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 Condoleezza Rice was named to take over for Colin Powell. 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 exceedingly 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 undertook 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 semiprecious stones.

While Alejandra studied in New York, she experimented 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 in 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 others on the way.”

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 find out 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.

President Bush realizes that there’s a problem since the single mother rate has increased from three million to ten million between 1970 and 2000. Bush is pushing for a Healthy Marriage initiative that would provide individuals and couples with information on the value of marriage to men, women and children. He finds that by teaching conflict resolution skills it will increase marital happiness and long-range problems. Bush spends time and money on producing “Healthier marriages;” however, single mothers are not receiving more money through the public school system. To increase the amount of money given to families that receive TANF, cash assistance, is one way to help parents who lose their jobs. Conflict resolution is something that a person learns and is not taught.
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, do not drive 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. 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 grandparents.

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

(continued on page 10)
You can invest in your future.

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

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To learn more about Adelphi’s convenient location, flexible transfer policy, and generous financial aid packages, please contact Mary Kelly at (516) 877-3962 or email Kelly4@adelphi.edu.
Registration Methods at QCC

By Pascale Meys

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 method of registration is via the QCC Registrar’s office, either online registration, and telephone registration.

Registering with an advisor is quite possibly the best option 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 as the center for classes. The advisor 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 using facilities here on campus, or can even do it from the convenience of their own homes. Fully online registration makes use of 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 at 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 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’s online registration center, you are equipped with 40 new 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 classes 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 suited for them. You can explore each option when it is your time to register. Remember, you can only make your 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.

What MS Has Meant for One College Student

By Jasmin Gerald

Approximately 400,000 Americans acknowledge having MS (multiple sclerosis: a progressive disease of the central nervous system that affects 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, but I just drew away from people, and furthermore made me obsessively concerned about my appearance as well as 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.

She said she started getting the same tingly, numb feeling in her hands and feet later which prevented her from functioning normally. She stated, “It became so bad that I couldn’t do something as simple as eating a bowl of cereal or even putting my shirt on.” This is when Melanie decided to go to the emergency room where many tests were run on her including an MRI of the brain which helped to diagnosis her with MS. Melanie stated, “For hours I cried because I was overwhelmed and uneducated on what the doctors had just told me I was diagnosed with. I had known very little about this disease and known 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 to 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 strong.”

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 those loved ones who may or could 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.

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 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 counselors that would fix their programs for them.

Assessment tests are skills placement tests that 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.

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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 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 ready to nurture us, which means that due to the digestive level being very high, people are more likely to feel hungry and can actually digest food better. As a result, winter provides nourishment for our bodies.

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 rest, so you can take advantage of this winter season by giving your body, mind and soul the extra nourishment this year.

Technology May Benefit and Harm Society

BY GARY GIORGOBIANI

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 affect 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 players 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 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 too much 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.

Another air 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 lifestyles 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.
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 was captured by a special forces unit and was taken prisoner. It was the first time in his life that he was captured. Meanwhile, insurgents have released the elderly cleric in Iraq, for raiding a mosque in Baghdad last month. Sheik Muhammad was also against the election results.

Controversy In First Civilized Country Continues

New York City Subway and Bus Fare Hike Planned

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 do these two things might that happen that may affect almost every commuter in New York City. Something that every college student who uses public transport rides, 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.

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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.

“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 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 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, 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 apparent how it comes. Even if the public service changes for the best, 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.
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, Hanukah, 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; Nia, 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 household); Kikombe cha umoja (communal unity cup); Mishumaa saba (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. The 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.

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.
QCC Art Gallery Opening Review

BY TIFFANY N. RICHARDS

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 produced 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 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!

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.
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 with 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 hip-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 roles 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 Rohloff. 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

BY MARLENE CRUZ

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 wholehearted 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 getting in the way of believing in Santa Claus. He has sent no letter to Santa this year, nor taken pictures with the local department store stand-in.

To make matters worse, he not only made his sister put out the milk and cookies for the big guy, he has also started giving her doubts about his reality as well. 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 take 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 their opinions on The Polar Express. Amanda says, “I agree with this review. It is one of the best seasonal 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.”

Review of Lysistrata

BY TIFFANY N. RICHARDS

Protagonist Hero Boy is roused one Christmas Eve to board a train that invites him on board to take an extraordinary journey to the North Pole in Warner Bros. Pictures’ “The Polar Express.”

Sarah Jones

BY TIFFANY N. RICHARDS

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 Streep, 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.