The Statue of Liberty remains an American icon forged with the ideology of a free and open nation. “Give us your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.” Although this inviting message is inscribed on the Statue of Liberty, America’s immigration policy, unfortunately, has yet to embrace such a promising ideal. Buried beneath the headlines of the war in Iraq, before the emergence of the Mark Foley Scandal, and after the 1st 100 hours of a democratically led Congress, the issue of immigration is at a virtual standstill in both parts of Congress. Despite the fact that election cries for immigration reform were dominant vote getters in the 2006 Congressional election, and that efforts are being made to introduce legislation that embodies immigration reform, they may fall short, as do many other bills in Congress, of the necessary votes needed without increased public support.

Evidence of strong public support for immigrant rights was shown in the March 2006 protest in Los Angeles, CA where 500,000 strong stood in unification against a White House proposed bill that would make it a federal offense to offer services or assistance to illegal aliens. On the heels of this congressional action, other bills in Congress, of the necessary votes needed, lack increased public support.

Under this perspective, the U.S. should continue to secure its borders but openly confer legal residency. Proponents of this perspective argue that the concerns over assimilation in the U.S. are exaggerated. Historically, the large influx of an immigrant population has strengthened this country’s social fabric. Advocates of this perspective contend that it is for this very reason that Immigration policies should reflect the commitment to humanitarian and refugee crises occurring around the globe. Under this perspective, the U.S. should continually keep immigration levels at the current rate, encourage asylum to political refugees, use amnesty programs alongside implementing a guest worker visa that provides a potential path to legal residency. Proponents of this perspective argue that the concerns over assimilation in the U.S. are exaggerated.

Traditionally, America has always held ethnic neighborhoods and a populace which clings to native languages. For example, take the county of Queens; it has the nation’s highest diversity rating coming in at 4.219. The national average remains at 1.962. Spread throughout Queens are ethnic neighborhoods, from Corona to Richmond Hill, where minorities and the majorities alike have settled a mong the people with whom they identify. The large Korean population in Bayside, the strong Greek community in Astoria, the large communities of Indo and Afro Caribbeans in the Jamaica area, alongside many other communities, remains the defining characteristic of Queens, New York. This type of atmosphere has provided a strong economy based on a high magnitude of racial interaction that uplifted American values while staying true to individual ethnic principles.

The Queens community is a strong deterrent against arguments pinning an economic downturn on a large immigrant population. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, in 2004 the Queens population ranked 2nd in the state in terms of population and held a per capita personal income (PCPI) which equates to 94% of the national average.

Banning iPods on New York City Streets

New York State Senator Carl Kruger is proposing a new law to ban the use of iPods and all other portable electronic devices while walking on the streets. If the new law is passed and a pedestrian is caught using an iPod while crossing the street, they will be given a $100 fine and will have to appear in court.

A recent Newsday article reported two tragic incidents pertinent to Senator Kruger’s proposed ban. In January, a bus hit a 21-year-old man when he stepped off the curb of a busy intersection of Avenue U and Flatbush Avenue while he was listening to his iPod, and a 23 year old man was killed by a car crossing the street while listening to his iPod in Bergen Beach on January 11. In yet another incident, a 20-year-old woman was run over by a car and killed while crossing Fifth Avenue in Manhattan. She had also been listening to an iPod when she was struck and killed. Senator Kruger wants to prevent such tragic and preventable accidents from happening again, but is it fair to legally require citizens to refrain from using iPods when walking in public? Senator Kruger is considering this law because he feels that when people are “plugged in” they do not pay attention when walking or crossing the streets. He wants to protect pedestrians from being injured or killed. The law will not only address the use of iPods, it will also include banning all portable devices such as blackberries, video games, cd players, and others.

Many people have iPods and generally use them when riding the subway, taking the bus or walking to where they need to go. A law such as Senator Kruger’s would affect thousands of people including students who own electronic devices and use them while traveling to their destinations. Listening to an iPod, many people feel, is a good thing, it helps you relax and it is a great source of entertainment. On the other hand, it’s possible that some people might actually benefit from Kruger’s proposed law, but what about the people who listen to their iPods and are careful? It’s not fair to them to have to stop listening to their favorite music or other recordings when they are walking the streets. I, for one, listen to my iPod on my way to school, and I always make sure that I am aware of my surroundings. It is tragic that three people had fatal accidents attributable in part to their use of iPods, but wouldn’t education on the safe use of electronics in public serve Senator Kruger’s aim better than the banning of all such equipment? The debate over banning iPods is similar to the polemics that surrounded Mayor Bloomberg’s law to ban smoking in restaurants, bars, and other public places. Even though the law was passed, Bloomberg had to address some negative reaction, mainly from people who smoke. People who don’t smoke supported the mayor; while smokers disagreed with the law because it was felt that their civil freedoms were being curtailed.

If Senator Kruger’s law is passed, we have no choice but to follow the rules and not listen to iPods while we walk on the streets. Many people, no doubt, are ready and willing to debate his proposal. Where do you stand?

America: Open Arms, Closed Doors

BY DAVID SATNARINE

The Statue of Liberty remains an American icon forged with the ideology of a free and open nation. “Give us your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.” Although this inviting message is inscribed on the Statue of Liberty, America’s immigration policy, unfortunately, has yet to embrace such a promising ideal. Buried beneath the headlines of the war in Iraq, before the emergence of the Mark Foley Scandal, and after the 1st 100 hours of a democratically led Congress, the issue of immigration is at a virtual standstill in both parts of Congress. Despite the fact that election cries for immigration reform were dominant vote getters in the 2006 Congressional election, and that efforts are being made to introduce legislation that embodies immigration reform, they may fall short, as do many other bills in Congress, of the necessary votes needed without increased public support.

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Should an abortion at twenty-four weeks be legal in the United States? At the present time, the United States is the only country that permits a legal termination of pregnancy at 24 weeks. There are many that disagree with this law and are not only fighting to lower the allowable legal term of an abortion, but drafting legislation that would make any and all abortions illegal. Should such efforts succeed the “grace period” for legally terminating a pregnancy will be lowered and quite possibly eliminated altogether. If U.S. citizens allow abortion to be banned, would we then be preserving the integrity and the lives of our fellow citizens, or failing them? An abortion is “the removal or expulsion of an embryo or fetus from the uterus, resulting in or caused by its death.” In my high school there were about six girls (in my mississip group of friends alone) who had abortions, some of them more than once, some even more than twice, and all of them before the age of 18. At the lunch table abortion was talked about as if it were the latest clothing choice: Where you went to have one, how much it cost, how long it took, and most important how long you had to wait before having sexual intercourse again. Where would these girls have turned if abortion was illegal? Would they have become the teachers and business women they are today? Where would their children be, or more important what kind of lives would they be leading? We were all pro-choice whether or not we were facing an abortion, almost everyone was connected to someone who was. Although we were all supporters of a woman’s right to choose, at sixteen years old how educated were we to reasonably argue any side on the issue of abortion? If we had possessed a better grasp of the medical and psychological “facts” would our opinions have differed? As teenagers in a scary situation, did we feel we had no real choice when faced with a decision that would affect our whole life? How would we have responded if someone had said: “No.”

I have always been pro-choice, and many times I have held the hand of a friend walking into an abortion clinic. I am a firm believer in a woman’s right to choose and feel that it is no one else’s right to force a woman to go against her will. Beyond that, I never gave the decision and arguments pro and con much thought, believing it was always a black or white matter. Recently, however, I have realized that the matter of abortion is far from only two colors. It is a puddle of colors, all mixing together in a murky mess.

In the United States an abortion can take place until the fetus is 24 weeks. This number offers less from that of European countries, where, for example France and Germany have a legal limit of 12 weeks, Italy of 13 weeks, and Sweden at 12 weeks. Is there a reason that the U.S. allows an abortion to be carried out so far into the pregnancy? Even many pro-choice advocates believe 24 weeks is far beyond reason. When a picture of a 12 week-old fetus was published sucking its thumb two years ago, it spurred further controversy on the topic of limits. Many argued that an abortion after 12 weeks is killing an actual baby, that if it is able to suck its thumb it can already make a connection between mental thoughts and physical action. Doctors quickly responded, arguing that this reasoning was extremely far-fetched and wrongly implied that a 12 week-old fetus had adult sentiments, which is not scientifically proven.

This past October the birth of tiny “miracle” baby Amillia Taylor in Florida added renewed controversy to the debate on abortion. Amillia was born at only 21 weeks and six days, the youngest baby to have ever survived birth. Standard practice for a doctor is to not resuscitate a 22-week baby, but because they believed she was 23 weeks, they did all they could. The doctors were later astounded when the actual age of Amillia was revealed. The survival rate for a child born at 23 weeks at one pound is only 30%.

Many disagree with the length of time U.S. law allows for abortion, and after following the story of Amillia, one might wonder if there are not very good reasons to do so. However, many are taking their disagreement to an unreasonable extreme. In Mississippi, lawmakers are attempting to ban abortions permanently, with the exception of extreme cases such as rape, with the added provision that a woman who elects to have an abortion would be subject to a 10 year jail sentence. Such a law could only be legalized if the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion in 1973. Mississippi is not the only state looking to place restrictions on abortion. In Indiana a bill recently cleared the senate that imposes dangers to tell a woman who elects to have an abortion in New York State? With constant pressure from states that oppose abortion weighing heavily on federal government, if the U.S. Supreme Court overturns Roe vs. Wade new restrictions may arise everywhere. Where would this leave our country? In the democracy that we live in, how many more rights will our government strip away from us? Already able to determine whether we live or die will the federal government also decide when, where, and how we procreate? Will it strip away the right of a thirteen year old child to decide whether or not she is ready to have a baby? What kind of government would punish children with prison time if they did not have children? As long as abortion remains a hot-button topic in politics, it will be exploited as a tool to promote political agendas by politicians. As long as the United States may seem like a different world to New Yorkers, but how long will it be before we join them?

In most media networks daily discussion of the war in Iraq we rarely hear positive stories. This has been true since the beginning of the invasion, and not only when U.S. administration plans have hit rock bottom. The focus of the media, I believe, should be on questions and answers rather than harsh criticism after the mistake and damage has been done. Focusing more on the bigger picture, why the policies of the U.S. war have failed, and where it went wrong, deserves greater emphasis. One consequence of network media’s “distractions” seems to be a complete absence of optimism regarding U.S. led efforts in the Middle East despite spending more and sending more troops and equipment to Iraq and Afghanistan. While politicians discuss their opinions, and voice loudly why we should or should not be at war, many Senators who do not support the American war effort seem to play in a gray area. However, the November congressional election clearly expressed how America citizens feel. We wanted change, stability, and truthful leaders. We were and are tired of our elected officials complaining about administration mistakes months after the mistakes occur and not saying how we can fix our problems. We are exhausted by the seemingly endless political in-fighting on budget spending and an increased commitment of troops.

The cost of waging war in Iraq ranges from hundreds of millions a day to billions a week and as presented through the media the amount seems astronomical. For the sake of comparison, the Iraq war has cost $282 billion dollars from 2003 to 2006, whereas the Korean War cost $373 billion from 1950 to 1953, according to Yale University Professor William Nordhaus. The Senate, however, will soon discuss a record $106.5 billion emergency spending bill that includes $72.4 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. While the House has already passed a $92 billion version of the bill last month that included $68 billion in war funding. The funding is needed on top of $50 billion already accounted for the war this year. Although the amount of the war has increased from $48 billion in 2003 to $94 billion in 2006, the invasion’s “shock and awe” of high-tech laser-guided bombs, cruise missiles, and stealth aircraft has long faded. It seems as if we are paying for “shock and awe” of the war and “shock and awe” is one of the reasons for our high war bill. Where was Congressional intervention when it came to that costly campaign which from every
America: Open Arms, Closed Doors
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our factories and washed our cars. But they also have crept into our hospital emergency rooms, schools and government-subsidized aid programs, sparking a fierce debate about their contributions to our society and the costs they impose on it."

According to a 2006 report from the Federation for American Immigration Reform, illegal aliens cost New York state taxpayers an estimated 5.1 billion dollars per year for education, medical care and incarceration. Higher education is also available for illegal aliens. The State University of New York does not keep track of such individuals, but in its 2006 report the City University of New York (CUNY) reported an estimate 2,000 students with in the college system who are illegal aliens.

According to the Federation report, illegal aliens contribute roughly $730 million to the economy, but there remains a gap of $4.5 billion.

The burden of illegal aliens rests solely on the taxpayers picking up the tab. While the data collected on illegal aliens is arbitrary and non-quantifiable, the estimates derive from official reports from state and local governments. On May 22, 2006, a press release from Senator Hillary Clinton directly acknowledged the assumed burden by taxpayers and introduced legislation to help facilitate a grant that aids states who bear higher medical expenses. "Studies have shown that at the state and local levels, immigrants use more services than they pay in local taxes. The National Academy of Sciences found that the average immigrant imposes a lifetime fiscal cost on state and local governments of $25,000."

Part two of this article will explore the debate over amnesty programs and what many see as a crisis regarding the quintessential humanitarian soul of the United States.

Where Is Congress?
continued from page 1

rational standpoint can be said to have failed miserably. Years later the citizens of Iraq are left with limited water and electricity, and the carnage of Civil War has resulted in increased attacks on all sides.

Where was Congress during the first years of our wars in the Middle East? It seems as time narrows to the 2008 Presidential election harsh debates are occurring daily on the major media networks. Where were these men and women when it was time to debate the critical decisions made in support of putting American troops into Afghanistan and later Iraq? Instead, we’re given a three day debate in the Senate to pass a non-binding resolution to oppose the President’s current new strategy and troop increase. On one hand, every Senator had the chance to voice their opinions and point out where things went wrong. But as the debate continued, the surge and new strategy was taking place. That Congress continues funding a war some call a failed policy may seem strange. Bad decisions? Try these on for size: Post-invasion, the disbandment of the Iraqi army thereby casting thousands of soldiers into civilian life with no stable job to look forward to; releasing all political leaders and replacing the Iraq government with the Coalition Provisional Authority which had complete control of the executive, legislative, and judicial authority from April 21, 2003 until June 28, 2004; the existence of hundreds of weapons caches hidden underground throughout Iraq to be used by the insurgents, including 250,000 tons of weapons and ammunition stolen from the Iraqi army bases. Sadly, tragically, the fight in Iraq has continued and escalated. It is now five years after the initial invasion of Iraq. There is a brutal and challenging fight ahead.

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Strike 3 and you’re out there!! Usually that’s the case in any baseball game, but for some of the players of the Queensborough Community College baseball team it only took 1 strike against a different kind of opponent, the QCC security guards. Last semester an incident erupted among a couple of the players and some of the QCC security guards that disturbed students and faculty alike. As witnessed by this reporter, a QCC security guard verbally harassed a couple of players on the baseball team and later on in the day physically harassed another player.

“You guys are a disgrace to us Hispanics,” I was ashamed to call myself a Latino. Especially when I see people like you, there, wasting space for a smart person who could be going to school here, unlike you guys.” Instead of talking back to the security guard or standing up to him, the baseball players and a few other Queensborough students stood by in shock while the security guard stormed out of the science building. “It left me in complete shock and in anger. I was going to just let him talk all that trash, especially since he doesn’t know any of us,” says Kenny Pena, a 2nd year student and a member of the Queensborough baseball team. Kenny headed to the security department where he spoke to a head security guard. He was told to write a report of the incident. Kenny mentioned he was on the baseball team a different problem came up.

It seemed that no one was going to do anything about the harassment because several people, mostly professors, had previously made complaints about the baseball team being very loud and disruptive to their classes in the science building. However, why would faculty complaints be justification for security officers to harass students?

“There is always one group of people that catch the attention of a person(s), even when you don’t do anything the attention is still drawn towards you,” said Luis Vega, a 2nd year student and member of the QCC baseball team. Directly across the hall from where the baseball team hangs out or “chills” is another group of students, who like the guys from the baseball team are waiting for their next class. I have witnessed that group of students being as loud and in some cases louder and more disruptive than the baseball team. However, instead of a security guard yelling at them to quiet down, they walk right by them while keeping an eye on the baseball team.

Lately the same day that the security guard verbally harassed the ball players, he came by again but this time took more aggressive action. He physically grabbed a member of the baseball team and picked him up from the floor, without any permission from the student/player to do so. “All I know is that I was walking down the hall with a beer in my hand and the security guard comes up to me and yells, ‘You f $$ing white guy, this is a Latino. Especially when I see people like you, there, wasting space for a smart person who could be going to school here, unlike you guys.’”

The simplest remedy would be to stop hanging out in that area of the science building. Craig Everett, the head coach of the QCC baseball team has always told his team members to find another place to hang out or wait for classes. He doesn’t want himself or any of his players to be in any trouble. In interviewing team members, however, several feel as if they have a point to prove. If one were to credit and respect the actions of the security guard, one would have to agree that physical intervention is required in dealing with loud and disruptive students in the halls. I do not, however, believe that the incident involved a tired and fed-up security guard who was only doing his job. If that is the case, however, a couple of questions come into play:

Why are the members of the baseball team being targeted for harassment and told to be quiet and to relocate? If “peace and quiet” was wanted in the lobby of the science building, why aren’t the security guards telling every student that loiters there between classes to be quiet and to relocate?

The harassment issue alone is a big deal, but some of the players would like to know why the baseball team is the only group eliciting the security guards displeasure. “There is a group of people who are directly across from us who are much louder and disruptive, but it’s like everyone can only see us,” said Pena. Even at times when the majority of team members are not there and everyone is quiet, somehow the baseball team gets the blame for something that someone or another group did.

I have attempted to schedule an interview with the director of security personnel about the alleged harassment of baseball team members, but I have been unsuccessful. At first everyone in the office was very nice and helpful, but as soon as I mentioned what the interview was about it was as if someone had died. The room suddenly got quiet. I was told to leave my information and that I would be contacted when the director of security was available. Before I left the room, I mentioned that I had a deadline and that it would be helpful if the director could contact me as soon as possible. All I needed was about five minutes of the director’s time. Unfortunately, and despite three efforts on my part to speak with the director of security, I was not contacted prior to press time.

The most important question floating around is, “what was done about it?” “Apparently nothing,” said Kenny. “I still see the security guard walking around campus as if nothing happened.” There should have been some disciplinary action taken against that security guard. It seems as if the department of security brushed the whole issue off because it was “the baseball team” – the loud, noisy, and disruptive baseball team that hangs out in the lobby of the science building. “All that we want is fair treatment,” said Luis Vega. He added, “If we are going to get in trouble for being ‘loud’ and ‘disruptive’ every person who is loud and disruptive is going to get in trouble as well.”

Students as well as professors are and should feel safe on the school campus. Students should be able to hang out with their friends while they wait for class without having to worry about anyone harassing them. As it says on the security officer’s jackets, “peace officers.” Their responsibility is to keep the peace, not start beef.

Warm weather is coming and chances are that students will not want to be inside once it arrives. Until then, just give us some peace!

**Penalties for Alcohol-related Violations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific Violation</th>
<th>Mandatory Fine (1)</th>
<th>Maximum Jail Term</th>
<th>Mandatory Driver License Action (2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Driving While Intoxicated (DWI)</td>
<td>$500 - $1,000</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>Revoked for at least six months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second DWI violation in 10 years</td>
<td>$1,000 - $5,000</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>Revoked for at least one year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third DWI violation in 10 years</td>
<td>$2,000 - $10,000</td>
<td>7 years</td>
<td>Revoked for at least one year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driving While Ability Impaired (DWAI)</td>
<td>$300 - $500</td>
<td>15 days</td>
<td>Suspended for 90 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second DWI violation in 5 years</td>
<td>$500 - $750</td>
<td>30 days</td>
<td>Revoked for at least six months</td>
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Don’t Let DWI Ruin Your Life

BY JAE LEE

DWI (Driving While Intoxicated) is the number one killer of youth under the age of twenty-five. Each year numerous people are killed in alcohol related crashes. According to the DMV statistics, over 800,000 motor vehicle crashes occur per year in the United States and half of all crashes are alcohol related.

Being charged with DWI is a serious offense. New York State has the toughest DWI laws and regulations. Once you have violated the DWI law, you could end up losing your license, paying hefty fines, and going to jail. It all depends on the amount of alcohol you consumed. Police officers measure your BAC (Blood Alcohol Concentration) levels by Breathalyzer Test. The result of the test determines whether you are charged with DWI or DWAI (Driving While Ability Impaired). DWAI is a lesser crime than DWI.

It is important to manage your drinking habit. Consuming 1 drink (12 ounces of beer, 1 shot of liquor, one glass of wine) approximately equals 0.02 BAC, and it takes about an hour to rid 0.02 BAC from your system. According to New York State law, the legal limit for operating a motor vehicle is up to .04 BAC. .05 BAC to .07 BAC is considered DWI, whereas .08 BAC or higher is considered to be DWI (Driving While Intoxicated). DWI is a misdemeanor, but DWAI goes under traffic violation. Still, if determined to be DWAI there will be fines and the temporary termination of your license.

Usually a first time DWI offender will not serve a jail sentence. However, second and third offense fines run as high as $10,000 and carry a jail term of up to 7 years.

Avoiding DWI is the best way to steer clear of a serious criminal matter that can take a long time to resolve. Here are two rules for avoiding an alcohol-related offense. First, don’t drink and drive. Second, take a cab home after you drink or ask your friends or a family member to pick you up. Cab fare is much less than the cost of a DWI charge. Please note that if you do drink and drive, it can cost you your life. Do not Drink and Drive!!
QPAC — The “Real Deal”  
BY JACLYN SOLOMON

Have you ever wanted to attend the theater but had to reconsider due to the high price of tickets and/or the location and expense of transportation? Here's some Great News! QPAC, the Queensborough Performing Arts Center, joins the community and Queensborough Community College together. The high-level professional performances at QPAC are “the real deal.” In addition, QPAC is an audience-friendly environment for any age because of the ease of ordering tickets, to obtaining information about upcoming shows. Also, the QPAC staff is the friendliest, most helpful group of people. If you are unfamiliar with the shows and events presented at QPAC, you do not know the great deals you are missing out on. Full time QCC students, for example, can see any performance at the Queensborough Theater, housed in the first floor of the QCC Humanities building, for only ten dollars! That’s a great deal for the real deal!

Susan Agin, the manager and director of the Performing Arts Center, said and I quote, “Academic standing and having a cultural understanding is what makes up one’s character.” Not only can you graduate from QCC having advanced from an academic standpoint but also having had the opportunity to advance from a cultural standpoint.

In addition, QPAC works with a diversity of groups to help give children the chance to benefit from cultural performances as well. For example, the Rhine Lander’s Program from Manhattan, many of who are sign interpreted, have attended performances at Queensborough. Another, the Italian American Community on Education brings in over one hundred students per semester to see performances. By giving these students the opportunity to enjoy the shows, QPAC promotes the performing arts side of QCC.

You can look forward to seeing a full live orchestra, fully costumed actors/actresses and a fully staged performance with extravagant scenery. I had the pleasure of viewing “The Marriage of Figaro” on Sunday, February 18th performed by the Bulgarian State Opera. The show was absolutely delightful. Although it was an Italian Opera, titles were available to help translate. “The Marriage of Figaro” which takes place in the eighteenth century reenacts a single “mad” day in the palace of the Count Almaviva. Rosina is the Countess. Her husband, the Count, is seeking the help of Figaro to dispose of Susanna. While the Count detects the interest of the young love struck teenager, Cherubino, for the Countess, he tries to get rid of Cherubino by giving him an officer’s commission in his own regiment. Figaro, Susanna, and the Countess conspire to embarrass the Count and expose his accusations. Meanwhile, Figaro is caught up in an argument with Bartolo and Marcellina, which ends when he is revealed to be their son. At night, all find themselves on the palace grounds, where a hysterically funny series of cases of mistaken identity results in the Count’s humiliation and then forgiveness by the Countess. Almost too much happens on this crazy day!

The Bulgarian State Opera was established in 1996 by Ivan Kyruckiev. It was based on the great traditions of the art of opera in Bulgaria. Amsterdam, Austria, Switzerland, Portugal, Madrid and Valencia in Spain are just some of the many places where this Opera Company has impressed its audience with tremendously talented voices and impressive acting skills. The play and performers were nothing short of spectacular.

Care to find out just how amazing the performances here at Queensborough really are? Stop by to the Performing Arts Center in the Library building, or check out their website on the Queensborough website! Upcoming shows include The Hungarian State Folk Ensemble which will perform on Sunday March 18th at three o’clock, and “Sleeping Beauty” performed by The Moscow Festival Ballet on Sunday April 1st also at three o’clock in the afternoon. Trust me, you will not be disappointed!

LUNAR NEW YEAR  
BY JESSICA PARK

This year’s lunar New Year occurred on the 17th of February. Unlike the official new year that is celebrated on the first day of each year, lunar New Year varies every year. This is because the lunar New Year is based on the rotation of the moon instead of the sun. Lunar New Year is often referred to as the Chinese New Year. The majority of the world’s Asian population is Chinese therefore the Asian New Year is represented as the Chinese New Year. New Years announces the beginning of a fresh start and each country has its own way of celebrating it.

Koreans call lunar New Year “seol-nal,” which means the arrival of the New Year. It is celebrated as one of the largest family reunions in Korea. Since most young people move into the cities leaving their parents in suburban areas they do not get to meet often, which is why “seol-nal” has such a great value to Koreans. Traveling starts before sunrise in order to avoid the overcrowded traffic later in the day. On New Year’s Eve, straw puppets are built in the form of a person and are posted on lawns to protect the family from any evil spirits arriving with the New Year.

The New Year’s ceremony begins in the morning with the wearing of the traditional outfit called “hanbok.” The next event is paying respect to the ancestors four generations past. Traditional food is prepared by women in the family on a ritual table following a certain order, and this table is called “chaa-rae-sang.” This table symbolizes the ancestors and everyone shows their respect by bowing down twice in front of the table starting with the oldest son in the family. After this process is done, people turn their attention to the living elders in the family. The youngest of the family bow down to the elders in the order of the family line, starting from the grandparents to parents to aunts and uncles and in return receive money, called “sae-bae-don.” There is no set amount but it usually depends on the family’s financial stability and tradition.

Following the completion of the above mentioned rituals, everyone gathers around to eat what has been prepared. Along with other dishes, a traditional soup called “ttuk-gook” is served. This soup is made of thick beef broth with thinly sliced rice cakes that have been topped with green onions and other colorful garnishes. An interesting fact is that “ttuk-gook” symbolizes getting a year older. In other words, a person does not become older unless they eat “ttuk-gook” on New Year.

If you have ever visited Chinatown on lunar New Years, you will be amazed at what you see. Cars are blocked from entering, and the streets are packed with hundreds of people who have gathered to watch the parade. Fire crackers are shot to announce the start of the parade. Dazzling dragons dance through the streets of Chinatown to celebrate the lunar New Year. The color red represents wealth in China and a lot of red items are used on this day, such as the handmade red paper decorations that are sold to people a couple days prior to the parade. As in the Korean tradition, Chinese elders put money in a small red envelope and pass it on to their children. According to a Chinese friend of mine, she receives an average of $300 each year as a New Years gift. The United States is populated by immigrants from countries all over the world. They have managed to hold on to their traditions and cultures even as they were adapting to the American life style. Their endless efforts to hold on to their roots have resulted in earning America the title of “melting pot.” All these different cultures come together as one nation. Although generations will change, our cultures will remain.

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DATE OF EVENT: Wednesday, March 28, 2007
TIME: 1:00-3:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Room 5111 (Science Building)
RSVP: By March 18, 2007 to cccounselors@qcc.cuny.edu
Will ethanol be the new fuel source of the future? Will the time come when every American cat owner will pull up to the gas station and pay a dollar twenty per gallon in exchange for a more efficient use of fossil fuels? Americans dream that it’s possible.

America is discussing a new energy partnership with Brazil that it hopes will encourage ethanol use throughout Latin America and the U.S. In addition, American officials are hopeful that this partnership will diminish the regional influence of oil rich Venezuela. U.S. undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns said both nations hope to sign accords within a year that would promote American technology sharing with Brazil and encourage its Latin American neighbors to become biofuel producers and consumers. As things stand now, America and Brazil produce about 70 percent of the world’s ethanol, a fuel source which is a major part of President Bush’s plan to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil and for a 20 percent decrease in gasoline consumption by 2017.

The proposed partnership would benefit both countries allowing them to expand the global market for ethanol, making it a global commodity and a benefit to the economy and political influence of both countries. Brazil, which is already the largest exporter of ethanol, has lead the world in biofuel technology since 1970, using its sugar cane crops as the primary source of its ethanol, a crop that is more efficient than Americas use of corn based fuels. Although America has surpassed Brazil in the production of ethanol based fuels it hasn’t been able to keep up with the surging demand; the U.S. imported 1.9 billion gallons of ethanol based fuel from Brazil last year. Every gas station in Brazil has an option for ethanol based fuels, and most of the cars driven in Brazil are flex fuel cars, cars that are capable of using both gasoline and ethanol as a fuel source. What is even more surprising is the fact that American car manufacturers have been selling flex fuel in Brazil for years, a step they are just beginning to take in the U.S. Why? The American market is not fully ready for it. The amount of ethanol that is available falls short of the number of flex fuel based cars that are being produced, and there are not many gas stations nationwide that provide the option of ethanol based fuels for U.S. consumers.

In signing the partnership, the U.S. and Brazil will be sharing technological advances in the biofuel industry, balancing the competition between Brazilian sugar cane growers and American corn farmers. Up to now, since the country changed over to ethanol based fuels, Brazilians sugar cane farmers considered American corn farmers their biggest enemies, but with the sharing of technology that is proposed in the accords Brazilian farmers are beginning to think of them as allies. The major questions are how will the new accord affect the U.S. consumer? And, how will the change to ethanol affect the environment? The effort that is presently being made is going to cost consumers more money in the beginning. In the state of California, for example, residents are paying a dollar more for E85 fuel than regular petroleum, and the mileage you can get out of ethanol based E85 fuels is less than half.

Global Warming: Nations Collide in the Paris Conference

Global Warming is a serious problem in our country and all over the world. It is known to be destructive, but the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change released that it can also be expensive. In Paris on February 2, 2007 the panel issued its fourth assessment. Climbing temperatures over the next 40 years will boost the cost of U.S. health care, and cause twice the wildfire damage that occurs now. Increased carbon dioxide will mean both increased temperature and increased heat waves, increased cost in drinking water. The Puget Sound is likely to rise between 1 and 5 inches per decade; when sea levels rise it results in costly upgrades to bridges and culverts and can also negatively impact low lying agricultural areas. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, created by the United Nations. The summary report said the warming of the climate “is unequivocal,” now evident from rising temperatures, and widespread melting of snow and ice glaciers. Even if nations immediately reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases, past and future gases will continue to add to global warming. Scientists and leaders in the Paris conference established that global warming is so severe that it will continue for centuries leading to a far different planet in 100 years. The grim landmark report from the world’s leading climate scientists and government officials blamed man-made emissions of greenhouse gases for fewer cold days, hotter nights, killer heat waves, floods and heavy rains and devastating droughts.

The U.N. Environment Program noted that “for the first time, the landmark report provides evidence that the ice sheets of Antarctica and Greenland are slowly losing mass and contributing to sea level rise.” United Nations environmental leaders are talking about a global summit on climate change for world leaders and they hope President Bush will attend. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report represents the most authoritative science on global warming as the panel is comprised of hundreds of scientists and representatives. It only addresses how and why the planet is warming, not what to do about it. Another report by the panel later this year will address the most effective measures for slowing global warming.
Celebration of Life for Sean Bell
BY SAFIYA WHITEHEAD

“We will continue giving God the glory, while Sean Elijah Bell gets the rightful story”
– Valerie Bell, the mother of Sean Bell

There wasn’t much that could bring peace to the family and friends of Sean Bell, the 23 year old groom who was killed by police the morning of his wedding. The parents of Sean did find peace in the idea of a vigil. Beginning January 1st the Bell, Paltre, Guzman, and Benefield families and many community supporters stood hours at a time in front of the vigil as a memorial to Sean, bringing peace to the families during their time of need, and networking with businesses and churches willing to support their call for justice in response to what some have called a modern day lynching. February 19th ended the fifty day vigil held by the Bell family across from the 103rd precinct to remind police of the life taken November 25th 2006. At the vigil was a banner about two and a half feet long with a photo of Sean in the middle, fifty numbered bullet holes were spaced around the photo and in large print "Never Again" was written across the bottom. Though they were grieving and angry, Mr. and Mrs. Bell stood steadfast through strong Christian faith and the support of the community; the family was able to hold the vigil 24/7, rain or shine. The fifty days represented the excessive force (50 shots) used against the three men that morning and the peaceful fight for justice against unjust government policies, social prejudices and modern day lynching.

On the final day of the vigil, February 19th, the banner was cut down as supporters gathered. In a celebration of Sean’s life, and in appreciation of the lives spared (Guzman and Benefield) and the recognition of supporters the family organized a short march from the vigil site to the Community Church of Christ on 108th and Merrick Blvd in Jamaica, Queens. Family and friends remembered Sean as a good friend and also trusted him to be a good husband and father. One childhood friend referred to him as a “class act.” In the company of supporters was Joseph Guzman, a friend who was with Sean the morning he was killed. Though confined to a wheelchair and not able to dress as warm as possible due to his healing process he battled the twenty degree weather to be a part of the march. Leading the march was a community youth marching band called Approaching Storm sounding thunderous drums as a warning that supporters of Sean Bell were coming through. Majorettes used traditional African dance with a mix of modern day flavor to pave the road and keep marchers in high spirits. One-hundred plus marchers and supporters peacefully chanted cries for justice, equality and peace within black urban communities. The march ended at the Community Church of Christ, the church at which Sean and his fiancée were to have been married.

Within the church songs of praise and words of encouragement were shared with the congregation. Councilmember’s Leroy Comrie and Charles Barron both were there to support the families. Barron in his acknowledgments said, “This is different”. And the shouts from the assembled showed that everyone agreed. He recognized Sean Bell’s death as a sacrifice to the community and an indication that the black community needs to be respected.
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Sunday, March 18, 2007, 3pm
The Hungarian State Folk Ensemble
This extraordinary presentation features one of the highest regarded folkloric dance companies in the world. This ensemble presents folk music, folk dances and the traditional costumes of Hungary and Hungarian-inhabited areas. They are accompanied live on-stage by the Folk Orchestra and Gipsy Orchestra playing traditional Hungarian folk music at its highest artistic level. $42, $39, $35

Sunday, March 25, 2007, 2pm
The Big Adventures of Stuart Little
This popular musical comes from the loving heart of the author of Charlotte's Web. Stuart is a noble mouse who is born into the Frederick C. Little family in NYC. Although only 2” tall, Stuart has the stature of a giant. Whether exploring with his human brother, escaping the family cat, sailing model ships on Central Park Lake, or searching for his friend and soul mate Margalo, Stuart jumps headfirst into adventures big enough to match any child. By turns funny, tender and exciting, Stuart Little mixes gorgeous child-size puppets with live actors. Appropriate for ages 4-10. $10 All Seats

Sunday, April 1, 2007, 3pm
Sleeping Beauty
The Moscow Festival Ballet presents leading dancers from across the Russias in what is often considered the finest achievement of the Classical ballet. Sleeping beauty is a grandiose and refined blending of the traditional mime, expressive pas d’action and spectacular divertissements in a lavish theatrical setting. Music by Tchaikovsky, this fairy tale replete with a king and queen, fairies both good and evil, a beautiful princess and dream prince, magical stage effects, and courtly splendor, lends itself perfectly to a full afternoon of “beauty.” $42, $39

Sunday, April 22, 2007, 3pm
Queensborough Salutes Israel: A Cantorial Show
The “Three Cantors” set the stage for a lively celebration of Jewish and Secular music. Classically trained Cantor Victor Beck is no stranger to Carnegie Hall and calls Temple B’nai Shalom in Rockville Centre his “home.” Cantor Leslie Rimer was singing on Hungarian Radio by age 7 and just celebrated his 26th year at the Madison Jewish Center in Brooklyn. Cantor Gadi Elon, known for his tremendous versatility, joined the largest group of world Jewish Leaders in Rome to perform for Pope John Paul II. Cantor Elon makes his Queensborough debut at this performance. Sponsored in part by the Sheraton LaGuardia East Hotel.

Sunday, May 6, 2007 at 3pm
Five Guys Named Moe (Tony Award winning Broadway musical)
Two Bayside Alumni present Five Guys Named Moe is a musical revue in which five guys (named Moe) sing and dance their way through Louis Jordan's greatest hits, including Let the Good Times Roll, Is You Is Or Is You Ain't My Baby, Don't Let the Sun Catch You Crying and Choo Choo Ch' Boogie just to name a few. You won't be able to sit still in your seat with 25 of Louis Jordan's greatest up-tempo, sing along musical sensations. $42, $39, $35

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Morality of Pro Football: Second to Talent
BY KYLE AYALA

Adam “Pacman” Jones has made quite an impression in his two years with the NFL. That impression, however, is not based on his skill on the gridiron, but rather his detrimental conduct off the football field. The Tennessee Titan star cornerback has been questioned by authority figures eight times in the past two years. The negative publicity has reached a breaking point with the NFL, due to Jones’s apparent involvement in a triple shooting while in Las Vegas for the NBA All-Star weekend. ESPN.com’s news services states that police reports say the event occurred at a downtown strip club where three people were shot, one of whom is currently paralyzed from the waist down. Although Jones is not considered a suspect in the shootings, his participation in the altercation as an agitator has drawn enough interest from the public to question him. Jones allegedly grabbed a dancer by the hair, slammed her face into the stage and threatened to kill a security guard. This caused a chain reaction during which his entourage exchanged threats with men at the club, allegedly followed by gunplay by Jones’s people. Police are still investigating what transpired that night.

Jones is no stranger to criminal drama. During his days at the University of West Virginia, he was charged with malicious assault (eventually bumped down to a misdemeanor) and has been accused of numerous other transgressions during his college days. Which raises the question, who in the NFL would want to draft him? Apparently, his on-the-field talent garnered him a first-round pick in the NFL would want to draft him? Apparently, his on-the-field talent garnered him a first-round pick in the NFL. In fact, in the past 12 months, nine Bengal players have been arrested with a total of 14 charges. The highlight of the team has to be Chris Henry, an excellent slot receiver, who has been arrested five times for various violations during his tenure with Cincinnati.

Other legal woes ongoing within the NFL include conspiracy for distribution of illegal substances (Terrance Kiel, San Diego Chargers), drunk driving (Dominic Rhodes, Indianapolis Colts) and even aggravated assault on a police officer, which lead to San Diego linebacker Steve Foley getting shot, arrested, and missing the entire 2006 season due to his injuries sustained during the altercation.

The series of criminal actions throughout the league is an epidemic that must be answered by the NFL. The league is debating on whether or not to adopt the NFL’s three-strike rule. Goodell advocates it and so does the Players Association. Executive Director Gene Upshaw is a major supporter of the idea that the NFL assimilate this rule into league policy. Reverberations throughout the football world on this proposal are mostly positive toward accepting the rule addition. Current players are also being vocal about asserting regulation to address behavioral issues across the entire league. According to ESPN.com’s news services, several current players including T.J. Houshmandzadeh, Steve Smith, DeAngelo Hall, and NFLPA president Troy Vincent attended a luncheon with NFL executives to show cooperation and agreement with the league’s preference for the three-strike rule.

With this dark cloud shrouding the NFL, the scouting combine was not only a stage for college players to show their talents but for the NFL to assert the importance of high moral character. Most of the draft’s top players came out for the combine and they could not be more exciting. Calvin Johnson, at 6’ 6” and 238 lbs., is a monster wide receiver from Georgia Tech who can pass rushing speedster from Clemson who can also stop the run. Both are expected to be chosen in the top 10. These two prospects are amazing athletes with undeniable talent for the NFL. In addition, their physical gifts are accompanied by maintaining a high moral character, which should be just as vital as a 40 yard dash time and bench press reps of 225 lbs.

There must be reform in character policies in the NFL now. Players like Jim Brown, Walter Payton, and Lynn Swann graced this league with their presence and placed a premium on integrity. They passed down the legacy to the current players to carry the tradition of honor, something that the NFL proudly represents, into the future. The league must do something to regulate character policies before the disgrace of certain players stain America’s most popular sport.

Let’s hope the league takes action soon. Otherwise, the poster boy of the league might as well be wearing an orange jumpsuit.
QCC SPOTLIGHT
By Thalia Lawrence

Welcome to the newest feature of the QCC Communiqué, the QCC Spotlight! Queensborough Community College is home to roughly 22,000 students, all of whom come from different backgrounds and have different aspirations. If you attend QCC, you probably won’t see HALF the students, let alone meet them personally. The staff at the Communiqué would like to introduce you to a few students on campus that you might not otherwise meet.

Say hello to your classmates!

Name: Yulieth Bran
Semesters @ QCC: 1
Major: Liberal Arts & Sciences
Hobbies: I like to practice yoga and paint.
Future Plans: To finish a four year school for occupational therapy.
What would you like people to know about you that they don’t already?:
That I can be an extremely unexpected person.

Name: Rachelle Blishteyn
Semesters @ QCC: 2
Major: Business
Hobbies: Singing, dancing, and movies.
Future Plans: To become a teacher and eventually open up my own business.
What would you like people to know about you that they don’t already?:
People who know me know everything about me. I’m not a very secretive person.

Name: Garik Ishakou
Semesters @ QCC: 3
Major: Liberal Arts & Sciences
Hobbies: I like to listen to music and read books.
Future Plans: Everyday is a search for happiness, so I’m slowly paving my way for the future.
What would you like people to know about you that they don’t already?:
I’m a very shy person, but once you get to know me I can be pretty outgoing and fun. I live life day by day and try not to think of the future.

Name: Caren Jokhan
Semesters @ QCC: 4
Major: Early childhood education
Hobbies: Cooking, because it’s the best way to someone’s heart!
Future Plans: To become an excellent teacher and help our children succeed.
What would you like people to know about you that they don’t already?:
I want people to know that beauty is only skin deep. If you are beautiful on the outside, all that matters is that you show the same beauty on the inside. Not just a pretty face, but admirable style and a strong personality are qualities that make us beautiful, the key is just to use them wisely!
If you think that you or someone you know should be featured in the next Communiqué spotlight, please contact Thalia Lawrence at Communique@qcc.cuny.edu.

We look forward to hearing from you!

POETRY CORNER

BY SAMER ZABEN

On Saturday February 24th, twenty-five teens from New York City’s five boroughs competed against each other in the “9th Annual Urban Word NYC Teen Poetry Slam: Grand Slam Final.” The Howard Gilman opera house, which is located in the Peter Jay Sharp building, 30 Lafayette Avenue in Brooklyn, was the home of this years event. The competition was hosted by poet/singer Queen Gods, who filled in for original host Doug E Fresh. The slam also featured appearances by guest judges New York MC Pharouche Monch, acclaimed author Kwan, Baruch College and Columbia University Miriam Fabri, and a member of the ’06 slam team and def poet Tahani Salah.

The competition began in the fall of 2006, when Urban Word NYC held a monthly Slam at the Bowery Club. At every slam there are five judges who score every original poem, from teenagers who range from age thirteen to age nineteen. The top scoring poets pre-qualify for the preliminaries and then move on to the semi-final round, and after weeks of competition five hundred poets are narrowed down to the final twenty-five teen poets. The final 25 poets have three minutes each to recite their poems in the first round. The fifteen best poets move on to the second round, where they recite a one minute poem. Once the second round is completed, the best five poets are chosen by the judges to win the competition, and represent Urban Word NYC as the New York team at the “Brave New Voices, the National Teen Poetry Slam” in San Jose, California.

Urban Word NYC which was founded in 1999 has been sponsoring this event for the past nine years. They are a non-profit organization that provides free opportunities to youth in all five boroughs. Every month Urban Word holds open mic venues all across the city, where a young poet can kick a poem or spit a rhyme. Workshops are also created for teens to develop critical thinking and leadership skills. Urban Word NYC serves over 15,000 teens yearly and develops youth leaders to serve on the youth leader board.

The night of February 24th, however, was all about Urban Word NYC’s top twenty-five teen poets. The night started off with music by DJ Reborn, and the show opened up with a performance by the Brooklyn steppers marching band. Once the host and the judges were presented the competition began. Each poet had to recite a three minute original poem for the first round. A few poets stood out in the first round including a young man named Ernest with his original poem called “Nigga Who?” In his poem, Ernest talks about the word “nigga” being used as a friendly term by all races, and the ignorance and damage that’s done by it. Another standout poet was The Chaos Theory, clearly the crowd favorite, who talked about a hard life in New York and trying to excel to the top. But the best piece of the night was by a young lady named Vocab with her poem, “Better pick up Line.” Her poem talked about her interest in a boy who she noticed in the street, and then becoming quickly turned off by him because of his bad pick up line. She turned her poem regarding an infatuation for a boy into an inspiring independent woman’s story.

Before the second round began there was a brief intermission. Def poet/urban word Tahani Salah recited a poem and spoke to the audience about Urban Word NYC. Once the intermission ended, the second and final round began. The final fifteen poets were each given a minute to recite their poems, and in that minute they spoke from the heart hoping for a chance to become part of the 07 slam team. The round was complete and so was the competition. The judges named Marne Buckner, Elayer a.k.a. Ill egal, Janine, Vocab, and The Chaos Theory the five winners and the official members of the 07 Slam team that will compete in the “Brave New Voices, the National Teen Poetry Slam” in San Jose, California.

What started with five hundred teens is now down to the five young poets who will pack up and head to California to compete against the nation’s best. All the young men and women who competed in this years teen poetry slam speak well and have strong voices; it is their commanding voices that will lead us to a new generation. For more information about the 9th Annual Teen Poetry Slam Final or for information on Urban Word NYC and their upcoming events visit BRANWORDNYC.COM or call (212)-352-3495.
Still, should people label the soccer fans of Italy crazy? No. First, it should be known that Italy is not the only country in the world that has witnessed soccer riots. There are soccer riots all around the world, from Spain to England, Italy to France, and Argentina to Brazil. What many people don’t seem to understand is why there is such madness when it comes to soccer. In general, most people who ask this are from the U.S. and do not understand the relationship that many people around the world have with soccer and their team. Americans can’t see why there is such a depredation, of violence surrounding soccer; they do not appreciate what is at stake. If I have to guess (being something of a soccer hooligan myself), it would have to be the intense identification soccer fans have with their team, that one’s team is your unofficial family. You give your life watching your team grow and with it your love for your team. But why do people riot? There really is no one answer. It could be that the people who most often riot are so-called “commoners,” those who base their whole life on their team, and that soccer is the only distraction from the hard everyday life that such persons experience. Whereas, many people would say that the riots are crazy, fans might respond by saying that it nothing more than an expression of the intense love and sense of protectiveness they feel for their team, a feeling they have nurtured since childhood. The “truth” everyone acknowledges is that soccer is a very powerful thing.

Soccer brings hope and joy to people around the world. Let us hope that the horrific events which unraveled the game at the Massimino will not result in the destruction of this beautiful sport’s reputation.

Madness in Sicily
BY ALEXANDER OREJUELA

The crowd screams. You rejoice in the fact that you are in your home, your team’s stadium, as you and your fellow brothers and sisters sing and cheer to support your team. Watching as someone lights a flare right next to you, the atmosphere is undeniably beautiful. As you join in the histrionics, singing your team’s anthem, all of a sudden the other team scores. And your whole world is crushed! Then, all madness breaks loose. So begins the cursing, the fighting that marks the beginning of another soccer riot.

A black cloud has loomed over Italy for some time now. After the country was rocked last year for match fixing within its premier league the Serie A, it now faces the recent death of Chief Inspector Filippo Rachiti. Rachiti was a 38-year-old policeman from Sicily, who leaves behind a wife and two kids. He was killed during an Italian league derby, which involved the Sicilian rivals Catania and Palermo. The reasons for the riot are not yet all known, but apparently while Rachiti and other policemen were escorting a group of Palermo fans to the Massimino (Angelo Massimino, Catania stadium) during half time, they were ambushed by a group of radical Catania fans following a very controversial goal scored by Andrea Caraccio. In order to calm the crowd, the police were then forced to fire tear gas into the stands during the 58th minute. The tear gas affected the player’s vision and lungs forcing referee Stefano Farina to postpone the game for 40 minutes. The end result was a 2-1 loss, Catania to Palermo. Fans were detained within the stadium for up to 4 hours after the game had ended in order to avoid further fighting as people left the stadium. However, following the attack on Rachiti the streets outside the Massimino already resembled a scene out of a war movie.

With one dead and over 70 injured (including 61 police officers), what will be the result? For starters, Pancalli, head of the Italian League Federation, decided to postpone all scheduled games the week after this tragic incident. And now, along with the Interior Ministry by his side, he has decided to ban fans from all Serie A stadia until they meet the proper requirements for security. Pancalli has been quoted as saying that they are not asking for much improvement, only that a couple of turn stalls be added here and there. As present, however, only six stadiums in Italy: Rome, Turin, Siena, Cagliari, Palermo, and Genoa are allowed to have fans in attendance. And most recently on February 9th, a 17 year old boy was brought before the court for his involvement with the riot. He has pleaded innocent to all charges regarding the murder of Chief Inspector Filippo Rachiti. The teenager, who is referred to by the authorities as AS, released a statement through his lawyer that he had done nothing and was not involved in what took place. His claim looks to be discredited after being referred to by the authorities as AS, released a statement through his lawyer that he had done nothing and was not involved in what took place. But his claim looks to be discredited after being identified on surveillance camera as throwing a metal bar at the officer. It is now known, follow- ing an autopsy, that Officer Filippo Rachiti did not die from a bomb explosion but died from massive liver damage suffered when he was struck by a blunt metal object which was thrown at him, and which left behind a white residue on his chest. The “truth” everyone acknowledges is that soccer is a very powerful thing.

Soccer brings hope and joy to people around the world. Let us hope that the horrific events which unraveled the game at the Massimino will not result in the destruction of this beautiful sport’s reputation.

QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Health, Physical Education and Dance Department

Men’s Baseball
2007 Season Schedule

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<td>Kingsborough CC</td>
<td>S. Johnson Stad.</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>3/29</td>
<td>Kingsborough CC</td>
<td>S. Johnson Stad.</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>3/30</td>
<td>Kingsborough CC</td>
<td>S. Johnson Stad.</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>3/31</td>
<td>Kingsborough CC</td>
<td>S. Johnson Stad.</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
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BY ALEXANDER OREJUELA

The crowd screams. You rejoice in the fact that you are in your home, your team’s stadium, as you and your fellow brothers and sisters sing and cheer to support your team. Watching as someone lights a flare right next to you, the atmosphere is undeniably beautiful. As you join in the histrionics, singing your team’s anthem, all of a sudden the other team scores. And your whole world is crushed! Then, all madness breaks loose. So begins the cursing, the fighting that marks the beginning of another soccer riot.

A black cloud has loomed over Italy for some time now. After the country was rocked last year for match fixing within its premier league the Serie A, it now faces the recent death of Chief Inspector Filippo Rachiti. Rachiti was a 38-year-old policeman from Sicily, who leaves behind a wife and two kids. He was killed during an Italian league derby, which involved the Sicilian rivals Catania and Palermo. The reasons for the riot are not yet all known, but apparently while Rachiti and other policemen were escorting a group of Palermo fans to the Massimino (Angelo Massimino, Catania stadium) during half time, they were ambushed by a group of radical Catania fans following a very controversial goal scored by Andrea Caraccio. In order to calm the crowd, the police were then forced to fire tear gas into the stands during the 58th minute. The tear gas affected the player’s vision and lungs forcing referee Stefano Farina to postpone the game for 40 minutes. The end result was a 2-1 loss, Catania to Palermo. Fans were detained within the stadium for up to 4 hours after the game had ended in order to avoid further fighting as people left the stadium. However, following the attack on Rachiti the streets outside the Massimino already resembled a scene out of a war movie.

With one dead and over 70 injured (including 61 police officers), what will be the result? For starters, Pancalli, head of the Italian League Federation, decided to postpone all scheduled games the week after this tragic incident. And now, along with the Interior Ministry by his side, he has decided to ban fans from all Serie A stadia until they meet the proper requirements for security. Pancalli has been quoted as saying that they are not asking for much improvement, only that a couple of turn stalls be added here and there. As present, however, only six stadiums in Italy: Rome, Turin, Siena, Cagliari, Palermo, and Genoa are allowed to have fans in attendance. And most recently on February 9th, a 17 year old boy was brought before the court for his involvement with the riot. He has pleaded innocent to all charges regarding the murder of Chief Inspector Filippo Rachiti. The teenager, who is referred to by the authorities as AS, released a statement through his lawyer that he had done nothing and was not involved in what took place. But his claim looks to be discredited after being identified on surveillance camera as throwing a metal bar at the officer. It is now known, following an autopsy, that Officer Filippo Rachiti did not die from a bomb explosion but died from massive liver damage suffered when he was struck by a blunt metal object which was thrown at him, and which left behind a white residue on his chest. The “truth” everyone acknowledges is that soccer is a very powerful thing.

Soccer brings hope and joy to people around the world. Let us hope that the horrific events which unraveled the game at the Massimino will not result in the destruction of this beautiful sport’s reputation.