September 2004 (Bayside) – On October 24, 2004, the QCC Art Gallery/CUNY will present the sole U.S. exhibition of An American Odyssey, 1945-1980 [Debating Modernism]. The noteworthy exhibition, curated by Stephen Foster, will showcase works from some of the most significant artists of the 20th century, including:

- Jim Dine
- Willem de Kooning
- Franz Kline
- Andy Warhol
- George Segal
- Sol LeWitt
- Mark Rothko
- Richard Pousette-Dart
- Frank Stella
- Robert Motherwell
- Roy Lichtenstein
- Louise Nevelson

An American Odyssey examines the early avant-garde movements in the United States, which reached maturity after the definitive shift of the world's artistic center from Paris to New York, following World War II. This unique survey of works from public and private collections will re-examine American art post World War II and its relationship to modernism and competing art movements such as Abstract Expressionism, Pop Art, Post-Painterly Abstraction, New Realism, Assemblage and Environments, and Minimalism. Many of the exhibition's featured artists lived and worked in New York.

“In curating this exhibition, an attempt has been made to re-examine the past in terms of how it contributed to defining the historical present,” said Curator, Stephen Foster. “Competing art movements are re-examined as a series of exchanges that express “the crisis of modernism” and the strategies and means by which artists and critics of various positions attempted to transact and formulate a new relationship of art to society.”

Such a show has not been mounted in the U.S. in nearly thirty years. An American Odyssey opened in Madrid to much acclaim this spring at the prestigious Circulo de Bellas Artes, a major arts and cultural institution in Spain. Following its run at other Spanish venues in Salamanca and La Coruna, An American Odyssey will arrive in Bayside for its U.S. run through January 13, 2005.

“We are entering a new era for the arts on our campus. An American Odyssey is our invitation to the community to explore with us the full depth of the cultural programming right here at QCC,” said Dr. Eduardo Marti, President of Queensborough Community College.

The QCC Art Gallery’s permanent collection focuses on three primary areas: works of contemporary American artists, works of Hispanic artists and temporary exhibitions. Curator Stephen Foster and renowned art critics Dore Ashton, Donald Kuspit and John Yau will present a corresponding lecture series featuring Curator Stephen Foster and renowned art critics Dore Ashton, Donald Kuspit and John Yau.

“An American Odyssey represents our commitment to forge international partnerships such as this with Circulo de Bellas Artes” said Faustino Quintanilla, QCC Art Gallery Director. “The show reflects the depth of our Gallery’s program and our hope to reach diverse audiences throughout the borough and on our own campus.”

The QCC Art Gallery under construction

The QCC Art Gallery Reopens October 27, 2004

Voting Empowers the Young When They Choose to Vote

By TIFFANY N. RICHARDS

On Tuesday, November 2, 2004, registered voters will participate in an important election, one that will be discussed continuously on the news, the presidential election of 2004. This is an especially important election because so many crucial issues are really affecting young people, like education, health, and the war in Iraq. Issues that rest on each candidate’s opposing viewpoint which may change the direction of this country’s future.

Today in America, the youth that are eligible to vote do not. In fact, young people make up approximately 14 percent of our population but only 5 percent vote, whereas the elderly make up 16 percent of the population and 33 percent of the votes cast. According to many web sites, the research shows that the elderly are the biggest percentage to vote.

Most young people do not vote because they do not understand what the details in the issues are. Young people also do not understand that some of the issues may concern them.

There are many ways to become informed by specific organizations put together specifically for young people, for example, Campaigns for Young Voters, Campus Compact, Smackdown Your Vote!, Youth Coalition and MTV’s Choose or Lose. These are just a few of the many organizations, but they all have the same things in common, to inform young people about their political rights, the differences between the candidates that are running, and to teach young people that they have a voice, the right to express it and let it be heard.

Before 1971 the minimum age to vote was twenty-one; that year the Constitution was amended (#26) to the minimum age of eighteen. It did not make young people enthusiastic to vote. In 2000, only 50.7 percent of eighteen to twenty-four year olds were registered to vote and of those only 36.1 percent voted.

There has been a decline in the number of young people in certain ethnic groups. Young African-American votes increased until 1984, then declined drastically; also declining in votes are young Hispanics and young Asian Americans. Young single people and the young people with higher education are more inclined to vote.

Despite the fact that a lot of young people do not vote, some young people have wielded a lot of power with their voting. For example, according to www.voteforameric.org, 150 U.C. Berkeley stu-

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Continued on page 3
Two Presidential Candidates
Campaign Long and Hard

BY CARLOS MORENO

While sixteen candidates began the presidential race for 2004, two will remain in the running. We also know that America has two choices: Senator John Kerry and President George W. Bush. As of today the competition between the two has been close, and the final result of this election may be very uncertain. The United States has passed through many tests and has experienced unexpected tragedies in the last four years. America is expecting a new leader that will change the future of our nation considering how hard it has been for many Americans to heal.

America’s youth has become aware of the power in voting and are more involved in voting today than in previous elections. They have realized that it is important to vote. Thanks to many awareness campaigns organized by media sources such as television, cable and newspapers, more young people intend to cast their votes in this race. Yet, how much power do we really have? Can we really make a difference? Do the American people really decide who goes into office? I guess there are many questions and perhaps answers, but we’ll just have to rely on faith that soon enough, our nation will change and for the benefit of its people. With the campaign coming into its final weeks, the pressure for the candidates grows, and the entire country is anticipating that America’s new leader will change the future of our nation.

These are the words of our President given during the Republican National Convention (Aug. 30-Sept. 2): “The freedom of many and the future security of our nation now depend on us. And tonight, my fellow Americans, I ask you to stand with me.”

Senator Kerry’s words from the Democratic National Conventions were: “Write the next great chapter of America’s history. America can do better and help is on the way.”

Both sound promising and convincing. There are so many issues that need to be dealt with. When will the war end? Is the education system going to change? Will taxes go up or down? Will the elder Americans benefit from this election? Our country needs a change soon.

Many Americans worry that if George W. Bush gets re-elected, the war in Iraq will not end, and others are worried that if Senator Kerry wins that indeed he becomes president, that American will flee from Iraq and the war on terror will cease to continue leaving the terrorists free to commit future atrocities. According to the evidence to date, Bush’s administration has failed in almost every aspect of positive development in the long run. Will America be in the hands of George W. Bush for another four years, or will America enter a new era in which Senator John Kerry will lead? Many Americans are worried due to the uncertain future of the United States. When we meticulously observe the progress that the United States has had since Bush came to office, we can come to the conclusion that the Bush administration has not only failed, but it has also caused a tremendous economic slump from which America may take years to recover.

The United States of America has always been a strong nation with hard-working people. Better times will soon come to the country and its people. We Americans should maintain the faith that has held us together so far, although nobody knows what is going to be the outcome of the 2004 election, speculations, predictions and assumptions have been made, but in reality we will not know until November 2, 2004 who will be the candidate to be inaugurated in January 2005.
West Side Stadium Plans Create Controversy Among New Yorkers

BY RUSLEY D.

Can you imagine the 2012 Olympic Games in New York City? Well, with the proposal that our Mayor Michael Bloomberg is recommending for a new West Side Stadium, this may be a reality. But the plans for the stadium do not go unopposed. The biggest opponent facing the West Side Stadium is just seven blocks away, the Madison Square Garden owner as well as the New York City Police Department.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg remarked, “The whole West Side complex, including the stadium, is the economic future of our city. The Olympics is a separate thing. You will not get the Olympics unless you have a world-class stadium.”

Those in favor of this new stadium argue that the new stadium will help to develop a part of the city in need of growth. With the West Side Stadium going through its reinvention, a stadium will make many plans that are pending a thing of the present, such as an extension of the No. 7 line that runs from Main Street, Flushing, to 42nd Street, Times Square. The stadium would also create new jobs as well as improve transportation, argue the proponents of the plan.

However, one west resident opposed to the plan, Shereen Sanof, commented, “Congestion, pollution, the crime, think about the extra police. Even the police don’t want this because they know it is going to be an extra burden on them.”

In addition, the opposition to the West Side Stadium focused on an outdated plan made in the 1990’s. This plan was originated before September 11th, and does not take into account the effect the event had on the city as a whole.

The cost of building a new stadium will be at about $1.4 billion. But don’t think the city will be fronting this bill alone. The New York Jets, whose team would benefit from the new stadium, will be contributing $800 million to show that the city will not just be carrying this project on its back, and the city will contribute about $600.

Moreover, with contracts pending for our New York Police Department and New York’s finest, many New Yorkers would rather the money be spent on paying the most overworked and underpaid in the city than on building a new stadium.

There are also other plans to bring the Olympics to New York in 2012 such as rebuilding a stadium such as Shea Stadium, which if looked at would be less costly, and bring much needed jobs back to the Queens community.

More recent information suggests that many New Yorkers will not have to worry about a new West Side Stadium now that Paris, despite the infamous French judge, is the 2012 leader heading into the stretch. Madrid is second, but with Barcelona having been the 1992 site, the International Olympic Committee is unlikely to go to Spain twice in 20 years. London is a distant third, Moscow a tired fifth, and New York is fading to fourth, so it does not look too promising that New York will have a new West Side Stadium anytime soon.

(Art Gallery Continued from page 1)

and works representing the art of Africa. Other highlights of this impressive and eclectic collection include works by several distinguished American women artists; Danny Lyon’s photo chronicles of young women artists; Danny Lyon’s photo chronicles of the Student Non-Violence Coordinating Committee’s civil rights efforts (1962-64); the archives of the David Herbert Gallery; and the Wyppenswah Collection (a photographic documentation of the American Indian presence on Long Island). The QCC Gallery also houses an extensive research library, which is a pivotal part of the Gallery’s commitment to serve the community by supporting its educational outreach efforts.

Beginning October 24, 2004, the Gallery will be open Tues. 10-5; Wed. & Thurs. 10-7; Fri. 10-5; Sat. & Sun. 12-5; Mondays, the gallery is closed. It is free to the public and located at 222-05 56th Avenue in Bayside. For further information and directions, visit www.qccartgallery.org or call (718) 631-6396.

Editor’s note: A media preview of An American Odyssey will be held on Thursday, October 21, 2004 at 11:00 AM.

Voting Empowers the Young

Continued from page 1

dents met with 110 officials in the State Assembly and Senate, lobby issues affecting all students in California. In the amount of 15 million dollars California provided the first ever funding for low-income student housing.

To register to vote you must fill out a Voter Registration Form. You can get a Registration Form from New York City libraries, Post Offices and DMVs. Your form must be delivered or mailed twenty-five days prior to the next election, in order for it to be valid for that election.

If for some reason you are unable to make it to the polls, you can apply for an Absentee Ballot. An Absentee Ballot is a form of voting through the mail, but you must apply for it!

This a great way to vote if you are on vacation, disabled, or think you are going to be too busy to get to the polls. If you choose to vote by Absentee Ballot, it must be mailed in before or on the day you want to vote. You must be 18 years old by the date of the general, primary or other election in which you wish to vote. Your eligibility will depend on the date you file this form, and your County Board will notify you of your eligibility. [100 percent of forms must be returned by October 21, 2004]

NEW YORK STATE VOTER REGISTRATION FORM

YOU CAN USE THIS FORM TO:

• Register to vote in New York State
• Change your name/address if there is a change since you last voted.
• Request a political party or change your enrollment

TO REGISTER YOU MUST:

• Be a U.S. citizen.
• Be 18 years old by December 31 of the year in which you file this form. (Note: You must be 18 years old by the date of the general, primary or other election in which you wish to vote.)
• Lives at your present address for at least 30 days before an election.
• Not be in jail or on parole for a felony conviction.
• Not claim the right to vote elsewhere.

Information on required at time of voter registration by DMV:

Name: ____________________________ Last Name: ____________________________
First Name: ______________________ Initial: ______________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________________
City/Town/County: ____________________________ Zip Code: __________________
Telephone: ____________________________ Birthdate: ________________________
Registered Party: ________________________ Gender: ________________________

You must file an application for an Absentee Ballot. You must be a registered voter in order for it to be valid for that election.

I, _____________________________, do hereby request that I be registered as a voter of the County of New York, New York State.

Name: ____________________________ Last Name: ____________________________
First Name: ______________________ Initial: ______________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________________
City/Town/County: ____________________________ Zip Code: __________________
Telephone: ____________________________ Birthdate: ________________________
Registered Party: ________________________ Gender: ________________________

Yes, I understand this is the Election Day voter registration form.

The Absentee Ballot, you can call the Board of Elections in the City of New York at (718) 730-6730 or 1-866-686-VOTE-NYC.

Voting Empowers the Young Continued from page 1

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(For quotes: Eyewitness News: 7Online.com; Tuesday, September 28, 2004)
El Mes de la Herencia Hispana

POR NATALIA BOLIVAR

El Mes de la Herencia Hispana se celebra cada año con el propósito de resaltar la contribución política, económica, social y cultural de los hispanos en los Estados Unidos. La celebración se lleva acabo desde el 15 de septiembre hasta el 15 de octubre. Este periodo de septiembre a octubre fue elegido como el Mes de la Herencia Hispana ya que países como Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico y Chile obtuvieron su independencia. Está es la única celebración que reúne gente de España, del Caribe, de Norte, Centro y Sur América.

En este mes los hispanos disfrutan de sus raíces y se sienten cerca de sus tierras mientras que otros conocen un poco más de la cultura. Lo que muchos no saben es que más de 35.3 millones de hispanos habitan en los Estados Unidos y ahora constituyen la mayor minoria. Para ser más exactos la palabra “Hispano” abarca 20 países donde todos comparten el mismo idioma aunque todos hablan el español un poco diferente. Las familias hispanas también comparten el amor por la familia, los valores humanos, la dedicación al trabajo, y por supuesto, el orgullo de ser hispanos.

Venezuela, Uruguay, España, Puerto Rico, Perú, Paraguay, Panamá, Nicaragua, México, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Ecuador, República Dominicana, Cuba, Costa Rica, Colombia, Chile, Bolivia y Argentina son los países de habla hispana. Aunque en todos no se habla en español, estos países comparten la same core values, Eskimos, Príncipe, Rusia, y otros conocen un poco más de la cultura. What many do not know is that more than 35.3 million Hispanics live in the United States and now they constitute the biggest minority group. To be more exact the word “Hispanic” covers 20 countries that share the same language although they all speak slightly different spanish. Hispanic families also share the love for their families, human values, the dedication to work, and of course, their pride to be Hispanics.

Hispanic Heritage Month

THE HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

BY NATALIA BOLIVAR

El Mes de la Herencia Hispana se celebra cada año con el propósito de resaltar la contribución política, económica, social y cultural de los hispanos en los Estados Unidos. La celebración se lleva acabo desde el 15 de septiembre hasta el 15 de octubre. Este periodo de septiembre a octubre fue elegido como el Mes de la Herencia Hispana ya que países como Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico y Chile obtuvieron su independencia. Muchos soldados hispanos perdieron sus vidas en Iraq en el intento de defender su patria, ellos demostraron su compromiso como ciudadanos ante los Estados Unidos, por su valentía nunca serán olvidados.

Con estas festividades otras culturas aprenden un poco de las raíces hispanas pero también los mismos hispanos aprenden de sus países hermanos. Este mes es una fiesta llena de banderas coloridas donde todas las nacionalidades están invitadas a todos los eventos de las diferentes comunidades. Desfiles, comidas típicas, paradas, bailes, y muchos otros eventos están organizados para que usted disfrute a plenitud de este mes. 

Hispanic Heritage Month

BY NATALIA BOLIVAR

The Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated each year with the purpose to acknowledge the political, social, economic and cultural contributions of Hispanics to the United States.

The celebration is carried out from September 15 to October 15. This period of one month was elected as the Hispanic Heritage Month because countries like Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Chile obtained their independence. This is the only celebration that brings together people from Spain, the Caribbean, North, Central and South America. During this month Hispanics enjoy their roots and feel near their countries while others learn more about their culture. What many do not know is that more than 35.3 million Hispanics live in the United States and now they constitute the biggest minority group. To be more exact the word “Hispanic” covers 20 countries that share the same language although they all speak slightly different spanish. Hispanic families also share the love for their families, human values, the dedication to work, and of course, their pride to be Hispanics.

Venezuela, Uruguay, Spain, Puerto Rico, Peru, Paraguay, Panama, Nicaragua, Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Costa Rica, Colombia, Chile, Bolivia and Argentina are all Spanish speaking countries. While these countries appear unfamiliar, they can each be recognized by something or some one known to us all: Nachos with salsa or a quesadilla? Mexico, an old man with a tobacco? Cuba, the smell of a cup of coffee? Colombia, the rhythm of merengue? Dominican Republic, a shout of goal? Argentina, Marc Anthony and Jennifer? Puerto Rico, the most commercial canal? Panama, a gypsy dancing flamenco? Spain. These are just some of the most recognized characteristics of these countries.

Artists such as Penelope Cruz, Antonio Banderas, Rita Moreno, Ricky Martin, Shakira, Enrique Iglesias and Salma Hayek have succeeded in the entertainment world and have always been a motivation for young Hispanics. Many soldiers of Hispanic background lost their lives in Iraq trying to defend their land. They all demonstrated their commitment to the United States, and for being the bravest men, they will never be forgotten.

These festivities allow other cultures to learn more about the Hispanic roots and also the same Hispanics learn about their neighboring countries. This month is a feast full of colorful flags where all nationalities are invited to the different events held by each community. Food, parades, dances, festivals, concerts and many other events are organized so that you can enjoy this month to its fullest.
Labor Day Parade Turns Ugly

BY JENIENE DALEY

The Labor Day parade is a popular event that takes place on Labor Day every year. Thousands of people gather excitedly on Eastern Parkway, some dressed in costumes waiting eagerly for the annual parade to commence. Unlike previous labor days, September 6, 2004 was a beautiful day of clear skies and a high of 76 degrees.

Masqueraders, dressed in feathers, sparkling glitter dust and sequins, danced to the beat of soca music blaring from flatbed trucks while making their estimated 50-block journey from Utica Avenue to the Grand Army Plaza. Thousands of people stood behind metal bars creating a barrier between the sidewalk and the street and proudly waving flags. Others represented their countries by wearing outfits of their national colors and watched excitedly as the dancers made their way down the Parkway with their colorful outfits shimmering in the sun.

Some over excited onlookers scaled the rails to join in the festivities. Because of the absence of rain there were far more people than previous years. “I love the parade,” shouted one man happily as he made his way behind the masqueraders.

The crowd got even more excited when the Hot 97 float made its appearance on the Parkway. People started to jump the rails, some falling and taking down others with them. The float gained its popularity because it was carrying popular reggae artists such as Elephant Man, Mr. Lex, Wayne Marshall, TOK, and others who were performing energetically despite of what was going on below. Because of the tightly packed vicinity, there was a lot of pushing and pulling which caused some paraders to become enraged and even violent. Some people were trampled on. “I am never coming back to this place,” one man said. “They nearly trampled my mother to death.” After a few blocks several people left the march and made their way back to the crowded but less dangerous sidewalks.

“Look at my leg,” she said while rolling up her dirty and blood stained white pants to display a deep gash in her leg. “I fell and they kept stepping on me.”

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“Look at my leg,” she said while rolling up her dirty and blood stained white pants to display a deep gash in her leg. “I fell and they kept stepping on me like I wasn’t there.”

Even though members of the NYPD had occasionally cleared the road, somehow people found a way to make it back into the streets. “If people obey the rules and remain on the sidewalk, none of this would happen. They would be going home safe and injury-free just like they came,” commented one officer. “As soon as we clear the road, they jump right back.”

“We are doing the best we can,” added his colleague.

There were people who were there not so much for the parade but for the food. For some this was a rare occasion where they could once more eat their heritage food and feel like they were back home.

Attention Students!

Are you good in your coursework? Are you interested in helping other students? Would you like to work in a friendly, supportive learning environment?

Instructional Support Services is looking to hire NEW TUTORS in the following subjects and areas:

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To qualify, you must have a GPA of 3.0 and a grade of B+ or better in the course(s) you want to tutor.

For more information on how to become a tutor, please call us at 718-631-6663, or come visit us at the ISSC Building to fill out an application.
Be Advised: Be Advised!

By Pascale Mews

Some of us begin college knowing exactly what our educational goals are: what we’d like to major in, what fields we’d like to enter, what careers we hope to have. Others have simply a penchant towards one area or another, but are not sure what it is we’d like to do. Neither of these decisions, or lack thereof, is better than the other. The manner in which we carry out these decisions, rather, is what is crucial to a successful education.

Of course, this is somewhat simple when the course is clear-cut. Still, those who are uncertain of their majors can create a less narrow path, leaving room for meandering goals. Students who prepare themselves by reflecting upon this path can be well advised. Rather than telling an advisor, “I don’t know what I want to major in,” a student can then say, “I’m not sure what I want to be, but I’ve always been interested in _______” (fill in the blank). Advisement can better help students who can also help themselves.

Academic Advisement is available to all currently-enrolled students, incoming students who have been accepted as either Freshmen or Transfer students, and those who have been readmitted to QCC after one or more semesters away (http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/Advisement/general_info.asp). Whether this is your first college experience, or whether you’ve been here a few semesters already, now may be the perfect time to be advised. Literally—be advised.

Many advisors are also familiar with the CUNY system’s transfer policies. QCC’s information page on academic advisement can also be beneficial (http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/Advisement/). Unfortunately, we cannot expect to be told just what to do. However, by taking simple initiatives, we can become aware of not only what is required to the next level ....

take it

transfer to CITY!

For more than 150 years, The City College of New York has been a landmark of diversity, opportunity and academic fire, powering alumni success stories ranging from Ira Gershwin to Jonas Salk to Colin Powell to eight Nobel Prize Winners. Add yourself to the list. From engineering, architecture and education to science and the liberal arts, City College is the path to any career, any dream. Take your dream to the next level - at City!

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PUBLIC SAFETY CORNER

Joseph Cunningham

Director of Security & Public Safety

I would like to welcome all of our new students, returning students, faculty and staff back to Queensborough. I hope you had a great summer and are ready for a great Fall term.

You will have received, by October 1, 2004, your Annual Crime Statistics (Clery Act) Sexual Assault Prevention and Reporting Procedures brochure. Please take a few minutes to review this. You will find it contains some important and useful information. If you have not received a copy you can pick one up at the Security Office, 3rd Floor Library Building, by the flag pole. Phone numbers for Security Office are 631-6320/6384. We are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Please remember that the Department of Security & Public Safety has a goal and that is to make your stay at Queensborough Community College a pleasant and safe experience. We are committed to this goal.

We need your help. It is a “team effort”. If you are a victim or a witness to a crime, report it. How? By calling Security at 631-6320/6384 or using the Red Phones, which are a direct line to the Security Office. Phone numbers for Security Office are 631-6320/6384. We are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

We maintain a daily crime log that records, by date, any crime that was reported on campus. It can be reviewed by the college community at any time, and is kept in the Security Office on the 3rd Floor Library.

Fire Alarms & Emergency Evacuation Drills – Never assume that an alarm is a false report or drill. If an alarm sounds, do not call the Security Office, “evacuate.” Practice of our evacuation plan is important. The life you save may be your own!

Copies of our Fire Safety instructions are available throughout the campus by each exit in every building on campus. Please take a copy and review it. If an emergency happens, “be ready.”

If you would like to have someone attend one of your club meetings to review security on campus, please call the Security Office and we will be glad to come.

Again, welcome – stop by our office and say hello and have a great term.
Terrorists Strike in Russia

By GARY GIORGIOBIANI

On Monday, September 3, 2004, Chechen rebel leader Aslan Maskhadov and Chechen warlord Shamil Basayev, with the help of their terrorist group, seized a school building and held more than 1,000 students, parents and staff hostage in Beslan, north of Russia. The terrorists ranged in nationalities from Arabs, Uzbeks, and Ingush to Kazakhs, Slavs, and Chechens. Beslan is a city of about 30,000 people located in the Russian province of North Ossetia. Beslan is neighbor by Georgia to the south, Ingushetia to the east and shares small northeastern borders with Chechnya.

Hostage takers stormed the school forcing terrified children and parents into the gym. Once huddled together, hostages were forced to pry floor panels off where they were shocked to uncover hordes of automatic weapons. Investigators speculate that over the summer while renovating the school, the terrorists placed an arsenal of guns and explosives. To add to the horrific experience, hostages were denied food and water for most of the stand off.

As the negotiations failed between the terrorists and Russian Special Forces, civilians armed themselves and attacked the school with the help of Russian soldiers. The hostages fled and the hostage takers opened fired on the children and on the rescue workers. For the next few hours all that could be heard was a hail of bullets and the screams and shouts of both guilty and innocent alike. As rescuers approached the school, terrorists opened fired on everybody killing anyone in their sight. The aftermath was a gruesome combination of dead and injured men, women, and children. Around midday Russian soldiers had the daunting task to collect remains outside and inside of the school.

The massacre in Beslan killed more than 350 hostages, mostly children. More than 700 people were wounded; 448 people were hospitalized including 248 children, and 69 were in serious condition. In addition, 26 hostage takers including 10 people from Arabic countries and at least 10 Russian Special Forces troops were killed. To this point only about 79 bodies have been identified. Many bodies were burned beyond recognition and will require DNA testing for identification. Most of the dead were killed when a bomb exploded in the gymnasium. The siege ended in such a way that survivors and the country itself will not soon forget this day of bloodshed. After burying children on school grounds relatives of victims vie to never forgive the terrorists or the nation from which they came.

Chechen terrorists have long been affiliated with the Al Qaeda terror network. Chechen rebels have been fighting Russian troops for decades seeking independence. Chechen terrorists have carried out suicide missions against Russia in the recent past. However, Beslan was the worst attack that Russia has ever experienced by Chechen terrorists. Michel Kalandia, who has lived in Chechnya for 29 years, stated that although it was a tragic day for those families who lost their children, the war will not stop unless the Russian government ceases its occupation of his native land. In this day and age of suicide bombers and airline hijackings, it is unfortunate that victims of terrorism are no longer safe, no matter race, age, sex, religion or government affiliation.

New Discount Card Buys Students Advantages

By JASMIN GERALD

Discounts can help students take advantage of good opportunities and now there is a card that is a way to take advantage of these discounts, the Student Advantage Discount Card, which is said to be the nation’s largest student discount program good for savings up to 50% at more than 15,000 locations around campus, online and across the country.

One student says, “I have a Student Advantage Discount Card and it has helped me out a great deal while I have been in school.”

The Student Advantage Discount Card has about two large categories of discounts. The majority of the discounts are associated with the shopping category, which includes back-to-school items, food, entertainment, sports, books and magazines, clothing, dorm supplies, software, and much more. The other main category of discounts has to do with travel deals. The world of travel is very broad and since it is very broad there are many different opportunities for everyone. Within all of these opportunities there are special ones for students with the help of the Student Advantage Discount Card.

Many students love to travel whether it is from state to state or out of the country. Students also travel for many reasons such as going home, visiting relatives, or touring other countries. With all of this information in mind, travel companies have made it a bit more affordable for students to travel by linking up with the Student Advantage Discount Card. They have given discounts to students who travel either on airplanes, trains, or buses. Cheap Tickets, Greyhound, and Amtrak are just a few companies who have made it more affordable for students to travel by giving them discounted prices on last minute trips, vacations, or long weekend trips.

Aside from the traveling itself, the Student Advantage Discount Card also can help students to book hotels, and rent cars for much less too. Choice Hotels, and Dollar Rent A Car are a couple of companies that have discounted prices and rates to benefit students.

Besides every day traveling college students would love to go on Spring Break in many of the Spring Break hot spots, but they do not exactly have all of the money to attend. With the Student Advantage Discount Card you can save about $200 per room on Spring Break trips to the Bahamas, Cancun, Jamaica, Panama City, and Daytona Beach, Florida. According to one student, this is one of the best advantages of the Student Advantage Discount Card, which is the fact that it will help you to plan a discounted Spring Break Trip.

The Student Advantage Discount Card is a very helpful item for students with many benefits that are just for us. If you do not own one, it is never too late to obtain one to help make your everyday life more affordable. You can purchase this card online at studentadvantage.com/enrollment/, by calling 1-877-208NSA (1-877-208-6672), or by downloading a printable order form. Log on to studentadvantage.com, for more information.
Joining the military has been the decision of many young adults that graduate high school or have not completed their high school education usually with no money from home or grants of any kind to continue on to college. The military offers a chance for them to earn money and train in a specific field of interest for a career after their contract is done. Some of these young adults have many complaints about the way their military careers have turned out, and they are reaching out in hopes that anyone thinking of joining or is already in the service can help them make a change in the military world.

Roger, 23, a Marine Corporal, had first joined the Marines to earn money for school and travel the world like most young adults fresh out of high school. With no grants or money coming from home, and constantly having recruits appear at your school trying to bribe you into joining the service, eventually you get brain washed and sign your life away...

Roger enlisted in the Marines as a cook, and for a while, that’s what he did as well as visit places such as Virginia, North Carolina, California, and Japan. He was in Japan when he was sent to Kuwait to follow the next military move. He stated, “Training went on once or twice a month in Kuwait to follow the next military move. He stated, “Training went on once or twice a month before the 9/11 terrorism; however, when we were in Kuwait, we trained constantly.”

In the Marines there is a group called “grunts,” which consist of young men who join the Marines and have not requested training for a certain job like Roger did. Grunts according to Roger, are treated worse than all others in training. He explained, “A “grunt” had committed suicide shortly before the war, and he had received a letter in the mail that day; however, nobody knows why he killed himself.”

The Heritage Foundation also argues, “Some 58 percent of U.S. troops are married, and long deployments often result in strains in family life, leading many to leave the service.”

Roger did, in fact, state that he regrets nothing about joining the service; however, there are three losses he has been coping with during his time in the service. “I lost my girlfriend when I moved from California, four years of my life, and the friends I had in California.” Roger said, “I learned about helping people that want help, and serving taught me not to take things for granted.”

The knowledge of cooking Roger had received while in the service, he uses at his job with Spirit Cruises which for 2-4 hours throughout the day, takes you around the major sites of New York.

Roger says, “For anyone who is thinking of joining the service I would say to join if they want to fight. I would tell people to go to the Army or Air Force if they want to fight and don’t join the Marines for money.”

### One Marine Questions
### His Decision to Join the Military

**By Danielle Copper**

High School Cheating Leads to College Cheating

**By A. Perez**

Cheating has become a problem for schools and teachers too, and it’s an old problem. A survey held by Rutgers’ Management Education Center in April ’02 found that in 4,500 high school students interviewed 75% of them engage in cheating.

There are enormous ways in which students cheat. Most of these ways of cheating engage the student’s creativity. One of the most common ways of cheating is the internet. Online students can find information in any topic you wish to write about. That’s when plagiarism comes in; many students are just copying and pasting from articles that they find in the internet. Even better there are websites like: www.phuckschool.com, www.termpapers-on-file.com, and www.schoolsucks.com, where with a credit card you can just print any paper you want. It costs about $9.75 per page; students are willing to pay that and more to get good grades. Some others web sites require you to submit a paper in order to gain access to their collection of papers, for example, www.planetpapers.com and www.oppapers.com.

Another source that students use as a cheating tool is the cell phone. Students text message other students during tests to obtain the correct answers. Students may also take pictures of the answers and send it to a friend and get a response very fast. There is also palm pc which, depending on the memory you can store, complete essays on them. Scientific calculators look very simple, but students can store math formulas in them. There are also calculators that you can send messages in, but not many students know about it.

Students also just pay their friends to do their papers for them, not knowing that probably that friend has another friend who is willing to do the paper for less money.

There are various reasons for this problem of cheating. Especially in high school students are exposed to a lot of pressure from their teacher, parents, and even from themselves. Also on many occasions the students don’t have enough time to complete a paper for themselves. A high school student says, “If you get good grades in high school, you’ll get into better colleges and universities. That high school cheating, which many students think is harmless carries them into college. Then in college they keep up with the same habit.

Students don’t think of the consequences of their actions as long as they pass. One of the many consequences of cheating includes the fact that students that cheat won’t get the same academic advantages as the students who don’t cheat.

Most colleges and universities are very strict about cheating. The penalties to cheating are different, most of the time it depends on the teachers. You can get an F on the test or quiz, or an F for the course; it can even lead to expulsion from the college or university. Most colleges and universities have an academic integrity code in which they explain their policies regarding cheating. Also not many students are very aware of their school’s academic integrity code. The integrity codes are mostly based on the student’s honesty, but most students would rather pass the course than be honest.

This is the watch Stephen Hullingshead, Jr. was wearing when he encountered a drunk driver.

**Time of death 6:37pm.**

*Friends Don’t Let Friends Drive Drunk.*

[Image of a person in a police car with a speedometer and text: "Speed limit 15 miles per hour"]

[Image of a speed limit sign: "Speed limit 15 miles per hour"]

[Image of a police car with a speed limit sign: "Speed limit 15 miles per hour"]

[Image of a police car with a speed limit sign: "Speed limit 15 miles per hour"]
Republicans Visit New York
By Eric J. King

Some major events happened the week of August 29, 2004. The MTV Awards were broadcast live from South Beach, Miami. The fall semester was officially back in full swing at QC and the Republicans invaded New York City.

New York City is where people come to see a good show, so it seems only natural that the republicans would come here to give their best performances. As we all know this convention affected us all no matter what political party you’re in because not only did it put a temporary halt to the entire Mid-town area, this is the time the political parties really try to get your vote. They pull all the special effects; Celebrity politicians, their whole political party and their families.

There were many important people at this convention. Among them were: The wives of soldiers, former New York City Mayor Giuliani, The whole entire “Bush Dynasty”, and Actor/politician Gov. Arnold Swartzenneger, who gave his most important speech since being elected Governor of California in 2004. Without saying much Gov. Swartzenneger really managed to hype up the crowd.

The Bush daughters tried to really charm the audience with cute stories about Mommy and Daddy Bush and proved the were still part girls by quoting a line from the Outkast song “Hey Ya”. They also joked about having to know how to fight being republicans going to Yale and joked about Grandma Bush, which I felt went on a little too long. After a while I started to feel like I was at a Granny Bush roast. Former Mayor Gulliani seemed very entertained as the girls carried on.

Laura Bush looked fabulous as she told cute stories about her husband and spoke about the issues they stand for. She said the Bush family was about Education reform, when she stated they were for ‘a quality education for every child in America”. She also spoke about her involvement in stem cell research, minority home ownership and The Global War on Terror. I feel she stole the show with her style, glamour and wit. It is said that she does have a higher approval rating then her husband.

President Bush spoke about his flaws, how Gov. Swartzenneger corrected his English, His swagger, His bluntness which his says he got from “that little grey haired lady right there”, referring to his mother. He spoke about health care and expanding Pell Grants, but most of all The Global War on Terror which he said is “not for the pride, not for the power, but because the lives of our citizens are at stake”. He said that freedom is not the American gift to the world; it’s almighty Gods’ gift to everyone in the world. He also help you to learn how to learn all your sub-

If you are interested in contacting President Bush you can e-mail him at GeorgeWBush.Com

Instructional Support Services: Myths, Facts and Fish!
By Dion Pincus, Director of Instructional Support Services

How do you see Instructional Support Services?
Some see Instructional Support Services as “that tutoring place” — you know, the fix-it-place where you go when you start to think that you’re in danger of failing your course . . .

Others see it as a place where (somebody said) you could go and get a tutor to help you finish your Physics or Chemistry homework, or where you could find someone to correct your grammar on a term paper that’s due later that afternoon.

And some just don’t see us at all — either because they can’t know very much about us and all the things that we do here with student learning, or maybe simply because they don’t know where to find us on campus!

It is very easy, on a campus of over 12,000 students and approximately 800 faculty members, for there to be so many ideas and misconceptions about what anyone actually does. It means, just think for a minute about how diverse you are as a student body: you are approximately 58% male and 42% female; you represent 134 different nationalities; speak 83 different languages; and range in age between 15 and 92!

So I thought that what I would like to do is to introduce Instructional Support Services to you according to the way we see ourselves and the different ways we can help you to become a great college student and lifelong learner!

MYTH #1
“Tutoring? No way. Tutoring is for failing students.”

FACT: Actually, tutoring is for every student! It’s as much for “A” students who’d like to keep their As, as it is for the “B” students who’d like to get an A! Tutoring is here for ANY student who would like to improve his/her academic and strategic learning skills.

MYTH #2
“I’m worried if I go for tutoring, my instructor will think I’m weak.”

FACT: Quite the opposite. You’ll show your instructor that you’re concerned enough about the course to make the effort to come to tutoring. That’s a sign of strength, not weakness. And, if you are concerned about confidentiality — shhhhh. No one has to know.

MYTH #3
“An hour or two of tutoring a week isn’t enough to help me.”

FACT: Not only can our tutors help you with your coursework in an hour or two a week, but they can also help you to learn how to learn all your subjects more effectively! Want to get more out of your study time? Need specific techniques you

A BOOK REVIEW
The Jungle by Upton Sinclair

Reviewed by Adrienne Chan

Most educated Americans may know that Upton Sinclair wrote a graphic, disturbing novel entitled The Jungle, published in 1906, about the deplorable conditions in the meatpacking industry in Chicago. A few more might know that Sinclair is famous for having given Groucho Marx the name “Yeast.” What he meant was that he expected the country to become outraged over the treatment of the workers in the industry, but the main hue and cry that went up was over the filthiness of the meat-packing operations that he described in his book.

The most immediate effect of the book that turned Sinclair into an international celebrity was the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act. The Jungle instigated the end of child labor, the 8-hour workday, improved working conditions, and employee injury compensation. If Sinclair failed in getting The Jungle published, would people’s life style today be enhanced compared to the deprived living conditions in the early 1900s?

In this book, Sinclair vividly depicts factory life in Chicago in the first years of the twentieth century. Life during this time was a huge struggle and burden. He reveals the horrors of the slaughterhouse, in which the scenes in the meat packing facilities get quite graphic and gruesome. He also exposes people’s barbarous working conditions, poverty, the diseases and despair. Sinclair reveals these conditions through the eyes of Jurgis Rudkus, a young immigrant who came to the New World to build a home for himself and his family.

The real story revolves around the integration and eventual disintegration of Jurgis Rudkus and his family. They were Lithuanian immigrants who move to the stockyards of Chicago in hopes of a better life. The city was dominated by the meat packing industry, and as the industrial revolution developed, machines reduced immigrants to slaves of free enterprise. Financial necessity forced them into virtual slave labor in order to subsist. For Jurgis and his family, the slave master is the ruthless and greedy meat packing industry, whose leaders value their workers more than the animals they slaughter.

The Jungle describes in extreme detail what life was like in the early industrial age. It exposed the discrepancy between the standards of living of the working class and bourgeoisie; it also demonstrates the evils of capitalism. As devastating as this book may sound, it is an informative thesis on the value of humanity along with a worthy history lesson.

Photograph of Cover of Upton Sinclair’s The Jungle (1906) and Upton Sinclair

photograph taken from the site of: http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/uplton.htm
http://museum.nist.gov/object

Continued on page 11
Is Day Care Right for You?

BY MARLENE CRUZ

Day Care has a big influence on a child’s development. Many parents to many days do day care it shows that it has a positive impact on a child’s language, and learning and the development of their knowledge. For instance, a child will be more advanced when the time comes to enter elementary school. This benefits them because they now know what to expect. The work will not be too hard and they are not experiencing anything new. They are one step ahead of the children that did not have day care experiences.

In addition, if children don’t have textbooks, it may take away from study time, possibly dent works a full time job in order to pay for college expenses and some are not. The average student monitors survey, half of all the students questioned said, “In this facility our goals are to broaden children’s childhood experiences and give them opportunities to explore and understand their world. By beginning to nurture young children’s (usually ages 5 and 6) normal tendencies for play, exercise, observation and creation, we introduce them progressively into the work of elementary grades.”

The teachers take the children out to the playground so they can exercise their muscles and also let out all their energy they have stored. Afterwards the playground they walk around the neighborhood so the children can quiet down and relax.

After that enter the classroom very quietly and sit on their assigned seats on the carpet. There the teacher goes over the days of the week and what’s the present day. Then they sing songs that are on a big index note pad. The child care Provider teaches them the days of the week and personal hygiene. A run down of this part of the day is after the table is set they get full balanced meal milk, bread vegetables, also a meat supplement and last desert. After they have had there well balanced meal they nap for an hour listening to classical music.

At the end of the day the teacher teaches those manners, how to be polite to others. Interaction with peers is an important part of a child’s early development. Preschool children in childcare centers have an opportunity to engage in conversation and discussions, and to learn to play and work cooperatively with their classmates. Childcare workers play a vital role in preparing children to build the skills they will need in school. They also learn to play and get along with there classmates. In the pre kindergarten class they learn how to identify there name and trace their name with dots that the teacher has provided. They help children to explore their interests, develop their talents and independence, build self-esteem, and learn how to get along with others.

Low-Cost Digital Textbooks Offer Alternative to High-Printed Texts

BY COLETTE LIVINGTON

The prices of textbooks and other materials for classes are difficult for students to manage. They have notebooks, pens, pencils, and folders but still no textbooks. One solution is now offered by the world’s leading educational publisher Pearson Education and Safari online who are introducing a low-cost digital textbook program called Safari X textbooks online.

For the many college students who come from different financial walks of life, the low-cost digital textbook is a tempting answer to expensive textbooks. Some students are able to pay for college expenses and some are not. The average student may have to work, take loans or even borrow money from parents. According to the report, it is costing them more than $25. This venture will offer their new venture of digital textbooks to students. Digital textbooks will allow students and professors to save 50% off the suggested list price of the print equivalent edition. Students can go to www.SafariX.com to see what this program has to offer. This program’s “Web Books” allow students to print pages, make annotations, take notes, search the full text and add bookmarks to organize their study. Professors can also print out pages and assignments for their students.

There are 100 Safari X Web books currently at this website. More than 300 will be available by the end of 2004. In the findings of a current student monitor survey, half of all the students questioned said, “They are likely to purchase a low cost online textbook, assuming a savings of $25. This program also gives price points which allow students to gain points for discounts on material available at this website.

Many students now can have financial relief because this program has been made available.

Yoga:
The Power to Life

BY JENNIFER ESTRADA

Imagine feeling complete control and power over your body with a practice that overpowers your mind and spirit. Yoga can help you deal with countless numbers of problems you feel you need to improve in your life. It has also been known to help with many different health issues people have had in improving their symptoms and conditions helping them lead happier, healthier and longer lives than they could ever have imagined before. Not only does it cleanse your body, but it can improve concentration and healing the mind making you one with yourself, helping you find yourself. Practicing yoga for years will make you more aware of your life and everyday surroundings. "The ability to experience awareness has to be seen as a remarkable quality of expressing the human life," says yoga expert, Megan R. McDonough.

Yoga is very practical and has been proven to be very effective for all different types of bodies. It can help loosen joints and stretch muscles, therefore improving posture, strength and flexibility. These exercises also improve circulation and have many therapeutic benefits.

Pranayama, meaning breathing exercises, sounds yoga, and calm the nervous system and improve the efficiency of bodily systems to clean all toxins from you. Relaxation plays a large role in dealing with stress and allows the body to recharge its system.

Yoga was developed over thousands of years ago. It originated in India and over time has spread throughout the world. It is not a religion, but deals with universal truths and therefore can relate to and combine with any mind and none. It is a worship to your mind, body and spirit.

Yoga is a science of life that promotes health and happiness. The Sanskrit word “yoga” means union. The ancient believers of this practiced meditation to join their inner spirit with the spirit of the universe. Yoga is not competitive and one must learn to listen to their bodies and go at their own pace. Respect yourself and improve your health. Feel at peace with yourself and know yourself.

Tips to a Better Life

• Listen. Get your mind off your problems and lend an ear to others.
• Smile. It’s a simple way to change your inner state of mind.
• Know that life is finite. You are not guaranteed a tomorrow. Your life is precious. Live it fully.
• Take time for self-reflection. Since childhood, we’ve been asked, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” A much better question to ask is “How do I want to be?”
• Give. Whether you give the gift of time, money or knowledge, sharing transforms the mind.
• You control your own path to happiness!

Students can look for in the future more ventures between these two companies. This venture will serve good purposes for students and also professors that go on the website. The stress of carrying texts, buying texts and worrying about failing courses because one may not have a textbook is over because of low-cost digital textbooks.
Myths, Facts ... and Fish

Continued on page 9

Myth #1
So can use both in the classroom and at home to help you learn your course material better. ISS tutors are trained to work with you not only on class content, but to enable you to become a strong, independent learner. Come in and ask a tutor about our learning styles inventories, as well as tips and strategies based on your learning performances.

Myth #2
"So I can come there to do my homework?"

Fact: Well actually, you'll be doing your homework. ISS tutors as a rule do not do homework with students, and do not edit papers for grammar or spelling. What they do, however, is work with you to understand the concepts and skills that are being demonstrated through your class work and homework assignments so that you can go home and tackle the homework on your own! Remember: when it comes time for a test, your tutor is not with you in the classroom. Our job is to make you strong and confident in your own abilities.

Myth #3
"How much is it to get a tutor? It's probably expensive, right?"

Fact: You know what? Tutoring is FREE! Or to be more exact, you've already paid for it out of your own pocket. So if you are or have become a great student, come and ask us about that is involved in applying to be a tutor. It's a great way to broaden your knowledge of and get free training in successful teaching and learning techniques, to help out your fellow students, and to make a few bucks along the way!

Myth #4
“What do you mean, teaching and learning techniques? Tutoring is tutoring, right?”

Fact: This is true. What tutors do is different from classroom instruction. Tutors are not faculty. But tutoring offers an opportunity to really zero in on your individual problems and your learning issues. And the way ISS tutors this is anything but ordinary. All of our tutors receive ongoing training in how to facilitate your learning through the use of learning styles, study skills, group dynamics, and educational technology. All of our tutors are trained to be sensitive to the needs of ESL students, as well as students with disabilities. Many of our tutors are trained to be workshop facilitators who lead our very successful ACT Writing Exam and CPE Exam workshops. Other facilitators are trained to lead Bridges To Retention (B2R) academic preparedness workshops — fun, discovery-learning experiences which teach you the critical thinking and strategic learning skills you will need to succeed in difficult courses. And right now, we are working very hard to create access to tutoring services for you online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, through the use of an e-tutoring portal called “iPASS”. Soon we will have tutors available to respond to your uploaded assignments around the clock!

Myth #5
"What do you mean, teaching and learning techniques? Tutoring is tutoring, right?"

Fact: Actually, our building has been called by many names over the years. Officially, the building is called the ISSC Building — the Instructional Support Services Center. But if it makes it easier, we are located in the small, white building right next to where the Q23 bus drops you off and picks you up. And if you’ve walked by the front of our building, you know our green picnic tables with the green umbrellas. And if you’ve ever been inside, you know we have all those huge green plants around the center and the 20-gallon fish tank with all the guppies and mollies right by our front desk.

So please do come visit us this semester at Instructional Support Services. ISS. You know. With the fish!

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Located at the north end of Queensborough Community College’s campus, the Instructional Support Services (ISS) center offers a variety of services and programs to help you succeed at Queensborough. The center is home to the Instructional Support Services (ISS) office, the College’s computer lab, and the Writing Center.

The ISS office provides students with access to a variety of resources, including individual tutoring, learning strategies, and educational technology. The computer lab is open to any Queensborough student registered with ISS, and there’s rarely a wait! Plus, ISS is WIRELESS! We have 30 wireless laptops you can borrow to use anywhere in the ISSC as part of your tutoring session. That’s 62 computers waiting for you to use!

"Instructional Support Services. That’s over by the Student Union Building, right? Or was that the Library Building? Or was that the Temp 2 building? Or was it the Y building? Or . . .”

Fact: Actually, our building has been called by many names over the years. Officially, the building is called the ISSC Building — the Instructional Support Services Center. But if it makes it easier, we are located in the small, white building right next to where the Q23 bus drops you off and picks you up. And if you’ve walked by the front of our building, you know our green picnic tables with the green umbrellas. And if you’ve ever been inside, you know we have all those huge green plants around the center and the 20-gallon fish tank with all the guppies and mollies right by our front desk.

So please do come visit us this semester at Instructional Support Services. ISS. You know. With the fish!
Fighting for the Wild Card & a Yankee Victory for 2004

BY ANTHONY NOWICH

The 2004 Baseball season is coming to an end, and before you know it, playoffs will be here and two lucky teams will be in the World Series. There are five teams fighting for the playoff spot in the National League. By, now one team clinched their division in the National League which is the St. Louis Cardinals at 98-52 they are the best team to do it this year for the 2004 World Series victory but the Yankees will give them a good fight.

There are now five National League teams remaining that can have a shot to clinch the play off birth. They are Chicago Cubs, San Diego Padres, San Francisco Giants, Houston Astros and Florida Marlins, the team that never gives up and beat the New York Yankees in 2003 as the underdog for the whole series. The Marlins might not get that lucky this year. They are more than five games out of the wild card as of now and with twelve games left, it’s not likely they will clinch the playoff spot this year.

As for the American League, there are three teams that are fighting for the wild card, the Boston Red Sox, Oakland Athletics and Anaheim Angels. Boston at 90-60 are four games out of first place and trail the Yankees who are at 95-56 as of Sept 22. For the American League one team clinched their division which is the Minnesota Twins at 88-63. The two other teams that are neck and neck are Oakland Athletics and Anaheim Angels who are fighting for the wild card and you can throw in Texas Rangers as in well they have a good fighting chance.

My predictions for the American League are the Yankees, Boston, Minnesota and Oakland for the teams to reach the playoffs. Yankees, I have a feeling, will do it this year since they came so close last year when they lost against Florida when they should have won. Since I’m the only one that sticks by the Yankees and says they will win the series this year, I also interviewed one of my classmates that is also a die-hard Yankee fan. He said, “They will definitely win the series because who will beat them, the Cardinals I don’t think so.”

The Yankees will also play Boston in the playoffs and will beat them like last year and beat the New York Yankees in 2003 as the underdog for the whole series. The Yankees might not get that lucky this year. They are more than five games out of the wild card as of now and with twelve games left, it’s not likely they will clinch the playoff spot this year.

As for my predictions, I have interviewed three people, two fans and one person who is a neutral fan for the Yankees. The four people think the teams who will advance to the World Series will be the New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox.

Drag Racing: A Hobby or an Addiction

Drag racing is one of the most dangerous and exciting sports. The amount of adrenaline that your body shoots in a quarter of a mile is endless. Feeling the power of your ride is the most exciting part, going as fast as possible is the dangerous side. Drag racing is safe the majority of the time when you have a track, helmet, proper equipment and an emergency staff, but what about when you do 120 miles per hour in a little strip with no helmet, safety devices or an emergency staff? These illegal events have become more and more popular in the young community. Those who participate in street racing find the sport even more dangerous and more exciting than driving on racing tracks; the experience is fast and furious. It is about being the fastest and about who has the nicest ride; this is extreme adrenaline; this is street racing.

Most racers feel that the excitement of driving a ten second car in the street is incomparable; even more when they are the fastest one in the crowd. Street racing is a big hobby in the United States, mostly in New York, California and Miami. The streets of New York are home for many streetcar racers every night. People from everywhere gather together to show off their customized rides; they use all types of cars, from coupes to sedans to trucks and pick ups, all of them fixed to get to the finish line before anybody else.

Back in the days, street racing was even bigger; it was done all over New York. Wherever there was a clean quarter mile, you would have heard tires spinning on the floor, loud sounds coming from mufflers and people cheering for their favorite car. Flatlands in Hunts Point, Francis Lewis, Greenpoint, are examples of places where cars used to gather to race. In these types of races, people race for many different reasons, money, sometimes just to feel the adrenaline rushing into your body, but most of all, they do it for the respect.

But what about when street racing stops being a hobby and becomes more of an addiction? Whether it rains or shines, or if is hot or freezing cold, people race for many different reasons, money, sometimes just to feel the adrenaline rushing into your body, but most of all, they do it for the respect.

But what about when street racing stops being a hobby and becomes more of an addiction? Whether it rains or shines, or if it is hot or freezing cold, street racing fans are never stopped, only the sound of the siren of a cop car would make these fanatics stop spinning wheels. Cops have tried to stop street racing for many years, but in the process many accidents have happened and a lot of people have been either prosecuted by the law or ended up in an emergency room or in the worst cases, dead.

This past winter, street racing started coming to an end in New York after a tragic accident happened in one of the improvised tracks of the City. A young kid trying to run away from the cops in Francis Lewis was hit by a car and killed, since then the NYPD have been trying to put a final stop to these illegal events. They are really enforcing the law against the street racers and their followers.

Street racing has been always there and it will always be, for as long as people can find a place to feel the boost of their turbo kits and sense the adrenaline rushing into their bodies, street racing will never end.