managed by a separate vendor who hosts and supports both the eAccounts website and mobile app."

The IT department encourages all students to submit bugs and improvements. It will be taken into consideration as long as it fits under budgetary concerns and vendor concerns.

Vaswani also invited students to submit questions, comments or concerns to QCCconnect@qcc.cuny.edu.

"We have worked very hard on creating the app and I am extremely proud of the excellent work of our team," Vasani said. "In fact, QCC students are actively using the app with five hits per session."

Technology

Is That Picture Really Worth It?

By Karina Sosa



Photo by Rishi Bando "Don't Let Facebook Consume your Life"

Social Media has become an outlet where people express their feelings, opinions and thoughts freely. Social media is like staging a show in every profile. Creating these accounts is comparable to signing a contract that people can access your materials whenever and wherever.

Many people post materials online without thinking twice about it. Privacy has changed completely. Our pictures and posts online become public to the world to see at all times.

When posting a picture, does you ask yourself, should

I really post that?

What many people do not understand is that whatever they are posting, it can have a significant impact in the workplace. Employers consider their prospective employees and current employees' social networking while reviewing their work.

In the article, "Online Professionalism and the Mirror of Social Media," Ryan Greysen states, "Much like a mirror, social media can reflect the best and worst aspects of the content placed before it for all to see."

Edwin Vasquez agrees. "People should know that if posting certain things online could jeopardize their professional careers. Why post it? Part of it is also about self-control because certain things shouldn't be posted up on social media."

Others feel differently. "It's your personal account," argues Kimberly Clarke. "It shouldn't matter unless it's inferring with your job."

Sherif Salah, a math tutor at QCC makes a similar argument. "You shouldn't make a judgment based on my Facebook profile. Look at my resume, and then make a judgment."

Some recent laws have been passed to protect employees' privacy. "The Oregon State Bar Bulletin: Oregon's New Social Media Law" by Dan Webb Howard describes the "password protection" law that has been recently been put into effect. This gives applicants or employees privacy rights that protect their personal social media accounts. It also explains the separation between our social life and our professional one.

The House of Representative passed the Social

Networking Online Protection Act in April 2012, which states that employers are not authorized to request employees or applicants' username and passwords of personal social media accounts.

In the article, "To Tweet or Not to Tweet," Ken Bradley gives an example of how social media has led to scandal and disputes for college athletes. Twitter and Facebook have caused disagreements among the team's members, compelling the coaches to banned social networking during the season.

Fran Fraschilla, who coached St. John's Basketball from 1996-98, explains that whatever you post brings certain impressions to the public eye.

"When a student-athlete puts a foot in his mouth via Twitter, he is perpetuating an image of himself that would likely take a long time to change. Once he hits the "send" button, the fallout may not be pretty."

"I might be saying this because of my future career but once hired into a company you are a presentation of their company," said Melody Martin, a nursing student. "I could understand why they would feel the need to see what my social life consists of. This is something employees should be aware of because poor behavior can be perceived as poor professionalism."

Self-control is one of the important factors to have when looking at social media because sometimes, people offer excessive information online. It's basically up to you what persona you want to portray. The question facing every user these day is , how will you allow social media influence your future?

Arts

ACTING 101: Breaking into the business (and why you don't want to)

By Damon C. Fields



Photo by Steve Kleege

Breaking into the profession of acting is both one of the easiest, and at the same time one of the hardest things you can ever do. The first mistake most budding performers make is in not understanding the true meaning of what acting is: a profession. It is a business, an activity whose

main purpose is to make someone, somewhere, lots of money. What anyone who sincerely has talent and wants to act simply for the love of it has to first understand is that the people/studios/conglomerates who "run" and control the industry exist as a profit-generating machine; and don't necessarily care if you are, or think you are, the next Brad Pitt or Angelina Jolie. Can you sell movie tickets? Seats at a Broadway show? Clicks on ads for Viagra on the Internet? If not, then the established entertainment industry insiders and wannabee insiders of today will just consider you a "hobbyist": great to watch, maybe, but not economically viable; and render your career as an 'epic fail' before you do more than some school productions, a couple of commercials, and background work on a rap music video. Industry always trumps talent in today's greed-infused entertainment business.

OK. For the 20% of you still reading this article, determined to be either the next protagonist or antagonist (or even shuffling zombie) on The Walking Dead...Let's see if we can get you started in this business. For those actors just starting out, be totally prepared to be overworked, underpaid, disrespected on an almost daily basis, and all-in-all have a miserable time. In fact, most days on set will have you wishing you had applied for that job flipping burgers over at your local mall. What it all amounts to is hard work, alternating with mind-numbing boredom, and for low/no pay, all day. Prepare yourself to go from 'hurry up and wait' to "hurry up to set!" in the blink of an eye; all

in an atmosphere where dozens of people milling around all think they know what they are doing better than you ever will (yet usually don't). These on-set busybodies are commonly referred to as "P.A.s", or Production Assistants; and are more or less equivalent to gophers in the animal kingdom. Use your own discretion as to what they direct you to do, sure, but ignore them at your peril!

Ladies, be prepared to be asked to disrobe at auditions, constantly asked to compromise your values, and be offered roles that will make sure you'll never show your kids most of what you've done (such as the standard 'stripper and prostitute' roles so popular in Hollywood today). Asian, Native American or a Pacific Islander? Welcome to the set of "The Lone Ranger 2"...have a ball playing a rampaging savage for Disney films, or being cast for "Pacific Rim 3" as a Hong Kong noodle vendor. And for many actors forced into doing roles like these because there is just nothing else out there (and they like to eat once in a while), this is the beginning of the end of their budding careers. Time to be typecast as, say, a Latino 'gangbanger' or gay 'office nerd' forever; meaning that's basically the only role you will ever be offered, over and over again, until you become old enough to do diabetes medicine commercials. I am not being pessimistic; this is the true state of the film/TV industry today, in 2015.

But, there is a little hope still. After all the gloom and

Continued on page 10

Arts

ACTING 101: Breaking into the business (and why you don't want to)

Continued from page 9

doom, for days and weeks and months on end, there will come for some of you “that one day”. A shining day of accomplishment, the validation of your abilities as a professional actor, and gettin’ some stuff done. And although it doesn’t happen like that for everyone (or today, almost anyone), it does happen for those of us with the stickitivity to push through and make it so. You know, that elite 20% I spoke of earlier...the ones still reading this. Now all the 14-hour days where you ate nothing but pizza and wilted Cobb salads, after a 7:00 AM call time in Manhattan, for \$88 before taxes, seems like it was worth it after all. You buckled down, ate crow, and made a serious professional effort to just do the work. It’s a start, but an easy one to miss or screw up.

Almost all actors, other than the ones “chosen” and pre-destined to be performers, and those who spend 4 to 6 years in film school, start out in mostly the same discouraging way. Initially, this drudgery was the equivalent of becoming a corporate vice president after starting in the mailroom. Unfortunately, those days of hard work paying off with advancement seem to be over in the film/TV industry. Talent is not at a premium today, in the times of the “Costco producer”; when anyone can run into a big box outlet, plunk down \$700, and proclaim themselves a ‘movie producer’ or ‘movie director’. Especially since none of them can really afford to pay today’s actors an actual living wage, how professional will their cast and crew actually be? It’s a classic case of cutting off your nose to spite your face, and such prominent industry insiders as Steven Spielberg, James Schamus, George Lucas and The Directors Guild of America have been very vocal about how the industry is now fatally consuming itself from the inside out and “imploding”.

That being said, if you still truly want to begin a real career in acting, becoming an ‘extra’ is the way to go for most of you. Extra’s, otherwise known as Background Talent, or simply Background are an often overlooked, yet vital, part of the whole film/TV and theater process. Without warm bodies to fill the visual background in any production, there is no real way to suspend belief long enough to satisfy an audience; no way for an audience member to trick themselves into being absorbed into what they are being shown. Imagine a massive scale World War 2 epic where you just see soldiers shooting at enemies we never see. It’s improbable, and makes for a silly production. Now, fill that film landscape in with hundreds of background actors dressed like German soldiers, and suddenly you have a real production going. Bottom line: Your only realistic road to becoming a professional actor today is averaging 5 years of being that German soldier (and yes, for those of you reading between the lines, that description ties in with another equally pertinent topic: rampant racism/sexism in the industry of film).

Let’s hope you get lucky, and that the professional ability you’ve honed and brought forth from your own raw talent will be able to shine through enough that someone of some authority on a movie or TV set somewhere will notice. It’s no big secret, it’s just what it is today. So start today, start below....



Photo by Steve Kleege



Photo by Steve Kleege

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Arts

A Critical Guide to the Art Gallery on Campus

By Michael Wong



Photo by Michael Wong, "The QCC Art Gallery 3/3/15"

The Queensborough Community College (QCC) Art Gallery is on campus and is easily accessible for everyone interested in stopping by to enjoy. If you have a break

between classes or just are curious about the art on display, you should get yourself over to the gallery and check out the newest exhibitions. Over the next few weeks, the QCC Art Gallery will be acquiring new and very exciting exhibits to be displayed for a limited time.

Starting on March 11 and running until April 9, QCC student Lisa Chin-Jung Baw will be displaying her work for all to experience. Baw is a recognized Taiwanese artist, who has suffered from cerebral palsy. She encountered oil painting at a young age in a process to help develop her hand-eye coordination, and in doing so, discovered her passion.

The creative way in which she expresses herself using vibrant colors is shown through oil paintings of still life, landscapes and portraits along with other variety of art pieces. Money, Van Gogh, Kandinsky and Matisse have influenced her style of work along with her own experiences in life.

Two impressive QCC art exhibitions are opening on April 16 and will be on display until June 7. The first exhibition is the Department of Art and Design's seventh annual Juried Student Exhibition, which will display QCC's very own students who are majoring in different Art programs. The students will have a chance to display a wide variety of their best works in the gallery.

The second exhibition is from QCC's faculty and staff of the Art and Design department. This is where the faculty and staff will get a chance to present their own assortment of art pieces to form a collection for the QCC Art Gallery.

Guided group tours are available by appointment so definitely make sure you find the time to check out and enjoy all these new exhibitions while they are on campus.

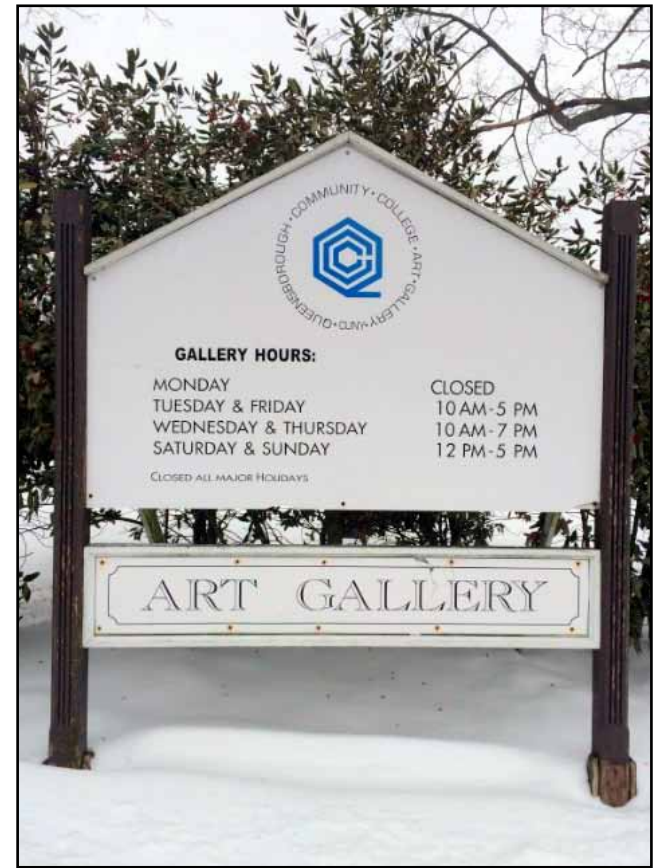
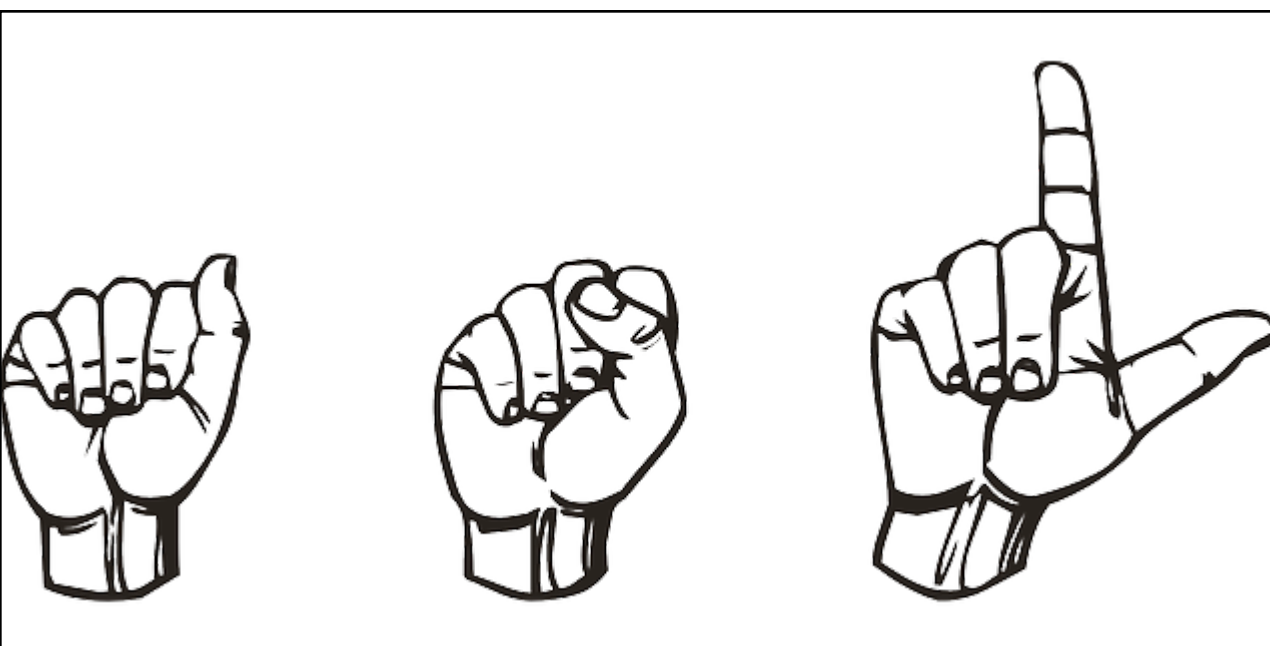


Photo by Michael Wong, "The QCC Art Gallery 3/3/15"

Gallery Hours: T, F 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; W-Th 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sat-Sun 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Should American Sign Language be offered at QCC?

continued from cover page



Chairperson of QCC's Foreign Languages and Literatures Department. I asked him if ASL might be offered here in the future. His reply was very hopeful. "It is something that I will pursue in the near future. I am certainly open to the idea of creating a program on Sign Language. I strongly believe that there is a need for it, and it will be

very beneficial to our students". Andrew Muller, Disability Accommodations Specialist, Services for Students with Disabilities here at QCC offered his thoughts. "Ideally, ASL courses would be offered here at Queensborough, for many reasons including to promote disability awareness and accessibility. For the time being, I feel it should

be acknowledged officially via the QCC College Catalogue and thus made aware to students and advisors whether American Sign Language is accepted toward a degree to fulfill a Foreign Language requirement when two sequential ASL courses are completed at another college".

According to a new Modern Language Association report, American Sign Language enrollment is up 19 percent even displacing German as third on the list. QCC would join the ranks of other universities like Brown, Harvard, Yale, Columbia and Brandeis who offer some form of ASL. If colleges do not offer ASL as a language, they have ASL Clubs as a way to familiarize students with the language. They incorporate ASL and deaf culture by offering ASL instruction and speakers. Locally, Nassau Community College has a club that goes out into the deaf community.

Hopefully moving forward QCC will offer their students a chance to experience ASL and deaf culture in some capacity or mode of learning. However as with any new project there is always the issue of funding and in this case finding qualified instructors to teach ASL.

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A Job Fair is an opportunity to meet with 50+ employers from business, non-profits, the healthcare industry and government coming to Queensborough in search of candidates to fill full-time, part-time, and internship openings. Don't miss it! Dress in appropriate interview attire (no jeans or sneakers are permitted).

Bring you college ID and several copies of your resumé to the Job Fair. We can help you improve your resumé. Contact the Office of Career Services in the Library Building, Room 429 during walk in hours for answers to your questions and resumé review on: Mondays 10am – 11:30am, and Tuesdays and Thursdays 2pm – 3:30pm.

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Lifestyles

Need a Doctor? See a Doctor in 30 Minutes or Less

By Daniel Kwon

Urgent care clinics (UCCs) are the answer for many to long emergency room wait times and the general inaccessibility to timely primary care physician visits which are strong contributing factors to the upward trend of UCCs. UCCs have been around as early as the mid-1990s and have been seeing a significant uptick in growth in the last few years, the number of facilities growing from around 8,000 to over 9,300 since 2008 with 50-100 new clinics opening every year according to aaucm.org of the American Academy of Urgent Care Medicine.

UCCs are mid-level medical service providers offering immediate outpatient care for a broad spectrum of both acute and chronic illnesses. Contributing to their rise in popularity are less than 30 minute wait times, walk-in access and generous hours of operation. Many UCCs offer weekend hours and CityMD, currently the largest private UCC chain in New York City, boasts hours of operation 365 days a year. Most UCCs have an X-ray machine on-site and can handle routine, but not comprehensive,

laboratory work that fall within the scope of practice of UCCs.

With the number of emergency rooms and hospitals decreasing from 1994 to 2004 by 9% but the number of emergency room visits increasing by more than 1 million visits a year as seen in the "Future of Urgent Care" article on aaucm.org, UCCs may offer some relief. Many emergency room patients, 14 to 27%, can be seen at an UCC according to a 2009 RAND Corporation study. I was able sit down with Dr. Jonathan Joseph of CityMD urgent care and conduct a short interview. When I asked Dr. Joseph what UCCs such as CityMD can do for emergency rooms he replied, "A significant portion of people we see that would otherwise show up in the E.R. wouldn't need it. Even some things like fracture care we can do and it's faster for the patients" and that UCCs such as CityMD "decompress" emergency rooms. Dr. Joseph also said "one of the challenges is educating the public so that that don't show up here with critical situations instead of going to

the emergency room" warning that "a half an hour to an hour delay from coming here results in a poor outcome like severe chest pain or a stroke, you know, those are things that intervention has to be done in half an hour to save someone's life and save them from having deficits afterwards." He does mention that, however, when critical situations arise, "we turn them around pretty quickly."

While UCCs are relatively convenient to emergency rooms and primary care physicians, it is important to note that UCCs have their limitations. While UCCs are good at taking care of lower-severity acute medical problems and minor emergencies, they're not good at managing chronic medical conditions such as hypertension and diabetes mellitus. Chronic medical conditions such as these require continuity of care under the same physician for long-term monitoring and medication adjustment. UCCs generally have multiple physicians on staff and while a patient may be able to request a specific doctor, there's

no guarantee their request will be met. UCCs also lack the ability that emergency rooms and hospitals have to admit patients to their facilities and to get immediate lab results. However, for lower-severity acute medical conditions, UCCs can provide similar care that a patient would get at an emergency room both quicker and more economically. In the 2009 RAND Corporation study, it is estimated that \$4.4 billion a year could be saved in health costs if 14 to 27% of emergency room visits of lower medical acuity were instead seen at UCCs.

Although UCCs aren't without shortcomings, they are an intuitive answer to a real need in our healthcare system. They serve to decongest the already under-resourced emergency rooms while seeing many everyday emergencies promptly and in an ethical manner, referring to specialists and the emergency room as needed. For these reasons, the rapid growth of UCCs should come as a surprise to nobody.

Stress vs. The College Student: What Might YOU Have?

By Janina Yates

Have you ever woken up in the morning feeling sore for absolutely no reason at all, even after getting enough sleep? Have you ever wondered 'why do I feel a certain way?', or if you are the only one suffering from a mysterious illness that seems to come from out of thin air? Well the truth is that you are not alone, and there is typically a medical explanation for any and all ailments you experience. After experiencing the pressures of life with no real outlet for relaxation it is typical for your body to have some sort of negative repercussion to that stress. These negative drawbacks can come in the form of feelings of intense fatigue, loss or change in appetite, chest pains, and chronic headaches, but most people just ignore the symptoms because of the daily responsibilities we all have in our day to day lives that need to be accomplished. Most of us would agree that we simply do not have enough hours in the day for both work and relaxation. A great example of people who experience these pressures are students who are under the gun of deadlines for assignments and the extreme pressures of "pass or fail" exams. These feelings that students are exposed to can lead to your immune system becoming less potent, depression from the mental stresses of work, and a lack of knowledge or drive to seek help when it comes to the available options for assistance.

What most people do not realize is that how you mentally feel, and how much stress you are under, can actually affect how well your body protects itself. When your mind is under a great deal of stress the rest of your systems suffer in various ways, including your immune system taking a rain check on actually blocking out harmful bacteria. This happens due to three main factors that combine to make a deadly trifecta that increase a person's risk of disease. The first contributor is that stress can increase your heart rate and blood pressure by adding stress to the circulatory system which causes a negative impact on your immune systems response time to fighting harmful bacteria. Second, stress has an impact on the stress hormones that contribute

to the immune processes, which can lead to corticosteroids suppressing the immune system. Third, the digestive system is initiated in response to stress which can cause ulcers and the overall health of your digestive system as a whole. According to simplypsychology.org, These three individual symptoms might not seem like a big deal, but when working together it can cause a normally healthy person to be increasingly vulnerable to common diseases. Students will become susceptible to things as little as the common cold, or as impactful as mono, more frequently all from stresses instigated by the classes that are supposed to be helping them learn. These diseases can pay a huge toll on the energy and motivation of students causing them to miss classes, and even miss deadlines of assignments, because they are too sick to function.

Studies have shown that the stress derived from college, or just life in general among younger generations, can cause serious cases of clinical depression as well. As stated by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) on a nationwide survey for students at a 3 or 4 year institution, "about 30 percent of college students reported feeling "so depressed that it was difficult to function" at some time..." which is just about one in every three students. Just think about that number for a second... That means that if you were sitting in the middle of two other students at least one of them is either currently or has felt depressed while attending classes that year! These feelings have also lead to an increase in the amount of college students who have stated they have had suicidal thoughts because they could not cope with these feelings any longer. What exactly is depression though? According to the NIMH, depression can be summed up as "a common but serious mental illness typically marked by sad or anxious feelings" which can result in the loss of drive to do well in classes, or even to do well in anything at all. Depression can also lead to an increase in Serotonin, which causes your body to be more susceptible to pain and affects how well you sleep. This means that the little things

that used to be bearable now escalate to serious threats to your well-being, all while you can't even get a good night's sleep. Students who are already not getting enough sleep from their busy schedules become debilitated at this point and lose the ability to motivate themselves in almost every aspect of their life.

All is not hopeless however, as there are many ways to get help if you are willing to ask for it. With the newer generation of students having a heavy burden of stress on their shoulders more and more colleges have started programs to assist their students with their stress in the form of Student Aid Centers that dedicate themselves to counseling students who are experiencing depression and stress from classes. According to the 2013 Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors, "Over the last three school years, the CCMH reports a nearly 8 percent increase in the number of students seeking mental health services. And college counseling centers report that 32 percent of centers report having a waiting list at some point during the school year" which is something we can view as a positive. As more and more students finally push themselves to get help it will reduce the number of students missing classes due to illness both of the body and the mind.

In conclusion, stress can have a debilitating influence on the everyday student. In most cases the "lazy" attitude of college students that is perceived by society can actually be a case of stress and depression that has been overlooked and untreated. Stress can have major impacts both on your body and mind, and seeking help early on and not ignoring the symptoms is something every college should advise their students to do. If more and more students are educated about what choices they have for help then we will see more and more students excelling instead of failing. While stress can be a huge weakness, gaining knowledge about how to best deal with it can be a huge strength.

Lifestyles

Civil Rights and the LGBT Community

By Jessica Calderon



Photo by Denise Cornel, "Same Love"

The LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) community has faced significant problems in its lifetime. Many lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people have limited privileges because of the gender they love or the gender they decide to be. The laws are fluctuating in many countries, though in some, acceptance is growing.

Kyle Blidy, a student at Baruch College, came out as being a homosexual in April of 2013. He did not want to come out at first because he assumed his family wouldn't support him. He wanted to wait until he established himself in adulthood, but then he got into a serious relationship. His

boyfriend's family was very accepting of Kyle and it made him want his own family to feel the same way about his boyfriend. His boyfriend and a few close friends were very supportive toward his decision.

His family, on the other hand, was in denial. They started saying he just didn't find the right girl, that "it wasn't natural," and that he was too young to make decisions like this.

"I felt liberated knowing that I spoke up, even though they didn't like it," Kyle recalled.

Many people are skeptical about the idea that homosexuals are born the way they are, assuming instead that being homosexual was a choice. According to Kyle, there is

not a way to prevent it or change the way you are.

"Some people are still against homosexuality and I can't say anything too bad about those select individuals. I do feel, though, that religion really has overstepped its boundaries and shouldn't dictate what love is. Love is complicated and no one can really explain it. There is really nothing inherently different between the love of two men versus the love between a man and a woman."

Even though Blidy does not necessarily feel different in today's society, some people in the LGBT community do.

According to research from Youth Risk Behavior Surveys at www.cdc.gov (Centers for Disease Control) conducted from 2001-2009, "the percentage of LGBT students who were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property in the prior year ranged from 12 percent to 28 percent."

The research has indicated that the LGBT community faces an increasing risk of suicidal thoughts and behaviors. Researchers found that among seventh to twelfth graders, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth had twice as high expectancy to attempt suicide. According to these statistics, it appears to be an epidemic.

Youth Risk Behavior Surveys (conducted by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) states that schools can really help to change these numbers. The schools can prohibit bullying and encourage respect toward all students. In schools, there can be what are called "safe spaces," such as the counselor's office

or student organizations, where the students can go if they are having certain thoughts or feelings about themselves and what is going on in their life.

As stated in the Youth Risk Behavior Surveys, "LGBT students are less likely to experience threats of violence or attempt suicide because of LGBT support groups."

The Queensborough Community College website provides information on a club for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students called the Queer Culture Club. The purpose of this club is "to create a safe environment for students regardless of sexual identity and orientation."

According to statistics from theguardian.com, a London-based website, in 151 countries, it is legal for LGBT adults to have sexual intercourse. That means in the rest of the world, it is illegal or the law isn't clear.

The LGBT community also does not have as many rights in terms of marriage. In 17 countries, LGBT people have the right to marry. In the rest of the world, they have some rights ("including civil unions or similar") or these unions are completely illegal. The only places where the LGBT community has a full range of human rights are Uruguay, Canada, Belgium, France and New Zealand.

Being able to acknowledge that LGBT people are human and being able to accept things that are different could possibly change American culture. Falling in love with someone who is the same gender is becoming extremely common in today's society, whether it is liked or not.

Sports

New Changes and Old Faces

By Adrian Chisholm

In one of the world's fastest growing sports, Mixed Martial Arts (MMA), several fighters from the UFC have been recently suspended due to their positive results in pre-fight drug tests. Among the names of those who were caught, two UFC legends Anderson Silva and Nick Diaz stuck out the most.

The two went head-to-head in the main event at UFC 183 as it was Silva's return to the octagon after tragically breaking his leg 13 months prior against Chris Weidman. Silva took the fight by unanimous decision, but both fighters took home a world of controversy. The two, along with Hector Lombard, are temporarily suspended by the NSAC (Nevada State Athletic Commission) pending their future disciplinary hearings in March.

On Feb. 18, UFC CEO Lorenzo Fertitta held a press conference with UFC president Dana White and Chief Operating Officer Lawrence "Ike" Epstein, to discuss what they have previously done with drug testing, along with how they advocate for both in competition and out of completion drug testing.

"We've always deemed it our responsibility to take the leadership responsibility in key areas impacting our sport, and fighter health and safety has always been at the top of our list," Fertitta said during the press conference. "When we purchased this company in 2001, only one state regulated the sport of mixed martial arts. Today, the sport is regulated throughout the U.S. and by international regulatory bodies around the world.

"In recent years, we made it a point to run towards regulation. Now, we're making it a point to run towards fixing this performance enhancing drugs (PEDs) issue head-on. Through our work with athletic commissions and regulatory bodies via both in-and out-of-competition testing, these tests have uncovered UFC athletes using banned substances and performance-enhancing drugs."

He then proceeded to talk about how they plan to address the issue of in competition

drug testing and push for more out of competition drug testing. Fertitta noted that not all athletic committees inform the UFC of failed drug tests and demands this be changed. He advocates for commissions from all states to test each fighter when they have an upcoming fight. Moreover, UFC is willing to pay for any additional costs it might take for this to happen.

All title bouts and main event fighters will be subject to PED testing, guaranteeing that each fighter stays clean. He also promised that more random PED tests will be given out to every fighter on their roster.

"I think these changes are great for the sport," said Ethan Geffen, a former Queensborough Community College student and current amateur fighter. "As a fan, I like knowing that the fighters are depending on skill rather than a drug. It's a little upsetting that my favorite fighter has been accused of taking PEDs. [Anderson Silva] but it's good to know that someone out there is doing their job to make this sport clean. As a fighter, I like that it evens up the playing field. I look at drug use as cheating and no sport should tolerate that. Especially when you fight for a living, it's reassuring to know that the person you fight isn't cheating by using PEDs."

Fertitta informed the media and athletes that he will impose suspensions and fines harsher than ever to any fighter that tests positive. He continued to discuss securing an even playing field for all his fighters, which was in question prior to the press conference. The recent news of high profile fighters testing positive is just proof that they are heading in the right direction in stopping usage of PEDs in the UFC.

Time will tell how these changes affect the sport and how much of what Fertitta promised will come true. As fans, all you can do is sit back and enjoy the fights these athletes put on.

Sports

Lady Tigers Fight to the End for CUNYAC/Army ROTC Title

By Jalexus Apollon



Photo by Athletic Director Pete Marchitello, QCC Website, "LadyTigers pose for the camera"

The Queensborough Community College (QCC) Women's Basketball team, the Lady Tigers, have proven they are going to give it everything they have this season. Heading into the CUNYAC/Army ROTC Community College Women's basketball championship central semifinals, the Lady Tigers were the No. 1 seed in the final four winning eight out of 10 games, followed by LaGuardia Red Hawks, Bronx Broncos, and Hostos Caimans.

During the first game, the Lady Tigers played against the Caimans for a spot in the finals. The game opened with the Lady Tigers hitting a handful of three-pointers by Daomi Burch within the first 10 minutes into the first quarter.

Heading into halftime, the Tigers were up by three points, with the score now at 38-35. Starting the second half, the Lady Tigers had a lot of momentum, and were pushing hard to add extra points onto the scoreboard.

They dominated the third and fourth quarters, with a final score 43-37, triumphing over the Hostos Caimans for a spot to play in the finals against the Bronx Broncos, who

won their game against the LaGuardia Red Hawks later on in the evening with a final score of 53-37.

Right out of the gate, the Broncos were eager for the win, with two of their star players, Hivelize Escobar and Trisha Toussaint, adding points to the score board with several rebounds and three-pointers. Meanwhile, the Tigers' Burch got in a few three-pointers of her own. Lady Tigers' Khadija Carroll got a rebound from a fellow teammate and was able to tie the game 4-4.

With the game being neck and neck throughout the entire first half, Queensborough kept up with the Bronx, although they eventually fell behind.

At half time, the Bronx Broncos had a 15-point lead over the Queensborough Tigers 42-27. Starting a new

half the Tigers showed a strong motivation coming back into the game and almost tying the score, but the Broncos were not letting go of that lead.

The game ended with the Bronx Broncos triumphantly avenging their last year's loss to the Queensborough Tigers, with a final score of 69-58.

Queensborough Lady Tiger's freshmen Erika Orosco No. 40 said of the season, "It's been great. I have been learning a lot of new things, mostly learning how to become one with my teammates, especially the ones who have been on the team longer. They have taught me a lot."

For the past three years, the Lady Tigers have advanced to the semifinals. Now that Erika is part of the team she can say she contributed to it.

"It felt great to know my teammates and I were the #1 seed going into the semifinals for the CUNYAC/Army ROTC Championship," she added. "We really worked hard for it."

When asked about the loss against the Bronx Broncos, Erika explained, "The loss against the Bronx sucked because we worked so hard leading up to that game. We practiced all the time, even with all of the bad weather we still came to practice. It was sad not to win."

Coach David Chambers, a QCC Alumni himself, has been a part of the Women's Basketball team for over 10 years.

"The relationship we all have with the coach is like a father figure. He pushes us because he wants us to do our best. Even when we were down by a lot of points during the championship, Coach motivated us to come back into the game and give it our all," Erika said.

"The most important thing I have learned throughout this season is to fight for what you really want no matter what comes in your way."

Spring Sports on Campus

By Andrea Graci

Fellow athletes and students, the spring semester has finally arrived. With the warmer weather beginning to set in, students can now participate in sports on campus, including softball, outdoor track and baseball.

Pete Marchitello has been coaching the women's softball team since 1997. During this time of the season, Marchitello is preparing the team the best he can while the weather does not cooperate. He says: "We are doing the basics." Until the snow melts, he has the girls practice indoors on their defensive skills, hitting and pitching as much as possible. He also uses this time to do some recruiting through his connections with high school coaches in the area.

Marchitello also expects a lot from returning players, which includes second baseman Jaenise Garcia, number one pitcher and outfielder Natalie Ortiz, along with outfielder and catcher Andrelina Gil. Marchitello shares, "We have cabin fever." He looks forward to finally being able to practice outside, and their first game on March 5 and 6 in Maryland.

The coach of the Lady Tigers also hopes for the team to place first or second to get a high seed for playoffs, win the region, then the districts and finally bringing it all the way to Nationals, in Minnesota, where they can visit the world's biggest mall.

Chris Omeltchenko, also known as Coach O, has been at Queensborough Community College since fall of

2000, where he coaches indoor and outdoor track and cross country for both men's and women's teams. At this point in the season, Omeltchenko prepares his athletes for outdoor track by starting with basic conditioning.

While practicing indoors, due to the winter weather, he has the athletes jog laps, jog minutes, strides or just simply having them sprint to one end of the gym to the other to work on agility. He also uses both weight rooms in the RFK gym for conditioning and running on treadmills, along with the stairs.

"Our number one goal is National Championships," Coach Omeltchenko said.

Each meet is a step towards trying to qualify for the nationals, according to Omeltchenko. The team also looks forward to competing against four-year schools at the CUNY Championships

"There's always something to say to somebody to get them motivated," he said.

His spirit on and off the field has been shown on multiple occasions, especially at times where he will compliment an athlete if he likes the way they have been practicing and share that he is noticing their improvements. On the other hand, he will pull an athlete aside to let them know that they need to show up more often and to be more focused in order to get to the next level. The leader of the team also believes that the best way to get through to an athlete is to be positive.

Roger Mischel has been the baseball coach since 2006. Mischel has prepared the players since November, where he begins weight training. In January, he does speed training, body weight conditioning, as well as pitching in the gym. Another way he prepares the team for the upcoming season is by spending time in the classroom to go over plays.

"I have to increase a lot of my player's baseball IQ's, so we do a lot of just baseball talk," Mischel said.

He, along with the team members, are looking forward to participating in the CUNY Championships. Describing the upcoming season he says, "This year's gonna be a big challenge for the boys and I hope they're ready for it because the CUNY have definitely stepped up, the city schools are a lot better this year." He also hopes to make it to regionals, then participate in the NJCAA World Series hosted in North Carolina.

Mischel's goal as a coach is to not only help develop athletes but also to develop young men. If the players start to lose focus, he makes them run then sends them home, so that they understand that they can't lose focus so easy.

He tries to constantly keep the athletes motivated and focused by using worksheets and giving them ideas. He has been given the name "the preacher," "because based on what I do, like motivating and stuff like that, that's on a regular basis kind of thing," he says.



**Office of Career Services
Department of Student Affairs**

Presents

Terri Thompson

Professional Speaker, Business and Social Success Trainer

**Etiquette In Action
A Business Dining Experience**

Space is limited to the first 50 registrants.

**Thursday, April 16, 2015 – 4pm sharp to 6:30pm
Oakland Dining Room/Loggia**



Space is limited to the first 50 registrants. You must come to the Office of Career Services located in the Library Building Room 429 to pick up an application to be completed and returned by March 19, 2015 with a copy of your Spring 2015 Bursar receipt, and a refundable deposit (cash or check*) for \$20.00 made out to Queensborough Community College.

***Your check will be returned to you upon your participation at the conclusion of this free event.**

For admission you must have a valid QCC ID and be appropriately dressed in business attire.

Prompt arrival is required as a full dinner will be served.

If you have any questions, please call 718-631-6297 or visit L429.

This is a free event for QCC students only who have never attended this event in past years.

Opinion

To Teach or Not To Teach

By Brendan McCormick

After taking a few philosophy classes in college, I started to wonder why I hadn't been introduced to this subject until now. Most people see no value in asking the big questions, especially when more than likely, there will be no true answer. Nice lead for an opinion piece.

I like to think that teaching philosophy to children, albeit in a different way than you would teach the average college student, would do an immense amount of good. I asked Professor Shannon Kincaid, who teaches philosophy at Queensborough Community College (QCC), if philosophy would be of any value to children and he said, "the way we teach now is lacking in dialogue and interaction and the dialectic is meant to instill a sense of inter-subjectivity, a sense of love. That's something we [he and I] never experienced while growing up, a sense of community when it comes to inquiry, and teaching philosophy to kids will show them that their voice matters. Philosophy will show them how different we all are, and how to appreciate and embrace these differences." To quickly put this quote in to context we were discussing the subject of toleration of another culture due to

misunderstanding that culture.

Philosophy literally means "love of wisdom." So why do we feel it unnecessary to instill the love of wisdom to children? Will they not understand it? Does teaching philosophy to children scare some people? I know if I was introduced to different philosophical teachings at a young age, I would have had a lot more questions. My parents would have never been able to tell me to do something without an explanation. When you teach a child philosophy and all of its branches, and all of a sudden this child can form coherent arguments while catching people committing fallacies. Think about the time someone of authority has told you to do something. The first couple of times of this happens you want nothing more than to ask why. What happened almost every time? The authority figure most likely responded "with because I said so." That right there is a fallacy. One cannot answer a question with the response of "because I said so," because it is unjust.

Now, just to make myself clear I do not wish to engage children in philosophical debates concerning the categorical imperatives, however when a child wonders why he or she is not allowed

to throw markers at another child, a teacher may ask: "do you think it's okay if whenever anyone is mad they can throw markers at the person they are mad at?" I'd like to give children the benefit of the doubt. I believe once they reach a certain age they can conceive how wrong it would be if everyone started throwing markers at someone when they made them mad.

I think philosophy, if taught right, should instill a sense of empathy in children that is lacking nowadays. To empathize is to truly understand where someone else is coming from. One of my own favorite teachings of philosophy is multiperspectivalism. It states that to increase one's knowledge on a subject we must amplify our own perspectives with other's perspectives. Let me leave you with a touching quote from Professor Kincaid on the importance of teaching philosophy to children. "Teaching the dialectic to children, teaching them how to debate, discuss, and compartmentalize; learning how to take an idea apart and put it back together will ultimately save the world."

The Equal Pay Act

continued from cover page

middle-class families to save and retire. It leaves small businesses with customers who have less money in their pockets, which is not good for the economy."

"As my experience in places I worked at, I have always seen discrimination against women in wage disparity against women," said T. Palma-Julme, a psychology professor at Queensborough Community College (QCC), adding, "Same abilities and experience should equal the same pay."

Chernor Barrie, a professor of Arabic at Queensborough, has had a similar experience. "Working in the United Nations and an Arabic professor, I have seen women given less opportunities and given no leadership because they're seen as more vulnerable and sensitive, whereas men are seen as more brave and with an explicit amount of leadership qualities," said Professor Barrie.

He believes that it is unfair and morally pathetic that there is such wage disparity in this generation. "Some religions automatically want women to be dominated by men and they want men to follow in their footsteps. This is the reason why this wage disparity is such a controversial issue."

The biggest gap in pay between males and females seems to appear in high paying occupational fields. Race also plays a huge role in the wage disparity. For example, Dr. Richard Berry, a dermatologist for over 10 years, notes that women of color experience greater pay gaps. "African American and Latino women are ... paid less than white women who accomplish professional level positions," he explains.

According to the BBC news, women are more likely to obtain more education in getting college degrees than men; the percentage is 46 percent versus 36 percent. Nonetheless, these educational investments don't lead them to obtain the good or fair pay that they deserve.

Karamvir Singh Minhas has been an EMT for about five consecutive years and has witnessed people being treated unfairly due to their gender at work. He believes that it's time to close the loopholes in the Equal Pay Act and proceed with this act, which can give women their rights.

"I know this senior that was working for several years as an EMT who was unhappy with her income as compared to men because as an entry-level they were being paid a bit more than her," Minhas said. "If I was to be in a women's shoes, I would feel awfully degraded because I believe that if a female and a male can both have the same job

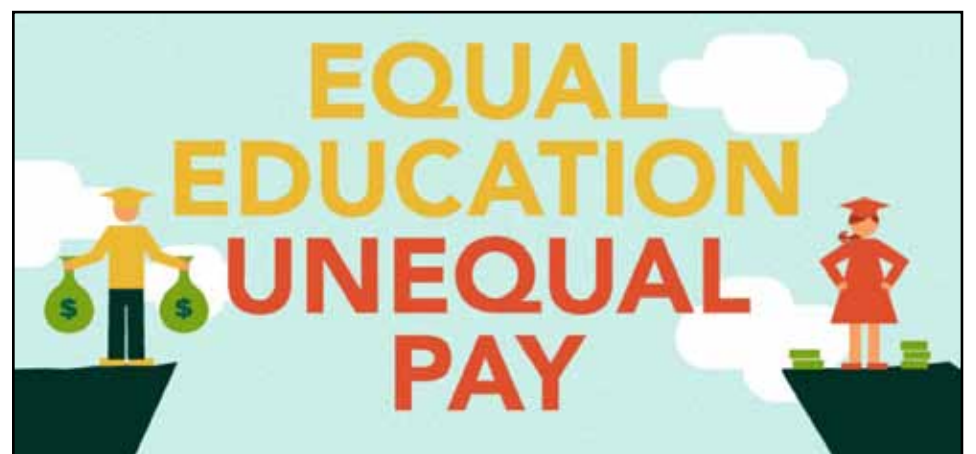
description and are both qualified for the position, then why not be equally paid? – unless one or the other has more experience, but that would be a whole different scenario."

Despite the simplicity of this question, the Equal Pay Act has been controversial for decades now. Some citizens are highly against the idea of Equal Pay Act because they believe women are being paid less due to not completing as many hours as men do because they have a lot of other things on their plates, such as taking care of children and household.

Some assert that President Obama himself doesn't pay women equally in the White House. Former Hewlett-Packard CEO, Carly Fiorina argues, "He's not paying women equally by his own measures in his own White House. Why wouldn't the White House take on the seniority system and say let's pay women by merits and results?"

President Barack Obama has marked the fiftieth anniversary of the Equal Pay Act, by asking the Congress to pass this act meant to eliminate the wage disparities across America. This is the last demand mandatory to fulfill the promise of equal pay for equal work.

"We are going to work to make sure that our daughters have the same chance to pursue their dreams as our sons," said Obama.



Opinion

“Where’s the Food At?”

By Dontae Rodriquez

What is good food? For some, it could be things like burgers, fries, milkshakes or even salads and fruits. It could also be food with less glucose, organic items or just meat.

Taste in food varies for everyone, with many reasons or beliefs that guide the way we eat. The Queensborough Community College (QCC) cafeteria does have many choices, but not nearly enough for someone who has dietary restrictions for religious reasons or health issues.

The cafeteria isn’t the only place to eat on campus. There’s also a Starbucks on the second floor in the Library building, along with Tiger Bites in the basement

of the Student Union building. The food is provided by the Metropolitan Food Services, who also supply food at Queens College, City College, Baruch College and many other CUNY campuses.

The café serves an assortment of things for students and faculty members to munch on during breaks or on their way to class, but they are typical of fast-food joints, like burgers, chicken, pizza, and fries.

As students, we are always moving at a rapid pace, either from class or to class, to work and plenty of other destinations. Eating things like snack foods on the fly is an essential for many students and staff members. But the ability to buy snack

foods at reasonable price seems to be nearly impossible. Between the cafeteria being overpriced and the vending machines always eating money, there are not many possible destinations students to obtain small portions of food quickly or cheaply.

The cafeteria at City College by contrast, is set up like a buffet line in a restaurant. Prices are also more affordable. At QCC, it’s \$2.75 for a hamburger at the cafeteria, but at Queens College, it’s \$2.25. A regular drink at QCC is \$1.95, including tax, but at Queens College, it’s sold at a regular street price at \$1.25, with no taxes all.

“If I had to compare the café and the eating choices at QCC and at Borough of

Manhattan Community College (BMCC) the QCC café looks bad,” said a BMCC student, who visited the QCC café.

“I rather go lose my parking spot and get food from somewhere else instead of eating this overpriced, over cooked, and poorly prepared food seriously,” said Chaz Farrington, a student who spends approximately 20 minutes per day to find parking and then loses his spot so he go get an “actual good meal.”

Most students are very unhappy with the food supplied on campus. With all the money we spend to have a quality education, is it too hard to ask for a good meal before class?

American Sniper: Really Worth All the Glory?



By Fateha Begum

This year started off with plenty of buzz and heated debates after the release of the film “American Sniper,” directed by Clint Eastwood, on Jan. 16. The film got a lot of publicity, and still remains a hot topic more than two months later.

Actor Bradley Cooper plays the role of war hero Chris Kyle; a Navy Seal sniper, who gains a considerable amount of fame among the many other soldiers due to his skills on the battlefield. Kyle was born and raised in Texas. As

a child, he often went on hunting trips with his father, and from those trips, he was taught to shoot.

His father was a stern man -- a ‘no nonsense kind of guy,’ as audience members saw in the scenes that showed his upbringing. One particular scene that is a perfect portrayal of his childhood elaborates on a meal, when his father finds out that one of his sons was injured by a bully in the school yard.

Kyle wanted nothing more than to become a cowboy - a dream that came true.. While watching the news on Sept. 11, 2001, he heard the words his father had spoken long ago: “we protect our own.”

Kyle went on to enlist in the Navy Seals, where he went through many experiences and moments of guilt. One scene that portrays such moments: he shoots a child who was believed to be given a bomb by his mother to throw at the other soldiers.

From here we see that Kyle’s intent was not to shoot the boy in cold blood, but still does upon seeing that the child was aiming it to the soldiers. Such a scene caused a stir amongst audience members - especially from the Muslim audience. Well-known YouTuber, Yousef Saleh Erakat, had spoken against the movie on Twitter, saying: “within the first 5 minutes, the audience is taught that, a woman in a scarf AND her offspring are our ‘enemies’ and they must be killed.” Arguments arise whether Kyle should have killed the little boy or targeted another body part to prevent him from throwing the bomb.

“It glorifies war,” explained Menal Elmaliki, who is an English major at York College. We’re talking about a man who is a ‘hero’ for the killings he’s done. To some American people, he might not be considered a hero. But how do we define a hero...one hero may be a terrorist to another. If I were to make a movie about the war but from the Iraqi version, don’t you think in this version the Americans would look like terrorists?

“Well I’m against war . . . any kind. If war didn’t destroy societies, homes, or families then war would be vital. But war doesn’t do that...war affects us in every aspect. War will kill you, one way or another. If not in combat then it kills the mind and soul. There are things you just never forget. You know, sometimes I look at it as a genocide than a war. It’s an unfair war... it isn’t equal for anyone.”

We find another scene where Kyle and other soldiers are staying a night in the home of an Iraqi family for further

questioning about Al-Qaeda group members. An Iraqi man invites the soldiers to his table for a Muslim holiday Eid Al Adha. However, he discovers the Iraqi man is also part of this terrorist group. The movie has had a negative impact not only on Muslim audiences, but people of all beliefs and religions.

In the Tumblr world, talk about “American Sniper” is very popular and trending. Many do not like the negative light that the movie shines on Muslims and the messages shown. But others, however, look at the movie on a wider scale. It has escalated from negative light on Muslims to negative light on human beings.

Though Eastwood tries his best to portray the realism of war, a concerning factor to look at is the amount of aggression this film contains. In war, aggression is not something new nor is anger, but when it comes to the impact on the audience, it transforms into something more.

This promotion of hate, aggression and anger does not have any positive influence on people. It’s as if those who have lost their loved ones in terrorist attacks around the world have to put painful emotions aside and are opt to re-live those agonizing moments again by watching the film.

When it comes to war between multiple countries, the view that one has of the other becomes biased and somewhat contorted. We view the others as “enemies” and “dangerous.” However, if we look closely at the scenes and characters throughout the movie, we see people. We see Iraqi families, children and homes. When it comes to war, both sides suffer immensely and casualty is no joke. Soldiers are created on both sides and are taught to fight, especially in the Middle East, where terrorists teach children how fight. However, in their minds they are fighting for their loved ones. They are fighting to protect to their own people. Soldiers on both sides lose fellow soldiers.

“Chris Kyle didn’t view Iraq like me and Garrett, but neither of us have attacked him for it,” said Brock McIntosh, a former Afghanistan veteran and anti-war advocate, who has been active, along with other veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq, in support groups for returning soldiers. “He’s not the problem. We don’t care about the lies that Chris Kyle may or may not have told. They don’t matter. We care about the lies that Chris Kyle believed. The lie that Iraq was culpable for September 11. The lie that there were weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. The lie that people do evil things because they are evil.”

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