At the beginning of every semester at Queensborough Community College there are usually several courses in each academic department that are cancelled shortly before the first day of classes. These courses are almost always cancelled due to low enrollment numbers. In most cases, a course will be cancelled if it ends up with less than 15 students enrolled. The college administration attempts to keep all courses open for as long as they can, because there is usually a large number of students who will register in the final week before classes begin – and it is never clear whether or not a course with low enrollment numbers will fill up during that time.

Due to the fact that these courses are cancelled so late, there is not enough time to contact the students who were enrolled in the cancelled courses. Usually, students find out by showing up to the course and finding a cancellation notice on the door of the classroom. By this time, the semester has already begun and most other courses are closed. This is rather unfair and likely very frustrating to students who may have responsibly registered for the cancelled course months ago. It is difficult for these students to find another class to meet their curricular and scheduling needs that late in the registration period, especially if they, like many of Queensborough’s students – have jobs, children or other responsibilities that limit when they can take classes. This is even more inconvenient and stressful if the student is dependent on their college full-time status for sufficient financial aid or health insurance benefits.

At the September 11th, 2007 session of the QCC Academic Senate meeting, a motion was passed to make into official college policy something which the academic departments claim they already do. In cases where students are in their final semester at Queensborough, and a course in which they are enrolled is cancelled, those students are now guaranteed by the academic departments enrollment in an equivalent course or an independent study project that will fulfill their graduation requirements. Note that this guarantee only applies to those students who are in their final semester of study at Queensborough, and not everyone.

At the Student Leadership Weekend on September 29th, Student Government brought up these concerns with Dr. Dan King, Vice President of Academic Affairs. Dr. King was very responsive, and stated that there were steps that could be taken soon to accommodate students on this issue.

The current cancellation notices provide no additional information to students regarding where to seek help in finding another course. Students who are not familiar with the various academic departments at Queensborough may see it as a dead end. One suggestion was for classroom cancellation notices to direct the students to where they can receive help, whether it would be the academic department or somewhere else on campus designated for this purpose. Academic Advisement is located at the Student Union for open advisement and registration in the two weeks before the start of every semester, but there is no good reason why students who have already enrolled in a course cancelled on them should have to wait on the long lines there. They should be given priority enrollment in the course the students were interested in.

Another suggestion that was made was for the Registrar to send warning notices to students up to a month before classes begin, if a course that they are enrolled in is in danger of being cancelled. This would give students a window of time to seek out and register in additional alternate courses, since it is much easier to drop an extra course at the beginning of a semester than to find one.

There have also been cases where students have been charged late registration fees for enrolling in a course late in order to replace one that was cancelled. In these cases, it is important that students make sure to tell the Registrar the reason that they registered late so that they can have the fee waived.

If you or a student you know has any concerns, comments or suggestions on this issue or any other – please let your Student Government representatives know. Their offices are located on the lower level of the Student Union building. The author would like to thank Karen Steele, Dean of Academic Affairs for providing information to Student Government on this issue.
A Troubled Administration

"They misestimated me."
— George W. Bush, Bentonville, Arkansas, 11-6-2000

We haven’t underestimated President Bush in any way, and many Americans feel his Presidency has been an embarrassment. And with the 08’ elections just around the corner, our nation’s citizens have a lot to ponder. We looked to Bush was the Man! America felt the need to do more than a wave of conservative policies but toward the American political system. It was only his running into trouble. Unfortunately for Gore, America is more a republic than it is a true democracy.

President Bush’s inauguration was greeted with eggs aimed at his limo, and 10,000 protesters. Not since the Nixon Presidency had there been such a public outcry of disappointment and disgust with the American political system. It was only his first day in office and the President was already running into trouble.

Bush’s first year didn’t produce much more than a wave of conservative policies but toward the end of the year 9-11 happened. We all know how much that day changed everything and suddenly Bush was the Man? America felt the need to ave the destruction of World Trade Center towers and the resulting terror of life. We looked to Afghanistan, a nation that the Bush administration declared was harboring terrorist Osama Bin Laden; a former C.I.A operative who had received American funding to fight the Soviets in the 1980’s.

The month following 9-11, Bush invaded Afghanistan, making the first wave of military action in a campaign for the newly declared “War on Terror.” America successfully defeated the Taliban and began the process of establishing yet another puppet government while a freezing Bin Laden was never captured and is presently still at large.

At his 2002 state of the union address, President Bush announced his intention of preemptive measures against Iraq, and possibly Iran and North Korea, he referred to these three nations as forming an axis of evil. Almost immediately, Bush began lobbying for action against Iraq while developing a multi-national coalition on the grounds that Saddam Hussein had nuclear ambitions and ties to Al Qaeda. These claims were presented to the U.N. General Assembly by then Secretary of State, Colin Powell. Powell alleged that the U.S. had solid evidence Iraq was in the process of purchasing enriched uranium from Niger and posed a grave threat, a claim that would soon afterwards be investigated by former U.S. ambassador Joseph Wilson, as assigned by the C.I.A.

Despite the fact that Iraq cooperated with international demands and allowed U.N. inspectors to investigate their various military installations and premises, President Bush launched “Operation Iraqi Freedom” one month after Secretary Powell had presented the U.S. case to the U.N. By May, 2003, Bush had announced major combat operations in Iraq. This was followed by a rise in violence and an Iraqi insurgency that was determined to drive out the occupation; the war had really just begun.

“Our enemies are innocent and resourceful, and so are we. They never stop thinking about new ways to harm our country and our people, and neither do we.” —President George W. Bush, at a White House press conference on August 5, 2004.

I guess harming the Iraqi people (and American) wasn’t a concern for Bush, and the current civil-war in Iraq is the result. Perhaps there was a justification for war: the imperialist targeting of a foreign nation’s oil industry. And perhaps not coincidentally, following the invasion of Iraq, Cheney-affiliated Halliburton was awarded major contracts in both Iraq and Afghanistan for military and energy purposes. Today, four years into an extremely unpopular war, President Bush has failed to convince a majority of Americans that the war is worth it. The war has already claimed the lives of 3,794 American troops as well as hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, a number most likely dwarfed by the real number as numerous civilian deaths go unaccounted for.

On July 6, 2003, U.S. ambassador Joseph Wilson published an editorial in the New York Times titled “What I didn’t find in Africa,” discrediting the Bush administration’s justification for war in Iraq. This was based on his findings that Iraq’s attempt to illegally purchase weapons grade uranium was unfounded, and worse the story had been a manufactured piece of intelligence.

Eight years later, columnist Robert Novak publishes his “Mission to Niger” in which he discusses the identity of classified C.I.A. agent Valerie Plame, who is none other than ambassador Wilson’s wife, thus revealing her identity to the American public, as provided to him by two Bush administration officials whom Novak could not reveal.

The Plamegate scandal had taken form, with Bush publicly demanding to know who was responsible for the leak, and that serious consequences would follow if it was discovered that a member in his own administration was the source. Today we all know who these sources were, Karl Rove and Richard Armitage. Interestingly, the only one convicted in the investigation by a U.S. Grand Jury was Scooter Libby, not for directly being the source of Novak’s column but for not cooperating with the investigation and obstructing justice. Bush commuted Libby’s sentence earlier this year.

After another controversial and very close election, Bush was re-elected to a second term without half the country behind him. Bush’s 2nd term has provided a seemingly never-ending continuation of scandals and resigning administration officers. "Brownie, you’re doing a heck of a job.” —President Bush, to FEMA director Michael Brown, while touring hurricane-ravaged Mississippi, September 2, 2005.

In September, 2005, Michael D. Brown, head of FEMA, resigned in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. As we all know it, the federal governments response to Katrina was a total disaster. Perhaps if Bush had taken the initiative to appoint qualified candidates to specific posts, then a disaster such as Katrina might have been handled with the required and adequate response.

Meanwhile, at the Justice Department, Attorney General John Ashcroft resigned in November 9, 2004. Bush then appointed Alberto Gonzalez, the first Hispanic to the post. Gonzales recently resigned over criticism of his handling of the firing of eight U.S. attorneys in December, 2006, who critics allege were dismissed for political reasons. Top members of Congress from both sides of the isle had called for his resignation.


Gonzales had earlier been under fire for the NSA’s eavesdropping program which allowed law enforcement to wiretap suspected terrorists with no court warrant. Authorized by the controversial Patriot Act, the program was not only aimed at suspected terrorists but possibly ordinary Americans who are supposed to be protected from such actions by the American constitution.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld also resigned after the 2006 elections. His resignation had been called for by top Generals of the U.S. Military, who criticized his mishandling of the war. As long as President Bush is still in power, or his party for that matter, we will continue to witness corruption, lies, and incompetence. An old saying suggests that we must pick the lesser of two evils. In 2008 let’s make the right choice and hope for a repeat of the 06’ elections. Hopefully, we’ll elect officials that will lead America in the right direction.

The final meal before the mission was rice with red beans, a grilled bread, and sake. The workers back to the barracks, each of us was given a little box for our things. We trimmed our nails and put the belongings in a little envelope. A lock of hair, too. Then we wrote letters home. (The next morning on the farm) A table was set up there, with cups of sake lined up. Time for our three toasts. The first toast was to the Emperor’s shrine. The second toast was to the Emperor himself. And the last toast toward our hometown... We circled the base once and waggled our wings. The whole base was saluting us.” Linda Su Park, When My Name Was Keoko

I had to undergo a program to discipline the mind and cleanse the soul. I read about the history of jihad and listened to taped speeches that addressed subjects like the rewards that were awaiting warriors in heaven (Islam believes that “72 black-eyed virgins” are supposed to await the martyrs in paradise). We might use our waiting time to take care of our business. Some destroyed any photographs of themselves or compiled a list of the ‘70 people Islamic tradition says a “martyr” can guarantee a place in paradise. Some grieved for themselves and left instructions for their families to kill them if they were driven to suicide. I think those young people had strong minds. Indeed, “leaders of male-centred societies” (wikipedia.com, “suicide attacks”).

In this article, I am going to examine closely different viewpoints and explanations about the motives of suicide bombers presented by experts until now. And then, I will show why the motives should be considered from a cultural and sociological viewpoint.

2. Explanations on the Inside
1) Are suicide bombers crazy?

“Crazy! Oh my god!” Labeling bombers “crazy” has been the default reaction of Americans who have watched broadcast video-tapes in which there was a scene of a suicide bombing; a young suicide bomber smiles to the camera and jumps into a vehicle, and chaos follows — explosion, fire, screams, blood, and the deafening sound of ambulance sirens. Common people and some terrorism experts have assumed that suicide bombers might have personality disorders and/or weak personalities that could be easily manipulated by others. However, investigative profiles of suicide bombers have shown that they do not show signs of psychopathology, but on the contrary, were pious and had strong minds. Indeed, “leaders of the groups who perpetrate these attacks search for individuals who can be trusted to carry out the mission; those with mental illnesses are not ideal candidates” (wikipedia.com, “suicide attacks”). Hence, the viewpoint that suicide bombers are crazy is false and should be discarded.

2) Can life in a war torn Islamic nation cause anyone to become a suicide bomber?

Some experts insist that suicide bombers have normal psychological profiles. They say anybody could become a suicide bomber living in desperate situations in which his or her family and friends are being killed by foreign soldiers every day. Supporters of this opinion criticize President Bush’s policies and feel sympathy for Islamic countries. They say the extreme nature of suicide bombing shows the deep despair of people in Islamic countries. They think that if Islamic young people had other ways to resist they wouldn’t voluntarily suicide themselves.

Suicide used as an expression of personal despair must be distinguished from suicide used as a military tactic adopted by a group. One should consider whether the suicide represents a period mark or the opening of another door to a better life. If a society believes in a poshworldly peace, a member of the society is likely to commit suicide more easily than a member who though living under the same conditions doesn’t believe in an afterlife. It is also important to keep in mind that suicide attacks have been carried out as a military tactic not as a personal protest. The groups who adopted the tactic have encouraged and glorified suicide bombing, and in some cases promised and provided secular rewards to the bomber’s remaining family. For these reasons, it cannot be said that such suicides are undeniable evidence of a merely personal despair.

Aside from that, there had been equally and possibly harsher and tougher situations in world history than the one Islam is facing now? For example, in the Asian and African colonies under the control of powerful European countries in the 19th and 20th centuries, Paris under siege by Prussia, European countries in the storm of the first and Second World War, and Vietnam in the Vietnam War—the people in each nation faced innumerable catastrophic battles. But these countries and their people fought against their enemies with different political and military tactics, including resistance activities, guerrilla tactics and even nonviolent resistance, but not suicide attacks.

3) Religious fanaticism and nationalism are the motive powers behind suicide bombers? Could be...but...

This explanation sounds plausible only in that Islamic societies are most often theocratic. Japan, for example, used to be a militant society practically ruled by shoguns and their warriors—samurai. As with other theocracies, the Islamic God and his teachers have absolute power over their believers. Especially Islamic fundamentalism, which advocates “literalist interpretations of the texts of Islam and Sharia law,” and “is passionate in its (its) opposition to the ‘corrupting influence of Western culture’” (“suicide attacks”).

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In addition, haven’t there been equally and possibly harsher and tougher situations in world history than the one Islam is facing now? For example, in the Asian and African colonies under the control of powerful European countries in the 19th and 20th centuries, Paris under siege by Prussia, European countries in the storm of the first and Second World War, and Vietnam in the Vietnam War—the people in each nation faced innumerable catastrophic battles. But these countries and their people fought against their enemies with different political and military tactics, including resistance activities, guerrilla tactics and even nonviolent resistance, but not suicide attacks.

BY YOUNG MI KWON

What and Who stands Behind Suicide Bombers?
Part One of a Two-Part Investigation

1. Tragedies being repeated

One day two youngsters decided to volunteer for missions to blow themselves up. They were trained for months. After their preparations they spent the last few days with mixed feelings—joyful, proud, elated, relieved but sad—and then they were ordered to climb into a plane in which there was not enough fuel to come back to the base, or into a bomb-laden vehicle, or to strap on an explosives-filled vest. A few minutes later they blew themselves to eternity with shouts of “Long live his Majesty!” or “Insallah!” (if Allah wills it)! What propelled kamikaze pilots during World War II and today’s Arabic suicide bombers to their deaths? What did they die for? Was it noble martyrdom or patriotism? Or both? Are their deaths meaningful? What did they die for? Was it noble martyrdom or patriotism? Or both? Are their deaths meaningful? What did they die for? Was it noble martyrdom or patriotism? Or both? Are their deaths meaningful?

Sixty-two years ago the world was frightened and horrified by a nation, Japan, which used its soldiers’ suicides as a military tactic. Many young men volunteered for such missions, there was a zero percent possibility of survival, and all the people of Japan admired their pilots. Now the Western world is once again frightened and aghast because Arabic young men are killing not only Westerners but also Japan, which used its soldiers’ suicides as a military tactic. Many young men volunteered for such missions, there was a zero percent possibility of survival, and all the people of Japan admired their pilots. Now the Western world is once again frightened and aghast.

Experts of the West are trying to find out what is behind the suicide attacks. They are afraid that Japan’s suicide attacks are the beginning of a war against the West, which might result in the extinction of the Japanese people. (continued on page 4)
Health

You Booze, You Lose

BY TANYA DOBRIC & ANGELA PROTOFANOUSS

Academic Problems:

The Facts: According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), more than one million students suffer academic consequences from alcoholism such as, missing classes, poor exam grades, and most of all falling behind in studies.

Behind The Facts: At one point or another most students tend to become stressed out or overwhelmed with school work. One of the temporary “fixes” of the problem may be the use of alcohol or other illegal substances such as drugs, pills and more. This starts to cause difficulty with thinking, reading, verbal and cognitive skills. Failure of future academic careers may occur, and it can also damage accomplishments that most students already achieved. Alcohol use prior to age 21 may impair youthful brain development. Some students feel more comfortable in social situations under the use of alcohol. They feel more accepted by their peers because of a low self-esteem, or to overcome shyness.

Health Problems:

The Facts: According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), more than 150,000 students develop an alcohol related problem.

Behind The Facts: Instead of laughing at your friend hugging the toilet bowl, try to be concerned and keep a look out for what is really going on with their bodies. Their breathing may become very slow, irregular or eventually stop. Their faces may become pale or turn blue which is a sign of Alcohol Poisoning. Seizures and hypothermia, two effects of alcohol poisoning, can lead to being hospitalized which is not a comedy after all, especially seeing your friend in a coma. Alcohol is one of the leading causes of breast cancer in women and testicular cancer in men. To our knowledge, coffee and cold showers will not help you sober up. Medication will most likely make you sicker, and it take almost 2 hours to work its way out of your system. Overall drinking may lead to hangovers the next morning which most students know is not satisfying.

Unsafe Sex:

The Facts: According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), it is known that 400,000 students ages 18-24 have unprotected sex and more than 100,000 having been too intoxicated to know if they even had sex.

Behind The Facts: Many individuals do not realize the consequences that they are facing while under the influence of alcohol. Without condom use sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV, Chlamydia, Aids, may be transmitted. There is a higher risk of pregnancies when alcohol is involved due to the fact that most of the time the person is oblivious to what is happening. Most individuals while intoxicated do not use condoms, or sleep with multiple partners which can lead to STD’s (sexually transmitted diseases). Drinking while pregnant can lead to many syndromes for the fetus such as, mental retardation, abnormal features on the face, poor coordination, and smaller brainheads.

Death:

The Facts: According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), over 1,400 students ages 18-24 die from alcohol related unintentional injuries. It is known that car crashes are on the top ten leading causes of death.

Behind The Facts: Next time you allow your friend to drink while driving, think about yourself and the lives you are jeopardizing in this situation. Students or people in general always feel confident enough to get behind the wheel feeling highly superior that they are able to drive while intoxicated. What should also come to mind is being pulled over for DWI (driving while intoxicated). There are certain consequences depending on which state the person lives in, for example, a suspended license, jail overnight which leads to a judge, and many more. Another situation could be at a random party with a bunch of your friends, and all of a sudden a fight breaks out. Someone could randomly pull out a gun, knife, or any other weapon that can hurt or kill someone.

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4) Suicide bombers should be examined in the context of their culture?

Religious and ideological fervor alone cannot be the motive for suicide bombers. Religions, political ideas, and current cultural and historical realities are the result of people’s collective life (in other words, history) which has lasted for thousands of years. If we look into societies cultural- ly and historically and compare them with each other, we may discover unexpected congruities which may help us to understand the phenomenon under examination.

In part two of this report, I will look into and compare Japanese culture with Islamic culture from a cultural and sociological perspective. I will look into the Japanese cultures worship of the sword, suicide by disembowelment, women’s low social status, and kamikaze units, the crescent shaped sword of Islamic culture, the abuse of women, and suicide bombers. By comparing these two cultures, I will attempt to show that Japan and Islamic countries have much in common, and I will propose ways to stop the tragedy of suicide bombings.
Research shows that Yoga is especially good for college students who have extra stress. It improves your overall health and your focus which are essential in college. Yoga is the union of the mind, body, and spirit. It’s about focusing on you! Yoga works from the inside out; meaning you have to be in touch with yourself as a whole. Meditation which is a crucial part in yoga stills the mind and induces both physical and emotional relaxation. In doing so it reduces blood pressure, chronic pain, and anxiety and also cholesterol levels. During the meditation portion of yoga you sit in your “Yoga Space”, and become aware of your consciousness in order to figure out what’s bothering you in your life so you can fix your problems. You close your eyes and “Check in with Yourself” as they say in Yoga and whenever you feel stressed out you take slow deep breaths and push the negative energy out of your body. If done correctly you will eventually feel your body ridding itself of the toxins that are produced from negative events and hardships in your life. Yoga goes back at least 5,000 years and started in India. Some other benefits of Yoga are: improvement of strength, balance flexibility, endurance and focus.

The term in Yoga for breathing is “Pranayama” which is very important in yoga because you must breathe correctly in order for the muscles and brain to work together as they are supposed to. Yoga teaches you to be still and peaceful. Yoga Postures are called “Asanas” they provide a gentle to intense workout that enhances strength, flexibility and balance. For the physical body it tones the muscles, the mental - it makes you more disciplined and focused; and for the spiritual aspect it keeps you in check with yourself.

Pranayama increases blood circulation and reduces oxygen consumption, which brings more oxygen to the brain and improves the efficiency of oxygen use in the body. It also increases lung capacity. Getting ample air into our lungs helps us feel alert and focused. As college students sometimes we are so busy that we can’t think clearly, we become overwhelmed with balancing work, school, homework and personal life. Yoga teaches you how to breathe right and this improves mental clarity and focus. Have you ever noticed when you’re really stressed out or going through a terrible life experience you feel as though you can’t breathe? Well yoga teaches you how to be in control of your body. According to www.Yogalamazoo.com, “It’s good for college students especially because of the stress such students have”.

According to www.verexit.com and “The Journal of Perceptual and Motor Skills,” a study of 87 college students at the amount of Yoga reported greater decreases in scores on anger, confusion, tension, depression and sections of mood inventories than did control students. My own personal experience was a full time student last semester and worked full time thanks to yoga I noticed I could handle all the daily tasks of my life much better. I didn’t feel overwhelmed like I had when I first started college. I had taken yoga when I was younger however; I realized when I took a class here last semester with Professor McGuire that I was never really focusing on myself. Professor McGuire was a phenomenal yoga professor. She helped me to get to know myself better, as far as dealing with taking control of my emotional being and taking charge of the problems in my life. It makes you much more aware of everything in your life. You’ll want to keep improving yourself. You gain incredible levels of self confidence and this makes you feel like you can accomplish anything. According to (www.dailylivinni.com) college students benefit more from the emotional and mental aspects of Yoga. It teaches you how to be positive especially in difficult times. College students need a physical release and Yoga gives that to them.

There are many different types of Yoga such as VINYASA which means breath synchronized movement Vinyasa tends to be a more vigorous style based on the performance of a series of poses called Sun Salutations, which are a series of 12 postures performed in a single, graceful flow. Asthanga, which means “eight limbs” in Sanskrit, is a fast-paced, intense style of yoga. A set series of poses is performed, always in the same order. Asthanga practice is a very physically demanding because of the constant movement from one pose to the next. Asthanga is also the inspiration for what is often called Power Yoga. If a class is described as Power Yoga, it will be based on the flowing style of Asthanga, but not necessarily keep the same sequence or set Asanas.

For students interested in taking Yoga I would suggest you take Professor McGuire’s classes here at QCC. There is also a Yoga studio in Astoria that I go to that’s great too! It’s called “The Yoga Room,” located at 32-32 Steinway Street on the 2nd floor; Tel: (718) 274-0255. Good websites for information about Yoga include: www.yogabasics.com and www.yoga.com.

There are some poets that have been writing since they were in middle school or high school. They have notebooks filled with tons of poetry, since they were in middle school or high school. There are poets who started writing in college having taken a course in poetry or creative writing. They have notebooks filled with tons of poetry, and I know that I have found a place where I can keep strictly to the set Ashtanga series of poses. A set series based on the performance of a series of poses called Sun Salutations, which are a series of 12 postures performed in a single, graceful flow. Asthanga, which means “eight limbs” in Sanskrit, is a fast-paced, intense style of yoga. A set series of poses is performed, always in the same order. Asthanga practice is a very physically demanding because of the constant movement from one pose to the next. Asthanga is also the inspiration for what is often called Power Yoga. If a class is described as Power Yoga, it will be based on the flowing style of Asthanga, but not necessarily keep the same sequence or set Asanas.

Recently, I got to be a judge at the competition. I heard fantastic poetry from gifted students and I know that I have found a place where I can be at home with poetry. There were times when I felt deeply moved. There were also moments when I found myself laughing and thoroughly entertained. Most of all, the poets made me think. You can’t help but think, whether it’s positive or negative, about the poetry you hear at this slam. Plus you get to meet your peers from different parts and schools of New York, who you already have something in common with: a passion for poetry.
Do you want to read about the woman who influenced some of the most famous songs in rock ‘n’ roll history? Here’s your chance because for the first time ever, Pattie Boyd, the ex-wife of rock legends George Harrison of The Beatles and Eric Clapton, is breaking her silence and telling her side of the story in her new book Wonderful Tonight, published by Harmony Books. Although she has declined many offers to write a book about her extraordinary life in the past, this time she accepted and the wait was well worth it. In the book, titled after ex-husband Eric Clapton’s famous song, which was inspired by her getting ready for a party, Boyd takes us through the years from the birth of her grandmother up to the present day.

The year was 1961 when a seventeen year old Pattie who was living in England and working at Elizabeth Arden as a beautician, was discovered by a client and signed on to model. It was this decision that made her fashion designer Ossie Clark’s muse, allowed her to grace the pages of magazines and newspapers in England, and led her to a job as a school girl in The Beatles’ 1964 film, A Hard Day’s Night. It was on that movie set that she met George Harrison and entered a new life of being in the public eye.

After two years of dating, they married and Pattie writes about a rock ‘n’ roll history? Here’s your chance because for the first time ever, Pattie Boyd, the ex-wife of rock legends George Harrison of The Beatles and Eric Clapton, is breaking her silence and telling her side of the story in her new book. It was also during this time that she and George had their first child, a daughter whom they named Karen Louise, and George began his meteoric rise to fame.

But only a couple of years into their marriage, Pattie writes about an overly spiritual, detached, and controllable George. It was also during this time that she noticed George’s friend and fellow musician Eric Clapton had a crush on her. Writing her passionate letters, the famous song “Layla,” and even telling George about his love for Pattie, Eric was committed to winning her over. Pattie had declined his offers and stayed with her husband, but three years later in 1974, Eric reap- proached and she accepted. She writes how leaving George was one of the hardest things she ever did and the guilt she still feels about it today.

While Pattie thought she was leaving her marriage with George for a better relationship, she was very wrong. Pattie makes this clear by writing “Eight days later I met him [Clapton] in Boston…by the end of the week I was writing. ‘At last I can feel the lost woman in me.’ If only that could have remained true” (Boyd 184). After obtaining her love, Eric became a nightmare. Banning Pattie from going on tour with him and cheating on her with her with multiple women were two of the “less hurtful” things that he did during their marriage. On her forty-third birthday, Pattie writes, “He burst into my bedroom at six o’clock in the morning in a drunken rage and told me to get out. He was screaming and shouting obscenities at me…then hurled my things out of the window, still yelling at me” (Boyd 250). Pattie realized she had to leave him and after almost ten years of abuse, betrayal, and pain, the marriage ended.

In Wonderful Tonight, Boyd gives her readers an inside view to a life few have, but many dream of. Writing about her turbulent childhood, modeling days, marriages to Harrison and Clapton, and finding her true self after divorce, Pattie opens our eyes to the life she has kept quiet about for so long. Taking the reader on a journey from the 1940’s to the present day, she paints a crystal clear picture of both joyous and lousy times. She pours her heart into her book, and it quickly grabs onto you and doesn’t let go until you’ve read every last word.

Everyone has a thing that drives them. I have music. All kids need a place to grow up. My place was a nightclub. It was a night. I walked through and everything was as it should be – the same as always. The same as always. The same as always.

Rocking at Redzone

BY CELIA HICKES

The WPIX CW network provided a chance for reporters to ask questions about “Gossip Girl” of the author and executive creator Cecily Von Ziegesar, Josh Schwartz, who is executive producer, and two actresses from the show Nicole Fiscella who plays Isabel and Nan Zhang who plays Katy. During the press conference, Mrs. Von Ziegesar and Mr. Schwartz about the new show.

GP. How did the idea of Gossip Girl come about? were there any personal experiences that inspired you for these series of novels? 

Mr. Schwartz, the idea of this book came to me very simply; I began writing about little things that happened to me in my high school. Names were changed but some things were similar, like in the beginning of the story line Serena becomes a nobody after leaving her school. That actually happened to me when I had to enroll into a new school for a year and when I returned my friends thought it would be cool to “shun” me from the clique (the room burst into laughter). The story line just came to me. So I brought it to a publisher and they liked it.

Having the well respected producer Josh Schwartz, who was the creator of the later canceled “O.C.” on board, this show should be a sure fire hit right? Josh Schwartz guarantees that the show is going to be worth watching. “The story line is amazing and the music of the show lures you into watching it.”

The show seems good. I was able to see the pilot, and from what I saw it was a typical teen drama. It had a similar plot line to the failed show “O.C.” which I did find intriguing; but I did lose my concentration on the story line due to the music in the background. Josh Schwartz was very right about how the music catches your attention. Over all, I’ll give “Gossip Girl” a 2½ star rating out of 5. It will be the viewers, however, who will determine if this show is a success or just another O.C. on the Upper East Side. “Gossip Girl” airs on Wednesday nights at 9:00 pm on CW11.
It was a Friday, September 21, 2007 and it was getting late. Where could I go to get something for dinner? I knew that I didn’t want to cook! So, I figured that Bell Boulevard would be the perfect place to find something new and unique. As I was driving along the boulevard, I noticed a bunch of people standing outside of a place called Margarita’s Southwestern BBQ grill and bar. I had never been there before; the place was packed, so I decided to check it out!

As I approached the doorway, I noticed that the walls are painted a burnt red color. And the tables are adorned with red and white checkered table cloths. All of the tables were already set with utensils and cloth napkins. “Dinner or bar” the hostess asked. “Dinner,” I replied. I noticed that the bar was jam-packed with people and a baseball game was playing on the TV at the bar. The hostess escorted me up the stairs. Once at the top, I notice that the walls were completely crammed with photographs, old movie and advertisement posters, and little ornaments in between. I was seated at a corner table next to a window. Two menus were placed on the table. One menu was for the food, the other for the drinks. All I remember thinking was, “a whole menu for drinks?” Among many other types of alcoholic beverages on this menu, there were approximately 20 types of tequila. Are there really that many types of tequila? Well, the waitress returned with tortilla chips and salsa and to take my order. I ordered an entrée named “The Devil Went Down to Georgia.” Consisting of grilled chicken and shrimp over Spanish rice with sautéed peppers and onions, and seasoned with red devil hot sauce, this entrée sounded so yummy. I also had to try some of the tequila. So I did, in the form of a margarita. I guess you must have seen that one coming!

My entrée, with a $15.00 price tag, tasted as though the devil ran away with the flavor! Not only was the flavor severely lacking, the chicken and shrimp were rubbery, and the rice was overcooked and swollen to three times its size. Although the Margarita was pleasantly flavored with a great blend of tequila, citrus and salt, it was expensive at $9.00.

While I do not recommend the food, I do recommend that you visit the bar. If you are 21 years or older, go there with a few friends, sit at the bar and sip an ice cold drink of your choice at Margarita’s Southwestern BBQ grill and bar, it is located at 40-09 Bell Blvd. Bayside, NY.

I have learned something this week. When you see a packed restaurant, something must be good! That something, in this case, was not the food! If I do return, it will be for the tequila because as far as I am concerned, the devil can take my entrée, but I will fight for my margarita!
SPORTS

Lady Tigers On Top Of The Hill

Welcome to the column where you get to meet some of the outstanding female athletes at QCC. (Photos by Rocio Hernandez and Jackeline Passos)

Name: Sabrinna Moore
Age: 21
Major: New Media Technology
Semesters at QCC: 5
Favorite Sport: Basketball
Member of QCC sport teams: Basketball (point guard) and softball (catcher).
Expected to graduate: June 2008

Future Plans: “Graduate from QCC and play for whoever gives me a scholarship. I would like to play ball professionally.”

QCC Awards: 2005-’06 Outstanding Female Athlete, ’05-’06 Women’s Basketball Most Valuable Player (MVP), 2006-’07 RFK Award, ’06-’07 Women’s Basketball MVP, ’06-’07 Women’s Softball MVP, and ’06-’07 Outstanding Female Athlete.

CUNY Awards: 2005-’06 CUNY All Star Player, 2006-’07 CUNY All Star Player and 2nd Team, all Region, Region XV (Basketball), ’06-’07 1st Team, Region XV Award (Softball).

Sabrinna Moore was born in Brooklyn and raised in Queens. She played basketball and soccer while attending Jamaica High School, where she became one of the best players of the region in both sports. At the age of nineteen, she immediately enrolled at Queensborough Community College (fall ’05) and started playing for the Women’s Basketball Team as a point guard, though she also had the skill to play any other position. In spring 2006, she became part of the Women’s Softball Team, playing as a catcher, 3rd base and outfielder. Ms. Moore has become an invaluable athlete for both teams; thanks to her skills, discipline, effort and commitment. We hope to see her become a professional basketball player one day.

Name: Amy Ayala
Age: 19
Major: Liberal Arts
Semesters at QCC: 2
Favorite Sport: Any sport except soccer
Member of QCC sport teams: Softball and Volleyball
Expected to graduate: June 2008

Future Plans: “I’m planning to transfer to Queens College and play volleyball and softball.”

Career Goals: “To become a physical education teacher and a softball coach.”

QCC Awards: 2006-’07 Most Improved Female player in Volleyball
CUNY Awards: 2006-’07 Women’s Volleyball Academic All Region XV and CUNY ’06-’07 Honorable Mention Women’s Softball, Region XV.

Who is your role model? “I don’t have a role model, but I want to be a role model for my niece and nephew because they look up to me. I’m the only daughter of my father that graduated, and I want to become someone in the future. My basketball coach in High School was the one who encouraged me to go for physical education.”

Amy Ayala was born in Brooklyn and raised in Queens. She attended Richmond Hill High School, where she played volleyball, softball and basketball for 4 years. Her high school sports experience helped her to become a committed and disciplined player. During her high school years she was recognized as the 2005 Most Valuable Player (MVP) for the softball team by Snapple. After she graduated from high school, she decided to attend Queensborough Community College. She immediately became a member of the Women’s Softball Team playing infield and outfield positions, and in the Volleyball Team playing center position and also as a blocker. We hope Amy continues playing for the volleyball and softball team.

A-Rod for MVP

By Marko Arrendell

.314 Avg. 52 HR 143 RBI — The numbers speak for themselves. The New York Yankees third baseman, Alex Rodriguez, better known as A-Rod, is having a phenomenal season. He is putting up great offensive numbers. He is currently leading the Major Leagues in home runs, runs batted in and runs scored. It seems as though he is on his way to winning his fourth Most Valuable Player Award. This is an award that is given at the end of the Major League season to the player who has been the best player and most valuable to their team throughout the whole season. This would be A-Rod’s second MVP while being with the Yankees. He won his first MVP with the Yankees in 2005 after joining the team for the 2004 season. He had won most valuable players before in 2002 with the Texas Rangers and in 2000 with the Seattle Mariners.

Alex Rodriguez, with the Yankees since 2004, has been heavily criticized by the media despite his good numbers. The criticism has addressed his poor performance in the playoffs as well as his inability to get the big hits in important situations. Some argue that because he is the highest paid player in the Major Leagues and plays for the biggest franchise in sports, the Yankees, the spotlight is always on him and as a result a lot of pressure is placed on him from fans and the media. In less than two weeks this season will be come to an end, and Alex Rodriguez has stolen the spotlight in New York as the Yankees continue to fight for a playoff spot. A-Rod has been the Yankees best player and hitter the whole season and has made phenomenal hits to help them win. He has been carrying the Yankees since April at the start of the season due to the team’s lack of hitting and poor pitching. The poor pitching had put the Yankees in a hole that they had to climb out of, and it’s worth acknowledging that the team survived most of the season with A-Rod’s big hits and great plays.

It is anyone’s guess where the Yankees would be right now if it wasn’t for the great year that Alex Rodriguez has had. With little baseball left to play, the Yankees are looking forward to making the postseason. At this point, it looks like the Yankees will make the playoffs. Whether the Yankees are successful or not in the playoff is anyone’s guess. It is also unclear if A-Rod will carry his magnificent performance into the postseason. However, there is one uncontestable fact. Alex Rodriguez has put up the best numbers in the Major Leagues this season and therefore should win his fourth Most Valuable Player of his career.
The Amazing Mets
By John Wight

The slumping Mets failed to outlast the resurgent Philadelphia Phillies over the last 17 games of the 2007 Major League baseball season and thus failed to win the National League East championship. After losing 12 of their last 17 games the Mets are the only Major league baseball team ever to lose a 7 game division lead with 17 to play and are left out of the postseason.

This last season slump sharply contrasts with the outstanding play exhibited throughout the first 145 games in which the Mets had held a strong hold on top of the NL East. After the first 145 games the Mets were 21 games over a .500 win percentage and clearly looked upon as favorites to repeat as NL East Champions. All facets of the game were playing strong, starting pitching put quality starts together taking pressure off the bullpen and the Mets’ bats remained hot. However, the appeal of relaxing into the playoffs hit especially hard with the Mets.

As of September 12th the Mets held a 7 game lead over the Phillies, but gave up 5 games after getting swept courtesy of the Phillies and after losing 2 of 3 at Washington. These losses were followed by getting swept in a 3 game series when the Nationals visited Shea during a time when the Mets knew every win would bring them closer to clinching a playoff berth.

With only 4 games to go in the regular season and severely needing a win the Mets chalked up another loss to the St Louis Cardinals. A key loss combined with a Philadelphia Phillies win placed the two teams in a tie for the top spot at 87-72 in the National league East playoff race and a guaranteed antept spot in the 2007 postseason. The following day proved that losing the NL East lead was not the wake up call the Mets needed when they continued their losing ways with the Florida Marlins. This would force the Mets to win their final two games of the regular season for a playoff play-in game against Philadelphia. After a shootout performance by Mets starting pitcher John Maine, the Mets were down to the final game of the season and sending their 300 career game winning ace Tom Glavine in a must win regular season finale. Glavine’s performance epitomized the late season slide, he was rocked in the first inning giving up 7 runs virtually giving his team no chance to win, and essentially leaving the Mets high and dry for the a playoff spot.

A great deal of the late season slide can be attributed to the lack of quality pitching beginning with starters and finishing with the dismal bullpen. Over the last 17 games Mets pitching has been giving up on average 7.1 per game, while the offensive has remained consistently strong putting up a 5.96 runs per game. An offensive stat that would normally net a few victories when combined with quality pitching, that’s all it would have to take to score a few more victories. Sadly, that didn’t happen. The Mets are now branded as the only team in MLB history to lose a 7 game lead with 17 to go in the season.

The Yankees and Red Sox Rivalry
By Noman Yeusef

The game of baseball has a long history of rivalries between several teams. The most important and longstanding rivalry is that of the New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox. Some think that their rivalry is one of the major reasons why baseball is a famous sport in the United States. For many baseball fans, the most anticipated game occurs when these two teams meet, whether in season or post season play. The rivalry between the two teams has, in addition, led to many instances of violence between fans, between players, and sometimes between fans and players. There appears to be genuine dislike if not hatred and bitterness felt on both sides.

The rivalry started when Babe Ruth, who was a famous player for the Boston Red Sox, was traded to the Yankees. He was known for his home run record and was considered to be one of the finest players in the 1920s and 1930s. When he was traded, the Yankees became a better team under his presence. Whenever a good player is traded to one team from another, there is always a feeling of uneasiness between the two particular teams. This is what happened following Babe Ruth’s move to the Yankees who, with Babe’s homemade hitting prowess, went on to win several World Series games. The Red Sox felt that they could have achieved similar successes had they not traded him.

Babe Ruth, as it is well know today, went on to become one of the best players in Yankee history. The Red Sox, on the other hand, won a championship in 1918 and didn’t win again until 2004. For 86 years the Red Sox were thought to be cursed and would never win a championship. In fact, it is said that Babe Ruth had made a prediction that the Red Sox were cursed and would never win a championship.

This rivalry has had a great impact on baseball, not only from a fan’s point of view but the player's as well. If you are a fan of one team then fans of the other team despise and hate you, and vice versa. From a player’s perspective, every player on each team may not completely have bad feelings about the others, but there has always been some sort of anger between the players. One thing is for certain, however. The rivalry between the Yankees and the Red Sox has riveted the baseball audience’s attention for decades. And that can’t be bad for baseball.

Beckham
(continued from page 1)

Beckham’s soccer career began when he was signed at the age of 12. Beckham quickly rose through the ranks of Manchester United’s youth system and made his professional debut in 1995. He quickly became one of the most popular players in the world, earning himself the nickname "Beckham" for his exuberant play and good looks.

Beckham moved to Real Madrid in 2003 for a fee of £73.7 million, becoming the most expensive British footballer to date. He helped Real Madrid win the La Liga title in his first season there, and was named FIFA World Player of the Year in 2004. Beckham also played for AC Milan from 2007-2009.

In 2008, Beckham was signed by LA Galaxy for $25 million over five years. He was the first foreign player to receive a $20 million annual salary in the MLS. His presence helped bring new fans to the league, and he quickly became one of the most marketable athletes in the world.

Beckham's success on and off the pitch has made him one of the most recognizable figures in the world. He has been involved in various philanthropic endeavors, including a charity called The David Beckham Foundation focused on education and health.

The Communique
Staff wish you a Happy Halloween

Queensborough Communicu, October 2007
Shoot 'Em Up is the kind of Hollywood movie that you can’t name these days. It is loud, loud, void of character development and has a title that pretty much screams simplicity. Short attention-spans are more than welcome, they are almost required.

Clive Owen stars as Mr. Smith, who is not identified by any kind of employment, age or a first name. He’s just got a gun and there’s an army of bad guys who are in the way, so why not shoot them all? Sounds like a simple solution. Smith also has to protect a newborn baby from said baddies or else something bad will happen. Count on the usual choreographed violence boredom will not be an issue.

Shoot 'Em Up delivers the violence and keeps delivering it for nearly its entire hour and 20-minute running time. It’s all presented in very well choreographed scenes with top-notch stunt-work. Here is where any originality in the film resides, and if one enjoys watching the movie for its award-winning script, you’re here for violence. Shoot 'Em Up never pauses once to try to make you appreciate Smith and learn a little about his renegade attitude. Instead of taking a moment to stop and sniff the flowers, Shoot 'Em Up pauses from its dizzying onslaught of action for a raunchy sex scene before puzzling a gallon of espresso and exploding into the next part of the battle. There’s your variety!

Shoot 'Em Up is fun, but when the credits roll the viewer isn’t filled with a sense of real satisfaction, feeling they witnessed a truly engaging spectacle, instead the viewer simply shrugs his or her shoulders, exits the theatre and probably forgets about Shoot 'Em Up by the next day.

Want a way to give Shoot 'Em Up new life? Watch it and try to count how many bullets are fired. I bet you’ll lose count around 2,352.

Rating: ★★

Rating System:

*1/2 Bad. There may be something here that kept it from getting a higher rating, but at this point do you really care?

*2 Out of the ordinary, but it’s not good. You may think it’s good, but I don’t.

** Average. There are better things out there, like any movie that gets more stars.

**** Makes the Grand Canyon look like a filthy restroom.

We all have fear. Anyone who tells you that they are not afraid is lying to you; things happen, that you don’t want to happen, and fear grabs you, and you’re a slave to it and you can’t but help watch as fear takes away everything you ever cherished and held dear. But what if for a moment you stopped being afraid… stopped living in fear; what if you took matters into your own hands?

That’s what The Brave One asks the audience, and for some people it is a question that has already been asked before. But in the times we live in now, a time when war seems to be a perpetual enterprise of foreign policy, it is important to ask that question again. And sometimes it’s good simply to ask where the line between justice and vigilantism is drawn. Erica Bain (Jodie Foster) seems to have it all; a job she loves, a guy she’s ready to marry, a dog… because in movies you need a dog to fill out the outlines of a perfect life.

In a blink of an eye, everything changes. Bain is left battered and beaten while her fiancée has been murdered by some thugs. The police tell her that they will find those responsible for her fiancée’s death, but for Erica, it seems that there is no progress; no movement at all. She’s afraid to leave her own home; afraid of the person standing next to her. It gets to the point where she buys a gun to protect herself. The second she uses that gun, everything changes.

This is a very different kind of vigilantism/revenge movie. It has all of the right elements of the genre, but there is a melancholy sense about it that one usually does not encounter. The plot may feel familiar, but you’ve probably never experienced a movie like this one, it leaves a gaping hole inside of you. Most movies in this genre seem to unashamedly exploit the violence, turns it into an entertainment of some sort. And while this movie is considered an action thriller, the action in it is much more visceral and psychological; it’s more about the effect of violence upon Erica Bain when she commits acts of violence.

We journey with Bain’s anger and confusion and rage, thanks to a great performance by Jodie Foster. She brings the tragedy of Erica’s life to fruition. She’s not Superwoman; she has no military training of any sort, she’s just your average, everyday Joe (or Jane) who had something tragic happen to her, decides to buy a gun, and how her world flips on its head after her first act of using her weapon. Foster plays it as disturbed and mortified as a person can without finding herself killing people in the name of justice. But she also plays it as someone who has found her strength again, but at what cost?

Another great performance in this movie is given by Terrence Howard (of Crash, Hustle and Flow, and the upcoming Iron Man) who plays Detective Mercer, a cop who befriends Erica and takes up the investigation of the vigilante acts which Erica has committed. He portrays a very conflicted person who does the right thing, but has a deep down feeling that by doing the right thing the bad guys he puts away still manage to win. Some movies of this kind come across preachy, elowing you in the gut just to get you to lift your head and stare at the message written in neon lights. The Brave One doesn’t work that way; you’re left to judge for yourself, ask your own questions. If there’s anything wrong with the movie, for some people, it might be the ending. Some might like it; some might think there could have been more to it. But it works…because there really are no answers to the questions this film raises. And that’s the point. Anyone expecting a typical action movie might be somewhat disappoint-ed; others looking for a little weight in their action films can do no wrong in seeing The Brave One.
Americans Crave Resolution - Will the Bush Administration Give an Honest Answer?

By BREANNE HANSON

Americans, as a whole; have one common question for the Bush Administration, when will American troops begin returning home? This is an imperative question that has been neglected for far too long by government officials. Somewhere during the past four years the United States vision of helping others has become tainted. American military families and civilians both question the purpose of the excessive amount of troops serving overseas. Is the military focus on reconquering Iraq’s government and infrastructure, or is the U.S. objective more concerned with remaining economically superior to other parts of the world?

According to an article on Military Times.com posted on September 10, 2007, General Petraeus, in a 2 page letter addressed to the troops September 7, 2007 stated, “It has not worked out as we had hoped.” If progress is not steady and things are not changing following such heavy investments of both human and financial resources, how is it that officials can argue that continued time, energy, and the loss of lives will resolve and commitment” (Military Times.com).

Following the presentation delivered by General Petraeus, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker was quick to agree with Petraeus stating, “A secure, stable, democratic Iraq, at peace with its neighbors is, in my view, attainable.” However, he was not as confident when he interjected the negative effects of this goal. He later stated, “This process will not be quick. It will be uneven and punctuated by setbacks, as well as achievements, and it will require substantial U.S. resolve and commitment” (Military Times.com).

There is a slim chance that Iraq will eventually become the democratic society that the U.S. is pushing for; however, with success there will be more setbacks. At this time, the Bush administration needs to decide if the gains are worth the excessive amount of financial hardship and emotional devastation that has been experienced by the families of U.S. troops.

As stated in a CNN news brief September 16, 2007, in mid-September President Bush proposed the idea of withdrawing 5,700 U.S. troops by the holiday season, without replacements. This is a nice gesture by the U.S. president; however, many have viewed it as a mockery because 5,700 troops are a mere 3.3% of the men and women who will remain fighting for their country overseas.

Although the devastation occurring in Iraq is constantly in the media, only those who have personally defended the United States can taste, smell, and breathe the destructive repercussions of the war. For the soldiers there is one obvious (and official) goal, the rebuilding of Iraq. However, with the continuing loss of life, materials and money, improvements are not steady or sustainable and the U.S. is not reaping significant benefits. As Americans it is time to proclaim one common goal: thank the troops for their selfless acts, and support the withdrawal of U.S. soldiers from the war in Iraq.
**MEN’S & WOMEN’S CROSS COUNTRY**

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<td>NYC Tech. Invitation</td>
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**Head Coach:** Chris Oechschlager  
**Assistant Coach:** James Watts  
**Website:** [www.qcc.cuny.edu/HealthPhysEdDance/athletics.htm](http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/HealthPhysEdDance/athletics.htm)

**Head Coach:** Calvin Salmon  
**Assistant Coach:** Gaetano Depasquali  
**Website:** [www.qcc.cuny.edu/HealthPhysEdDance/athletics.htm](http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/HealthPhysEdDance/athletics.htm)

**Head Coach:** Janine Fulcher  
**Assistant Coach:** Matt Candela  
**Website:** [www.qcc.cuny.edu/HealthPhysEdDance/athletics.htm](http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/HealthPhysEdDance/athletics.htm)

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