Less than one month after President George W. Bush was declared the winner of the 2004 Presidential election, many of his long time friends and confidantes have resigned from his cabinet. This sudden shift in the cabinet is leaving the country to wonder—Is Bush truly capable of leading us in the right direction for another four years if many of his top advisors and own cabinet members are leaving him out in the cold?

At the top of the seemingly long list of cabinet resignations is Secretary of State Colin Powell. Powell has recently been quoted in various periodicals as having called his past term as Secretary of State “the worst time in my life.” Powell began a military career with an ROTC course at City College and then later rose to the highest military rank, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, before retiring in 1993. Powell announced his long anticipated resignation on March 15, 2004, after much conflict with the very administration that he has so admirably and diligently served. Colin Powell has been rumored to have had a tense relationship with fellow colleagues particularly Vice-President Dick Cheney, and Donald Rumsfeld.

Shortly after Colin Powell’s resignation was announced, current National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice was named to take over for Colin Powell, a big step in the impressive career of a woman who grew up in the segregated South during a time when there wasn’t much hope for a black girl from Birmingham, Alabama. Condoleezza Rice, who was appointed nuclear policy advisor to the Joint Chiefs of Staff by President Reagan, later was named director of Soviet and European affairs for the National Security Council in 1989 by first President Bush. She then was hired to tutor President George W. Bush on foreign affairs, the names of international leaders and the issues confronting the U.S shortly before his first term as President. Once Bush was elected President, he made his tutor his National Security adviser and she became his closest confidante in the administration. Now moving up in the political ladder as Secretary of State will be the best shift in the whole cabinet shake up.

In the weeks before Colin Powell resigned, other important cabinet members have resigned from their positions as well, including Attorney General John Ashcroft, Secretary of Commerce Don Evans, Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman, Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham, Secretary of Education Rod Paige and Homeland Security (possibly the most important cabinet member at this time of war) Tom Ridge.

President Bush has tried diligently to replace his valued cabinet members. Yet it still leaves the country to wonder if it is just a coincidence that eight cabinet members are stepping down from their positions at the same time, or is there a greater conflict within the current administration. Whatever the case may be, it is probably best for not only President Bush and his administration but also our country as a whole, and we can only hope for the best that this cabinet reworking will only strengthen our country in a time of great division.
January Elections in Iraq

BY ABRAHAM MAZLOUMI

Preparations for the elections in Iraq will be held—despite the fact of continuing violence. This has sparked a demand that the elections be postponed for a later date. Although, leaders of the Sunni and Kurdish parties have called for a delay in the voting and to try and get more participation in the elections, leaders of the Sunni Arab Cleric have called for a boycott of the voting. This is to appeal to the U.S. Military offensive in Iraq even though the U.S. Military are in hot pursuit of the insurgents in Fallujah.

Political figures have disagreed in private to delaying the elections. They said that “a move to delay would require a prolonged and tortuous process to reach a political consensus.” The Sunnis in Baghdad and to the north and west of the capital have posed a major security problem for the people who are organizing the vote. Anbar has very poor security and the city will have problems trying to get voter rolls verified because Anbar, just like Fallujah, is home to many insurgent centers.

Holiday Eating for Healthy Bodies

BY MINA LIM

Most people feel that in order to be healthy, that they should be the size of a stick. They go on many different diets, such as Atkins, Jenny Craig, Slim Fast, South Beach, and Weight Watchers. There are many best selling books for those who are not comfortable with how they look and how much they weigh. Those books are about losing weight in the shortest amount of time, what to eat, when to eat and when not to eat, and prior experience of horror weight stories. Those books are really written for those who will be inspired and motivated by those stories and also gives them step-by-step process of being successful in dieting.

Many diets can be harmful to those who use dieting on a normal basis and to those who use it excessively to the point where they still feel big and fat, but really they are average or slightly below average. Many compare themselves with other people, such as models, and envy them, and also get more depressed just by looking at them. Many start forming depression and insecurities. For this holiday eat safely and smartly.
Many young women find opportunities to create their own successful businesses in America such as Alejandra has done with jewelry. A common dream that is shared by many is to open their own business; however, for a woman and an immigrant, it makes it harder to start in the business industry. Feeling insecure, lacking information and advice, and struggling with a new language are very common obstacles. Once they break the fear and surpass their natural obstacles, they start considering a business, and all of a sudden, they have their own successful business in a new country with a new market.

Alejandra is a good example of a young woman who underwent the process and now she is a young successful business owner. A native of Chile who came 11 years ago to study jewelry design, says she had no intention of staying but decided to when she saw opportunities to grow in her personal and career life. She started in a small market with her designs, and four years ago she officially started her own jewelry business with her unique and creative pieces.

Vitraux by Alejandra is the name of her jewelry line; Vitraux is a French word that means stained glass. Her designs have reached well-known stores such as Saks Fifth Avenue, Henri Bendel and Bloomingdale’s. Her own retail store is located in Soho because she says the neighborhood inspires her work daily. Her base is in New York but she also sells around the country. Her works are done mainly with Swarovski crystals and other precious stones.

While Alejandra studied in New York, she started experimenting with different styles of earrings, materials and shapes, getting a very good reaction from her friends and people in general. She decided to start her own line. She began selling to small boutiques, then department stores and now on her own retail store as well. When asked about the obstacles she faced, she said she did not feel obstacles from others, most of the obstacles she dealt with were her own insecurities, thinking her English or her talent was not good enough. She feels these obstacles are not real but self-created.

She started with very little resources, very shy and with no knowledge, just a lot of hard work and heart. She is still standing because she is committed and time has helped her gain confidence and knowledge. In her opinion, courage, patience, staying positive and never giving up are four key elements to a prosperous business. She considers education as essential to success not only for a business but in general, she says; “education should be an eternal process, you can never say I know enough, there is so much out there to learn.”

For those young women who aspire to own a business, Alejandra recommends to “do something that you love, that you cannot wait to get up in the morning and work. Everything else will follow. Also it is important to know that we are not alone and teamwork is essential, learn to delegate and respect other’s work.”

Opening a business is not so hard as we think. It’s a matter of getting informed and advised. A lot of effort and heart is really the start to a long-lasting business. If you would like to see more about her designs, you can log on to the web at www.vitrauxstore.com, or you can visit her store at 72 Thompson, New York, NY.
Driving under the influence of alcohol or better known as DUI, is one of the main causes of deaths in car accidents in the United States. The authorities have repressed drinking and driving since many years ago. A New York City resident is considered intoxicated under the influence of alcohol when the BAC (Blood alcohol concentration) is above 0.8%, exceeding this number would make you be considered unable to operate a motor vehicle.

Usually, a first time offender will not serve a jail sentence. The possibility is still there, however, to be sentenced to a jail term of up to one year. More often than not, though, a judge will suspend the sentence and the offender will be sentenced to probation. If the terms of the probation are not met, the judge can revoke the probation and send the offender to jail. Obviously, penalties are much stiffer for a second or third conviction of a DWI or other related violation. For example, fines for a second offense can run up to $5,000.00 and carry with it a jail term of up to four years. A third offense can result in a $10,000.00 fine and up to 7 years in prison. In all cases, the driver’s license will be revoked. Some conditions of probation include: Community service, taking a DWI awareness class, report to your probation officer, most often, monthly. Do not drink alcohol or consume other drugs, maintain a job, and do not break any other laws.

DUI is more common in underage drivers. Underage drinking is capturing the attention of many concerned with reducing the incidence of substance abuse. Alcohol is a drug. When consumed by minors, alcohol is an illegal drug. Underage drinking contributes to a disproportionate number of vehicular accidents in persons between the ages of 16 and 21. There is a higher incidence of binge drinking and alcohol poisoning among this same age group.

About a year and a half ago, Maria Hernandez and Yahaira Soto went for a walk with their babies in their strollers. As they were waiting to cross Atlantic Avenue, a car driven by Nick Walls who was driving under the influence of alcohol crashed into them and sent both girls and their kids flying for about a block. Both women and one of the infants died instantly; the other one survived and is now being raised by his grandparent.

Despite the tireless efforts of thousands of advocates, impaired drivers continue to kill someone every 30 minutes, nearly 50 people a day, and almost 18,000 citizens a year. NHTSA and its partners are working together to put a stop to these deadly statistics. The NHTSA has the drunk driver death toll at 42%, exactly 17,013 deaths.

Nationally, 12.8% of all drivers involved in fatal accidents during 2001 are known to have been intoxicated according to the BAC laws of their state. This number is based on a systematic examination of the official government records of each and every accident involving a fatality during that year in the US. It is based on factual evidence rather than on estimates or guesses.

Even though DUI is a problem that has been going on for many years, the authorities and advertising and educational programs have helped...
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Registration Methods at QCC

BY PASCALE MEVS

As the fall semester rapidly comes to an end, students are currently registering for the spring semester. Aside from the obvious question of what classes to register for, lies the issue of what method students should use to register. The most common type of information is a printed registration booklet. The registration booklet at Queensborough offers options for students to register with an advisor, fully online registration, partially online registration, and telephone registration. Registering with an advisor is quite possibly the best way for incoming students to register. To use this option, students should look over the upcoming semester’s Course Catalog, and decide which courses they may be interested in taking. After being advised, students can then use their advisor’s notes as a guide for classes. This way will let each student know what courses they are required to take and still help them tailor their course schedules to their individual interests. This method enables students to register for courses best-suited for them, while not having to go through the toil of doing so alone for the first time. Advisement offices are located on the Library Building’s fourth floor.

Returning students who feel they are capable of registering alone can do so on the internet. Students wishing to register fully online can do so by using the QCC Registrar’s website at http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/Registrar/. Once at the website, students can make use of the Course Catalog: a list of courses available for the upcoming semester, and won’t need a registration booklet. They can then choose to begin registering, drop or add courses, check course availability, and view their schedule. Supplemental information is even obtainable on site, including tuition bills and financial aid information. As stated on the website, online hours of the registrar are Monday through Sunday 6am-3am and there is no service available 3am-6am daily.

Partially online registration is very similar to fully online registration. Rather than using an online Course Catalog, a printed registration booklet is used. This option is best for students who wish to see more than one course schedule at a time. While the online Course Catalog is able to display only one course schedule at a time, the registration booklet gives students the opportunity to compare different course schedules. Once decided upon what courses to take, students can then use the registrar’s website to register for those courses.

Registration booklets are usually available in the main lobby of the Administration Building across from the Registrar. Students using this option may also find the Registration Center in room A-119 of the Administration building. As per the QCC Registrar’s website, “the center is equipped with 40 personal computers so students can access the Internet and register for Courses.”

Telephone registration is another convenient option. This option is also best for continuing students rather than new students. Students can prepare themselves to register on the telephone just as they would prepare themselves to register partially online. Check what courses are needed, and what courses are desired. Write down the 4-digit codes of the courses in which you’d like to be registered. Then dial (212) 541-1016 and begin registering. You will be prompted to enter your Social Security number. The telephone registration system allows students to register for and drop courses, check course availability, and even check their grades.

Of these options, students should decide which is best for them. You can explore each option when it is your time to register. Remember, registration can only be started after your given appointment date and time. Students who are advised will be given an appointment by their advisor. All other students must wait for their appointments to arrive in the mail. Further assistance and information is available at the Registration Center in room A-119, or at the office of the Registrar in room A-104.

You Think You Know, But You Have No Idea!

(TIPS FOR GRADUATION)

BY TRACY D.

Students of Queensborough Community College often do not understand their requirements. Having no idea of or for graduation, most of them are used to high school guidance counselors that would fix their programs for them. Clarence Brown, the Graduation Auditor and the Permit Coordinator at QCC, shared his expertise on everything students might need to know to complete their programs.

Graduation requirements include passing The CPE and all CUNY assessment tests. You must earn a 2.0 GPA towards your degree. You must have fulfilling all required courses for each curriculum (60-64 credits). Last, but not least, you must apply for graduation. This is done by filling out an application for a degree at the registrar’s office on the central mall.

Mr. Brown explains that every program in this school can in fact be completed in two years. This is done by taking 15 to 16 credits each semester to complete your required curriculum. Some students may require more than 60 credits so divide your credits by the four semesters. The only hold backs would be CUNY assessment and entrance exams. If you did not pass your entrance exams you would be required to take remedial classes. Now if you do not feel like you were placed in the right remedial class, you can ask to be retested to change you course for something more on your level.

Assessment tests are skills placement tests such as foreign language and speech tests that you take in each department to see where you would be placed for those classes. If you are in a program where language is not required then that assessment test is not meant for you.

The CUNY Proficiency (CPE) Exam is a writing exam that you must take after completing 45 credits. You must take and pass this exam in order to graduate here at QCC and any CUNY school. You are given three chances to pass this exam. If for any reason you do not pass on your three chances, you can appeal for a four or maybe even a fifth chance to take the exam. What you would have to do is send an appeal to Dr. David Shukin of the CUNY Department (Rm. 424 H Building). If the CPE exam is the only thing holding you back, and you want to transfer, it would depend on the school if they wanted to accept you without your CPE.

Mr. Brown also gave me some very useful advice that any student here at QCC can use they are:

1. Early advisement. Try to make your schedule as early as you can in order to reach your 15-16 credits mark for every semester.

What MS Has Meant for One College Student

BY JASMINE GERARD

Approximately 400,000 Americans acknowledge having MS (multiple sclerosis: a progressive disease of the central nervous system that effects the brain, optic nerves, and spinal cord, and causes degeneration of various body functions), every week about 200 people are diagnosed, according to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Most people diagnosed with MS are between the ages of 20 and 50.

A 22-year-old college student by the name of Melanie Williams is one of the 400,000 Americans who has MS. Melanie has been living with MS for about 2 years. She was diagnosed in September 2002. She stated, “I continue on with my life not letting this disease hold me back from going to school, working, or performing my daily activities.”

Before Melanie was diagnosed she was always a little uncomfortable with herself and wanted to fit in. She stated, “I never thought of myself as an unattractive person. I just thought that there were a few things about myself that seemed to be different.” She also stated, “There were just a few things that made me insecure. I was often wearing a shirt that was one size too big. I also drew me away from people, and furthermore made me obsessively concerned about my appearance as well as my becoming materialistic.”

Melanie knew there was something wrong when she started to notice her left foot feeling very funny it was a tingly, numb feeling like it had went to sleep. The problem with that was that it was feeling that way for about three weeks until it slowly went away. This was one of the many symptoms of MS: the loss of muscle strength in arms and legs, according to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Melanie stated, “For hours I cried because I was overwhelmed and uneducated on what that doctors had just told me I was diagnosed with. I had known very little about this disease and knew just enough to be frightened by this new development in my life.”

“Knowing that there is a possible chance that I might never function like I used or even walk again led me to the conclusion that I have been sheltering myself from individuals all my life for nothing and that was going to change immediately.” Melanie said, Melanie also stated, “Through this experience I have learned everyone will face adversity. It is up to the individual to work hard and overcome these challenges that may occur. I have always believed that what makes you scared can only make you stronger.”

Instead of the news of Melanie’s diagnosis bringing her down it completely turned her life around. She feels that if young people were more educated about this disease it could help for the loved ones who may be affected to help them if they might feel like they have some symptoms so that it can be diagnosed and treated early, or help to find a cure since there is no cure for this disease.”
Tips on Graduating
(continued from page 6)

2. Each student should know their own curriculum with your college catalog. Advisors are here to help, not to make you up your schedule every semester.
3. Ask questions. Become more active with what it is that you have to do to complete this school or any other school.
4. Always get your advisor’s names.
5. If you feel that you are being misadvised then go to the dean of students and make a complaint.

If you feel that you have completed all requirements, then give Mr. Clarence Brown a visit at the registrar’s office located in the Administration Building.

Staying Healthy This Winter
(Continued from page 4)

One reason that winter is a good season for building immunity is that the digestive system is much stronger in the cold weather. For example, just as the heating system in your house working harder in the winter season, so does your inner digestive system fires up when the air get cold. However, winter is the season when nature is at its peak. The winter season provides nourishment to the body by giving your body, mind and soul the extra rest, so you can take advantage of this winter season. When nature is at its peak, the intestines are short and the nights of longer. Due to this a person’s body craves more for rest. Winter is known to be more of an inward season, when nature is at its peak.

Although other seasons are better for purifying the body, winter is the season to build up and nourish all the systems in your body such as the hair, nails and the skin. In the winter, the days are shorter and the nights of longer. Due to this a person’s body craves more for rest. Winter is known to be more of an inward season, when nature is at its peak.

There is a twist to this story. Some people don’t have enough money to buy a record every time it is released. MP3 players help the poor by giving them a chance to listen to their favorite music for free. Technology affects our generation and society in a negative and positive way.

Modern society in the twenty first century is affected by high-tech technology that is beneficial and harmful. How does making a phone call while driving affect our lives?

What is beneficial and harmful about MP3 players? Did computers, Internet, and e-mail really changed people’s lifestyles and speed up the business world. Well answers to those questions should make us realize high-tech technology really has an impact on our generation and society.

First, “Car Calls May Leave Brain Short-Handed” by Sandra Blakeslee from the New York Times is an article about a scientific experiment that indicates performing two demanding tasks simultaneously prevents either one from being done well. Moreover, this experiment reveals when people try to drive in heavy traffic and talk, the brain activity does not double, it decreases. So basically, this experiment came up with an hypothesis that tells us that performing complex tasks simultaneously like driving while talking on a cell phone could lead to a fatal car accident.

Second, “In Court’s View, MP3 Player is just a space Shifter” by Carl S. Kaplan from the New York Times is an article about how MP3 payers is a new piece of technology that benefits the people by making their personal copies legitimately by downloading digital works. This article also mentions how bad MP3 players are for the recording industries. Record labels, recording industries, and the artist of the music are losing surplus profit by people downloading music of MP3 player or internet for free rather than going out in the store and purchasing the record. However, there is a twist to this story. Some people don’t have enough money to buy a record every time it is released. MP3 players help the poor by giving them a chance to listen to their favorite music for free. Technology affects our generation and today’s society in a negative and positive way.

Third, the PC and software are the most precious forms of technology in the world. Computers not only benefited the rapid growth of the business world and economy, but they changed people’s lifestyles. First of all, computers helped the business world by communicating through the Internet and e-mail across the seas. An economic relationship stretched worldwide with the help of computers and making foreign trade easier. Computers also saved time for businessman by not having to take a long trip for business meetings. Most importantly, computers, Internet, and e-mail helped people by making their lives easier. Moreover, families now could communicate from long distance through e-mail, and students could use the internet to do research papers or to study. People also could shop online, find out when the show times are, get car directions, weather, and top news. Computers are a great invention that will definitely日常 benefit our generation and upcoming ones.

Furthermore, according to John Lopez, cell phones are useless. He said most of the time cell phone connection is static and cell phones are much too expensive. John also thinks cell phones are not good for our health. Study has shown cell phones generate radiation energy, which could cause cancer or brain tumor. Moreover, using cell phones while driving is illegal and if caught by police, big fines must be paid. Also cell phones cause car accidents that are fatal. According to John cell phones are pointless and even more, a big hassle.

A cell phone could lead to a fatal car accident. According to Marina Koch, cell phones are great to have. Marina thinks cell phones make her life easier because she is able to communicate with her family, friends, and colleagues anytime and from anywhere. Cell phones help Marina to get things done without any delays. Marina thinks without cell phones her life would be much more complex and annoying. Marina is a fan of technology and electronics. She thinks MP3 players and laptops are pieces of technology that benefit her lifestyle by making it simple and fun. In conclusion, cell phones, MP3 players, and computers are a few pieces of high-tech technology that affect our lives in positive and in negative ways. In this modern society where discoveries of new inventions are made every day, not will only these inventions benefit our society and generation but the generation that is lying ahead.

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Controversy In First Civilized Country Continues

BY ABRAHAM MAZLOUMI

New evidence links Saddam Hussein making withdrawal slips that made history.

In March of 2003, Saddam Hussein had signed a myriad of withdrawal forms that would have his son, Qusay, who is now deceased, the ultimate ring leader in the removal of $1 billion from Central Bank in Iraq. This had happened before the night of the Unification. The stamped letter—which was secret—had the stamp of “G-D is merciful and G-D is gracious” stamped on it. When Saddam Hussein gave the barely legible withdrawal slip to the commissioner of the bank, it was to legitimize the removal. Who decided why Saddam Hussein needed this huge sum he just stated that “it was needed to protect themselves from American aggression.”

Saddam’s now deceased son, Qusay, who was believed to be killed in an air strike, received that money on March 18, 2003, in the middle of the night along with his aide Hikmat Mizhan Ibrahim. They went to Central Bank of Iraq and received 920 million in U.S. Currency and 90 million in Euros. In the English conversion this 90 million euros would have the total sum of about 117 million. The House Committee Investigators are still reluctant in trying to figure out how these criminals were able to get away with a not-so-common transaction.

The same heist was tried the next day on March 19, 2003 by another aid of Hussein, but results of that were not confirmed. The United States had retrieved some of the money, about 650 million worth, a month later in one of Saddam Hussein’s palaces. It was believed that most of the money was transported to other parts of the Middle East to support other terrorist groups. This heist was just one piece of how Saddam can manipulate the world. And how in which way he could, he would fool any system — even fund raisers for little infants.

In other news, Sheik Muhammad Amin Al Faidhi was killed in the city of Mossul November 22nd. It was reported that gunmen had fired at the cleric in a getway car. No one was arrested for the shooting. Although Sheik Muhammad Amin Al Faidhi was not giving into American overthrow, he was a very peaceful way. Sheik Muhammad was also against the elections that are taking place in late January, Prime Minister Ayid Allawi had stated that it really small amount of the Iraqi population would decline to vote.

Reports have shown that violence has decreased since the past month. Once a country riddled with fright, had 150 acts of violence a day now has 90 acts of violence and are still decreasing. This was issued by a Private Security Company. But the results of this has also caused a lot of problems as well. Iraqi and American troops were condemned by Grand Ayatollah Ali Al Sastami, the second most powerful cleric in Iraq, for raiding a mosque in Baghdad last month. Meanwhile, insurgents have released the elderly cousin of Ayid Allawi. Three more are still captives. The insurgents have warned the Prime Minister to stop pursuing the likes of the Westernized World.

By Carlos Moreno

The MTA, New York City subway system, is believed to be the oldest and greatest system in the world. In October 2004, the subway celebrated its 100th birthday. How does something that might happen that may affect almost every commuter in New York City. Something that every college student who uses public transport dreads, a fare hike.

The department of subways is made up of 26,369 employees, 659 miles of mainline track, 22 major lines, 3 shuttle lines, 6,350 revenue cards, 440 work cars, and 468 stations. MTA New York City transit operates 7 days a week 24 hours a day and carries 1.4 billion riders per year. Subways run more than 6,800 train trips on weekdays.

Although it is not confirmed yet, and as if raising the fare from $1.50 - $2.00 last year was not enough, the MTA plans another fare hike. If this hike is approved it would begin in March of 2005. The fare per ride would go from $2 to $3 and the monthly metro-card would go from $70 to $84. This is not all, it gets worse, the MTA plans to eliminate several bus lines in all five boroughs in 2006. All of this is being done to supposedly close a $436 million dollar budget gap. “People will have to pay more money for far less service, if his hike goes into effect,” said a young mother of two who works on Wall Street.

On another note, the MTA also plans to close up 164 token booths throughout the city, more (continued on page 9)

New York City Subway and Bus Fare Hike Planned

BY CARLOS MORENO

On November 2nd people in America cast their votes for president of the United States. The two candidates were incumbent Republican George W. Bush, and Democrat John F. Kerry, a liberal senator from the state of Massachusetts.

The people of the United States spoke and elected George W. Bush for a second term. Almost 60 million people cast their vote for President Bush and 55 million for Senator Kerry. He is the first President to win the popular vote by that big of a margin, almost 4 million more votes than Kerry 51%-46%. The president also won big in the Electoral College needing 270 to win, President Bush led by 286-252 much wider than 2000 when it was very close 271-266 against Vice President Gore.

This election was one of the most important and most popular than any other presidential election. About 120 million people voted in this election, all races, religions and ages. There were a lot of different topics and decisions to be made by the people. Issues on the Iraq War, terrorism, Health Care, Social Security and the most important that surprised a lot of people was moral values. This election had more polls than any other election. About 120 million people voted in this election, all races, religions and ages. Issues on the Iraq War, terrorism, Health Care, Social Security and the most important that surprised a lot of people were moral values. Over 70% that said moral values were important votes for President Bush, and Kerry was neck and neck both for Bush and Kerry. They both performed well, but Kerry’s problem was bashing Bush and only talking about his mistakes for the past four years. He talked about what he was going to do and people probably figured it was good, but he always said, “He had a plan.” But we never heard the plan.

Maybe if Senator Kerry did say his plans for everything he would be 44th president. He also changed his mind a lot, and we don’t need a liberal right now as President, with the Iraq War and terrorism. People voted for Bush because they know what he is about. He rushed into Iraq but it was the better way, we need someone who is fighting and killing the terrorists. Over 75% of Al Qaeda is gone because of Bush. All we need is Osama Bin Laden, who made a little debut that Friday before the election and tried to change the minds of Americans, but he did not succeed because we are America and no one can tell us how to vote. Its our right.

This election had more polls than any other election. They changed day to day, day to night week to week. It was great havoc but in the majority of the polls President Bush had the lead, a week to a five point lead. They were some that were tied or Kerry was up slightly a point. The final polls were the true people, so we knew that Bush would win 3rd, the day after the election 51% to 48%, Bush ahead. He had a big lead in Florida winning with more than 300,000 votes, better than winning it by 537 votes in 2000. He won by 269 electoral votes to win Ohio’s 20 electoral votes and that put him at 269 electoral votes needing 270 to win. He won with 286 final electoral votes. Kerry conceded gracefully, and I respect him for that because he knew he was not going to win Ohio, even with all the provisional ballots counted for.

In conclusion, the American people have spoken and elected President Bush for another four years. Democrats, you need a lot of work to win the Senate, the House and the presidency all back.

BUSH WINS, DEMOCRATS WHINE

BY ANTHONY NOWICH

On November 2nd people in America cast their votes for president of the United States. The two candidates were incumbent Republican George W. Bush, and Democrat John F. Kerry, a liberal senator from the state of Massachusetts.

The people of the United States spoke and elected George W. Bush for a second term. Almost 60 million people cast their vote for President Bush and 55 million for Senator Kerry. He is the first President to win the popular vote by that big of a margin, almost 4 million more votes than Kerry 51%-46%. The president also won big in the Electoral College needing 270 to win, President Bush led by 286-252 much wider than 2000 when it was very close 271-266 against Vice President Gore.

This election was one of the most important and most popular than any other presidential election. About 120 million people voted in this election, all races, religions and ages. Issues on the Iraq War, terrorism, Health Care, Social Security and the most important that surprised a lot of people were moral values. Over 70% that said moral values were important votes for President Bush, and Kerry was neck and neck both for Bush and Kerry. They both performed well, but Kerry’s problem was bashing Bush and only talking about his mistakes for the past four years. He talked about what he was going to do and people probably figured it was good, but he always said, “He had a plan.” But we never heard the plan.

Maybe if Senator Kerry did say his plans for everything he would be 44th president. He also changed his mind a lot, and we don’t need a liberal right now as President, with the Iraq War and terrorism. People voted for Bush because they know what he is about. He rushed into Iraq but it was the better way, we need someone who is fighting and killing the terrorists. Over 75% of Al Qaeda is gone because of Bush. All we need is Osama Bin Laden, who made a little debut that Friday before the election and tried to change the minds of Americans, but he did not succeed because we are America and no one can tell us how to vote. Its our right.

This election had more polls than any other election. They changed day to day, day to night week to week. It was great havoc but in the majority of the polls President Bush had the lead, a week to a five point lead. They were some that were tied or Kerry was up slightly a point. The final polls were the true people, so we knew that Bush would win 3rd, the day after the election 51% to 48%, Bush ahead. He had a big lead in Florida winning with more than 300,000 votes, better than winning it by 537 votes in 2000. He won by 269 electoral votes to win Ohio’s 20 electoral votes and that put him at 269 electoral votes needing 270 to win. He won with 286 final electoral votes. Kerry conceded gracefully, and I respect him for that because he knew he was not going to win Ohio, even with all the provisional ballots counted for.

In conclusion, the American people have spoken and elected President Bush for another four years. Democrats, you need a lot of work to win the Senate, the House and the presidency all back.
Subway and Bus Fare Hike

(continued from page 8)

than 30 of them are in Brooklyn. However, this will not affect the workers because the MTA plans to keep these workers helping customers, or inspecting and cleaning the stations. This concept is already being tried out in 10 stations as part of a pilot program launched in May that transit officials say has proven popular among the public. But critics say taking the clerks out of the token booths is potentially unsafe, both for the public and the clerks themselves who will be more vulnerable. Also they have unreliable radio equipment which can make it hard for clerks to advise police in the event of an emergency.

“Metro-card machines cannot hear the call for help, or see if a passenger is being intimidated or assaulted in subway stations,” said Jason Schmidt, a young postman who commutes on a daily basis from Queens to his work station in the Bronx.

Another woman who lives in Queens and travels to Manhattan to work said, “there is no guarantee of safety for the MTA clerks, the rate of crime in NYC subways may increase.”

The token booths have been of great use to the public especially the elderly and disabled passengers. Not only will the fare hike affect their pockets, but perhaps in some stations they will not find assistance. New Yorkers in general are facing a huge problem, and it seems as if there is nobody who is fighting this. Even if there was somebody fighting this issue, the MTA will win and everybody will just have to adjust their budgets to be able to commute to work or school.

The worst possible scenario is that in 2006 the fare may go up even higher. Many New Yorkers feel outraged and continue to say, “Where is Governor George Pataki, and where is Metro-card Mayor Mike Bloomberg?” We need a governor and a mayor who will take responsibility for this, because if we don’t, our entire public subway system will spiral out of control,” said City Council speaker Gifford Miller.

In the time of the centennial celebration of the subways, MTA chairman Gifford Miller said that the time between the last two fare hikes was too long, and that he advocates fare hikes for city buses and subways every four years, and every two years for unlimited Metro-cards. Apparently, New Yorkers have to deal with this however it comes. Even if the public transport service changes for the best advocates fare hikes for city buses and subways every four years, and every two years for unlimited Metro-cards. Apparently, New Yorkers have to deal with this however it comes. Even if the public transport service changes for the best or not, everyone will have to pay the new fares. It is a situation which has people tremendously upset and dissatisfied with New York leaders, and it is also inevitable. People rely heavily on the MTA public transit for commuting to work or school, and even if New Yorkers disagree, they will have no choice but to comply with the totally unfair hike, and the removal of human assistance in scattered stations.

All About Business, Not About Talent

BY DANIELLE COPPER

In the music industry there are several styles of singing and several looks the industry wants. With this in mind aspiring singers are constantly trying to fit into the music industry by changing their image in a way that is pleasing to the record labels. J. Phoenix, singer, 27, is a prime example of someone who is struggling to make a name for himself in the music industry.

David Copper, manager of J. Phoenix began the interview by stating, “The industry is all about business and not about talent.” Even though J. Phoenix has done work with many artists such as Luther Vandross, Nancy Wilson, and Joe, he still has not been signed. Having strong credentials and talent as a singer/writer isn’t enough to get the deal of a lifetime. J. Phoenix writes his own soulful lyrics and he is talked about in the media. He is diversified as far as lyrics and music. He loves to collaborate. He is featured on several songs such as Thugs Mansion on the album God’s Son by Nas and She Bangs by Ricky Martin just to name a few.

Reality shows like Making the Band and American Idol show more than enough of what goes on behind the scenes of the industry. People do get their feelings hurt if they are not what the record labels want. The people who win on these shows get limited promotion and may only have one hit single or one album and still don’t really become a hit.

Queensborough College offers classes in music technology which help you if you want to know what it’s like running a studio, and making your own music. DJ Show-n-Tell has been displaying his talent as a DJ since 1996. At first he was doing it for fun and then he started getting paid for it so he took it seriously. He has been attending Queensborough for about one year now. He is taking a studio techniques class so that he can understand all the aspects of music. He says, “This class prepares you for the music industry, but you need outside experience to succeed. The more knowledge you get, the more money you make.” He wants to get more involved in the studio production process as well as management. His opinion on the industry is “appearance, who you know and a little bit of talent makes it. Just getting a degree and not knowing anyone, doesn’t get you anywhere. You have to have it in you.”

For those who want to be in the music industry, make sure you know what you are getting into because in the words of DJ Show-n-Tell, “Being a doctor is easier than getting in the music industry.”

QCC Poetry Slam Team Wins

Congratulations to QCC’s poetry slam team for winning the NYC Intercollégiate Poetry Slam at The Bowery Poetry Club on Nov. 5, 2004.

Koylan Gomez, whose perfect score earned her a standing ovation, led the eight-member team to victory over impressive poets from Westchester Community College and City Tech.

Poets representing QCC included Koylan Gomez, Xavier Smith, Aneala Lance, Nick Puleo, Alicia Barrientos, Gabriel Huallanca, David DeJesus, and Axel Lascurain. QCC’s slam team for October was Gerris Dool, Nasirullah Bigarada, and Lisa Zagler.

All poets interested in being on the QCC slam team need to compete in the All Campus Poetry Slam on November 19 at 7 p.m. in H409. Kenneth Baldwin, a scout for Def Poetry Jam, will kick off the event with a reading. Interested students should email Prof. Anderson-Moseman to sign up: Landersonmoseman@qcc.cuny.edu. The top ten finishers will be invited to compete in the December 2nd Intercollégiate Poetry Slam at The Bowery Poetry Club.

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What Does Christmas Mean to You?

BY JENNIFER ESTRADA

From November onwards, it is impossible to forget that Christmas is coming. Colored lights decorate many town centers and ships, along with shiny decorations, and artificial snow painted on shop windows. Shopping centers become busier as December approaches and often stay open till late. Shopping center speaker systems will play Christmas carols the traditional Christmas Christian songs, and groups of people will often sing carols on the streets to raise money for charity.

Santa Claus has become the human face of Christmas. Pictures will be seen everywhere of the old man with long white beard, red coat, and bag of toys. Children are taught that he brings them presents the night before Christmas. It is said that he lives near the North Pole, and arrives through the sky on a sledge pulled by reindeer. He comes into houses down the chimney at night and places presents for the children in socks or bags by their beds or in front of the family Christmas tree. In shops or at children’s parties, someone will dress up as Father Christmas and give presents to children, or ask them what gifts they want for Christmas. Christmas can be a time of magic and excitement for children.

Father Christmas is based on a real person, St. Nicholas. Nicholas was a Christian leader from modern-day Turkey in the 4th century AD. He was very wealthy and wanted to give money to poor people without them knowing about it. It is said that one day, he climbed the roof of a house and dropped a purse of money down the chimney. It landed in the stocking which a girl had put to dry by the fire! This may explain the belief that Father Christmas comes down the chimney and places gifts in children’s stockings.

In the West today, the real meaning of Christmas is often forgotten. It has become a non-religious holiday! More children believe in Father Christmas than in Jesus. Arline Sanchez, a student at St. John’s University shared what Christmas is for her stating, “This is my favorite time of year when people really come close together and share family and friends. It’s always been my favorite holiday, ever since I was a child. Most people forget why we celebrate Christmas. It is time for families and friends to gather and reflect on the meaning of the holiday.”

Christmas is for her stating, “This is my favorite time of year when people really come close together and share family and friends. It’s always been my favorite holiday, ever since I was a child. Most people forget why we celebrate Christmas. It is time for families and friends to gather and reflect on the meaning of the holiday.”

Kwanzaa! A Different Celebration For The Holiday

BY COLETTE LIVINGSTON

Kwanzaa means “first fruits of the harvest” in the African language Kiswahili. During the holiday our traditional celebration usually consists of celebrating Christmas, New Year’s Eve, New Year’s, Hanukkah, and other traditional festivities, but Kwanzaa is also celebrated.

Kwanzaa is a unique African-American celebration with a focus on the traditional African values of family, community responsibility, commerce, and self-improvement. Kwanzaa is neither political, nor religious, and despite some misconceptions, is not a substitute for Christmas. It is simply a time of reaffirming African-American people with their ancestors and culture. Kwanzaa is celebrated from December 26th to January 1st.

Since it’s finding in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, Kwanzaa is now observed by 18 million people worldwide as reported by the New York Times. Kwanzaa is based on the Nguzo Saba (seven guiding principles). Umoja meaning unity stresses the importance of family and community. Kujichagulia, self-determination, requires that we define our common interests and make decisions that are in the best interest of our family and community. Ujima, collective work and responsibility; Ujamaa, cooperative economics emphasizes our collective economic strength; Ujamaa, purpose; Kuumba, creativity and Imani, faith. There is a candle lit each day to represent these principles.

Kwanzaa colors are red, black and green. Red stands for the blood that was shed when they were whipped as slaves, green stands for their land that was taken away and black stands for the people. Preparing for Kwanzaa is a big responsibility. There are items that have to be bought and also made. To make the celebration complete you must have a kinara (candle holder); Mkeka (placemats made of straw); Mazao (crops, fruits, and vegetables); Vibunzi/Muhindi (ears of corn to reflect the number of children in the house-hold); Kikombe cha umoja (communal unity cup); Mishumaa sabata/seven candles, one black, three green and three red and Zawadi (gifts that are enriching).

There is also a feast and a giving of homemade gifts that goes on during this holiday; there are special meals and recipes that are cooked. Decorating the home is also important. The kinara along with other symbols of kwanzaa should dominate the room, which should be given an African motif. Red, black and green streamers, balloons, cloth, flowers and African prints can be hung tastefully around the room. Kuumba is greatly encouraged when it comes to gifts. The giving of gifts during Kwanzaa should be affordable and of an educational or artistic nature. Gifts are usually exchanged between parents and children and traditionally given on January 1st the last day of Kwanzaa. Moreover, there is an feast celebrated called Karamu which is held December 31st. Karamu is a communal and cooperative effort; it also consists of an entertaining program. The program involves welcoming, remembering, reassessment, recommitment and rejoicing, concluded by a farewell statement and a call for greater unity.

Don’t Drink and Drive!

(continued from page 4)

to decrease the alcohol related fatality rate from 17,908 in 1993 to 17,013 in 2003, but as you can see 17,013 is still a very high number. Fatality rates per 100 million vehicle miles traveled related to alcohol have also gone down from a 0.78% in 1993 to 0.59% in 2003.

All the information listed above, brings us to the conclusion that drinking and driving will continue to be the cause of death for people of all ages. That’s why a designated driver should always be chosen; so, don’t drink and drive.
Policies for Returning Gifts

BY RUSLEY D.

Some well known tricks of making sure the gift you get is what you want is fairly simple. Drop hints as many times as possible and also leave pictures of the item that you want. Or, you can just ask for the best, cold, hard cash.

During this holiday season our anticipation on what gifts we are getting do not always meet our expectations. Now, whether it comes from your Aunt or Uncle or even your Nana, you know they mean well, but they just don’t understand what a good gift is. Getting that wrong gift can result in a whole lot of problems, especially when you don’t know store policies on returned items.

Many different stores have different policies on returned items, and it is in your best interest to know where your loved one shops and the return policy in that store. Stores ranging from Target to Macy’s have different policies. Target, for instance, has a 90 day return policy and you must have a receipt or the credit card with which the gift was purchased. But Target does understand that you may not have the receipt, so they will let you return, but you need a valid state ID and you will be getting the item at the lowest sales price.

Now JC Penny also has a similar return policy for returns. Macy’s is the one that has a different spin on it. You can return the item, but it does not say whether you would get full credit or at a sale price. You will also be getting a gift card which you could use to get the item that you were really hoping for.

Now, I know you just can’t go around asking that loved one for the receipt because many stores do require the receipt for a return item. But you can always slip in that they should get a gift receipt from the store they purchased the item from saying that “you don’t want to return the item but just want to have a little piece of insurance just in case the item breaks or there is a defect.”

The newly renovated QCC art gallery on our campus opened to the public on October 24, 2004. It opened with an exhibit called An American Odyssey (1945/1980) [Debating Modernism]. There was, however, a special opening on the 23rd when very important people attended, showing up in limos and there was also valet parking. Mr. Cunningham the head of security for the gallery, said, “Everything worked wonderfully.”

Although the works of art exhibited here were created between 1945-1980, most of them were produced in the 1960’s and 1970’s during the Hippie movement. The artists through their works and styles were speaking their minds on politics, pop culture and were even inspired by watching things that were going on in the streets. This was a break from traditional art. Artists are always searching for new forms. From the beginning of the 20th century we have seen many different styles emerge, i.e., the Fauvist from Paris in 1906, then Cubist, Futurist, Expressionist, Dadaist and Surrealist just to name a few of the most known, prior to WWII.

This American Odyssey exhibit represents styles and artists after WWII, and has copious examples of the various art movements in America. Some of these new styles are known as Abstract Expressionism, Pop Art, New Realism and Minimalism.

The exhibit displays 120 pieces featuring works by such celebrated artists as: Audrey Flack, Jasper Johns, Franz Kline, Roy Lichtenstein, Louise Nevelson, Jackson Pollock, Larry Rivers, Mark Rothko, George Segal and Andy Warhol who is probably the most widely known Pop artist. Most of the artists represented in this exhibit lived in New York at some point in their lives. There are sixty plus artists exhibited here. I would like to comment on two that were most memorable. Andy Warhol’s paintings of Marilyn Monroe and Jackie Kennedy are magnificently and beautifully done pieces that represent two very important American Pop culture icons. These pieces capture the profound and compelling nature of these wonderful American women.

George Segal’s “Man Stepping off Bus” is a life-sized sculpture of the front of a bus with a passenger disembarking. The bus is in color but the man is all white. As a New Yorker I will assume everyone has seen a man stepping off a bus and what makes this piece so wonderful is that Segal captured that moment and froze it. I love it because it is a part of all of us.

The exhibit has a gift shop that offers many interesting items. There is a very large catalog that contains all the artwork in this exhibit, at $75 ($60 for students). Also there are books on some of the individual artists.

There is enamel jewelry by Silvio Delacruz who also made enamel hand crafted cigar boxes which were inspired by Larry Rivers’ “Dutchmasters and Cigars III” (on exhibit). There is also pottery and African art. In addition, there are lectures offered free to the community and students.

This is indeed a rare and great opportunity to see such a great number of important works of art assembled here in our community on our own campus. A must see! Not to be missed!
Lysistrata was the most recent play performed at QCC; it was a musical adaptation by Georgia McGill and Greg DiNunzi of an ancient Greek play written in 411 B.C. by Aristophanes. McGill also directed this play. Aristophanes had a most interesting creative and entertaining fantasy about putting an end to the Peloponnesian War. This play is about Lysistrata, an Athenian woman, getting the women of Athens and Sparta to withhold sex from the men, until the men agree to stop fighting. It is one of the oldest anti-war plays. It is also about the power of women. Both themes resonate in today’s world. The adaptation is very close to Aristophanes’ original.

Chris Santana directed the music in this musical number and I say he did an excellent job. He did so well that everyone playing an instrument behind the scenes in this production was nominated for an award by the Merit American College Theatre Festival. The music was a variety of rock n’ roll, blues, country western and it even had a little hop-hop influence.

The lyrics to the songs in this play were written by Georgia McGill, Greg DiNunzi, Josefina Perez and Ben Pirtle. It is unfortunate that in some of the songs the lyrics were not sung clearly enough to understand the words. However, from what I could hear and comprehend of the lyrics they were not always up to the standard of the music; they mostly only employed sexually shocking phrases rather than any wit or satire that made the original Greek play such a classic.

Jenna Guercio did a very convincing, comedic job playing one of the old men in this play. There is an outrageously hilarious scene between a group of old men (girls are dressed up as old men) verses a group of old women (boys are playing the rolls of the old women). The two oppositely dressed genders argue with each other about Lysistrata who has made the women of the towns take an oath; the old men think she is wrong and the old women feel she is right. The bickering between these two groups in this scene is just one of the many funny scenes in this play.

Marisa Bischof who played the very sexy role of Myhrine also did the choreography with Paul Robilotto. The dance steps were well organized and appropriate to the lyrics and beat of the songs.

This play was extremely funny and had great music along with great acting. It was evident that everyone worked hard in this production.

The Polar Express

The Polar Express isn’t just a surprising success in animation; it’s also a rich tale for the eye, the mind, and even the spirit. It symbolizes the most fragile and beautiful aspect of the innocence of early life, the childlike wonder and whole-hearted ability to be swept away by magic. I’m sure that there will be some who will waste no time in criticizing the fact that it takes a firm worldly approach to the holiday season in which it is set, even as it celebrates the best of human nature, the part that we could and should take with us throughout the rest of the year. To them I would spread a little holiday cheer.

Santa Claus does not exist. Or does he? For one doubting boy, an astonishing event occurs. Late on Christmas Eve night, he lies in bed hoping to hear the sound of reindeer bells from Santa’s sleigh. When his surprise, a steam engine’s roar and whistle can be heard outside his window. The conductor invites him on board to take an extraordinary journey to the North Pole with many other children. There, he receives an extraordinary gift only those who still believe in Santa can experience.

Set on Christmas Eve somewhere in the mid-twentieth century, the story finds the unnamed boy at a hard age, just old enough to let facts start in the way of believing in Santa Claus. He falls asleep that night, and then he’s awakened by the sound of a train roaring to a stop right outside his house, the Polar Express, sent to him and a group of other kids with similar in doubts on a trip to the North Pole before it’s too late.

Holiday movies are still appealing to college students. Students at Queensborough give there opinions on The Polar Express. Amanda says, “I agree with this review. It is one of the best season-al movies I have ever seen.”

John says, “I did not really like the film. I am not a great fan of digital animation. It was too much. Too large. Too many people in the film.”

Sarah Jones

Queens, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, is the most ethnically diverse community in the United States. There are immigrants and refugees from all over the world, speaking 138 different languages. This kind of mix of cultures, races, languages and religions we refer to as a “melting pot” is a mirror of this entire country.

Sarah Jones is a very talented and exciting young entertainer who exposes and addresses some very timely issues facing this very diverse society that we live in today. She informs audiences about the immigrants arriving and the outsiders already here. Their stories could be sad, often hilarious and make up her one-woman show.

The unique technique she employs in her one-woman shows is full of humor, wit and compassion as she tells their true to life stories.

Her latest performance at the 45 Bleecker Theater was her new show, “Bridge and Tunnel.” It was produced By Meryl Steep, and enjoyed a successful long run that ended last August.

In “Bridge and Tunnel” Sarah Jones inhabits 14 different immigrants from Haiti, Pakistan, Russia, China and Mexico just to name a few.

She transforms herself into different characters with very few props. With just a change of jacket or a hat or shawl, adding the appropriate accent or color in her voice she portrays the characters she now becomes and tells his or her special story. This chameleon approach is not only very entertaining but it brings the audience into that character’s world of struggles, joys, accomplishments and views. For example, in one of her shows she transforms herself into a Jewish grandmother, an Italian male cop, a southern white supremacist, among others.

Sometimes her material takes us out of our neighborhoods as in one of her shows called “Women Can’t Wait,” which was performed on college campuses and before the United Nations. This show focuses on women all over the globe who live under laws that violate their human rights. New York Magazine called it a “rare piece of theater that really matters.”

Shortly after attending Bryn Mawr College, Sarah Jones began her career with performances at poetry slams in Manhattan’s Nuyorican Poets Café in Alphabet City where, in 1997, she won the Grand Slam competition.

Sarah Jones wants to do what one of her heroes, such as Lily Tomlin, was able to do a generation ago but most of all, “it’s got to be funny.”

Jones is presently working on her new show due to come to Broadway sometime in March 2005. I join the critics of Variety, Vanity Fair, N.Y. Times and many others who have given her resounding praise in urging you to look for her new show where you are sure to see an intelligent and humorous piece of work performed.

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