CUNY Faculty Still Negotiating a Contract

BY ELENA ACOSTA

CUNY faculty has been working without a contract since August 2000. A new labor contract with CUNY is currently being negotiated by the PSC. The PSC (Professional Staff Congress/CUNY, American Federation of Teachers Local 2334) is the union of CUNY faculty and professional staff, both full time and part time.

The PSC is one of the oldest and largest higher education unions in the country. It was formed in 1972 and has bargained for CUNY employment contracts ever since. The contract proposals they have been working on include reduced class sizes and better pay for teachers. Their intention is to accomplish these goals without affecting student tuition.

The organizations that have been a part of this protest include the United Federation of Teachers, the Professional Staff Congress at CUNY and the United College Employees at the Fashion Institute of Technology. Their students have been bussed in overcrowded classrooms without materials for a decent education. Special education and after-school programs have also suffered cuts.

There have been many rallies in New York City in which students as well as teachers and other officials have protested the system’s budget cuts. They demand their share of the money that the president promised the city as aid after Sept. 11. In the last few years, however, many politicians like former Mayor Giuliani and Governor Pataki have been a part of the huge drop in state and city funding of CUNY that has resulted in increases in tuition and a cut in half of the numbers of full time and part time faculty and a shrink in the number of programs and course offerings.

One of the first rallies was organized on Dec. 5, 2000, by the AFL-CIO Professional Staff Congress, which is affiliated with the Federation of Teachers. Speaker at the rally challenged the Bush administration, Gov. George Pataki and lame-duck Mayor Rudolph Giuliani about their lack of commitment to education. Students and faculty chanted, carried signs and marched around the campus.

In the last couple of years, the Professional Staff Congress (PSC)—the union of faculty and students—has worked diligently to protect the university and its community from an all-out drought. In early March 2002 PSC reached an agreement that provided a 9 percent increase in pay and benefits. It also agreed to split with the university the cost of one year of tuition remission for graduate assistants. This agreement was not enough. Protesters demanded that raises for faculty not come at the expense of more costs for students. College students and professors gathered at New York’s City Hall on March 22 (2002) to protest Gov. George Pataki’s proposed cuts to the Tuition Assistance Plan (TAP). The plan will raise student costs by $2,000 over four years.

This past spring and summer the PSC also organized to lobby legislators in Albany and to the fight against tuition hikes and for tuition remission. “We not only want a contract, we want a

continued on page 3

CRIMES ASSAULT THE CITY

By Ali Bencharkoun

In New York City, the common crimes such as homicide, rape, assault and robbery still tear our society and city apart. In many cases, victims go through their daily routines such as going to school or work. Furthermore, the frightening part of these crimes that brutalize our city and its people is that there is no motive for their actions, which means that anyone is a target — including you.

Last month, there were many murder cases that occurred in different locations within our city. Some, police have linked motives such as revenge or some sort of dispute that led into a shooting; however, other instances went unsolved because there was no motive or reason for the killings. For example, a bystander could be shot, or a person who is intoxicated could harm others for no particular reason.

A brief example of a crime that had no real motive was an example of a Russian woman who was killed on her way back from work to her house in the Bronx. Anastasia Krovic, 29, was on her way walking from the Fordham Road subway station to her house four blocks away. But Krovic walked right into two drunk men who brutally raped her and stabbed her to death. As a result, we can be sure that crime is unpredictable; it can happen to anyone, anywhere. However, we can make comparisons between multiple crimes and we can try to prevent them before it happens. In other words, learn from the mistakes that others have made or just by preventing an accident.

continued on page 3
If one thing is certain about the events of the past four years, it is that they have created a rift in this country. A line has been drawn in the sand dividing the left and the right, liberals and conservatives, and both sides agree that this is something that needs to be changed. Wouldn’t it be best if we let the fact that we were Americans be our defining characteristic? Then, one side would see something in common with the other. Instead, the country has been split into a nation of red and blue, divided by color, a practice that isn’t supposed to be tolerated anymore.

What can be done to heal the wounds each side has inflicted on the other? Which side needs to make these changes? Truth is, both sides need to change, show good faith toward the other by meeting somewhere in the middle. If this is going to get off the ground, just like any other program, the first step is the most difficult: admitting you have a problem.

The left must see that it is a minority in this country, a decreasing minority even. Any doubt that the liberals may have over the outcome of this year’s election must be taken right out of their minds. Nothing can be done about it now. Bush won, Kerry lost. Even though the outcome was close, Bush had more than half of all voters on his side. This is something that not even Clinton was able to do, showing irrefutably a public mandate for his position. Another characteristic of the left that shows the liberal position is moving further and further from mainstream America is that they have become the party of extremists. The party of Hollywood, the party where Michael Moore gets the seat of honor at their national convention. This trend needs to be nipped in the bud if they ever hope to see one of their candidates make a run at the White House again.

It is difficult for us as New Yorkers to realize this, but that is exactly the point that is being made here. There is a lot more to this country than just new york. There are millions of other people out there with different opinions who lead totally different lifestyles, not just New Yorkers, and contrary to popular belief, we are no better, no smarter and no more important than they are.

What the Republicans can do to help this along is to try to include more Democrats in their party and show the nation that they are big enough to not only listen to the views of the other side, but also include them in the policy making progress. Bush has done a great job of including both minorities and women in his cabinet, but has failed to bring in people with much different views than his. Accomplishing this would help to build bridges between the two sides. Surely, Kerry would fit in nicely as U.S. ambassador to France.

Register NOW

For the QCC Spring Job Fair

Wednesday, April 20th, 2005
12-3 pm, Student Union Lobby

Meet with 50 Employers
Interview Attire Required

To Register Come to the Office of Career Services in the Library, Room #29.
New Micro Chip Tracks Movements and Raises Ethical Issues

BY JENINE DALEY

The recent invention of the Verichip has created questions and stirred some displeasure among the media and the general public about the ethicality of its usage.

This new micro chip is a radio frequency identity device (RFID) that is about the size of a grain of rice. It does not use batteries and, therefore, contains no chemicals which can be harmful to the body. The chip is said to have a lifespan of up to twenty years.

Even though the chip is so small, it can hold tons of information, ranging from data about your every day movements to your medical records. The ability for this small unit to hold so much personal information has brought up questions about identity theft. Christian officials refer to this invention as the mark of the beast. Others shrug it off as just another way for Big Brother to monitor every move we make.

“I will never get the chip,” said Laura Riccobono, a U.S. citizen. “It would feel like an invasion of privacy for someone to know my every move.”

According to the Internet, the Verichip will be beneficial to the military because it will help commanders keep track of their soldiers at war.

Some soldiers like the concept of the Verichip. Paul Kaiser, an ex-Marine who served in the Corps for four and a half years, said, “I believe in the Verichip, troops are placed in combat situations which increases the chance of serious injuries and if they are not located in time, it can prove fatal.”

According to Applied Digital Solution, the manufacturers of the chip, the chip has a unique 16-digit identification number which allows you to update your information in the database through an encrypted Internet access. The company also argued that the device is useful because if one is lost or abducted, he or she can be found once the device tracks him, thus saving his life.

It is recommended that the chip be placed in the forearm. Once inserted, it is virtually undetectable by the naked eye. The chip is encapsulated in a polyethylene sheath which fuses to the flesh and can only be detected by a Verichip reader.

According to the BBC news, the British Medical Association says that it sees no ethical reason for not allowing such a device as long as it is proven to be safe.
CUNY’s Board of Trustees has created a policy that requires all students whether in associate or baccalaureate programs to take the CPE. Although this is an important exam, many of CUNY students have no idea what it is or of its importance. To avoid shock in students who need to take this test, they should be made aware of what it entails and who exactly needs to take it.

CPE stands for CUNY Proficiency Examination. On this exam students must demonstrate their ability to read with understanding information that is given and be able to express themselves clearly through writing. To put it simple, CUNY wants all students to be able to show forth the skills they have developed while in college in their reading, writing, and understanding.

The format of this three hour exam, which is broken into two parts, consists of analytical reading and writing and graph analyzing skills. The reading and writing part consists of two reading selections, one given in advance that students will need to study and a reading selection given the day of the test. Students are expected to write an essay connecting information from the advance reading and the selection at the test. The second part requires the student to use information from graphs.

Those required to take the test are all students who have accumulated 45 credits or more. Students will have to pass the CPE before the completion of 60 credits. Those with 45 credits completed must take the CPE for the first time. CUNY basic skills requirements must be met in order to take the CPE. Students whose GPA is below 2.0 may not be allowed to take it.

There are three chances allotted to take the CPE. QC has sent out letters to those who need to take it now. Students that meet the requirements to take the test, but have not received a letter, they should make sure they are registered at the college testing office. Failure to register will forfeit one of the three chances to take the exam. This exam is needed to graduate.

To get more information about the CPE, visit the QCC website or go to the ISSC building. There are workshops and sample materials provided for free, available specifically to prepare students for the CPE.

Paper Food Saves Calories

Do you ever feel so hungry that you can almost eat anything? Well now you can. Thanks to a new invention of an ink jet printer you can print out your favorite food. It will print you out anything from a pizza to sushi. Oh yeah, if your birthday is around the corner, it can print you a birthday cake as well.

Chef Homaru Cantu, is inventing some interesting stuff including new cutlery-type mechanisms for eating, futuristic cooking methods, and yes — paper food!

The way it works is the printer’s cartages are filled with fruit and vegetable concoctions instead of ink, and the paper tray contains edible sheets of soybean and potato starch. The chef has also taken to printing his menus this way: diners can spice up their soup by ripping up the menu and tossing in the pieces. Until he has filed some patents, Cantu is not revealing how he modified the print heads to write in vegetable juice, nor is he divulging the recipes for his colorful inks.

Cantu’s ideas go much further. He plans to cook steak by using a hand-held laser to sear the center until it is well done while leaving the outside medium rare, or raw. He even envisions using the laser to bake bread - with a crust inside the loaf.

Cantu said, “You can make an ink jet printer do just about anything. Just imagine going through a magazine and looking at an ad for pizza. You wonder what it tastes like so you rip a page out and eat it.”

Source: NewScientist.com

Your Future Begins... Right Here, Right Now at C.W. Post

- hassle free credits transfer
- 107 bachelor degree programs
- generous financial aid
- paid professional internships
- special scholarships for students transferring to C.W. Post
- NEW B.S. in Forensic Science

TRANSFER DAY

Friday, April 6 • 11 am - 4pm Center

Present your college transcripts, become a C.W. Post student with degree or transfer credits • meet with advisors from our 107 programs • meet with advisors from our 107 programs • meet with advisors from our 107 programs

Call today, reservation: (516) 299-1575

www.cwpost.edu • cwpost@cwpost.edu • 720 Northern Blvd., Bayside, NY

Accountancy • Business • Computer Science • Education • Health Professions • Nursing
Liberal Arts & Sciences • Library & Information Science • Public Service • Visual & Performing Arts
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.

Adelphi University and Queensborough Community College

Queensborough Community College is just eight miles from Adelphi's main Garden City campus, and is also close to our off-campus centers in Manhattan and Hauppauge.

To learn more about Adelphi's convenient, cost-effective, flexible transfer policy and generous financial aid packages, please contact Mary Kelly at (516) 877-3862 or email KellyM@adelphi.edu.

Adelphi University
HAUPPAUGE • GARDEN CITY • WANDAN

www.adelphi.edu
1-800-ADELPHI
Self-Extinguishing Cigarettes Mandated for Safety

BY ANDREA HALoulos AND SAMANTHA ALTAN

Cigarette-ignited fires cause approximately 1,000 deaths and 3,000 injuries in the United States each year. New York was the first state to address this issue in 2000, by passing the first law requiring a safety standard for cigarettes. Then, on June 28 of last year, New York was the first state to pass a law mandating only the sale of fire-safe cigarettes. California has followed suit, permitting only the sale of self-extinguishing cigarettes beginning in 2006. Maryland, Massachusetts, Oregon and Vermont are currently trying to pass similar laws.

The issue of fire-safe cigarettes has a history of about 30 years. In 1974, a bill was first passed in the Senate but failed in the House of Representatives. In 1984, Congress enacted a bill requiring the creation of a Technical Study Group of Cigarette Safety to help minimize the deaths and injuries. After the TSG established that it would likely manufacture an enhanced product, Congress then passed the Fire Safe Cigarette Act of 1990.

These safer cigarettes, called Reduced-Ignition Propensity cigarettes (RIP), are made with less dense tobacco and are wrapped in thinner, ridged, less porous paper that acts as a "speed bump," causing the cigarette to extinguish when not inhaled.

According to the National Fire Association, cigarette ignited fires cause nearly $4 billion dollars in property loss and health care in the USA each year to fire. It has been proven that an ordinary cigarette dropped on a sofa may burn at 700 Celsius, 1292 degrees Fahrenheit, for 30 to 60 minutes before erupting into massive flames. RIP cigarettes self-extinguish in approximately thirty seconds before flames get the chance to ignite.

One major argument of tobacco companies is that there needs to be one universal law for the nation. Philip Morris says the company "support[s] the enactment of federal legislation mandating a uniform, national standard for reduced-ignition propensity cigarettes that would apply to all cigarettes sold in this country and avoid the confusion that could result from conflicting state rules."

Tobacco industries argue that since there is a law in New York but not in other states, they must take responsibility for fires and injuries in the other states not selling RIP. Andrew McGuire, director of the Trauma Foundation, states on newscientist.com, "The industry feared that marketing fire-safe brands would suggest earlier versions were less safe. This might expose them to lawsuits from people injured from standard cigarettes."

Major cigarette manufacturers such as Reynolds Tobacco, Philip Morris and Lorillard are complying with the New York State law. In 2002, New York enacted for 4.3 percent of cigarette sales in the United States, and sales have not decreased since the law was enacted. Studies have found that the alteration on cigarettes has not resulted in elevated costs for manufacturers or consumers. Fire-safe cigarettes have a long black bar over the bar code on the outer package to show the consumer it is a fire-safe product.

Companies who falsely declare that their product meets the new standard will be subject to heavy fines.

Another issue brought up was the annoyance of smokers having to relight if their cigarette gets automatically extinguished. Although Philip Morris did receive feedback stating dislike from some smokers, other consumers stated they find themselves lighting less cigarettes, which could help them cut down and possibly quit in the long run. This is obviously another fear of tobacco industries who want smokers to light more cigarettes, buy more, and in turn, increase their sales.

In a brief interview with our class, six out of twenty-one students smoked; two of whom said that the self-extinguishing cigarette is annoying having to be relit, but otherwise, there is no real difference.

Veterans ‘Shunned’ In New York

BY PAUL KASER

New York’s Veterans are being treated with less importance than Vets indigenous to other states in our Union. Veterans within this state are discovering that New York continually fails to provide educational benefits that other states furnish to their Veterans.

Attention is invited to States such as Illinois, which through the Illinois Veterans Grant (IVG) provides free college tuition to their Veterans. Through the Hazlewood Act in Texas, returning veterans have the comfort of knowing that their sacrifice is rewarded with a college education as well. Veterans from the state of Connecticut may attend public colleges and universities tuition free. In addition, there is a waiver of all fees for Massachusetts veterans to state colleges and universities.

Within the parameters of the Veterans Affairs administration, there are certain federal entitlements that most Americans believe Veterans are awarded. In reality, most federal and state benefits are only provided to those with crippling war-related disabilities, those having minimum disability criteria that must be met for eligibility.

Currently, only 10% of 26 million American Veterans receive, or are entitled to receive, federal benefits. One CUNY yet states, “this is a travesty that needs to be addressed right now.” The Montgomery GI Bill is a federal program which allocates money for college to qualified veterans. But this is by every stretch of the term “supplemental” when the GI Bill funding doesn’t nearly match what schooling costs in New York. Veterans within this State are calling on the government for reform and fresh legislation, for both city and statewide jurisdictions.

Within the confines of the City University of New York’s school system alone, there are veterans who are struggling to attain benefits. They are being force-fed through a bureaucratic VA system that has been saturated and backlogged with claims dating back to the Korean and Vietnam wars. Acquiring federal entitlements through the VA is an arduous task in itself, requiring long, lengthy and cumbersome processes to receive.

In essence, the Veterans Affairs administration is not planning for our veterans to fail, they are failing to adequately plan for them to succeed. CUNY Vets ask why they are being left to begin with an up-hill battle. A Queensborough Community College veteran explains, “When you are in the business of brandishing the weapon, and pulling the trigger, eventually someone will listen.” This of course, being the weapon of speech. Let us forget that while this article is being read, there soon will be Veterans returning to NY from war with no hands. Are these the issues they need to be dealing with?

Chiropractic... The Right Choice For Your Future

It is your right to become aware to study in beautiful surroundings, with an award-winning faculty and state-of-the-art facilities - what more could you want in a profession education? Logan College students receive the best of both worlds - training from expertly qualified doctors of chiropractic profession, strong in science, physiology, anatomy, radiology, orthopedic science, and accident medicine and extensive clinical training. A Logan College is the path for you.

Logan College of Chiropractic offers you a unique advantage. Following your program, you will be a Chiropractic Doctor. Most Doctors of Chiropractic practice solo, offering care for a variety of painful conditions. Logan College is proud of its quality education, specializing in the art and science of maintaining a practice.

Contact Logan College at 1-800-333-9210 or logan.edu today. Logan College of Chiropractic is located in a beautiful community offering a wide range of opportunities. To receive additional information, please see our website at www.logan.edu.
Transferring Process Simplified at QCC

BY STEPHEN CHOJ

Those who come to Queensborough either just for a semester or for their two-year Associate program and Academic Advisement at QCC, students can also speak to Dr. Martin Jacobs, the transfer counselor located in Room 428 in the Library. Dr. Jacobs can help students in exploring alternative options for continuing their education at another school. There students can receive important advice as to how courses would be best for them to continue their education and the requirements and tools to make their plans reality. Students can also pick up copies of the official CUNY admission guide and transfer application. The Office of Student Counseling can be reached at 718-631-6370 and more information can be found on the web at www.qcc.cuny.edu/counseling.

An important day for students interested in transferring is Transfer Day which takes place in the Student Union Queen’s Room on August 27. Most public and private colleges are represented with information available concerning degree programs, transferring and financial information.

Another important source of information for students considering a transfer between CUNY’s is the transfer information and program planning system (TIPPS) located on the web at www.tipps.cuny.EDU. Students can also find out important information such as what credits the other CUNY’s will accept, course equivalences and transfer policies. Another important facet of the transfer process is being aware of application deadlines and turning in official documents as soon as possible. Most CUNY’s need applications for fall transfers by the start of March, and schools need applications for spring by at least August.

Colleges also need an officially sealed college transcript which can be obtained in the Bursar’s office for a fee of $12. If the transcript is being sent to another CUNY school, Applications also require official transcripts from any other colleges that students have received credits from.

The transfer process is simple. Students have a wealth of information and counseling available on campus and on the internet. The only thing a student needs to do is to free the time they need to plan and work on their transfer and assure the process goes smoothly and that it works out for the best.
QCC Student Performance Shapes Up

By Miguel Bonacasa

On the week of February 16th the play, The Shape of Things, was going to be performed, but luckily for those who either did not know about it or those who could not make it, it has been postponed till one of the last weeks of May. The exact date is yet to be officially announced. That’s right; you have a second chance to see it.

For those who haven’t heard about this upcoming play it’s about an artist who uses the power of suggestion to “mold” a human statute. The recent graduate of Queensborough, Beata Bailey, is directing the upcoming performance with a small cast of four actors. Delilah Gomez plays the artist. Mathew Woods plays the low self esteemed young man, and Melinda Aniolek and Kane Chiange who both play his friends.

Coincidently, all four of these stars are also going to be in the upcoming performance of Julius Caesar, with an opening date of March 11 and six performances. With double the rehearsal time, double the amount of lines remember and half the time to do so, these four actors are showing their true colors of ambition.

“I feel that today people aren’t that theater savvy anymore, and to see a live performance today is a fun and unique experience. Plus this particular play has a lot of different aspects that people can relate to or say that they themselves have gone through something similar, for example there is infidelity, finding yourself in society, how you see or how others see or judge you from the outside appearance, friendships, etc.” explains Melinda Aniolek.

Whether or not The Shape of Things is a comedy, dark comedy, or a drama would be up to you to decide, as for the stars themselves, they can’t seem to agree. One thing they can agree on is, “It’s very different, it has a very unique story and some things that are said and done in the show will shock you,” stated Mathew Woods.

The play will be taking place in the Shadow Box Theater rather than in the Humanities Building Theater. Tickets can be purchased either at the box office in the library or at the actual Shadow Box Theater.

QCC Produces Julius Caesar

By Koya Bragg

A recent production at Queensborough Community College paid homage to a Shakespearean play. Julius Caesar, performed at QCC on March 11, was a modern-dress Shakespeare play — a timeless and true story. The play is about the death of Julius Caesar.

The production was directed by Michelle Cuomo, who chose the play because, “It’s well read and I think it will be an educational experience.” She also said, “even if this play is classic, there are a lot of themes surrounding the plot such as revenge, love, and patriotism.” The role of Julius Caesar was played by Paul Robilotta, who described his character as “challenging,” but added that many people can relate to his personality.

QCC put an interesting twist on the play, as roles were reversed. Two women played the roles of men; Casca was played by Kelly Sebbon, who described her character having a lot of depth, very sarcastic, blunt, and dry. Natalie Rodriguez played the dual roles of Cinna Conspirator/Citizen 8, and she described her character as a follower of Brutos.

Other performers included Decius Brutus, played by Carlos Alvarez, who described his character as being laid back. Metelusus Camber (Mathew Wood) looked for revenge, Cassius (Kane Chiange) was evil and the mastermind who influenced others to kill Caesar. Trebonius, played by Philip Weeks, was a character who followed others, just like the role performed by Rodriguez.

This cast prepared assiduously and all its members dedicated themselves to transforming into the characters in the play. They researched and read the play in class, and they also worked with action and voice projection to ensure that they would sound their best. I can truly say I enjoyed every minute of it. I would like to congratulate the cast of Julius Caesar for performing a wonderful production.

Time Management Pays Off

By Laura Moss

For college students managing school, homework, holding down a job, and oh yes, having a life can become overwhelming. Time management can play the most important role in being able to accomplish these tasks all at once.

There is a huge pressure that is placed upon college students to succeed and eventually fulfill their future career. Dr. Victor J. Defazio, a counselor at Queensborough Community College, suggests that students should always think about the pay off. College graduates earn millions over a few years compared to those who are not graduates. “If money and recreation time is not available now, think of the recreation time you will be able to afford once college is complete,” states Dr. Defazio.

On average, college students spend anywhere from approximately 18 hours in the classroom per week and are given at least one to two hours of homework for each class. Most students work at 20-40 hours per week as well. According to a study done on time management, 20 hours of work per week affect a grade average and full time has a bigger affect and a higher drop out rate.

Also consider the competition. City University’s students in the end will be competing for jobs with private school students who do not have to work. They have the privilege of just studying all the time and not having to worry about anything else. One student here, Christian Vega stated, “I wish that I just had time to lie down.” Well here’s one thing to think about. School is only open 28 weeks a year, January, June, July and August are free months not including holidays and spring break.

Let’s face it. Most students need to work to pay for school, books, travel expenses, families and other needs and wants. So what can be done if your life style and college coincide? What can you do to manage your time and arrange for that long awaited haircut or manicure? What about that car wash that was needed two snowstorms ago? Well, here are a few tips that might be helpful:

1. Don’t Procrastinate!!! It can be your biggest enemy. Putting off what needs to be done actually adds more stress. Dwell on success, not failure. Motivate yourself to study.
2. Drink water. Water helps the body stay rejuvenated.
3. Don’t sleep past 7 hours. Anything more will make you feel more tired and studies show that over 7 hours sleep increases mortality and disease rate by 50%.
4. Set priorities.
5. Get a schedule book. QCC hands them out for free at the beginning of the semesters.
6. Having your friends or partner help you with your work doubles as quality time and you get your work done.
7. Study in small blocks instead of long time periods. You tend to accomplish more by breaking ten minutes in between than studying 2-3 hrs. straight.
8. Always plan ahead.
9. Set realistic goals.

New York, the home of Queensborough, is the city that never sleeps, or is it because it never has the time to. Always remember to live for yourself because in the end you will be the one receiving the biggest pay off. Life is controlled by the time you have so use it wisely.
Reach Out to Others.

Finding your calling can be a challenge. Yet junior Anne-Kenya Dubuisson already has. A transfer student searching for her niche, Anne-Kenya found at St. Joseph’s the advisors, faculty and community she needed to nurture her interest in nurturing others. Now a Psychology major studying human behavior, she’s preparing to help others face their life challenges. She’s also reaching out to the community through service learning – working with her Group Dynamics class to collect funds and clothing for needy children. As she looks ahead to graduate school and a career as a child psychologist, Anne-Kenya knows she has the academic, professional and personal support system she needs. You can, too. Watch What Happens.

St. Joseph’s College
NEW YORK

Exceptional Academics, Affordable Tuition, Generous Financial Aid, and a Whole World of Options.

In many ways, university can be the first step toward your future. At St. Joseph’s, college degrees mean new opportunities for you. Call 718-431-4550 or email grace.yang@sjny.edu.
Knicks Slack Off, Drop Back
Slumping New York Knicks Fall to Last Place in Atlantic Division

By Robert Alexis

The New York Knicks started the 2004-2005 season with high hopes of winning an NBA championship. They had coach Lenny Wilkins back from the previous season and an explosive new guard from the Chicago Bulls, Jamal Crawford. With Crawford, who averaged 17.3 points per game last season with the Bulls, the Knicks were supposed to be a better team. As of a week before All-Star weekend, the Knicks were in last place in the Atlantic division and were not even in the playoff race.

What happened to the Knicks can only be explained by a series of events and decisions. New York started the '04-'05 season as the No. 1 team in the Atlantic division. With a record of 16-13, the Knicks looked as if they would be tough contenders. The Knicks then went on a four-game losing streak, leading to a 16-17 record as of January 8. They ended that streak by defeating the Portland Trail Blazers, but then went on another losing streak -- this time, however, it failed, it lasted seven games.

After a heart-breaking, one-point loss to the Houston Rockets at the buzzer during that streak, Coach Lenny Wilkins announced his resignation as head coach and the team ended up in the hands of Assistant Coach Herb Williams. The team ended that long losing streak with a win against the Cleveland Cavaliers, without Cav's superstar LeBron James, and then went on another laughable five-game losing streak. You might notice a pattern of Knicks' losing streaks.

What the Knicks need to do is play hard through the whole game. The Knicks have a habit of playing basketball for three quarters of the game and not playing up to their potential in the final quarter. They've lost 11 games by five or fewer points, which should send a message to the Knicks to play hard through the whole game.

The Knicks definitely have talent, but are not achieving their potential. With point guards Stephon Marbury and Jamal Crawford at his side, the Knicks should be a good team. It's no question that Stephon Marbury is doing his job. He leads the team in scoring with 21.5 points per game and Crawford is second with 18.3 points per game. The big players are definitely doing their parts, but need help from the rest of the team. The Knicks' big men Kurt Thomas and Nazr Mohammed are both averaging just under 12 points per game, the Knicks need more scoring help from them. Rumors speculate that Thomas and Marbury do not get along off the court, but when they are on the court, they must put their differences to the side for their team to succeed.

With one game left before the mid-season break, the Knicks had a 20-32 record. The team needs to finish the season strong if it has any hope of making the playoffs.

Sources: NBA.com, Newsday

Jets Come Close, But Fail to Make Super Bowl

By Dwayne Johnson

Within the last three years the Jets have twice come so close to going to the Super Bowl but have failed. Who should the fans blame it on, the coaches or the players? Many Jets fans believe that they should blame it on the players and not the coaches. For example, in January 2005 after playing the best season that they have played, the Jets went to Oakland with a chance to win the game and move onto the championship game, but they failed.

It wasn’t because of bad coaching or because of injuries, but because of two bad decisions that Jets quarterback Chad Pennington made in the last four minutes of the game which caused the Jets to lose it. The first bad decision that the Jets’ star quarterback made was to take a sack instead of throwing the ball away, which forced the Jets out of field goal range and forced them to punt. Then, with a chance to win the game, the Jets quarterback threw a crucial interception in the last minute, which sealed the loss for the Jets and the victory for the Oakland Raiders.

It was like a dagger to the hearts of many Jets fans who have been waiting so long to see their team go to the Super Bowl and win a championship, but it was not to be in the 2003 season because of the two crucial mistakes by the Jets quarterback.

The following season, 2004, was a disaster for the Jets and their fans. The Jets did not even make it to the playoffs and their season was a disappointment, with the Jets going 5-11. Plagued by injuries and needing a new defensive coach, the Jets looked to make their 2004-2005 season a much better one. They went and got a new defensive coach in Danny Henderson, who transformed the Jets’ defensive unit along with rookie line-backer Jonathan Vilma. The Jets started the season with a bang, going 5-0 at the start, creating franchise history, and being one of just four teams in the NFL that were unbeaten after five games.

Jets fans finally had something to cheer about after a disappointing season the year before, as their hope for a championship this season was looking bright.

After a successful season, the Jets made it to the playoffs for the second time in three years and their hope of making the Super Bowl looked bright, but once again, the Jets failed to go all the way.

After playing in two consecutive overtime games, the Jets were determined to go to Pittsburgh and beat the Steelers, something that they were not able to do earlier in the season or in their previous 13 games at Heinz Field in Pittsburgh. This time, it seemed possible. After playing the game of their lives, the Jets had a chance to win the game and move on to the championship, but once again they failed.

In the last two minutes of the game, Jets kick-er Doug Brien missed two field goals which would have given the Jets the win. He missed one from 38 yards and another from 43 yards, forcing the game into overtime, where the Jets went on to lose. It was a heartbroken loss for Jets fans who believe that their team could have gone all the way, but it must have been even more difficult for the players who played their hearts out.

Can we say that there is some kind of a spell on the Jets team? Why can they not win a championship? Maybe there is a spell, or maybe the Jets players just can’t come up with that big win when it matters most.

Queensborough Community College
The City University of New York

222-05 56th Avenue, Bayside, New York 11364-1497

Department of Health, Physical Education and Dance
Robert F. Kennedy Hall • Office – Room G216 • Tel. 718-631-6322 • Fax. 718-631-6333

Queensborough Community College Academic All Region & CUNY Athletic Conference
Scholar Athlete Nominations (Fall 2004 & Winter 2005)

Region XV Requirements: 12 Credits 3.25 Cumulative GPA
CUNY Athletic Conference Requirements: 12 Credits 3.20 Cumulative GPA

Kijani Kerr 3.4 GPA Men’s Soccer
Anthony Small 3.8 GPA Men’s Soccer
Jennifer Gillette 3.23 GPA Women’s Volleyball (CUNY)
Mekia Henry 3.8 GPA Women’s Volleyball
Sabrina Song 3.3 GPA Women’s Volleyball
Shonda Brinson 3.4 GPA Women’s Indoor Track
Lorena Gomez - Blum 3.28 GPA Women’s Cross Country & Indoor Track
Asma Khentari 3.7 GPA Women’s Cross Country
Stacy Mohammed 3.4 GPA Women’s Cross Country & Indoor Track
Gebmisola Ogun 3.7 GPA Women’s Indoor Track
Renato Comps 3.4 GPA Men’s Cross Country & Indoor Track
Jennifer Duarte 3.6 GPA Women’s Swimming
Natalia Hincapie 3.9 GPA Women’s Swimming
Emilie Weynberg 3.7 GPA Women’s Swimming
Jiho Bae 3.7 GPA Men’s Swimming
Arthur Fu 3.5 GPA Men’s Swimming
Fabrizio Leroy 3.7 GPA Men’s Basketball
Yahaira Bernal 4.0 GPA Women’s Basketball
Kandyce Gunning 3.3 GPA Women’s Basketball
Billie Borgshte 3.4 GPA Women’s Basketball

* Spring Sports (Men’s Baseball, Women’s Softball & Men’s & Women’s Outdoor Track) not included.
Super Bowl XXXIX
Patriots Win, Fans Lose
BY CHRIS CAMERON

Take G-Rated ads, an oldies’ pop singer, and over a billion viewers worldwide and what do you get? The Super Bowl. Oh, let’s forget that there’s some football played, too. The Super Bowl has become more than a game, it’s become a national holiday, and surprisingly, football is not the main event. Commercials, pre-game shows, and the infamous halftime show are what this event is all about.

Commercials are usually the time for a bathroom break, or beer run, but during the Super Bowl, if you leave your couch, you risk missing the big commercial of the year. For a cost of 2.4 million for just 30 seconds of airtime, the top companies in America tantalize the entire country with their products.

This year, there were 58 commercial spots this year, and the products offered ranged from taco sauce to Cialis, all battling for the right to be thought of as the best Super Bowl ad. And the winner is? Nobody knows. After last year’s “wardrobe malfunction” advertisers as well as the network were careful not to offend anyone this time around. The viewers were the ones who got the short end of the stick.

Ads from Pepsi, Ford, The Best Damn Sports Show Period, and GoDaddy.com were rejected due to improper content. GoDaddy.com even had an ad pulled that was supposed to air during the last two minutes of the game because of the first ad GoDaddy.com aired earlier. GoDaddy.com went where other companies wouldn’t and was the only advertiser to fully reap the benefits of a 2.4 million dollar commercial. They were the name that nobody knew before the game but the one that everyone knew and talked about after the game.

The ad contained a corpulent woman at a Senate hearing pleading to be on a commercial for GoDaddy.com. Her skirt strap then breaks, to the dismay of those present at the hearing. This parody of the censorship fiasco of last year pushed the envelope in a year when few even dared.

The reason the ad was seen as racy and provocative was because of the circumstances of the occasion. The most talked-about topic with respect to Super Bowl ads was the fear of last year’s slip into obscurity. But where other advertisers went wholesome and fun, GoDaddy.com did just the opposite and wrote itself into the Super Bowl ad history books.

New England Patriots
Dynasty
BY MICHEL NICOLAS

At a time of great competition, the New England Patriots have established themselves as a dynasty. They do not have to say it themselves – their accomplishment in the NFL speaks for itself, and their accomplishments go down in the NFL history books.

On February 6, the New England Patriots made history by defeating the Philadelphia Eagles by the score of 24-21. Those who doubted that the New England Patriots are not a dynasty can now say at the very least that they are challenging history. The win over the Philadelphia Eagles was New England’s ninth straight postseason win, tying with Vince Lombardi’s Green Bay Packers as the most successful team in playoff history. Ironically, the team received the trophy named for Lombardi. This year’s Super Bowl game was Coach Bill Belichick’s tenth playoff victory in 11 games, which is one better than the great Lombardi. The team’s win also matches the Dallas Cowboys’ run in the early 1990s, a team that also won three Super Bowls in four years.

Some may argue that the New England Patriots haven’t earned the right for others to call them a dynasty yet. But, let’s face it; they have accomplished a lot in the past four years. Let’s run down what they have accomplished: they won two straight Super Bowl titles and competed in their Super Bowl in four years. Other great players who are retired, in the Hall of Fame and even those still playing think the New England Patriots have definitely earned the name “dynasty.” Former Dallas Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman said that the Patriots are a much better team than his successful Cowboys from a decade ago and back then the Cowboys were the only team that had ever won three Super Bowls in four years.

No matter what you say, the Patriots are a great team. They have the best coach, defensive and offensive coordinators, coaching staff, and most importantly they have a group of great players. To be a true champion you have to be able to win even when you don’t have your best performance and that’s exactly what the Patriots have been doing in the Super Bowls. Their first Super Bowl was against the defending champions St. Louis Rams; they beat them on the last play of the game. They beat the Carolina Panthers on the last play. And this year they defeated a great Eagles team by three points. That’s why they are champions – because they are able to win big games even if they didn’t bring their “A” game. That’s why they’re great.

Kobe Bryant Mirrors O.J. Simpson’s Tarnished Sports Image
BY RODNEY NICOLLS

Just weeks after the NBA’s All-Star game, and almost two years after being accused of sexually assaulting an Eagle, Colorado teenager, it appears that the once Teflon image of Los Angeles Lakers superstar Kobe Bryant has been permanently tarnished. This brilliant young superstar, who drew comparisons to the great Michael Jordan, and in many cases was dubbed the heir apparent to Jordan by many sports analysts, seems to have fallen on the verge of becoming the heir apparent to O.J. Simpson. Like the Simpson case, the alleged victim was a Caucasian female; this astonishing similarity seemed to divide the nation across racial lines much like the Simpson case.

Following the NBA’s post-season, Kobe Bryant checked into a Val, Colorado, clinic for knee surgery. While in Colorado, authorities claimed that Bryant sexually assaulted a Colorado teenager on June 30, 2003 at the Gate Lodge and Spa in nearby Edwards. The alleged victim in the case claimed that Bryant, who was 24 at the time, forced her to have sex with him.

Bryant has always maintained his innocence, and fully cooperated with the authorities and everyone involved with the case. Eventually the case against Bryant was dropped after the prosecutor claimed that the alleged victim decided not to pursue the case any further, but the damage to Bryant’s career was already done.

Sports and marketing experts predicted that the case would be a permanent blow to Bryant’s image — but to what magnitude no one knew. Like Simpson, before the start of the trial, major companies who once supported Bryant pulled the plug on commercials featuring the superstar. Nutella chocolate spread began phasing out endorsements from Bryant.

Just before the alleged assault, Bryant and fellow NBA superstar LeBron James both signed multi-million-dollar contracts with Nike. As the Bryant case preceded, Nike said its deal with Bryant remained in place; however, commercials featuring a younger, less-experienced James are shown daily while Bryant is left in the dark.

Coca-Cola company spokesman Scott Williamson said Bryant has been under contract with Sprite since 1997 and remains under contract until 2005, yet since the alleged assault we have yet to see Bryant in a Sprite commercial.

Many other past business associates have decided to stop using commercials featuring Bryant. This is reminiscent of Hertz’s decision to permanently and immediately cancel commercials featuring O.J. Simpson, as being associated with an accused killer would hurt business more than help.

Not only did major companies such as McDonald’s stop airing commercials featuring Bryant, the once very-marketable Bryant, whose squeaky-clean image outside basketball and his amazing performances on the basketball court made him irresistible to the public, was also changing. Like Simpson, it seems as if even Bryant’s peers are turning their backs.

Before the June 30 incident Bryant was considered by many as the best player in the game, but since the incident he is barely mentioned in the argument of who the best player is in the league. Similarly, O.J. Simpson, who was the first running back in NFL history to run for 1,000 yards in a season, is no longer mentioned in the argument of who is the best player in his day. Like Bryant, Simpson was considered to be one of the best at his sport, but since the trial in which he was found innocent; Simpson’s name is barely mentioned amongst the best running backs ever.

Like Simpson, Bryant may never be able to repair his once Teflon image, but unlike Simpson, he refuses to shy away from the camera. Bryant continues to be a very dominant player in the league. Despite his troubles off the court, Bryant signed a multi-million-dollar deal with the Los Angeles Lakers this past spring. He forced the Los Angeles Lakers to send Shaquille O’Neal, who is considered to be the most dominant player ever by many analysts, packing, and also got Coach Phil Jackson fired.

His basketball jersey still ranks as one of the top ten sellers among active players, and Laker games are still selling out. Throughout his ordeal, Bryant still remains poised, professional as if nothing ever happened, and maybe that’s because nothing did.