Queensborough Community College is celebrating its 50th Anniversary during the 2009-2010 school year. While most people near 50 years of age are planning their retirement, Queensborough is just getting started. Having existed for just over half a human lifespan, the school has been through many changes, and it is continuing to grow.

The idea of a new CUNY college was originally conceived in 1958 to provide a solution for the growing number of Queens’s students being turned away from other institutions and to provide a community college where there was none. Queens was the last borough to establish a community college, and so the original name of the school was the Borough of Queens Community College. At the end of 1958, the current name, Queensborough Community College, was adopted to avoid confusion with the already established Queens College. The school was the Borough of Queens Community College. At the end of 1958, the current name, Queensborough Community College, was adopted to avoid confusion with the already established Queens College.

When the school was established in 1960, QCC began life as an assortment of scattered bits and pieces sitting on land that was formerly known as the Oakland Golf Club. Schools in the area, such as Francis Lewis High School, loaned rooms for use as classrooms, laboratories, and workshops. Where rooms were unavailable, converted school buses, trailers, and Quonset huts became the setting for classes. In order to use a library or attend Physical Education classes, students had to go to Queens College. Despite all this, the school was marked with a central building: the Clubhouse of the former Oakland Gold Club, which served as the administrative building and later, the library.

The faculty of 1960 had never intended for QCC’s physical facilities to remain so limited. The finalized master plan of Queensborough Community College included what is today the Gym, the Humanities building, the Science building, the Technology building, the Library building, and the Oakland Golf Clubhouse. The construction was gradual: work on the Science and Library buildings didn’t begin until 1965, after three graduating classes had already come and gone. Still, the number of students attending Queensborough kept expanding, and construction plans did too.

In 1978, two more buildings were completed and added to the list – the Medical Arts and Administration buildings. Today, in addition to the buildings mentioned, the campus also houses the recently-completed Holocaust Resource Center and Archives, a Student Union building, the “C” building, and the Testing Services Center, a bookstore, and the Shadowbox Theater. The Clubhouse, after serving many functions, has officially become the QCC Art Gallery.

(continued on page 2)

2009: The Decisive Year for Climate Change?

By Natalia Valencia

On September 20, 2009, hundreds of people gathered in New York City’s Central Park for what was called the “Human Countdown: Climate Wake up Call.” The sole purpose of the rally was to unite and create a petition for world leaders regarding climate change. “Human Countdown” was one of many events organized during the Climate Week of NYC and supported by the “TckTckTck Campaign.” It is an example of the public actions and protests which have arisen all around the world as climate change has become one of the foremost issues the world is facing today, and that citizens everywhere will continue to face in future years – especially if we do not take proper actions now. There are many people around the world addressing climate change in order to develop a worldwide agreement at the upcoming convention in Copenhagen, Denmark starting on December 7, 2009. The meetings in Copenhagen will attempt to provide decisive actions for all countries to take to change the climate for a better future.

In preparation for the upcoming convention, the United Nations hosted a summit in New York City organized by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on September 22, 2009 where approximately 100 world leaders were present. During this meeting, five major solutions were put in place to be given validation in Copenhagen 2009, all of them being vital for positive change. These solutions included:

1. Helping the poor and vulnerable adapt to the impacts of climate change.
2. Targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in industrialized countries.
4. Providing financial resources to make necessary changes.
5. Supporting developing countries so they can make needed improvements.

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Modern Genocide

By Jack Rabbit Slim

Euthanasia: the painless killing of a patient suffering from an incurable and painful disease or an irreversible coma. A practice that is illegal in most countries.

Imagine walking through a park with a baby. Now this isn't just any baby... it's YOUR baby and you love this baby more than anything in the world, no matter what anyone else thinks or says. Now imagine that your state passes a law that requires your baby, & thousands of others to be taken away from you & destroyed. Why? Because the ignorant masses have deemed these babies as hazards to society.

Despite the reputation man has imposed on his so-called “best friend”, Pit Bulls & Bully Breeds are one of the best family dogs anyone could have. These beautiful animals are not vicious by nature, they are made that way through years of abuse and NEGLECT. Man is an evil entity that has found endless ways to corrupt the innocence of nature and try to play god.

While one would assume that the reason for this legislation is to protect the public from dog bites, the simple truth is that these dogs aren’t more likely to attack. In fact, all dogs live for one thing and that one thing is love. People point fingers out of intimidation. They see these extremely muscular and powerful creatures and assume they are beasts who will attack them. In the words of Samuel L. Jackson “You know what happens when you make an assumption,... you make an ASS out of you & UMPIATION.” It is a proven fact that 85% of Pit-Bulls pass the American Canine Temperament Test (http://www.atts.org/) every year compared to the popular Chihuahuas and Pomeranians who only pass 70% of the time and are more likely to attack.

My Pit-Bulls name is Suki. She never growls and she never bites. I’ve rarely seen her stop wagging her tail in the 4 years she has graced me with her being. She’s extremely smart and obedient, but best of all she has personality. Suki is my clown and she is always eager to meet other dogs and people. She even made friends with my 3 ferrets. When my brother was 7 years old he stabbed Suki in the head 6 times with a shard of glass and she had gashes for a month. He even pushed her down the stairs numerous times. All this was out of jealousy because she’s my shadow and not his. Despite all the things he has done to her, she still loves him and has never attacked him, not even to defend herself.

As human beings, the arguably “superior beings”, it’s our job to protect the parts of nature that we have domesticated. It is our job to protect our animals who are like babies because they, who are born innocent, have no voice and no say in what happens to them. We need to say “NO!” to Breed Specific Legislation, which has already been implemented in Germany, Australia, England, and France. BSL makes it illegal to own Pit-Bulls in those countries. If similar legislation is implemented in the U.S. then people will have to surrender their bullies to be euthanized. BSL is no different than racism. If we can destroy an animal with a “bad rap” then we’re all Nazi’s & an age of animal genocide will tear through the world.

FAIL! Why BSL just doesn’t work.

according to http://stopbsl.com/

- BSL does not improve public safety or prevent dog bites.
- BSL requires each and every dog to be identified as a breed—something that has proven impossible to do accurately and objectively.
- BSL makes targeted breeds more desirable to irresponsible and criminal owners.
- BSL does nothing to make irresponsible dog owners accountable.
- BSL punishes responsible dog owners.
- Not a single canine welfare organization supports BSL.

50 Years and Still Going

continued from cover story

The college’s physical appearance isn’t the only thing that has changed over the years. When QCC first opened its doors to students, there were 312 students enrolled in a school with a total of 96 class choices, paying only $150 per semester, or $10 per credit. In contrast, the school now offers 600+ classes to over 13,000 enrolled students, at a fee of $1,575 per semester, or $135 per credit.

To celebrate its history, Queensborough Community College is holding various events over the course of the fall and spring semesters under the theme “Celebrate Achievement!” Students are invited to join in at the Queensborough 50th Anniversary website, http://www.queensborough-at50.net/.
Queensborough’s Women’s Issue Group

BY STEPHANIE SALIS

As the Queensborough website states, “The Women’s Issue Group is a wonderful opportunity for women to express their feelings, discuss topics of interest to them, focus on issues that are affecting them or simply learn about something they do not know about.” The group is a safe and confidential environment for students to meet, talk, learn from each other and even form new relationships with other students. The women in this group have been affected for any reason such as domestic violence, eating disorders, relationship issues or other kind of issues and you wish to share with someone? If so, it is time for you to join the Women’s Group. The Women’s Group is designed for Queensborough women students to have the opportunity to express any experience they might be going through.

As the Queensborough website states, “The Women’s Issue Group is a wonderful opportunity for women to express their feelings, discuss topics of interest to them, focus on issues that are affecting them or simply learn about something they do not know about.” The group is a safe and confidential environment for students to meet, talk, learn from each other and even form new relationships with other students. The women in this group have been through rough situations in their lives and are willing to share their stories and listen to others with similar experiences. The group also hosts extracurricular activities and workshops that members and non-members can attend.

Gina Capozzoli, the director of the Women’s Group, stated in an interview, “Women can expect to be in a safe environment where they can just listen, share thoughts, ideas and issues. Also make a few friends.” The group welcomes all women students – age, race, religion nor should shyness prevent you from joining. There are no specific requirements to join the group. Students are usually notified of meetings and other sponsored events by Tiger Mail.

Give the Women’s Issue Group a chance and these women with good intentions and motivation will be there to help. Chandini Basdeo, a member of the group stated, “When I first started with the group I was not able to speak to females aloud, I would be shaking but now I like to speak and give opinions. We cry, laugh and share together.”

As a new member, I can say that the Women’s Group provides a comfortable atmosphere and motivates me to keep attending the meetings to get the help I need. This is why I strongly encourage women to join this group. It gives others the opportunity to be there for you in good times as well as in bad times and find yourself loved. Ms. Basdeo stated, “I love these women are great. I feel like I have a secret relationship with them. I share things with them that I won’t share with others.”

Meetings of the Women’s Group take place every Wednesday at 1:00 pm, in the Library building, room 08. Give the group a try; it does not hurt to experience something new, something that can change your life for the better. The group welcomes new students every semester. Think about joining for the spring semester coming up.

For more information about the Women’s Group and Counseling you can contact Gina Capozzoli at the Counseling Center, 718-631-6217. The Counseling Center is located in the Library building, room L-422. Everybody is welcome.

QCC Campus Food Options: What, Where, and When

BY LAURIE IMHAUSER

Queensborough is a large campus with over 15,000 students. With such a large student body, there are options for everyone. There are three main eating choices for students. The Café in the Science Building and the new Starbucks, located inside the 2nd floor entrance to the Library. The Oakland Dining Room is available only to the faculty and staff. These three dining facilities are run by Metropolitan Foods, the campus food vendor for 22 years. If you have any food questions or problems, you can contact Mr. Marcos Perlata, the Director of Food Services for Metropolitan Foods, at MPerlata@qcc.cuny.edu. Mr. Perlata has already addressed concerns about vegetarian choices by making them available as of September 26th, the day after our interview. It seems that Metropolitan Foods can be responsive when problems are brought to their attention.

Other student concerns about food include affordability, variety and availability. During an interview with Ellen Hartigan, Vice President for Student Affairs, some of these issues were addressed. Ms. Hartigan leads a number of departments responsible for overseeing all aspects of student life, with the goal of ensuring students’ success and satisfaction. When told that Starbucks cleaned their coffee machines by 7:30 pm instead of 8 pm on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, Ms. Hartigan said, “This is unacceptable.” She likened it to Macy’s posting store hours until 8 pm and then locking the doors at 7:30. The official closing time at Starbucks in the QCC library from Monday to Thursday is 8 pm as posted, and now coffee will be served until that time.

Following my inquiries, Food Services has posted the price list for Starbucks and the hours of operation on the QCC college website. The hours of operation for the other facilities were already on the website and they are also posted at the individual eating places. Upon inspecting the Café, I found the food was nicely presented. For vegetarians there was a pasta choice without meat or cheese plus steamed vegetables. The other foods looked appetizing as well, but I haven’t eaten in the Café very often.

A few other food options are available. The Student Union has microwaves and an eating area for use by students. The main entrance to the Student Union is usually open unless a special event is taking place. In addition, there are vending machines scattered throughout the campus, and a Halal stand and a food truck are usually parked just outside the campus.

The college is in the process of obtaining funds to build a brand new entry to replace the Café, but this won’t happen for another 5 years. It is also possible that there will be open bidding so several food vendors can operate on campus. It’s too bad these changes won’t take place while we attend Queensborough, but in the meantime, Bon Appetite! Hours of Operation (as posted on the QCC website):

Science Café:
Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Friday 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Saturday 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Starbucks Café:
Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Friday 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Oakland Café:
Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
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The Harriet Kuperberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives

BY PROFESSOR MARK LAMOUREUX

Along with so much else, September 11th, 2001 changed the way I view perfect days in early September. Now, there is something oppressive about the temperate air and the impossible emerald green of the grass and the drastic shadows it casts as the sun makes its arc across the sky, just like it did on an equally placid day eight years ago. Today there is something sinister about the vast, unblemished blue sky, as if at any moment it could drop something unseen and terrible on us, our collective guard down, seduced by the beautiful day. Such a day in early September could be considered an appropriate time to bring a group of students to investigate the brand new Harriet and Kenneth Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives, a beautiful building that likewise harbors the traces of horrific events of the past.

Just as it pocked the face of Europe with mass graves and piles of ash that were once men and women, the Holocaust also generated an attendant swarm of memorials. Few urban areas are without some monument or museum concerning those events of the first half of last century. Some of them are sublime, almost beautiful like the rows of austere monoliths in the outdoor installation at the Berlin Jewish Museum which consists of over 10,000 open-mouthed little metal faces trampled upon by visitors. Others are sublime, almost beautiful like the rows of austere monoliths in the outdoor Holocaust Memorial by Peter Eisenman, also in Berlin, or the Protestant Church of Reconciliation at the former Dachau Camp. But few, if any of these, are something that one might place in the middle of a college campus, a place where young people are embarking upon their adult lives—full lives, good lives, lives, God-willing, free from the interruption of Genocide.

The Kupferberg Resource Center and Archives is a building faced with the impossible task of serving as a monument to atrocities in the past while good lives, lives, God-willing, free from the interruption of Genocide. Just as it pocked the face of Europe with mass graves and piles of ash that were once men and women, the Holocaust also generated an attendant swarm of memorials. Few urban areas are without some monument or museum concerning those events of the first half of last century. Some of them are sublime, almost beautiful like the rows of austere monoliths in the outdoor Holocaust Memorial by Peter Eisenman, also in Berlin, or the Protestant Church of Reconciliation at the former Dachau Camp. But few, if any of these, are something that one might place in the middle of a college campus, a place where young people are embarking upon their adult lives—full lives, good lives, lives, God-willing, free from the interruption of Genocide.

The Kupferberg accomplishes its daunting task—through impressions (69). From the outside the only immediately referential feature of the building is a tiny plaque next to the name engraved with a Star of David in flames behind a wall of barbed-wire. The rest comes to the viewer singularly, through contemplation.

Approaching the structure from the Humanities building, the first thing one sees, apart from a periphery garden of lavender and other plants, is a white glass face transversed by black bands of metal at irregular angles. The initial assessment of this façade is that the glass panes have been laid out in this way for the sake of aesthetics alone—to provide a pleasant asymmetry that is a departure from the ordinary right angles of traditional building fronts. Contextually, however, this eastern-facing wall bears the traces of much more. Further study of the angles of the glass panes reveals a resemblance to a smashed window frozen in time, such a sight one might have seen in the sun’s first light following the kristalnacht on the night of November 10, 1938, when the windows of Jewish-owned business were smashed in over the course of the night. The kristalnacht in English sounds almost pleasant, homophonically: “crystal night,” but the events described by the word are almost beyond description or comprehension. Likewise this wall, at night glowing warmly white giving the appearance, almost, of a Japanese shoji lamp, echoes the shriek of shattered glass, the smashed Star of David, the cruel barbs of the swastika.

Walking parallel to the building, up around the continuous border of grass and plants reveals a sand-colored wall bearing the name Harriet and Kenneth Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives again accompanied by the same Star of David plaque as the east-facing side. Eventually, one reaches a set of stairs leading up to an open courtyard adjacent to the building’s exhibition space framed by ordinary rectangular panes of glass. Through this glass one can see various relics on display: a Torah scroll, explanatory wall-text, photographs being projected on bare walls, the faces and lives therein now become only light and shadows. Here, the unbroken callowness of the swastika lurks, pinned helplessly to the wall like a terrible insect. Studying said insect however, may give us clues to prevent further infestations.

The courtyard itself is composed of light-colored square tiles framed by walls of white marble, cool to the touch even in the near-constant glare of the sun on a fair day. Standing in this courtyard, one has the impression of being aboard a ship and looking out from its prow at the sea of the campus, high above the waves of bodies rushing to or from classes or merely socializing below. In the relative emptiness here are six marble benches, each bearing a dedication by way of a bronze plaque, where visitors can look out on the campus, or the silence of the interior space. Such a setup invites relaxation and contemplation, to serve no particular purpose but one’s own, perhaps in stark contrast to the ironic mottos emblazoned above the entrances to Dachau and other camps to encourage the labor inmates were forced to do—“Arbeit macht frei”—“Work makes you free.”

The western-facing façade of the building is composed of an overhang constructed of blocks of dull grey steel, making a tunnel of shade where a pedestrian can take shelter from the sun and look in on the Center and Archives or continue on their way into the campus. Viewed from the shadows of its interior, however, the symmetrical units of this structure suggest the walls of a cell or an outillette, like where the “enemies” of the Nazis were placed to die or worse, those hells where, when the sun set on Hitler and his armies, bodies were dragged from—living, dead and barely living. Fortunately, unlike the prisoners of the Nazis, the visitor to the Kupferberg need only walk towards the light of day at the end of the dim corridor to campus and freedom.

Some might criticize that the Kupferberg is too beautiful a building to memorialize such ugly events; however, this is to ignore one of the building’s primary functions. Derrida also wrote that “the archive is an irreducible experience of the future;” an archive provides, by way of looking into the past, a window into what is to come (74). The Harriet and Kenneth Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives is a symbol not only of suffering, but also of survival and ascension. A symbol of hope is reassembled from the shattered glass of 1938, the hope of healing the future by scrutinizing previous wounds, previous casualties. The building is a truly appropriate centerpiece for an international campus where some students have left behind analogous horrors of violence, other genocides—a place where they themselves will learn to construct, literally or metaphorically, their own glinting buildings out of the debris of our collective past.

The Advantages of Attending Queensborough Community College

BY ANGELICA RODRIGUEZ

Do you think Queensborough Community College is the right school for you?

I believe that QCC is definitely a great place for freshman students to begin their academic college experience. The level of education at QCC is one of the highest among community colleges in New York. Students have the opportunity to pursue academic and career goals, as well as the opportunity to develop as individuals. Many students are not aware of the benefits and advantages our school has to offer.

Queensborough Community College is unique because it is the most diverse school in the country with regard to ethnicity, culture, religion and age. We also have many students who speak languages other than English. Students can use the diversity of the school as an opportunity to enrich themselves culturally, socially, and to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to start a career.

QCC is known for its helpful academic advisors and faculty who are interested in students’ academic progress. They help students to improve their writing, and to set goals for themselves. Students are encouraged to improve grades, raise their GPAs, and complete their college degree.

Queensborough is also known for its campus, which consists of ten major buildings. Among them is our newest building, The Holocaust Resource Center, an Astronomy Observatory and an Art Museum. Our school is also conveniently located. The local Q27 bus stops on campus and it travels to other major transportation points as well as to surrounding fast food shops, restaurants and local businesses.

After two years of study at QCC, students are eligible to receive an Associate Degree in the Arts (A.A.), Science (A.S.), or Applied Science (A.A.S.). The college offers transfer and career degree programs through seventeen academic departments. It also offers non-credit courses, certificate programs, and access to the visual and performing arts in continuing education. One of the most recognized programs is Nursing, which enrolls many students who go on to have successful careers.

Another benefit of QCC is the affordable price. Many schools have raised tuition prices so that students cannot afford to continue their education. When compared to other schools in the Metropolitan area, especially private colleges, the cost of attending QCC is pretty reasonable. This gives students the opportunity to achieve their educational goals without going into debt. In addition, sixty-five percent of students enrolled at QCC receive financial aid. Many financial aid programs are available, such as FAFSA, TAP and PELL, and scholarships are also offered.

Queensborough is an amazing school that offers numerous opportunities and programs that many students are unfamiliar with. I recommend that students take a look at the QCC website (www.qcc.cuny.edu) to find out what goes on in our school.

All Work and No Play Make QCC a Dull College

BY HALEEMAT EMOZOZO

Students come to Queensborough Community College to learn. Learning, however, is not limited to the classroom and fun does not only happen outside school. What else is there to do apart from sitting in the classroom, listening to the professor and taking notes? There are a range of extracurricular activities both faculty members and students of the College have put together for your interest. Among these are Career Services, performing arts, sports and miscellaneous student activities.

For those interested in getting their careers on track, QCC’s Career Services Center located on the fourth floor of the library building, room 429. The Career Center allows students, graduates, employers and parents to be able to actively look for employment. Students can use this as an opportunity to be in touch with new job availabilities as well. All you have to do is go into the office, sign in and speak to a staff member who will then guide you through the process. In addition, you can look in the black folder filled with job vacancies, pick out jobs that catch your attention, take down contact information, call or email and provide your resume if requested. For more information visit: www.qcc.cuny.edu/CareerServices.

Broadway shows, comedies, musicals, pageants, and dance are presented in Queensborough’s Performing Arts Center on a regular basis. The PAC slogan, “Where world class entertainment can be enjoyed locally,” lets you know that Queensborough attracts a lot of attention. If outsiders enjoy the schedule of entertainment Queensborough’s PAC presents, students should be enjoying it too! Some of the upcoming attractions this fall include, “Happily Ever Laughter” October 25th at 3pm, “Virsyky Ukrainian National Dance Company” on November 15th at 1pm, and “David Cassidy in Concert” November 21st at 8pm. For tickets and information visit: www.qcc.cuny.edu/QPAC/alpro.html.

The Queensborough “Tigers.” Whether or not you have previously participated in athletics or not, QCC encourages all students to join a sports team, and show support by coming to games. Athletic activities around campus include basketball, soccer, and volleyball, cross country, indoor / outdoor track, swimming, baseball and softball. To compete in intercollegiate competitions, you do have to meet some requirements: students must maintain a GPA of at least 1.75, and be a full time student. When you have the time, visit the Athletics Department located in the Gym building or go to www.qcc.cuny.edu/Sports/athletics_announcements.asp. You can view the schedule for upcoming sports events and find out the commencement of different seasons.

Another place to explore on campus is the Student Union Building. The office for Student Activities is in the Student Union building. Many of you have probably walked around the campus and seen the building but have never gone inside. Here you can find the student government working, with the best interests of the students at heart, to provide ongoing activities. Such activities include Open Mic Nights, Halloween parties, the Multicultural Festival, and the Welcome Back Festival, just to name a few.

The Student Union lower level happens to have other advantages that you may want to engage in during your spare time. This is a great place to hang out in between classes! There is a TV, multiple Arcade games, a kitchen space with a microwave, pool tables, Mac computers, a sitting area with comfortable sofas and much more. The lower level also houses Student Activities, the Veterans Center, and NYPIRG. The lower level is open Monday to Thursday 9am to 7pm, and Friday 9 to 5pm. You do have to have a QCC ID card to enter; as long as you are enrolled in the school you should already have one, if not you can get one upstairs. Next time you have time to kill be sure to go the lower level of the student union building, visit: www.qcc.cuny.edu/StudentActivities/studentCenter.asp for more info.

Queensborough can be a playground and not just classrooms, lecture halls and whiteboards with professors. A great way to be informed of the fun stuff going on around campus is to pick up a copy of the Communiqué, QCC’s student newspaper published three times each semester. And remember don’t walk past the brochures and informative flyers you see around campus, that information is for you. Get familiar with the school website www.qcc.cuny.edu; there are various activities that may be of interest.
Post 9/11 GI Bill Leaving Veterans Short

By Christina Roberts

Veterans who applied for the Post 9/11 GI Bill and who have not yet received funds can now receive checks for up to $3,000. On September 25, 2009, a news release was issued from Washington DC, stating that Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki had issued the approval.

On August 1, 2009, the Post 9/11 GI bill took effect. This education bill is for Veterans who served on active duty after 9/11/2001, offering them 100% effect. This education bill is for Veterans who served had issued the approval. It will also be sending representatives to schools with high Veteran enrollment to perform these duties directly on campus.

According to Secretary Shinseki, “This is an extraordinary action we’re taking, but it’s necessary because we recognize the hardships of some of our Veterans face.” QCC is also doing its best to help during this difficult period with the more than 150 Veterans on campus this semester.

QCC offers “Veteran deferments,” which are simple contracts between the Veteran and the school, which state that the Veteran is using education benefits and that the amount of the tuition bill will eventually be paid for by a specified time. Once the deferment slip is filled out by a counselor and turned into the bursar, the bursar will not be allowed to drop students from classes for non-payment. However, the student is still fully responsible for any tuition that is not paid for by the deferment.

Additionally, the Queensborough Student Veterans Association (QSVA) has put together a book-borrowing program in the Veterans Center. This allows students who have unused textbooks to give them to Veterans who cannot purchase their books due to a lack of government funding.

With Veterans enrolling into schools at an increasing rate, QCC with CUNY are working together to make things as easy as possible for Veterans. Linda Savino, Queensborough’s Veteran Counselor, says “I think that with the Post 9/11 GI Bill along with CUNY’s efforts to provide services and support for Veterans, the future of CUNY regarding Veterans looks very positive.”

Students Stressed Over the Process of Financial Aid

By Jenesha Gayle

Each year one of the busiest and most stressful places on campus during registration is the Financial Aid office. Mary Anne Langbart, Associate Director of financial aid at Queensborough Community College, shared her concerns about the stress students experience when applying for financial aid, and discussed how to make the application process easier while shortening the wait time.

The financial aid process involves multiple steps when completing the application. For instance, if one question is answered incorrectly, the application will take longer to process with students receiving notification of the error via mail. Ms. Langbart stated that financial aid officers and staff give students a hand if they do not clearly understand the sometimes complex questions, and that the office is in the process of hiring an additional staff member to help with processing applications by next semester.

Ms. Langbart stressed two important issues that students seeking financial aid should understand. First, students need to put in the time to understand the application process and to apply for financial aid before the deadline. Second, enrollment this fall semester is sky high due to a lot of students being laid off from work, therefore with greater numbers of students who can no longer afford tuition the wait time in the Financial Aid office has increased. Ms. Langbart also stressed that students in their 2nd or 3rd year should apply early to prevent overcrowding in the Financial Aid office, allowing new students a chance for individual attention. She also suggested that it could possibly reduce the wait time in the Financial Aid office if students knew how to properly use ESIMS to check the online status of their Financial Aid application.

Katrina Henry, a Queensborough student, feels the wait time problem can be fixed by students being aware of the deadline dates that are sent out via mail and email. Another student, Ellysha Delva, mentioned that the problem could be solved by taking a little time to screen students coming into the Financial Aid office before making them wait for up to an hour for a simple question.

She also thinks that having more computers and staff members would be beneficial.

On June 24, 2009 the Obama administration announced a plan to help make the Financial Aid process easier for students. One action is to reduce the 6-page application by 26 irrelevant questions, starting spring 2010. In addition, the Obama administration is working with the IRS to allow students to access tax information online in an easier fashion to assist in filling out the income section of the Financial Aid application.
The Value of a Degree

BY ELMIRA RUIZ

Many college students are coming to the realization that a bachelor’s degree may not be enough in this day and age. Jobs are scarce no matter what field you are in. A couple of years ago the American job market appeared robust, but today people are getting laid off in large numbers (the current unemployment rate in the U.S. is 9.8%), and it’s beginning to look more and more that a graduate degree can better position one in the global economy. Graduate school seems a safe alternative to undergraduate students who cannot find jobs with bachelor’s degrees.

According to Joseph Ward, a news writer at The Daily Illini, in an article published September 21, 2009, there has been a 4.27 percent increase in graduate students over last year. This increase in the number of graduate students may be due to the unstable economy and the unemployment rate at the highest it has been in twenty-six years (as reported at CJR.org).

In addition, enrollments at community colleges have gone up. Enrollment has increased 10 to 15 percent, Karla Schuster writes in Newsday on July 26, 2009. The reason the largest increase in enrollment has occurred in community colleges is that tuition is significantly less expensive than in private or public four year colleges.

There is also an increase of enrollment in community colleges since during a recession not only is it hard to get a job, but potential employers are more likely to hire a person with a degree. Although community college is the cheapest in tuition, tuition has gone up due to the fact that there is a recession, tuition hikes could help the economy. State funding has gone down and colleges cannot make it through with state funding alone, this is where tuition comes in to pay expenses the college needs, explains Dana Beyerle from the Times Montgomery Bureau on August 1, 2009. It seems as if the price of a degree is going up, while the value of a degree has gone down, with most employers preferring an employee obtain a graduate degree.

You may register for the Internship Forum by calling (718) 631-6297, coming to the Office of Career Services located in the Library Building Room 429 or e-mail us at CareerServices.qcc.cuny.edu

Sponsored by The Office of Career Services
Queensborough Community College students need to eat healthier. Walking through campus, I cannot help but notice students eating highly unhealthy foods, including cheese fries, burritos, doughnuts, burgers, pizza, chips, candy, soda and other sweetened drinks that are sure to clog your arteries and rot your teeth. The students are not completely to blame. The QCC cafeteria does offer some healthy food, fruit and nutrition bars and fruit smoothies (when the bar is open), but junk food options outnumber nutritious food by a wide margin. The cafeteria, for example, offers a minimal variety of fruit, yogurts, whole grain foods, and vegetables. The food service instead offers an abundance of refined grain, fried foods, and desserts.

Statistics reported on freshman15.com state that on average, most college students gain 15 pounds during their first semester. You can visit this website and learn how to avoid the freshmen 15 rule. Take on the freshmen15 challenge by staying fit and eating healthy. This website features articles about other students who have gained and lost weight. Freshmen15 offers advice and resources that can motivate you to change your eating habits. You can also leave feedback, suggestions, and comments: www.freshmen15.com.

The average college student is under a lot of stress, steadily working and constantly eating on the go. It is hard to avoid bad habits like skipping meals and eating fast food. Students fail to realize a healthy diet can improve one’s mood, enhance concentration and rectify the shape and size of one’s body. It is not hard to get started, if you follow simple guidelines.

Start by eating a good breakfast. It is been proven that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. If you are on the go grab a bagel, a piece of fruit and some juice. If you must eat fast food, try lightly cheesed pizza, a baked potato, light sandwiches and salad with low calorie dressing. Keep healthy snacks on hand like fresh or dried fruits, pretzels, rice cakes, whole wheat crackers; low fat yogurt and raw vegetables are tasty and nutritious. Foods that are rich in calcium are especially good for people in their twenties to build up and prevent osteoporosis in later life. If you want to lose weight do it wisely, diets and starvation do not work. Eating salads are good but drowning them in dressing is equivalent to eating a hamburger. Try low calorie light dressings.

If you are a drinker remember that alcohol holds no nutritional value. There is also severe health risks associated with drinking. It is recommend that everyone should carry a bottle of water with them to class, especially when working and studying late at night. You can check the following websites healthed.uoregon.edu, campushealth.unc.edu, associatedcontent.com, and Freshmen15.com for more information on stay healthy tips and eating habits.

In addition, the American Heart Association website offers great advice on nutrition and healthy eating. The website has useful articles that can motivate you to become a healthy eater. For example, check out “Face the Fats,” “Delicious Decisions,” “Heart-Healthy Grocery Shopping Made Simple” and many more. These articles will be sure to enlighten your eating perspective. If you have questions or concerns about diseases, children’s health, a healthy lifestyle or any other health related concerns contact the New York City American Heart Association in Manhattan at (212) 878-5900, or locate the organization on Twitter. The mission of the association is to build healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and strokes. The goal of AHA is to reduce coronary heart disease, risk of stroke by 25% by 2010. You can embrace this cause by donating, volunteering, fundraising, joining their research team and much more. All of this information can be found on the website, www.americanheart.org.

If you are dealing with non-health issues which are more related to personal, family or relationship problems you can contact the QCC Counseling Center in the Library Building in room 428, or by telephone (718) 631-6370.
The wrongfully named “swine flu,” properly known as A/H1N1, has arrived with some shady little secrets attached that may foreshadow a grim future. Could it possibly be the catalyst for a government totalitarian takeover, or just a government virus reanimation and experimental fumble? According to the World Health Organization (WHO), A/H1N1 “as of May 13, infected a total of 4,880 people in North America: 2,059 in Mexico; 2,535 in the United States, and 286 in Canada. There have been 56 reported deaths from the flu in Mexico, three in the United States, and one in Canada.” With 300,000,000 people in North America those numbers might not seem that alarming, are do they?

The elected officials of Massachusetts believe otherwise. When A/H1N1 was first deemed a threat in the United States in 2006, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts prepared the “Pandemic Response Bill.” The bill waves a goodbye to your constitutional rights during a “declared emergency” if you pose a serious danger to public health, and may result in illegal search and seizure, arrests without warrants, and forced vaccinations and decontaminations of whomever an official of Massachusetts declares a threat to public health. In addition to violations of rights that the bill describes as “involuntary transportation,” it also states that “Law enforcement authorities, upon order of the commissioner or his agent or at the request of a local public health authority… shall assist emergency medical technicians or other appropriate medical personnel in the involuntary transportation of such person…” If that seems a bit draconian keep in mind that if one is non-compliant, the bill has a clause in it that keeps the pockets of the judicial branch in mind. If one is non-compliant, the bill has a clause in it that keeps the pocket of the judicial branch in mind. In other words, if deemed “a serious danger to public health as determined by the commissioner or the local public health authority, [you] shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than 30 days or a fine of not more than one thousand dollars per day that the violation continues, or both.”

The bill allows for residents to be taken into custody for either refusal for decontamination, or refusal of vaccination: “An individual who is unable or unwilling to submit to vaccination or treatment shall not be required to submit to such procedures but may be isolated or quarantined…if his or her refusal poses a serious danger to public health or results in uncertainty whether he or she has been exposed to or is infected with a disease or condition that poses a serious danger to public health…” What’s next?

Are thinking and breathing going to become illegal?

The plot thickens in the case of the origins of this deadly virus, the origins of which were literally buried. According to Wayne Madsen, an online contributor of onlinejournal.com, “After an unsuccessful 1951 mission, that involved U.S. biological warfare specialists, to extract 1918 Spanish flu genetic material in 1951 from a cemetery in the Inupiat Eskimo village of Brevig Mission, Alaska, scientists made another attempt, a successful one it turns out, in 1997.” Once reanimated in a government funded laboratory known as the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Rockville, Maryland it was “re-engineered to synthetically create what is now known as the A/H1N1 virus...” The A/H1N1 strain actually contains a sort of melting pot of deadly “…genetic material from two strains of swine flu, two strains of human flu, and a single strain of avian flu” according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

In other words, this virus is a mean customer. The fact that the virus’s composition is made up of multiple potent influenza strains, and its rate of mutation is rapid yet doesn’t plateau after a period of time, points to synthetic engineering which, in combination with public and global transit, can spell out deadly rapid contamination of the world. You might be seeing people with face masks again. What’s going to happen first? Are you going to be locked away and quarantined for having A/H1N1, or die from it?
CUNY PIPELINE HONORS CONFERENCE
Abstracts Due: December 21, 2009

CALL FOR STUDENT PAPERS, POSTERS, and CREATIVE PERFORMANCES

The CUNY Pipeline Honors Conference will highlight the accomplishments, achievements, and research of Honors students from campuses across the City University of New York. Presenters are invited to engage the conference on topics from a variety of disciplines including the visual arts, film, musical composition, performance, or any other form of cultural production. There are three presentation options: individual podium presentations, poster presentations, and creative performances.

All CUNY students are invited to submit proposals.

The CUNY Pipeline Program is designed to provide educational and financial support to underrepresented CUNY undergraduates interested in pursuing the Ph.D. in preparation for college-level teaching and advanced research in any discipline except law and medicine.

Guidelines for abstracts:

- Submit the abstract formatted as a single paragraph proceeded by the title, student’s name, advisor’s name and affiliations. Following the abstract, identify the contact person by name, mailing address, telephone number, and email address.
  Format the page as follows:
  Software: MS Word
  Margins: 1” all around
  Font: Times New Roman, 11 point
  Spacing: Single
  Justification: Left
  Word Limit: 150

- Attach the Faculty Approval Form from a CUNY faculty advisor.

Email a copy of the Abstract along with the Faculty Approval Form as a MS Word attachment by December 21, 2009 to:

mcuomo@qcc.cuny.edu
Michele Cuomo, Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs
Queensborough Community College
718.631.6344

Please note: Abstracts will not be accepted without a Faculty Approval Form.

FORMATS:

Paper/Powerpoint Presentations: Papers should be no longer than 12 pages in length. Power points should contain no more than 15 slides. Presentations will be fifteen (15) minutes in length with a five minute question and answer session.

Poster Presentations: Poster Presentations should be 4 ft X 3 ft long and should be created on a power point document.

Creative Performances (Theatre and Dance): Ten minutes of performance in length, with five minutes each for set up and strike. Empty Stage and general lighting will be provided.

CUNY Pipeline Steering Committee: James Airoz (Office of Academic Affairs – CUNY), Michelle Cuomo (Queensborough Community College), Yvonne Eraoz (Bronx Community College), Brenda Henry-Offor (CUNY Pipeline, Graduate Center), Ernest Lee (John Jay College of Criminal Justice), Janet Liu-Mark (New York City College of Technology), Joe-Joe McAmanus (City University of New York), Lina McNickle (John Jay College of Criminal Justice), Mychal Namply (York College), Carol Oliver (Hunter College), Lisa Schwebel (Brooklyn College), and Paris Svoronos (Queensborough Community College)
New York City’s 9/11 Memorial and Museum

BY KRISTINA BREEKEE

Like a scene straight out of a horror movie, September 11, 2001 left New York and the world in tragic disbelief. Never in a million years would anyone have envisioned the terrifying events that occurred that day. Eight years later many people still gather to remember the ones they lost on 9/11, but they gather at an unfinished memorial.

What exactly has been done at the site of the World Trade Center since 9/11?

According to the National 9/11 Memorial Organization, construction began in 2006 to build both a memorial and a museum designed by Daniel Libeskind, David Childs and Michael Arad. Throughout the years, the construction has progressed at a rather slow pace because of politics and financial funding for the memorial. There have been many disagreements between the public and the construction companies and between the families and designers. The most recent disagreement was between Larry Silverstein, the site owner, and the insurance companies. Silverstein demanded extra money to construct more office buildings, but these buildings may interfere with the trains and bus routes.

Regardless of the many disputes over the memorial, we have seen some substantial progress in 2009. For example, in January the shapes of the memorial pools were finally noticeable. In April the construction and plumbing of the underground museum took place. As of May 52% of the amount of steel needed to construct the memorial had been used. Also, the first cement was poured at street level. The last update available was in June, when it was said that base level concrete was close to completion and 70% of the steel needed for construction had been used. After years of delay, the building of the memorial has finally begun. Hopefully, families and visitors will soon have a place to commemorate 9/11.

What will the memorial and museum look like?

The memorial will consist of Memorial Plaza and Memorial Glade. Memorial Plaza is located above ground and it is primarily covered with grass, but has cobblestones and stone pavement walkways. Four hundred Oak trees will surround the memorial pools, which will imitate the outlines of the two towers. The edges of the memorial pools will be inscribed with the names of the 3,000 victims of 9/11, including those lost in the Twin Towers, at the Pentagon and in the Pennsylvania airplane crash, plus the names of the victims of the 1993 attack on the World Trade Center.

The memorial is one of the most eco-friendly ever built in New York City. The environment will be very serene, with plenty of park benches for people to sit and reminisce. The Memorial Glade is the space that will be used for the annual gatherings for remembrance. The museum will be located both above and below ground level. It will contain some of the remains of the twin towers, such as the “survivor stairs” that workers used to escape the flaming north tower. It will also consist of the “original steel tridents” that once stood tall. The memorial and the museum will hopefully bring some closure to all of those who witnessed the tragedy and to those who lost loved ones on 9/11.

2009: The Decisive Year for Climate Change?

continued from cover story

Most importantly, it was made clear that if none of these actions are to be taken, the risk of losing what we now call home (i.e. human civilization) is going to be at its peak.

The UN meeting also demonstrated the shocking effects of global warming when no action is taken.

And tragically, instead of reducing the problems in recent years, we have been increasing them. For example, greenhouse gas emissions have increased 70% and carbon dioxide emissions have increased at least 80%, placing us in major risk of having an increase in temperature of 2° to 4.5° C. Such temperature increases would mean that the intensity of floods, droughts, and heat waves as we have seen in the recent years are going to be amplified all over the world.

In addition Dr. R. R. K. Pachauri the chairman of IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) stated that if there are no changes in emissions a “decrease in water resources due to climate” is to be considered, and a “possible elimination of the Greenland ice sheet, contributing to sea level rise of about 7 meters” which would affect many islands of the Caribbean and the rest of the world. Also that an “approximately 20% to 30% of species assessed so far are likely to be at increased risk of extinction if increases in global average of warming exceed 1.5 to 2.5 degrees,” keeping in mind that we are getting estimates of an increase of 2° to 4.5° in temperature!

Even though there are many steps to follow in order to completely fix global warming, we should be glad that the United States has started contributing to this issue. During the summit at the United Nations, President Obama stated that on June of 2009, the House of Representatives passed an energy and climate bill where American businesses are going to use clean energy that would provide us with a reduction of greenhouse emissions.

Most importantly, there have been major investments in renewable energy, concentrating more on producing energy from renewable resources than from fossil fuels. It is obvious that these are minor steps in light of the global climate crisis we are facing but at least the U.S. is taking a positive step forward.

Everyone needs to consider what the Earth is facing and what we need to do in order to continue living normal lives while sustaining our standard of living. I believe it is time for all of us to take President Kennedy’s advice, fix what we have created and unite for a good cause. Many organizations are working to make people aware of the effects of climate change and hopefully the future of our planet will be considered seriously at the upcoming climate change conferences in Copenhagen 2009.

Happy Halloween!
The Vivid Life of Art at QCC

BY MARIANA RUIZ

Queensborough Community College is extremely fortunate to have a place where students, faculty, educators, critics, and the public can visit to appreciate the meaning of knowledge, culture, and race. The QCC Art Gallery houses a variety of exhibits that celebrate diverse cultures, traditions, history, and aesthetic meaning through visual art. The Art Gallery is an educational and cultural resource to be appreciated by all art lovers that want to expand and enrich their artistic views. Throughout the months of September and November the gallery is featuring exhibits that will arouse the artistic imagination while incorporating knowledge of history and traditions.

On display is a semi-permanent exhibition of African Art, “War Memories Reinvented” by Patricia Dreyfus, and “Thoughts, Feelings, Emotions” by Marta Sozzi.

The African Art exhibit provides an extremely interesting feeling when one walks through the gallery amid the culture and vivid expressive values and traditions of the various African peoples. The African art displays sophistication and power in the ceremonial aspect that many of the objects were originally intended to serve. While looking at this art there is a sense of strong religious and mythological expressions as well as the importance of music and dance. What I found extremely interesting were the sculpted faces and statues that give the viewer an insight into the historic ritual ceremonies that were of grave importance to African culture. The gallery also has on display a variety of ring collections, as well as costumes, which demonstrate the powerful symbolism and imagery of African masquerades. The decorations on the costumes enhance the effectiveness of the pieces while the earth tone colors represent where it was believed the spirits dwelled and were disciplined. The artifacts of African art on display in the QCC Art Gallery encouraged me to really see and connect with African culture and traditions which enlightened and gave me a better insight on the history behind this amazing culture.

“War Memories Reinvented” by Patricia Dreyfus consists of old black and white war photographs of men transformed and reinvented in color for a better understanding of the emotions of war. The main color used by the artist is the color red which symbolizes violence and passion. What I found to be intriguing about the Dreyfus exhibit was the photos ability to give the viewer a real glimpse into history. The photos make a profound connection between the past and present. The transformed photos of sculpted heads embody the soul of the pre existing war heroes. It provides an opportunity for the nearly forgotten to intertwine with one’s present day existence. It is vitally important to remember the past especially through art for a better understanding of our world which is so often traumatized by war.

“Thoughts, Feelings, and Emotions” by Marta Sozzi is a tribute to philosophy and life. The Director of the Art Gallery, Faustino Quintanilla, had this to say about Sozzi’s work: “Marta Sozzi’s paintings are an extension of her philosophic outlook on life. The common ordinary elements of earth, air, water and fire are the oldest elements within the world of Philosophic thought, and Sozzi’s use of such elementary colors as blue, red, yellow, brown and black, clearly indicate her closeness to the earth itself.” These paintings incorporate the elements of earth with the vivid colors of our nature’s atmosphere using them to capture the essence of our world. She uses these colors and blends them together representing all the elements of life surrounding us.

Sozzi’s philosophical paintings depict life’s daily emotions, such as love which is shown in the painting entitled “Lovers.” In this painting one can see the overwhelming emotion of love. Another painting that caught my attention was entitled “The Life’s Tree,” which to me represents an oneness with the earth and our environment. All of Sozzi’s paintings are extremely beautiful and serve as an inspiration for greater intimacy and understanding of the earth.
A Tale of Redemption and Hope

BY CHRIS PEPLINKSI

Starring: Taraji Henson, Adam Rodriguez, Brian White, Mary J Blige, Gladys Knight, Pastor Marvia Winans, and Tyler Perry.

I Can Do Bad All by Myself follows the main character April (Taraji Henson), an alcoholic who works at a nightclub, through several trials and tribulations. April is having an affair with a married man named Randy who has children. Randy helps April by paying her bills in exchange for sex. The story also focuses on three children named Manny, Benny, and Jennifer. Jennifer acts as the mother to her younger brothers since their mother is dead and their father abandoned them, and their grandmother has been missing.

The kids get caught stealing from Madea’s (their grandmother) home and are sent to live with their Aunt April, their only other living relative. At first, April is quite hostile with the kids, acting very cold towards them. She does not want to be bothered raising her deceased junkie sister’s children, and she never wanted kids of her own. In the meantime, April’s pastor Brian sends a Columbian immigrant named Sandino who is looking for work, to live with her and help her around the house.

April receives shocking news from Wilma (Gladys Knight), a close friend of hers and the pastor of the church, informing her that her mother has passed away from a brain aneurysm. The news devastates her since her mother died alone and rather unexpectedly. Sandino seems to be the only person who helps April cope with the loss, and she begins to realize that she may have a chance at true love with him rather than being stuck in her selfish ways with Randy.

Taraji Henson delivers an amazing performance as April, portraying her as someone the audience can sympathize with in light of her choices and her chance at redemption. What I love about the portrayal of April is that despite the way that she acts towards Sandino, Jennifer, Bryon, and Manny, she realizes that they love her. Taraji Henson gives a performance of raw emotion that is very powerful and intense.

Gladys Knight does a terrific job with the character of Wilma who tries to reach out to April despite her grumpy behavior. She sings some of the songs in the film as well as Mary J Blige who plays Tanya, the bartender and a close friend of April’s. An important aspect of the film is that the singing sends out a message to the audience, especially in the theme song “I Can Do Bad All By Myself,” in which Tanya sings about how fed up she is with April’s selfish behavior and that only April can change the error of her ways.

Adam Rodriguez who plays Sandino gives a marvelous performance as a character with a conviction. Despite the ordeals he experienced in Columbia, he decides to embrace his past to help him be strong. Tyler Perry who plays Madea, and her brother Joe, gave a wonderful performance as the tough loving matriarch and the erratic brother. Brian White who plays Randy is rather menacing, especially towards Jennifer, who he makes sexual advances towards. He is someone that is a bit manipulative as well. The message that I Can Do Bad All By Myself conveys is that despite tough circumstances in life, you can survive and realize that love is all around you, sometimes when least expected.

Taking a Look into the Possible Future of Humanity

BY CHRIS PEPLINKSI

Starring: Bruce Willis, Radha Mitchell, Rosamund Pike, Boris Kodjoe, James Cromwell, and Ving Rhames. Directed by Jonathan Mostow; Touchstone Pictures.

Surrogates takes place in the year 2017, in which the human population is in total seclusion thanks to remotely controlled robotic bodies that serve as surrogates for their human operators. The surrogates also happen to be better looking versions of the humans and since the humans are considered safely hidden, the damage that is done to the surrogates does not affect the human operators. The use of the surrogates creates an almost perfect Utopia that is free from fear, crime, and pain.

Agent Thomas Greer (Bruce Willis), while using his surrogate, investigates his first murder in years: College student Jarrod Cantor (James Cromwell), the man who invented the surrogates. Greer along with his partner Jennifer Peters (Radha Mitchell) discovers that humans are also being killed when their surrogates are killed, rather shocking news given the belief that human operators are safe from any damage sustained by their surrogates. Greer who is feeling very detached because of the increased dependency on surrogates, and grieving over the loss of son who was killed in a car accident, has a strained marriage to Maggie (Rosamund Pike) that has resulted in them living in separate rooms. Disturbingly, Greer realizes that he will have to venture into the outside world for the first time in many years to catch the killer.

Greer finds out that a mysterious man known as the Prophet (Ving Rhames) leads a human group known as Dreads who oppose the use of surrogates, believing that their creation is a lie against human existence. Greer also finds out that a man named Miles Strickland used a weapon called Overload Device, which kills the human operator while attached to his surrogate, and that it was used to kill killed Jarrod Cantor as well as five cops who were going after the weapon. Greer finds out through a military adviser that the Overload Device weapon sends a computer virus into the surrogates which shuts them down, but it also disables the failsafe mechanisms and thereby kills the human operator as well during the process.

When it comes to the acting in the film, I considered it to be a bit weak since Bruce Willis who is normally full of humor and grace looks a bit worn out and bored in his role. Ving Rhames manages a decent performance even though his onscreen time is limited and he looks like the stereotypical villain who has something mysterious about him. James Cromwell portrays Luther Cantor as someone that the audience can sympathize with because of his son’s death which was painful for him, and due to the idea that he wants humanity to return to its former glory days by destroying the surrogates. His performance suggests that his character has good intentions in creating the surrogates, but then the reality went totally out of control. Rosamund Pike who plays Thomas Greer’s wife Maggie is portrayed as someone who hides from reality by using her surrogate as a way to hide from the pain of the car accident that took her son’s life, and her emotional as well as physical scars.

The film could have been better if it wasn’t plotted like a typical action film. The result is that movie tends to lack focus and interesting characters that should have been fleshed out further never are. In addition, the film seems derivative of the more enjoyable film I Robot. In that movie, humans used robots in their daily life but rather than serving as surrogates the robots and humans interacted with one another. Surrogates does teach an important lesson, however. What is the point of having surrogates if people are not really living their own lives? Overall, Surrogates is a film that has potential – too bad it was a convoluted mess and not more story driven.
Convicted Felons in the NFL

By ANDRE GONZALEZ

Over the last 15 years, the NFL organization has not cared about the criminal background of football players. Players with gun possession, D.U.I.’s, warrants, shootings, and other crimes are being overlooked and are awarded by granting them millions of dollars, and we the people want to know why?

NFLcrimes.com shows every player’s interaction with the law and draws information from different websites. It shows how sports superstars are getting away with crime. These convicted criminals are getting a slap on the wrist for punishment. Crimes are being “justified” based on the talent and income of these superstars.

On NFLcrimes.com there are over a hundred pages of crimes listed that have occurred within the NFL. As example, Sports.espn.go.com states that on February 16, 2009 Buffalo Bills Marshawn Lynch was arrested on a felony gun charge, and on the 20th he was charged with 3 gun-related crimes. Sports.espn.go.com also states that on January 26, 2009, former Vikings Carl Eller was convicted of assaulting a police officer who tried to arrest him after he swerved and nearly struck a squad car last April. And in another story on this same website one learns that on December 27, 2008 former New England Patriots lineman and high school football coach Danny Villa surrendered to police in Arizona one day after court in Massachusetts because of a warrant for his arrest on charges that he raped a child.

Not only do NFL players have a rap sheet, but the organization has drafted college students with similar crimes. Profootballtalk.nbc-sports.com states that on April 27, 2008 the Eagles picked up Jack Ikegwuonu who has a pending misdemeanor for criminal trespass and a pending felony case for burglary. On the same day, the Bengals drafted Jason Shirley while he had three pending cases, a hit and run, D.W.I., and driving with a blood alcohol content over .08%.

In a survey this reporter undertook on the QCC campus, over 80% of students who are football fans say that harsher punishment for athletes should be enforced. Students who were asked about players in the NFL with criminal records voiced strong opinions: “When my favorite player was arrested for DWI manslaughter and then was released right back to the NFL, I wondered why this guy was getting away with murder?” “Is he still your favorite player?” I asked. “No” he replied.

NFL players need to be better role models, and set better examples for the fans, the league, and their families. Athletes in common need to do a better job of staying away from the Criminal Justice System. If harsher punishments are enforced, crime within the NFL will diminish. A crime is a crime regardless of one’s popularity, job status, and/or income. When a regular Joe is convicted of a felony, they cannot get a job. It’s hard to find a job when you have been convicted of killing someone. The NFL needs to rethink its priorities and values. It is not fair that celebrity and income is used to shield people engaged in criminal activity. Both the NFL and criminal justice system need to take a step back from the money and step up to reality.
Please attend

THE QUEENSBOROUGH CELEBRATION
OF FACULTY AND STUDENT CREATIVE WRITING

showcasing new work by members of
Queensborough Community College’s
students, full-time & adjunct faculty and professional staff
who are engaged in publishing poetry, fiction, memoir,
and other forms of creative non-fiction and multi-media work.

This year, the annual Faculty Creative Writers Event which began
in 2007 has grown to become The Queensborough Celebration of
Faculty and Student Creative Writing. Faculty and students will be
presenting three days of readings on October 21-23, 2009.

October 21: Kupferberg Holocaust Center Reading Room: 1-3 pm

October 22: Oakland Loggia: 2-5 pm

October 23: Shadowbox Theatre: 3-5pm

October 23: Oakland Dining Room: 7-8 pm
(Student reading at NEPCA Evening Social)

Coordinated by: Michele Cuomo and Andrew Levy and the Creative Writing Organizing Committee.
Sponsored by: the Office of Academic Affairs, Communiqué, the Drama Society, the Honor Society Phi Theta Kappa, The Harriet and Kenneth Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives, Liberal Arts
Academic Club, Publications Club, and Queenzine.