How many of you have faced tuition hikes in your universities and not received more financial aid? Have you ever had to take time off from school to save money to pay higher tuition? Have you ever given up extracurricular activities to take on more work hours? How many of you are taking on unmanageable debt or are going through college without any health insurance? How many know friends or siblings that are facing these issues? Unfortunately, like so many other essential services, higher education is becoming less and less accessible to working class, poor and immigrant youth.

MTA Fare Hike

BY ROBERT ALEXIS

Before May 1, 2003, the fare for a local train or bus ride in New York City was $1.50. On that day, the fare rose to $2.00. As many New Yorkers were unhappy about the hike, another hike would soon make New Yorkers dig a little deeper in their pockets. Recently, the Metropolitan Transit Authority raised the prices of unlimited weekly and unlimited monthly metro cards.

On February 27, 2005, 7-day unlimited metrocards rose from $21 to $24. 30-day unlimited metrocards rose from $70 to $76 and fares for express buses went from $4 to $5. This increase was to help the MTA’s $688 million deficit. “Our SUNY and CUNY systems have been transformed over the last 10 years,” Pataki said. “Clearly, there is no better investment we can make than educating young New Yorkers to meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.” He also proposes restructuring the state’s Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and cutting down on financial aid opportunity programs. His budget, however, does allow minimal increases for SUNY and CUNY operating funding, and maintains current funding levels for community colleges and Bundy Aid.

After two years of tuition hikes and budget cuts that have led to enormous tuition bills that just keep adding up, Pataki, along with the CUNY Board of Trustees, is proposing a $250-a-semester tuition hike at CUNY’s 19 universities. In the SUNY system, the proposed tuition increase is $500 per semester. SUNY tuition last rose by $950 to $4,350 a year in 2003 and CUNY’s tuition increased $800 to $4,000 a year at the same time. SUNY trustees are now considering a new $600 tuition increase at SUNY’s 62 campuses.

QCC Faculty Demonstrate at Administration Bldg.

BY ELENA ACOSTA

Students Prepare for their Futures

Black Enough for Oscar

Sports/Advisement
Fed-Up Faculty Give Bloomberg "The Boot"

BY PAUL KAISER

Mayor Michael Bloomberg will not be seeking employment at the City University of New York when his term comes to an end. This is because within the CUNY system, there are neither tangible contracts nor decent benefits that exist for its staff.

In the city where inefficient, run of the mill unions have continuously failed to provide benefits for its employees, pickets, demonstrations, and organized protests have become a caveat synonymous with employment here.

"History shows us that, in business and in private government, the boss will always pay the workers the least amount possible," says Dr. Peter Bales, a history and political science professor at Queensborough Community College.

While the mantra of CUNY employees continues to be a steadfast call for “Fairness,” says Professor Appleman, the QCC Chapter Chairman, "this has reached an absurd level," adds one picketer.

Another demonstrator says, "we haven’t heard a 'purr' from the Mayor concerning the issues of non-competitive pay, and a waning benefits package."

To date, New York City advertises a budget surplus. Yet the “the Education Mayor” and his allocation staff, which demonstrators believe to be both, “aloof and un-sentient to our needs,” are not using the funds where the direst requirement exists.

This pattern of treatment within the CUNY system has matured into a full-fledged “crisis.” This inexplicable affair, perpetuated by those seated in this City’s leadership positions, has placed education on the back burner. Given the ebb and flow of Olympic officials engaging in site-surveys through this City, many CUNY staff members feel that, by design, the Mayor has no interest in education. When compared to things such as the West Wide Stadium, and other clandestine projects that have yet to surface, “Where does the issue of education fit in?” asks one demonstrator.

When will these issues be addressed? Is it safe to say that they will never be dealt with, leaving the City University of New York’s education system to corrode, and eventually perish? Is there an ulterior motive within this city to ‘gobble’ up surplus funds, which should be used for education? Or will May Michael Bloomberg address these issues, and show the city that he truly is the “Education Mayor.”
Wisconsin students are fighting to organize a university-wide book rental system to fight cuts in state funding. Kansas students are pressuring lawmakers to organize in protest. Students from North Dakota are pressuring CUNY and SUNY students not to do, Canestrari said. But these comments do not discourage City University students. “We want a SUNY and CUNY accessible for all,” said Assembly member. “We don’t want an elite SUNY and CUNY, we want a SUNY and CUNY accessible for all.”

Tuition hikes, financial aid cuts, variable loan rates, restrictions on immigrants: what’s going on? The federal and state governments are pushing the responsibility to pay for higher education on to the backs of students and their parents. They are privatizing the public higher education system and putting private education even farther out of reach. “Mr. Pataki is once again trying to balance the state budget on the backs of low-income, working-class students in the city and state university systems.” “We don’t want an elite SUNY and CUNY, we want a SUNY and CUNY accessible for all,” said Assembly Higher Education Committee Chairman Ronald Canestrari.

In response to these attacks, students across the nation are beginning to organize in protest. Students from North Dakota are pressuring their university to fight cuts in state funding. Kansas students are pressuring lawmakers to pass Senate Bill 2145 which would allow immigrant high-school graduates who studied at least three years in Kansas to be eligible for in-state tuition. Wisconsin students are fighting to organize a university-wide book rental system to cut back on exorbitant book prices. Last year, students from SUNY and CUNY schools marched across New York State to Albany to protest the state’s anti-education budget. At private Brown and Columbia Universities, students are fighting cuts in grants and increased dependency on loans for student aid. The list goes on.

In addition to localized protests, the United States Student Association, which is the largest student organization in the country, constantly works to represent student interests at the national level. State Public Interests Research Groups (PIRGs) are present in every state. PIRGs have been lobbying their state representatives to fight cuts in state aid. The list goes on.

For more information contact: Miriam Kramer, (646) 408-3735 Liam Arbeiter, (518) 436-0876.

The Anthrax Vaccine hangs over the heads of our service members like the sword of Damocles. This is because the Department of Defense continues to force the US military to risk their health for a controversial vaccine of questionable effectiveness and safety.

In a world where incumbency equates to power, Donald Rumsfeld, the Secretary of Defense, continues to whitewash the issue of service members, as well as Veterans, becoming stricken with perennial illness.

Given the steadfast threat of terrorism in the world today, the most deadly factor, in regards to anthrax, for the military, is that the bacteria can be bred in laboratories by terrorists, and can be altered to engender a biological weapon. This new ambiguous form of the bacteria can compromise the integrity of the military community, as well as those seated in the positions to develop cures, and keep up to speed with combating the threat. “Anthrax is an infection caused by a naturally-occurring bacteria that when placed in contact with human beings, can prove fatal,” states one civilian medical official.

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The Food and Drug Administration has continued to render waning support for the vaccine and, in fact, has revoked the license of the manufacturer in the past for not meeting adequate health standards. Furthermore, there have been additives found in the vaccine to include squalene, an oil, intended to magnify the protective reaction, and bolster a more efficient immune response in the body. “It is not approved by the FDA for use in the vaccine” (FDA).

Many within the medical community are realizing that service members are experiencing numerous adverse reactions to the inoculations, to include rashes, respiratory complications such as pneumonia, pulmonary embolism, and even death. While the FDA has acknowledged the validity of these side effects, the Pentagon continues to disaffirm that the vaccine contributes to anything unusual.

Officially, there are pending investigations into these claims, and the vaccine is currently confined to a conditional “emergency-use” basis by the Federal Courts. “The Court issued a preliminary injunction barring inoculations”, confirms the Department of Health and Human Services. Within the Military today, only those that are deploying to combat-zones, and areas of the like, can legally be vaccinated. One member of the armed forces says, “If you’re serving, you’re getting it.” This is the feeling of most on duty today, in reference to the anthrax vaccine.

In addition, when dealing with the issue of proper maintenance of shot records within the Military, Nicholas Alexander, a Hunter College graduate, now serving in the United States Navy says, “I have seen many people in the Navy receive the same inoculation or vaccination week after week due to either clerical error, misplaced, or lost files. There is nothing that a service member can do when this occurs since every service member is bound by law to receive all shots that the medical department deems necessary.” Many are saying that the Military ceaselessly undermines the new guideline mandated by the FDA and court ruling to nullify the order for broad brush vaccine administration.

Is it possible that a preponderance of the live Anthrax germ via inoculation could be the culprit for adverse reactions’ sicknesses’ and even death within the United States Military? Is a pattern of deception taking place within the Department of Defense? Or is the Anthrax vaccine a “necessary evil” in preventing sickness and death from plaguing the Military during the perils of war?
Remember way back when you were in high school and you had to take all of those writing exams in order to graduate? Did you think that once you were in college all that writing would settle down? Well think again... Writing has now become the newest most emphasized subject in all college classes. In high school, they gave the SAT exam for those students hoping to get into a good college. It tested students on their reading, writing and math abilities and a grading score of 1600. However, that has all changed. Since 2002, Caren Scoropanos owner of the exam, has given teachers the heads up so they would have plenty of time to prepare their students for the newest SAT exam. The new exam now offers an essay, no more analogies, more algebra, forty-five more minutes, and a new score to reach: 2400.

Don’t think just because high school has added more writing, that colleges hasn’t either. Just take a look at the CPE exam that they have here at QCC. The CPE is a 3 hour long exam that tests college students on their ability to understand and think critically about ideas and information presented in print and the ability to write clearly, logically, and correctly. This test only just came about in 1997 and it requires all students to take it upon reaching their 45th credit and passing the test before reaching their 60th credit. In other words, not passing this test can hold a student back from graduating.

So why all these new writing tests? According to Scoropanos, Colleges and businesses have sought out the change in hopes that “writing will become more of a priority across the United States.” Furthermore, a panel of business leaders commissioned by the college board suggested that businesses also want employees with polished writing skills because of society’s greater reliance on computers for communication.

Linda Stanley, Director of Composition in the English Department, has been running workshops here at QCC for the last five years for all faculty members in all departments on how to teach writing in their classrooms. Some students have already noticed paragraph form notes in Science class making that a perfect example of how much reading and writing will be added into other areas of learning. The teachers here now have to teach English in the classroom adjacent with the course that you are taking in order to teach these skills across the board and to better prepare students for the CPE and the future.

The new criteria for writing intensive (WI) to begin fall 2005 will involve many things. A few criteria added to the classes will be: a portion of the class will be spent writing, a minimum of 10 pages of formal writing will be assigned, and the faculty member will regularly discuss writing in class.

In all reality, the workplace is now concerned with communication, writing and documenting skills which all play a pivotal role in finding a job. QCC is one of many city universities that have just begun to use English throughout the entire curriculum.

Some students and staff here are concerned with the effect that these tests will have on minorities considering all language barriers. Will the language barrier cause a problem? Well fortunately, grammar is the last thing that gets graded taking the college CPE exam. The grading table shows that the least and last point given is for the comprehension, references between text and own ideas, and lack of communication. The graders look at 5 other things before scoring the grammar part of it.

Peter Gray, a professor here wants to see the results first. He’s not sure if the new SAT and new forms of writing will make things difficult or easier for both minorities and students here. The idea of the test is to actually make it easier for all students. However, one thing that we can all agree on is better practices and more learning will definitely improve a students communication skill.

If someone has difficulty with these new writing requests, they can go to the Basic Skills Learning Center (BSLC) which is where college students come together to build up their reading and writing skills with the help of skilled caring tutors. The center is open Monday-Thursday 8 am to 5 pm, and Friday 8 am to 3 pm and is located near the Admissions Office towards the main entrance. They also offer An Online Writing Lab (OWL) which can be found through the QCC website.
You can invest in your future.

Adelphi University is the perfect place to continue your education. Our main campus in Garden City is easily accessible by public transportation, and we have off-campus Centers in Manhattan and Hauppauge. We also offer you the maximum number of transfer credits and comprehensive financial aid packages for competitive out-of-pocket costs.

Adelphi University and Queensborough Community College

Queensborough Community College is just eight miles from Adelphi’s main Garden City campus, and is also close to our off-campus centers in Manhattan and Hauppauge.

To learn more about Adelphi’s convenient location, flexible transfer policy, and generous financial aid packages, please contact Mary Kelly at (516) 877-3962 or email Kelly4@adelphi.edu.
Queensborough Community College provides many different activities, events and workshops that open their doors to their students by helping them build their future careers. “Build your Teaching Career Now” was a workshop sponsored by the Office of Career Services and co-sponsored by the Social Sciences Department. This session had two spokespersons: Ms. Constance Peluso, Career Services Director, and Ms. Renée Rhodd, Academic Advisor. The workshop was held on March 23, 2005, in the Medical Arts Building in room 130 from 1 to 2:30PM; refreshments were served and 16 students attended this event.

“Build your teaching career now” taught students how to write a powerful resume and how to make a cover letter. It showed them where to find postings for teaching assistant or group teacher positions and what to do after applying for a job. This session was most helpful to education majors, but it was also helpful to anyone who wanted to prepare himself or herself and have an upper hand as they move towards their career.

In this workshop, Constance Peluso taught the class how to make a successful resume. She handed out a chronological resume which business people use and gave the students tips on what to write and on what is not appropriate to write. Some of the tips that were given out were:

1. Have a simple name for your e-mail; use nothing provocative.
2. Have your own personal website; this is very important so that employers can view information that supports the work you have done and the skills you have developed. The website should not have any personal details or anything that is unprofessional.
3. Indicate your objective. It should be to secure a position and should mention the job you are applying for.
4. List your educational credentials; listing your GPA is also important but only if it is a 3.0 or higher.
5. Indicate all certifications. Include the name of the certificate, the name of the granting agency and the dates received.
6. Provide a summary of your work experience. List your jobs in order beginning with the most recent experience include volunteer work and internships.
7. Include a list of pertinent skills. Include only those skills applicable to you; list software programs systems and languages that you know and use adjectives that would catch the eyes of the person reading the resume.
8. Include any community service that you have done and any interests that you have pertaining to the particular career.

A cover letter is also important in helping you get an interview. Ms. Peluso explained that the first thing an employer looks at is the cover letter. It is essential that action verbs are used to make a greater impact and to show your ability to communicate. To this end, a sheet with action verbs was distributed. Ms. Constance Peluso mentioned that in the cover letter, indicate that you will be following up with a phone call in a week’s time.

She also underscored the importance of thinking like an employer.

Students were very pleased with the workshop. Sherry Naine, an education major, said, “I think it was very helpful and I learned a lot about the resumes.” OCC offers their students a lot of opportunities outside the classroom. Ms. Peluso said, “I wish more students would take advantage of them.”

“Build your teaching career now” is a beneficial workshop for anyone entering into the career world. Any student would benefit from this practical and insightful advice and would be on the fast track to finding the placement of his or her choice. A job fair will be also available to students and will take place on Wednesday, April 20 from 12PM to 3PM in the Student Union Lobby. Students will have to register ahead of time. To learn more, students can stop by the office of Career Services, in the Library Building, in room 429 or call (718) 631-6297. Future workshops that will help students prepare for jobs will be held on April 6, April 13, May 4 and May 11.

Third Annual CUNY Media Conference

Students representing the journalism programs from each of the City Universities flocked in record numbers to the third annual holding of the CUNY Media conference which took place at the CUNY graduate center in Manhattan on the 4th of March. The theme of this year’s conference was “Journalism, Media, and the Big City.” There were a number of panel discussions revolving around the various fields of journalism, and the day’s keynote speaker was Dean Stephen Shepard of the future CUNY Graduate School of Journalism.

One of the morning’s panel discussions titled “Listen Up: Words, Pictures and Radio” featured legendary story teller Rich Lamb. Lamb went on to portray to the future journalists the techniques and tips he employed throughout his career in radio. The art of storytelling is an essential part of journalism which is nearly lost to all its members, but the few who possess the ability to wield the English language and use words like brushstrokes to paint a picture, still grasp the attention of listeners and will always have a position in journalism, wherever new media may take them.

The following discussion, held in the main auditorium, was headlined “New Media-New Frontiers.” Speaker Leonard Apcar, NYTimes.com editor-in-chief, lead the room through a discussion of the new technologies used in journalism, specifically on-line newspapers and web logs or “blogs” as are referred to as by the computer savvy. Apcar went on to explain to the audience how the NY Times, which was once considered totally reliant on ink and paper for circulation, is now looking for new means of reaching its readers.

When the on-line version of the NY Times was created in 1996, they couldn’t imagine that it would reach the heights that it has climbed to today. Still free to all who wish to read it, NYTimes.com brings in 50 percent more readers a day than the print version, a startling statistic. This disparity is growing more and more drastic every year, especially because an on-line version of the Times is capable of so much more than the print version. Stories can be updated at the reporters whim, Audio and Video can be employed to better report a news story, IT’S FREE.

The ability to blog is now seen as an essential part of a journalists repertoire. Relatively new to the field, it has taken journalism by storm. With the use of blogs, a journalist can essentially have a story in print one morning, and on his or her web page can elaborate on it. Criticism can be posted and replies can be made instantaneously, it’s like a digital conference between the writer and the reader.

The highlight of the days activities was the keynote address given by Stephen Shepard in which he explained to the audience the intentions of the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism. Expected to open its doors September 2006 to a class of 50 which will eventually grow to graduating classes of 200. Dean Shepard explained that there is a mandate for this school, being that there are only three graduate programs offering a masters degree in journalism in the North East, namely NYU, Columbia University and Syracuse University.

One advantage that the CUNY school will have over the others is the fact that it will be publicly funded, resulting in a much lower tuition for its students. Prospective students are warned that because the expansive curriculum, as well as internships programs, will be crammed into the three semester track, the work load will be daunting. The CUNY Graduate School of Journalism is not meant for the meagerly interested student of journalism, a true desire for the art form must be present if one plans lot graduate, but then again, the same goes for what graduates will encounter when faced with the working world of journalism.
MR. SPILBERG, I GRADUATE 05.21.06

Shorn Joseph | Communication Arts Major | New York Institute of Technology

Graduates of New York Institute of Technology are uniquely prepared to succeed in the world's leading companies. Our students are passionate about their fields of study and serious about learning all they can. NYIT's eight schools, including Arts, Sciences & Communication, Architecture & Design and Engineering & Technology, provide opportunities for internships at companies such as AT&T, JP Morgan and CBS. To register or arrange for tours of the Manhattan and Long Island campuses, call 800.365.NYIT. Visit nyit.edu.
The decision of a Dover, Pa. public school district to teach alternative theories to evolution has received international attention and drew impassioned responses from both sides of the issue when presented to Queensborough Community faculty members and students.

The theory of evolution has been taught in United States high schools since the Scopes “Monkey Trials,” where a high school science teacher was prosecuted for teaching evolution and Darwin’s theory of Natural Selection. Many religious organizations found this theory to directly contradict the principles of creationism as taught in the Bible, and have since been attempting to either eradicate or compromise the teaching of evolution.

An article in the New York Times (Science Times, Feb. 1, 2005) stated that evolution is taking “a back seat in US classrooms.” It described how some high school science classes in rural areas are either glossing over the concept of evolution or “flying under the radar” by calling it other names, such as “change over time.” Fundamentalist groups are putting pressure on school districts to offer alternative theories, such as “Intelligent Design.”

Intelligent design is the assertion that life is too complex to have evolved without a creator. Proponents of this theory claim that it is not religiously based as it does not name or promote a specific deity. Evolutionists often view this distinction as simply a matter of semantics, or as Professor Jay Appleman (Math) called it, a “thinly gussied up” claim that the periodic table “well rounded?” Would you trust him or her to invent new medicines?”

Other objections to Intelligent Design state that it technically does not meet the criteria of a sound scientific theory. “There is no way to test this and therefore, it is not science at all . . . there are no statements you can make about intelligent design that are falsifiable — that is, that you could prove to be wrong by doing an experiment or finding certain data or evidence,” states Professor Eugene Harris (Biology). “To put ‘intelligent design’ on the same footing [as evolution] and calling it science is totally misleading.” So why reject one ‘theory’ in favor of another? According to Professor Harris, “Evolution is a fact, not a theory. The theory part lies in the exact mechanics by which it occurs.”

When asked if a high school student can get a well rounded education if evolution is glossed over or avoided completely, several QCC professors unanimously contended that an understanding of evolution is vital to a well rounded science education. “An understanding of evolution is central to science education. For one, it is the unifying concept tying together all sub disciplines of biology,” states Professor Harris. Professor Deleri Springer (Psychology) concurred, stating, “Evolution is the cornerstone of ALL biology. Would you consider a chemist who didn’t know the periodic table ‘well rounded’?”

Some professors feel that, in addition to science, the overall endeavor of educating students will be compromised by fundamentalist interference. “At QCC we need to insure that our instruction in the Liberal Arts and Sciences effectively achieves the objectives of our program which includes two important outcomes relevant to the issue of religion and science. First is that our graduates not hold the belief that all of science I merely a belief system that is the equivalent of any other belief system. Claims about the physical universe are best evaluated using scientific method. Secondly, when involved in critical thinking and the development of rationality, people ought not hold inconsistent or contradictory beliefs states Professor Philip Pecorino (Philosophy).

Many religious leaders including Pope John Paul II have concluded that evolution and the Bible are basically compatible. According to Prof. Harris, “The problem is when folks take what’s written in religious texts to be literally true. But if one reads them as an allegory that has a meta-meaning, there is no conflict with what we know to be true about evolution.”

Students at QCC, although divided on the issue, are equally passionate in their convictions. “No one is trying to take away religion,” stated one student who asked not to be named. “But you can’t teach religion and call it science. The purpose of biology class is to teach science, which includes, of course, evolution. No one is trying to make either a religious or anti-religious statement — it’s simply science being taught in a science class.”

QCC Students and Faculty Debate Intelligent Design vs. Evolution

By Dorothy Evans

Criminal court officials such as judges, lawyers, bailiffs and other personnel working within the court system feel threatened and scared that the Atlanta courthouse tragedy could have easily occurred in any courthouse. Many criminal court officials around the United States believe that their lives are at risk and better security measures should be enforced in the courthouses.

Some believe that this outrageous crime that occurred in the Atlanta courthouse, which consisted of the deaths of Judge Rowland Barnes, a deputy sheriff, a security guard and the kidnapping of a brave mother, who calmly handled the situation and brought an end to this rampage, could have definitely been prevented.

Dwane Johnson, a bailiff at Queens County Criminal Court is one of the many who believed that incidents such as these should not happen under any circumstances. “I truly believe that our lives are at risk and that is why we must stay at our highest alert at all times, when transferring a suspect to custody, and especially when they’re in front of the judge.” He also suggested that bailiffs should be subjected to more training to better handle and protect themselves and others from any outraged suspect.

This recent courthouse tragedy is just the latest of the many courthouse incidents that have occurred in the past. While courts are known for a place where justice is done, they are becoming a place of horror and fear. This new wave of violence in our courts is the result of many factors such as the tension between the victim’s family and the suspect, hopelessness from the suspect could motivate and encourage them to try anything and simply the suspect’s knowledge of fleing the courthouse, which is apparently not an impossible task to do.

Aware of all these factors that could cause chaos in the courts, criminal court officials are demanding tougher security measures in order to perform their jobs and, more importantly, the concept of safety. Steve Mongione, a prosecutor who practices law with the Queens County District Attorney, stated that in the multiple courthouses he visits within the New York City region, they do actually have good security measures. These security measures consist of multiple bailiffs at each court, high tech screens which allow security to have a thorough check for every person entering the court and, most importantly, thoroughly check ups for anything that could be used as a weapon from inmates or suspects. However, Mongione stated, “Although the security we have at our courthouses is very reliable, we can never assume or assure ourselves that we will always be safe because realistically we don’t know what could happen in the future or what the criminals might come up with next.”

Crimes in the courthouses are not as common as crimes in our city streets. However, as we have seen from the past, it does occur and the outcome usually is very devastating. Judges, lawyers, bailiffs and the public should not be subjected to any fear while they are inside a courthouse mainly because courts symbolize justice and order.

Furthermore, if we cannot have any order at our courts, how can we expect order in the streets? Moreover, courthouse officials should learn from this incident and improve their security measures in any way possible; budget concerns should not be a factor at this point because frankly the lives of the innocent should always be the number one priority.
ISS Offers More Than Just Free Tutoring

BY ANDREA HALLEGUS AND MEGHAN BONACASA

"There is nothing more important than making students self-regulating, independent learners. And it's not just about providing tutoring, it's about making students independent, lifelong critical thinkers," explained Dion Pincus, the director of Instructional Support Services (ISS) since 1999.

Of the 12,000 plus students that attend Queensborough Community College only approximately 3,000 actually utilize the instructional support services offered. These services are ones that can help each individual student with their school work in which ever class they need it most. "Students who come here very often come again, and not necessarily for the same reason. They come because they realize they can get more here than just tutoring," Dion Pincus pointed out.

Unfortunately, many of the students that do take advantage of this opportunity only do so when it's too late. "Waiting until your back is against the wall is too late and tutors do the absolute best they can, but they can't work magic," stated Dion Pincus. Students should come for services the first day of class and if by mid semester they see that they don't need them, they can always drop them. It's harder to come in for the first time in mid-semester, when the tutors may have full schedules. Tutoring is not only for C or D students that are in drastic need of help, even students with A's and B's should come to ISS to maintain those grades or even improve them. Better safe then sorry.

So why aren't QCC students utilizing these resources? Unfortunately, many students here at Queensborough are unaware of the services that are provided by ISS in the Instructional Support Services Center. Most students know they can receive help with their papers, and get tutoring when in fear of failing, but they don't know that tutoring is available year round for everything from Math, to Engineering, to Nursing to Speech Communications. For all those Nursing or Science majors, there are even anatomical models, skeletons, microscopes, and slides to give more of a hands-on, full-scale view of their studies.

ISS has many programs and tutors that are completely free to QCC students, including many workshops for the ACT writing exam and the CPE exam – in fact, over 1,500 students have received help to prepare for the CPE so far this year. There is also tutoring for many different credit-bearing subjects across all the College's curricula. ISS has a computer lab and wireless laptops, adding up to over 60 computers. And in addition to tutoring for classes, they also have academic preparedness and study skills workshops to help build the skills needed in your classes, and have recently added many online resources.

One of the skill building programs offered by ISS is Bridges to Retention, or B2R. Dion Pincus described B2R as, "Academic preparedness workshops (to give students) some of the underpinnings necessary for success in coursework; close reading skills, study skills, note taking skills, [and] critical thinking skills." These workshops are very useful to new students, as well as students returning from a long break who may need help adjusting to the college environment.

These B2R workshops were created as a result of the ISS staff having connections with QCC students, tutors, department chairs, and faculty to discuss different ways of helping students to learn. Most innovatively, the ISS workshops are based on a kind of "game theory."

Expected to phase in during the Fall 2005 semester is a new program technology called iPass, iPASS is an online interactive learning system. Dion Pincus stated, "[The idea of iPass was to] revitalize the way that student learning and pedagogy [teaching techniques] and educational choices may evolve in the future... It started as an idea to present e-tutoring to students, but grew into something much larger. It became an actual e-learning system, based on learning styles, integrating e-tutoring, online resources, and the use of a blog and message board to generate discussion among and between students and faculty. My vision of iPass is to make it not just another way to present tutoring, but to make it a real curricular tool, to integrate it into the curriculum."

In this learning system, a student is able to receive feedback from an e-tutor according to their personal learning style, which is a student’s most effective way of understanding the material being taught, be it auditory, visual, reading/writing or hands-on. This is evaluated by a short 14 question survey on your first visit to the system. Once your individual learning style is found, the program offers you a look at your own personalized "learning profile" which tracks everything you have done in the system to show you how you learn, how often you go to certain areas, or whether you are someone who submits multiple drafts of writing assignments. The system remembers your learning style and informs the e-tutor of that style, so that he/she can tailor his/her response to your writing submission. The system also has the ability to have sound, video, and graphics uploaded to your personal blog space, and has great functions throughout the system like if you are an auditory learner you will have the option to listen to text read to you by a programmed male or female voice – giving students an understanding of and options for how they learn new and difficult materials best.

Instructional Support Services offers very flexible hours; 9AM to 9PM Monday through Thursday, 9AM to 4PM on Fridays, and 10AM to 3PM on Saturdays and Sundays. Despite these flexible hours, maybe some students still simply don’t have the time to go down to the building to find out how to register for a 50 minute one-on-one peer tutoring session. For this reason, a very useful website has been made by the program. This site can be found on the QCC homepage, located under the support services section in the academics tab. Or you can just go to: http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/iss.

Sweetener's Rivals Sour at Slogan

BY STEPHEN CHOU

"Splenda, the no calorie sweetener, is made from sugar, so it tastes like sugar." That is Splenda’s new slogan and the basis of the company’s marketing as the number one selling non-sugar sweetener.

It’s an artificial sweetener that has no calorie, considered a non-carbohydrate, is heat resistant to taste lost, so it’s viable for baking and has no aftertaste.

Splenda is made from sucrose (table sugar) and formed into sucralose. Sucralose itself is not broken entirely down by the body (very little of it is absorbed and the amount that does go through is passed through normally), that’s how the artificial sweetener Splenda can claim it has no calories. FDA approved and tested it’s a sweet set-up. Or is it?

According to competitors the public is being misled by the Splenda’s claims. The makers of Equal, Splenda’s main artificial sweetener rival has sued the marketers of Splenda. Equal claims that Splenda’s slogan "made from sugar" is misleading and tricks the public into believing that it’s a natural product.

The Sugar Association, which represents the American sugar beet and sugar cane farmers, has put up their own web site, www.truthaboutsplenda.com, long time Splenda user and pastry chef Hasina Parkins states, "I never realized that there were so many issues with Splenda, I had always though of it as a safer sugar alternative than Equal or NutraSweet."
On the heels of the 77th annual Oscar Awards, and the second to last day of black history month, it was a far gone conclusion as to who would win for best actor in a motion picture. All that remained was those five words “and the Oscar goes to . . . .” In the eyes of many movie critics and movie buffs the winner was Jamie Foxx for his role in Ray, which tells of the life and times of the great Ray Charles.

Unlike any other Oscar Award ceremony before it, this one promised to be different, and it was. The show was clearly dominated by young black up and coming stars, and some older black stars as well. In addition to Foxx winning for best actor, the legendary Morgan Freeman won for best supporting actor for his role in Million Dollar Baby; also nominated for best actor was actor Don Cheadle for Hotel Rwanda. Jamie Foxx was also nominated for best supporting actor for his role in collateral. This was the first time that a black actor was ever nominated for awards in the two major acting categories, and finally Sophie Okonedo who was nominated for best supporting actress for her role in Hotel Rwanda.

Along with all the wonderful acting performances, there were also equally outstanding performances in other areas. Beyonce Knowles performed three times, rap mogul Sean “Puffy” Combs presented an award, and to cap the night funnyman Chris Rock hosted the show.

On a night more racially diverse than any other, “in the month dedicated to blacks,” it appeared that the major newspapers thought little of the accomplishments. Not since Denzel Washington won best actor for his role in Training Day and Halle Berry for best actress for her role in Monster’s Ball in 2003, have blacks been more deserving to be on the front page regarding Oscar news.

Yet the front page went to Clint Eastwood director of Million Dollar Baby, and Hillary Swank for best actress in Million Dollar Baby, while the historic accomplishments of Foxx were relegated to thumb nails in the corners of the major newspapers.

According to the Clarion Ledger, blacks account for 3.2 percent of the acting nominations, a figure that is up from three years ago when blacks made up a mere 2.8 percent. It’s astonishing that with such a small percentage of nominations and such major achievements in a field dominated by whites, the major newspapers would fail to acknowledge this feat.

The Oscars were established in May of 1927 to promote the art of movie making. In its first year the Oscars, which at the time was known as The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science, had only 36 members with Douglas Fairbanks Sr as the President. In the first four decades, only a handful of blacks were nominated for Oscars, with two actually winning the award. In 1939 Hattie Mcdaniel won an Oscar for best supporting actress for her role in Gone with the Wind, and in 1963 the legendary Sidney Poitier won best actor for his role in Lilies of the Field.

It is clear that there’s still a wide gap between blacks and whites in the movies, but the 77th Oscar Awards showed us that the gap is closing. Upon accepting his award, Foxx quoted something told to him by the Sidney Poitier “I see something.” Although Poitier was referring to Foxx, we too see something, and it is the rise of blacks in the movies, regardless of who is watching or reporting.
Lil’ Kim notoriously known as Queen Bee, and one of the late Notorious B.I.G over-sexed side kicks, will appear in court again on June 24, to be sentenced by Judge Gerard E. Lynch for a number of criminal charges brought up against her.

The 30 year old rapper, actress and composer was indicted under her given name, Kimberly Jones, of three counts of perjury and one with conspiring with a co-defendant, Monique Dopewell, to lie before the grand jury. A more serious charge, obstruction of justice was also brought against Ms. Jones and her co-defendant.

Each count against Ms. Jones carries a maximum sentence of five years which creates a cumulative of at least 25 years in prison and is currently free on a 500,000 bail.

Ms. Jones turned herself in on Wednesday March 16, and released merely hours after pleading not guilty and posting bail. Mel Sachs, her attorney, told reporters, “These charges are baseless and I’m confident that the charges against her will be completely dismissed.” Evidence has been brought into court that the Rap Diva was seen at the scene of the crime when it took place. Cameras which were placed outside the Hot 97 building vividly revealed Ms. Jones next to Damion Butler, Kim’s manager, when he brandished his pistol and opened fire at a rival rap crew.

Mr. Butler pleaded guilty for firing a gun at the scene of the crime and was sentenced to 10 years in prison. Ms. Jones denied seeing Mr. Butler anywhere the Hot 97 building that day. She was also charged for lying when she was asked to identify photo of another member of her rap crew. Ms. Jones remained calm and composed when the verdict was read, only leaning slightly against her lawyer while relatives and friends wept in the courtroom at the end of the trial.

Michael Jackson, the King of Pop who sold over more than a 100 million records world wide, is now facing other obstacles in his life. Jackson is on trial for child molestation, but on March 11, 2005 another news story broke out in Michael Jackson’s trial and it wasn’t about child molestation. This time it was about Jackson’s potential bankruptcy. District Attorneys were seeking access to Jackson’s financial records. Gordon Auchincloss, an assistant District Attorney, during a hearing said that Michael Jackson may have been motivated by his financial problems to part take in an alleged conspiracy to hold his accuser’s family captive and try to get them to help rebut a TV documentary that destroyed the singer’s public image.

According to the prosecutors, Michael Jackson might be in debt for $300 million and there was a possibility that he might have $400 million in liabilities and by December 2005 his financial troubles may crash, according to Auchincloss. District attorneys are looking to uncover Jackson’s financial situation. But defenders of Michael Jackson are not going to let others get access to his financial situation.

Robert Sanger, a defense attorney, was very upset with Auchincloss for the direction in which he is going with the trial. Sanger believes that he was just trying to create a buzz for the media in his arguments rather than talking about the issues regarding the case. Sanger strongly disagrees with prosecutors trying to determine Jackson’s financial situation to get involved in the case. It goes back in 2003, when Jackson’s financial picture was in question; that was about the time of the alleged conspiracy. According to case law, Sanger believed that they should prevent admission of evidence about any possible financial motive.

Michael Jackson, 46, is on trial facing child molestation charges. On Thursday, March 10, 2005, Jackson arrived late in court, which got the judge extremely angry. As they proceeded with the trial, that day the accuser was testifying and he explained a night at Jackson’s home at the Neverland ranch and he said that he began in the arcade and ended up in the entertainer’s bed. If convicted of all counts, he will face up to twenty years in prison.
After a disappointing 2004 season, the Mets went searching for help to see if they could make a change for the 2005 season, and go all the way. After having a horrible season, in which they went 46-74, the Mets were out of things and were looking to acquire some new players, to prove to their fans that they can compete with the other teams in the major league for the championship. They also wanted to prove to their fans that they can compete with the New York Yankees, one of the best teams in major league history and also a fellow New York team.

The first step that the Mets took in the search was to acquire a new coach in Mr. Willie Randolph. They believe that he can help change the organization around and put the Mets back on top. After getting Willie Randolph to sign on as their new coach, things were starting to head in the right way for the Mets. Willie, who is a New Yorker and a former New York Met, was bringing his winning ways back to the Mets organization. Mets fans were starting to look for the first time since 2000, when their team made it to the play offs and lost to the New York Yankees, in the championship game.

After taking on the job as the Mets new head coach, Willie Randolph was looking to make some new additions to the Mets organization so that he could go out and sign Pedro Martinez, one of the top free agent pitchers on the market. He had helped to lead the Boston Red Sox to a World Series come from behind win over Martinez, one of the top free agent pitchers on the market. His winning ways back to the Mets organization around and put the Mets back on top. Another Mets fan, Allan Jackson from Queensborough Community College and a big Mets fan, he believes that there is no team that can beat the Mets, if Pedro Martinez and Carlos Beltran along with Jose Reyes and a few other players can stay healthy and the other Mets like Mike Piazza, Mike Cameron, Jason Phillips and Kazuki Matsui can have a good season then the Mets might be the team to beat in the major leagues this season. But, will these two players make a difference for the Mets organization and could they help the Mets get back to the top?

After talking to Damion Foster, a student from Queensborough Community College and a big Mets fan, he believes that the acquisitions of Carlos Beltran and Pedro Martinez will make a difference for the Mets organization, and if all the players stay healthy, they will help take back the Mets organization to the top. Maybe they are being optimistic, but so far in spring training, the Mets have looked brilliant, winning nine out of ten games and look as if they are ready to rumble back to the top like they did in 2000, but let’s wait and see. They also look as if they are more than capable of competing with the Yankees, who have been horrible so far through spring training.

But, the big question is, can it all happen this season? And the answer that many Mets fans give is sure. They believe that if the Mets play how they are playing in spring training and players stay healthy, they could be right back at the top competing for the World Series championship this season.

**New Mets, New Season Can they go all the way?**

**By Dwayne Johnson**

On February 16 of this year, the NHL did something that no other professional sports organization has ever done; they canceled the season. The cancellation was due to labor disputes, primarily over a salary cap and payrolls of players. As of March 30, it has been 195 days since the lockout, and things are looking bleaker than ever. On Thursday, March 17, the NHL and the NHLPA met for 2 ½ hours to see if an agreement could be made in hopes of there being a season next year. The NHL proposed to the Player’s association (NHLPA) a deal for a “Hard” salary cap of 37 million dollars. The Player’s Association was looking for a “Soft” salary cap of 49 million dollars.

The difference between a “Soft” and “Hard” salary cap is simple. With a “Hard” salary cap, all the teams in a league are not allowed to spend over X amount of dollars. This kind of salary cap is seen in the NFL. A “Soft” salary cap means that if a team spends over X amount of dollars, they then have to pay a luxury tax. This kind of cap is seen in the NBA and MLB.

The Players’ Association rejected the recent offer, and both the NHLPA and the NHL will be meeting continually for the next few weeks. Hopefully, these two will come to an agreement and get back Hockey to North America.

While the NHL is busy putting itself back together, the American Hockey league (AHL) has had its most productive year ever. All AHL hockey teams have seen an increase in attendance ranging from 9% to 15%. And it might be because of NHL woes that has made AHL better. First and foremost, the pressure of living up to NHL standards has, for now, been removed from the players. One plays in the AHL in hopes of being recruited into the NHL. Prior to NHL lockout, players were rushed through the AHL without fully developing their abilities. Players now have time to hone their skills prior to moving in rather than developing while in the big leagues. With that in mind, the thought of a team’s top player being taken by the NHL at any moment in the season has also been removed. This has formed better team chemistry among players, which in turn, has created better game play.

The increased play of teams has actually made this year’s AHL season one of the tightest it’s been. In the Eastern division, there is a four team race for first place between Philadelphia, Binghamton, Norfolk and Wilkes-Barre. In the West, there is a battle between seven teams, who all post .500 records, for second place behind Rochester. So even though NHL is a lockout, the AHL has been carrying the load for hockey fans all over North America.