Making the Cut at a College Near You

By Kelly Molina

Liposuction: $2,700. Breast augmentation: $4,000. Facelift: $7,000. Feeling great about the way you look: Priceless. The letters A, B, C, and D have taken on a totally new meaning on college campuses. They no longer refer to the mark on your latest midterm or term paper. Nowadays, the letters are a guide to the varying breast sizes, center of an exploding trend in plastic surgery among college undergraduates.

“I’ll take Angelina Jolie’s lips, some Brad Pitt eyes and ... Um... How about a Johnny Depp jaw line.” Such “shopping lists” may not be as unrealistic as they first appear. Influenced by internet and broadcast media advertising, as well as by popular TV shows like Nip/Tuck, Dr. 90210 and Extreme Makeover, many Americans, an increasing number of them college students, have put their bodies under the knife. Many patients, both male and female, see plastic surgery as a quick alternative to exercise and diet for rapid results in weight loss or cosmetic enhancement.

Plastic surgery is no longer just for celebrities and the wealthy. According to Dr. Rod Rohrich, former president of the American Society of Plastic Surgery (ASPS), an increasing number of college students have had plastic surgery. Plastic surgery procedures among college patients have increased 35 to 45% over the last three to four years. In fact, according to the ASPS, the number of college students experiencing cosmetic procedures increased more than 300% in 2005 alone. For college age females, the most routine procedures are liposuction, breast augmentation and rhinoplasty (surgery of the nose). For college age males the most customary procedures are otoplasty (surgery of the ear), liposuction and rhinoplasty. Students are not only more knowledgeable about possible procedures, but ever more able to afford them. Since plastic surgery is becoming well known among college students, the Plastic Surgery Clinic in Manhattan offers financing programs to make cosmetic procedures available.

Last year, according to the ASPS, plastic surgery patients in the 19-26 year-old age range made up 48 percent of all breast augmentation procedures, 32 percent of all liposuction procedures, and 41 percent of all rhinoplasty.

Wanting to know more about students’ opinions on plastic surgery, I questioned five current Queensborough students regarding their outlook on cosmetic surgery. Surprisingly, three of the five students had already had procedures done to them. Two female students had liposuction and breast augmentation and one male went under otoplasty. Their reasons for plastic surgery were low self-esteem issues and wanting to enhance their physical beauty. They also mentioned that cosmetic surgery had become an addiction, and that they planned to have several more procedures in the near future. “It is not as scary as a lot of people think. I had the surgery done on a Friday and I was back to school on Monday,” says one of the students who had her breasts done.

Meanwhile the two students who haven’t gone under the scalpel believe plastic surgery is “not that serious.” Dana, a nursing major said, “I think you should do whatever you want to your body, if it makes you happy. I have thought about getting botox and my breasts done but I’m still undecided.”

Joey, a business major believes, “It’s silly. I see these commercials with girls with breasts so big you can’t even see their face and they’re like, ‘it’s the best thing I ever did!’ I wish I had these done sooner!” and I just feel like giving them a piece of my mind!”

I decided to speak to a cosmetic surgeon and get his personal opinion on plastic surgery. Dr. Kenneth Fischer actively promotes his business to New York’s student population. Dr. Fischer started the financial aid program for college students at the Plastic Surgery Clinic in Manhattan. “I just think about my days in college. How I didn’t have money, and most of those who did would spend it for cosmetic reasons...I try to maintain a positive attitude about advertising to different audiences. When my patients finally sit through a consultation with me, there are several things they might not have realized based on reality TV alone.” While the current trend of going under the knife is new, according to Fischer, the motives behind it are not. “People have always, and will always, care very much about how they look. What is varying, I think, is what the public views as acceptable or not acceptable as far as changing one’s appearance. Now people are going ahead of dyeing their hair and getting permanent make-up done, another step closer to surgical procedures and maybe thinking of changing their facial appearance or their figures.” He also added, “Any number of things now is more widely... acceptable and not just for the rich and famous.”

A’s, B’s, C’s and D’s are becoming the marks of competition both in and out of the classroom. The mass media bombards consumers with images of beauty as never before. And those images are sharpened by a team of professionals including stylists, makeup artists, lighting pros, photographers, and editors wielding airbrushes. What Ryan Murphy, creator of FX’s Nip/Tuck, calls “America’s obsession with perfection, with a quick fix” is now finding its way onto college campuses as more and more students go under the knife. Although many plastic surgery procedures are helpful in correcting deformities from birth, burns or injuries, most procedures performed are for cosmetic reasons only. Like any other surgery, plastic surgery does come with risks such as infection or other complications, but no more than other major surgeries.

Do you have a problem with plastic surgery? After all, it is YOUR body. One needs to think seriously, however, where to draw the line. Who would elect to come out looking plucked and pulled like Joan Rivers? As she’s stated in an interview, “I wish I had a twin, so I could see how I would look like without all this plastic surgery.”
Since being diagnosed with lymphoma, a type of cancer that attacks the immune system, my father has been given a shopping list of prescriptions to aid in combating the side effects of the chemotherapy he is receiving. He takes prednisone for any skin problems or allergic reactions, docusate sodium and simvastatin tablets because chemotherapy makes you constipated, pantoprazole to decrease stomach acid moving from the stomach into his esophagus, and finally granisetron to nausea and vomiting caused by cancer treatments. Although these medications are designed to help ease the pain and discomfort of cancer treatments, they have a side effect of their own, the price. The price of the first three medications above are relatively inexpensive, however the pantoprazole costs $180.88 and the granisetron that my father needs to help counter the nausea and vomiting comes with a price tag of $897.64. I have heard stories in the news about how pharmaceutical companies make an enormous amount of money on prescription drugs, but I never really paid any attention to any of it until now, when I saw for myself how costly being sick can actually be.

I posted an inquiry on the Roche Pharmaceutical website, the makers of Kytril, a brand name of granisetron, website asking what makes the price of drugs so high and the answer was one that should have been expected. First the company has to recover the cost that goes into research and development and process of new drugs, which costs millions of dollars. The price of these drugs could be so exorbitant simply because the manufacturers know how important these drugs are to survival and combating side effects. I would hate to find out that drug companies are exploiting the sick to make such a huge profit.

So there is a question of ethics at hand here. Is it right for these big drug corporations to be making so much money on the illness of others? I don’t believe so. I would like to see a program that requires these drug companies to donate a certain portion of their product or proceeds to patients who cannot afford the treatment they offer. There should not be a price put on a product that improves the quality of life or saves lives all together.

Pharmaceutical Ethics

BY ANTHONY GENNA

Maybe I Am Better Off

BY ANTHONY GENNA

What if someone was to ask your opinion on which of the following two acts you found more revolting – For the President of the United States to have an extra-marital affair with an intern in the white house, or to engineer a plan that will result in the deaths of thousands of American soldiers and deprive U.S. citizens of their civil liberties? Disturbingly, that question needs to be addressed today.

A movement has been growing to impeach the current President of the United States for launching a war of aggression with Iraq, and using the war as a pretext to implement unconstitutional policy. Substantive allegations have arisen that the war with Iraq started by the Bush administration was not only unjustified and illegal, but premeditated. Worst yet, the war against Iraq was engaged without the approval of Congress, with the Bush administration engineering lies to justify the war to Congress and the American public, including falsified evidence of potential nuclear arming in Iraq, as well as Iraq’s alleged connection to 9/11.

The Downing Street memo, an official British government document which according to Wikipedia.com: “...contains an overview of a secret July 23, 2002 meeting among the United Kingdom Labour government, defense and intelligence figures, discussing the build-up to the war including direct reference to classified United States policy of the time,” reveals that falsified information was instigated by US intelligence prior to the Iraq war to give pretext to the invasion of Iraq. Essentially, facts and intelligence were fixed around the policy of removing Saddam Hussein from office. This also included the manipulation of the UN weapon inspections process and prewar air-strikes to “soften” the Iraqi defense, before Congress voted to allow such an invasion. The Downing Street Memo has been brushed off as irrelevant by members of the Bush Administration. However, no official attempts have been made to challenge and address its central allegations.

Further evidence from within the Bush Administration reinforces the disturbing “war of aggression” charge. The “Office of Special Plans” (OSP), a unit in the Pentagon created by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld under George Bush and led by Douglas Feith, existed from September 2002 to June of 2003. This highly specialized unit dealt with the intelligence in Iraq during the war, Larry C. Johnson, former CIA officer in an interview with the Scottish Sunday Herald, stated OSP is “…dangerous for US national security and a threat to world peace. [The OSP] lied and manipulated intelligence to further its agenda of removing Saddam. It’s a group of ideologues with pre-determined notions of truth

continued on page 12

Wagging the Dog for Bush

BY CHARLES CHIEN

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The Price of Gasoline Is a Killer!

BY WILNAAR ETIENNE

Summer has not yet arrived and the price of gasoline keeps rising. No one understands or seems capable of predicting what the full effect of rising gas prices will be for college students, especially those who must commute to campus.

To understand where our economy is going, one must understand where it has been. Oil is arguably the most important natural resource in the world. It uses vary from gasoline for our cars, to energy fuel for our furnaces, to the production of other various goods made of rubber and plastic. While in America produces a large amount of oil domestically, the majority of oil we consume is imported from foreign countries. The price we pay to import oil from other countries fluctuates with other economies everyday. However, some changes in price occur suddenly and unexpectedly.

One of the main organizations that we import oil from is the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. O.P.E.C. was founded in Baghdad, Iraq in 1960. The main aim of O.P.E.C. was to create a universal price between countries in order to produce peace between oil producers throughout the world. Since O.P.E.C. has a stranglehold on the worlds oil supply, the United States is extremely concerned with the area’s economic and political instability.

Many college students drive to school and to work. Gasoline prices have increased from approximately $2.67 a gallon to $3.15 a gallon minimum within the past two months. This has directly impacted students budgeting for food, clothing, the purchase of required text books, and tuition payments. Of course, credit card companies have started to celebrate as many Americans thirst for gas are in need of extra cash. Those students who do not drive will most likely suffer as well, with larger in taxi, bus, and train fares due to rising energy costs.

Many factors influence the price of gasoline. Gasoline prices are affected by the crude oil in the market, supply and demand for gasoline, local market competition, temporary supply interruptions, and government regulations and taxes. Despite interruptions in supply and rising prices, unless every student in the U.S. registers to vote and prepares to go on strike, they will have to accept the situation and deal with it.

Halliburton Solves Global Warming

SurvivaBalls save managers from abrupt climate change

BY DANIELLE CHENY

An advanced new technology will keep corporate managers safe even when climate change makes life as we know it impossible.

“The SurvivaBall is designed to protect the corporate manager no matter what Mother Nature throws his or her way,” said Fred Wolf, a Halliburton representative who spoke today at the Catastrophic Loss conference held at the Rita-Carlton hotel in Amelia Island, Florida. “This technology is the only rational response to abrupt climate change,” he said to an attentive and appreciative audience.

Most scientists believe global warming is certain to cause an accelerating onslaught of hurricanes, floods, droughts, tornadoes, etc. and that a world-destroying disaster is increasingly possible. For example, Arctic melt has slowed the Gulf Stream by 30% in just the last decade; if the Gulf Stream stops, Europe will suddenly become just as cold as Alaska. Global heat and flooding events are also increasingly possible.

In order to head off such catastrophic scenarios, scientists agree we must reduce our carbon emissions by 70% within the next few years. Doing that would seriously undermine corporate profits, however, and so a more forward-thinking solution is needed.

At today’s conference, Wolf and a colleague demonstrated three SurvivaBall mockups, and described how the units will sustainably protect managers from natural or cultural disturbances of any intensity or duration. The devices - looking like huge inflatable orbs - will include sophisticated communications systems, nutrient gathering capacities, onboard medical facilities, and a daunting defense infrastructure to ensure that the corporate mission will not go unfulfilled even when most human life is rendered impossible by catastrophes or the consequent epidemics and armed conflicts.

“It’s essentially a gated community for one,” said Wolf.

Dr. Northrop Goody, the head of Halliburton’s Emergency Products Development Unit, showed diagrams and videos describing the SurvivaBall’s many features. “Much as amoebas link up into slime molds when threatened, SurvivaBalls also fulfill a community function. After all, people need people,” noted Goody as he showed an artist’s rendition of numerous SurvivaBalls linking up to form a managerial aggregate with functional differentiation, metaphorically dancing through the streets of Houston, Texas.

The conference attendees peppered the duo with questions. One asked how the device would fare against terrorism, another whether the array of embedded technologies might make the unit too cumbersome; a third brought up the issue of the unit’s cost feasibility. Wolf and Goody assured the audience that these problems and others were being addressed.

“The SurvivaBall builds on Halliburton’s reputation as a disaster and conflict industry innovator,” said Wolf. “Just as the Black Plague led to the Renaissance and the Great Deluge gave Noah a monopoly of the animals, so tomorrow’s catastrophes could well lead to good - and industry must be ready to seize that good.”

Goody also noted that Jean-Michel Cousteau’s Ocean Futures Society was set to employ the SurvivaBall as part of its Corporate Sustenance (R) program. Another of Cousteau’s CSR programs involves accepting a generous sponsorship from the Dow Chemical Corporation, whose general shareholder meeting is May 11.

Talent is Alive at QCC

BY DANA DEFLICE

Do you notice yourself singing louder than your radio, and or repeating and acting out every line of your favorite movie? Do you secretly have a talent no one else knows about? Well why didn’t you come down and participate in the faculty and student talent show at Queensborough. C’mon, there was no reason to be shy! A number of QCC faculty along with your fellow classmates showed off their talents for all QCC students and faculty to see.

On May 10th, for the first time and hopefully not the last, faculty members and students from QCC showed off their special talents. Anything was allowed (as long as it was not overly crude or provocative), singing, dancing, reciting poetry, even baton twirling if that’s what you did best. It took place on the soccer field during club hours, 1-3 pm. In case of bad weather, Natasha Thomas, the student center coordinator, had booked an alternate location in the student union building.

The talent show was incorporated with Y.E.A.H. the year end annual hoopla. Even though this was only the second year that Y.E.A.H. had been hosted and organized at QCC, Natasha Thomas and her crew appeared to accept the situation and deal with it.

There were two people that were drawing caricatures of anyone that wanted a portrait of themselves. Even the Coca-Cola Company was on campus giving away free stuff. Everything a carnival should have was at the year end QCC annual hoopla!
Vain or Insane? What Gay Guys Think About Women’s Vanity

By CHRISTINA CELUCCI

We have all been there – two hours showering, applying makeup, doing our hair, and finding the perfect shoes and bag to go with our ensemble. But after all our effort, what do guys really think about women’s vanity?

The May 2006 issue of Glamour magazine ran an editorial titled “Women’s Vanity: What Men Really Think,” in a column called Jake – a Man’s Opinion. The editorial, by Jake, states that “...you might be surprised to learn that guys (who are getting vainer by the day, what with all our back waxing and designer jeans) like it when women are a little looks-obsessed.” Speaking with Jonathan Then, 26, a pharmacy intern, Jake states that a woman’s looks are “very important, because I need to enjoy what I’m looking at. If a woman is ugly or repulsive you’re not going to be attracted to that.” According to the TopDatingTips.com 2004 reader’s poll, when asked, “Do appearance and looks matter to you?” 67% of readers surveyed said yes, looks matter to them. Jonathan Then said not at all and 17% didn’t know.

Jake also writes that “Unless you’re dating Gandhi, a small dose of vanity is helpful in a relationship.” Truth be told, men probably do like it when women dress up and look their best. When we go out of our way to look nice for them, it shows that we feel good about ourselves and they can probably pick up on that vibe. On the other hand, when you are in a relationship there is a point where you reach a comfort zone, feeling so comfortable with the person that you feel it is okay to dress in a more “frumpy” style.

A recent article on askmen.com poses the question, “Are high maintenance women worth it?” The author, Madeline Murphy, lists the pros and cons of dating high maintenance women, noting that everyone has a different opinion about what “high maintenance” is. According to Ms. Murphy, high maintenance women are those who need many things, such as money, attention, and material goods to be happy. For example, she states that “These women love dressing up whenever possible, and are obsessed with all aspects of their personal appearance and grooming in general. This almost obsessive attention to detail usually extends to their homes or apartments, their pets, and yes, even their men. In addition, they tend to be perfectionists, over-achievers, self-centered, and a bit vain.” Wanting to look your best, however, shows that you take an interest in yourself and that you care what others think about you. Murphy continues by suggesting that while there are some pros to a guy dating a high maintenance woman, there may be some cons as well. The pros are: she looks like a million bucks, she’s a source of free style advice, she’s a challenge and she’s sugar and spice and everything nice. The cons include: she knows she looks like a million bucks, free style advice equals nagging, she won’t be satisfied, and she has princess syndrome. Some guys like dating high maintenance women. It makes them feel good that their girl looks good. However, if a girl knows she looks good, a guy might feel she is conceited.

Just as there are women obsessed with their looks, there are guys who are “high maintenance.” It has been becoming increasingly more common to see guys worrying about their looks. Guys want to look good just as much as women do. Jonathan Then notes that “It works both ways; you don’t want to go out looking like a slob. Because a guy that does not look presentable is not going to catch the attention of a girl.” All of us have to admit that a guy who is dressed really nice does catch our attention. Marilena Satus, 23, a graduate of Pratt Institute, says that she doesn’t feel attracted to high maintenance guys because “they shouldn’t take longer than me to get dressed.” The way men and women talk about what they find attractive may differ, but after all is said and done it would appear that that women dress to impress guys and the guys want to look good for women. It is a rare instance of gender equality.

An article on the New York Post online edition titled “Prep Rally,” March 20, 2006, reports that according to a recent survey, women spend two years of their lives getting ready to leave the house. Men spend less than a year. Any guy who has ever waited on a girlfriend, his wife, or any other woman for that matter would probably find this survey result a very interesting piece of trivia. I always want to look good, especially if I am going out. Even if I do wind up spending two years of my life picking out what to wear, it is worth it because I feel good about myself. Any way you look at it, both men and women will always want to look their best.

Writing for the Queensborough Communiqué

By KYONG LEE

Do you enjoy writing? Have you thought about a career in journalism? Writing for Queensborough’s Communiqué may be the perfect place for you. The Communiqué is QCC’s student run newspaper, which is published three times a semester. Not only is writing for the Communiqué a good way to sharpen your English skills, it also provides you with the necessary tools to become successful in today’s job market. From International news to local campus news, students are encouraged to write about topics that affect the students at QCC. With 6,000 copies printed per edition, the newspaper’s broad range of readers includes students, faculty, staff and various advertisers and businesses.

English 214: Journalism: Principles and Practice, is a four English class that is offered at QCC. Unlike other English classes, Journalism offers students the experience of publishing a newspaper. Students are taught and engaged in discussions on how to investigate and report on topics, how to write clearly and to the point, and to write in a way that is easy to read. Students also engage in discussions about what ethics means in journalism.

Michael Levy, a Communiqué staff member, states that “We have all been there – two hours showering, applying makeup, doing our hair, and finding the perfect shoes and bag to go with our ensemble. But after all our effort, what do guys really think about women’s vanity?”

With 6,000 copies printed per edition, the newspaper is the perfect place for you. For the May 2006 issue of the Queensborough’s Communiqué may be the perfect place for you to start. Not only do you gain experience in newspaper writing and publishing, you receive English credits and help fulfill the English requirement at QCC. For additional information about working on Communiqué please contact Professor Levy.

A KATREINA 5K Run/Walk

On June 24, 2006, Katrina Higher Education Foundation (K HERF) will host a KATREINA 5K Run/Walk Keeping All the Resources In New Orleans Alive - Turning the Negative into Positive

This event will help to support six (6) New Orleans colleges and universities:

• Delgado Community College
• Dillard University
• Louisiana State University
• Loyola University
• Xavier University of New Orleans
• University of New Orleans

Visit www.akatrinawalk.com for more information on how to support the colleges and universities in the City of New Orleans.

Let’s show our solidarity! It’s time to send a National message that we will keep our institutions alive.

We will keep our institutions alive

YOU supported many New Orleanians.
YOU helped to rebuild New Orleans.
YOU will keep our institutions alive.
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Don’t Let Stress Take over Your College Life

By Sara Masieh

College can be extremely stressful. Many students juggle not only coursework, but also full-time jobs and families. With everything going on in one’s life it is very easy to feel overwhelmed. Whether you are single, married, a full or part time student, raising a family, or have your own business, there are a multitude of tasks to do, often with deadlines to meet and so many things to remember. When students find themselves struggling to keep up with their busy daily schedules, they sometimes experience depression. Most students have experienced at least one occasion where they wanted to break down and give up, but there are ways of handling stress to avoid becoming depressed, despondent, or worse.

The article, “College Stress Can Lead to Depression,” available on the Wisconsin United for Mental Health web site, states that:

According to the National Mental Health Association, 10% of college students have been diagnosed with depression. The National Institute of Mental Health released the following list of common symptoms of depression: sadness, anxiety, fatigue, hopelessness, and guilt, thoughts of suicide, difficulty concentrating, making decisions or remembering, and irritability or excessive crying.

Of course, everyone has some of these symptoms at certain points in life; that is normal. But, one should become concerned if he or she is feeling five or more of the aforementioned symptoms for longer than two weeks.

You’re a busy person; you have long hours, short deadlines, and high expectations. What can you do? The National Mental Health Association advises that you: carefully plan your day, plan your work and sleep schedules, participate in extracurricular activity (sports, theater, fraternities, and sororities, the student newspaper- whatever interests you), try relaxation methods (these include meditation, deep breathing, warm baths, long walks, exercise), and take time for yourself everyday even if it is only 15 minutes a day.

Dr. Roger Henderson, GP and medical columnist, suggests four techniques to get you started in his online stress-busting article (http://stressbusting.co.uk/articles/coping_10tips.asp):

1. Practice deep breathing techniques.
2. Do any sort of exercise. Walking three times a week will help to reduce stress as well as promote restful sleep.
3. Don’t rush; always give yourself at least 15 minutes more than you think you need.
4. Stay away from smoking and drinking, in the long run they will make stress worse.

These days being organized is important to everyone. Timely strategies can literally transform the way you manage every minute of your workday. Maria Gracia, in an article on the Rental Decorating web site for April 2006, suggests six simple ways to not procrastinate and start getting things done:

1. Set realistic goals, if you wish write them down to make them more concrete, and it will motivate you to keep working towards your goal.
2. Make to do lists, always spend a minimum of 10 minutes per day, preparing your to do list for tomorrow.
3. Get your beauty sleep, so you can be alert and ready for the following day.
4. Avoid overload, don’t take on too much, first determine how much study time you need, and then choose one or two recreational activities that you enjoy.
5. Use a student planner, use a planner/organizer (for example, a filofax ranges in cost from $18-$80).
6. If you find yourself getting off track, simply take a deep breath and get back on track.

For more ideas to help you get organized check out www.rentaldecorating.com/0303studentsorganized.htm.

Come on QCC students! Admit that when you say to yourself, “I’ll get to it when I get a chance,” you’ll never get to it! Finals are around the corner so you need to get your act together and learn what kinds of relaxation work best for helping you to become better organized. Remember, you can be in control! Life is too short to waste it feeling stressed and being depressed. Visit the following web site for suggestions on ways to improve the way you manage your time at home and at work: www.stressbusting.co.uk/articles/coping organised.asp. There is a quiz that you can take to see how stressed you really are!

Continue Your Education With Empire State College

You can earn a SUNY degree and have a life with Empire State College. Choose from a wide range of flexible education options – one-to-one mentoring, online learning, individualized degree programs and the opportunity to earn credit for college-level learning gained from work and life – at 35 locations throughout New York state.

Undergraduate Information Sessions – September and November Terms

Wednesday, May 10, 6 p.m.    Trainor House
Saturday, May 13, 11 a.m.     223 Store Hill Road
Monday, May 22, 6 p.m.        Old Westbury
Friday, May 12, 11 a.m.        Fifth Floor
Monday, June 19, 6 p.m.       325 Hudson Street
                              New York
                              212 647-7800

Wednesday, May 10, 6 p.m.    Third Floor
Thursday, May 25, 3 p.m.      20 New York Avenue
Thursday, June 14, 6 p.m.     Brooklyn
                              718 783-4400

The Student Union Center is the place. At the Student Union the relaxation of students is the number one priority. At the Student Union Center there are many things a student can do, including billiards, arcades, tables to sit and talk to friends, internet terminals, and a TV room with cable access, plus a whole lot more. On the tables there are up-to-date magazines including, for example, Time, Life Style, Cosmopolitan, and Men’s Health. If the student wishes to bring food from home to the campus and wants to heat it up the Student Union has a Microwave that can be accessed by any student for free. To borrow a board game such as Monopoly, Chess, and Battle of the Sexes, your student identification card is needed.

The billiards area of the Student Union Center contains five tables accessible to the student by the employees of the Student Union. There is a jukebox with a variety of songs that range from Hip-Hop, R&B, Rap, and Jazz so you can relax to the music of your choice.

Housed within the Student Union Center are two important offices, that of the Student Government, and Student Activities. The employees in the Student Government office are Dr. Joan Greenhut, acting manager of the Student Union Center and Student Government, Natasha Thomas, Student Union Center Coordinator, and Christine Patrizzo, Student Government Secretary. The employees of the Student Activities office include Ziomara Zamora, Assistant Director of Student Activities, and Jean Wittig, Student Activities Secretary. The staff in both offices work hand in hand to ensure the students comfort and safety while on campus. These offices work together to provide QCC student clubs and other activities. Two recent events coordinated by these offices have been the Y.E.A.H Event (Years End Annual Hoopla) on May 10, 2006 located on the Queensboro Community College Track and Field right next to the Q27 bus stop, and the Student Union Center’s Billiard Tournament that took place on May 3, 2006.

Over 500 people participate in the Student Union’s activities and services each day. To accommodate the growing number of students looking for a place to unwind between classes, the upper level of the Student Union building is currently being remodeled for full use by students seeking recreation and relaxation. All of these activities and services are made possible by the employees of the Student Union Center.

If you find yourself between classes with time to spare check out the Student Union Center where you can hang out or play some pool, it has something for everyone.

The hours of Student Union are Monday – Thursday from 9AM-7PM, and Friday from 9AM-5PM; billiards hours may vary.
Adelphi University’s continued success with transfer students extends well beyond our **ease of transfer credits** or **wide-ranging programs of study**. Nearly 80% of our transfers return for a second year or more, thanks to Adelphi’s faculty and staff who foster a **supportive academic environment**. Through our Transfer Student Orientation Day, **students can interact with one another as they adjust to campus** and learn more about the many on-campus services available to them. Work with a tutor to **strengthen your writing at our Writing Center**, or stop by our Career Development Center to find an internship suited to your career interests. Whatever your needs, Adelphi is committed to providing you **an ideal place to transfer**.

To learn more about the benefits of transferring to Adelphi, call (516) 877-3050 or email transfer@adelphi.edu.
The Crisis in Sudan

BY ANDELKYZ PEREZ

Conflict is actually between the “Janjaweed,” a militia group recruited by local Arabs tribes and supported by the government, and non Arabs of the region. Many villages in southern Darfur have been completely destroyed by the Janjaweed. The distance between the villages that have been destroyed and Arab villages has been less than 500 meters. Many survivors of these attacks are held hostage by the Janjaweed where they are abused, killed in cold blood, and the women are raped. The Janjaweed have also prevented humanitarian aid from reaching the displaced people in Darfur. They have taken control of the livestock, food stores and even the clothes. The attacks are also being carried out via starvation and by poisoning the water supplies.

This genocide in Darfur is especially strange and disturbing in that many non Arab Dafurian tribes are Muslim. According to the American Jewish World Service (AJWS), more than 400,000 men, women and children have been killed since 2003. More than 3.5 million need assistance and 1.83 million are displaced. These numbers are very alarming due to the fact that there are only a little over half a dozen refugee camps in Chad, the neighboring country which is in conflict with the Sudanese government. At present, there are over a million refugees in Chad. There are also camps in Darfur, but those are only accessible during rainy season which is from June to September.

The Sudanese government has denied all allegations or accusations of genocide in Darfur. In addition, it is very disturbing to discover that though the violence has been going on for so long NATO is not involved, and the UN hasn’t done much. Further, the African Union (AU) proposal for Afro-Arab relations has failed so far to help relieve the ongoing conflict. In an effort by the AU, 300 soldiers were sent to the region to protect aid workers and civilians from the Janjaweed attacks in an area the size of France. However, the white vans that are used by the AU to mobilize have also been used by the Janjaweed to commit their atrocities.

In 2005, UN secretary-general Kofi Annan responded that, “Experience has led us to grapple with the fact that no legal principle, not even sovereignty should ever be allowed to shield genocide crimes against humanity and mass human suffering.”

This conflict will never end unless freedom from islamisation and arabisation is granted to the black Sudanese. Both parties have currently come to an agreement that allows them to practice their own religion without the fear of being attacked or killed. This process will take time and will not happen without international help. Many extraordinary humanitarian organizations are willing to help stop the suffering of the people of Darfur, among them The AJWS which has raised more than $2 million to provide emergency relief and to support the survivors of the genocide. Other organizations that are reaching out to help include the American Muslim Advancement, Amnesty International, and the United States Holocaust Museum. To find out how you can help log on to www.ajws.org or www.darfurgenocide.org, or called the Sudan relief and advocacy foundation at 800.889.7146.

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Mechatronic engineering is what happens when mechanical engineering meets electrical engineering and computer-aided design. Its application can be found in products that feature an efficient use of energy through smart design, including robotics and even the Mars Rover.

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Vaughn College announces its new bachelor of science degree in mechatronic engineering.

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“Naomi in the Living Room” 
BY CHARLES CHEN

Outrageous. Stupendous. Colorful. Gritty. Sophisticated. Complex. Controversial? All while being outrageously funny. How subtle my praises for Queensborough’s latest theatre production of “Naomi in the Living Room” can I possibly make it? It’s simply the best five bucks you can ever spend on (tasteful) entertainment, and it’s just a 2 minute walk to the Shadowbox theatre! Broadway has arrived at Queensborough!

“Naomi in the Living Room” is an outrageous play written by Christopher Durang, and is directed by Michele Cuomo of Queensborough. It is ten (count’em... TEN!) short stories in one, filled with a diverse complete cast of characters that challenges the status quo, boggles the mind, and surprise the most humorless stoics. This play truly has something for everyone to enjoy. The seasoned theatre buff would surely delight in the satirical references to “A Streetcar Named Desire”, “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof”, and “Hedgewick and the Angry Inch”, the sophisticated would get a kick out of the Christopher Durang’s take on right-wing politics, and the casual audience will certainly delight in the often spontaneous, silly, and even intelligent humor. Be forewarned! The use of mature language and certain subject matters presented (cross-dressing men), means that the play is not absolutely for everyone, so hire a babysitter.

With a cast of more than 30 actors and actresses, it’s quite stunning for a small school production. There’s never a dull moment as you are bombarded by hilarious cameos and almost random outbursts of emotion and endless energy of ten different stories in one. Who can forget the crude, sex obsessed gym teacher portrayed by Carlos Alvarez, who makes repeated offensive sexual remarks to his grade school kids and demand they have a sense of humor about it. The preppy, innocent, naïve men in their mid-20’s, known as the “Hardy Boys” have no idea what sex is, who for fun still like to occasionally do the sickening juvenile game of switching their v-neck varsity sweaters with each other, and are hopelessly clueless as their nurse tries to seduce them (stripping them down their pants and tying them together), all in the while trying to solve the mystery: what does it mean when a girl has “a bun in the oven”?

The crazy doctor, played by Sylvester Zukowski, demands to detain and subdue his poor patient with anesthesia, (played by Kane Chiang ) who only came to the doctor to be treated for his seasonal allergies, only for the doctor to ambiguously accuse him of contracting a venereal disease by irresponsible marathon casual sex, and is a danger to the health of society. Sylvester and Kane then comes back for the next short story where they exchange the same victim/victimized dialogue role as the DMV worker and the customer....Kane’s character starts to lose his emotional stability when the DMV worker ignores and ridicules his request for a new copy of his driver’s license, only for the DMV worker to subdue him again (with a another needle!) because he deemed the customer (again) to be crazed and his emotional stability boggles the mind, but can you appreciate this satire if you have never seen “A Streetcar Named Desire”?

Priceless!! I have never seen “A Streetcar Named Desire,” but this satire is so greatly entertaining that even those unfamiliar with its source will get a kick out of it.

With a spectacular finish worthy of Broadway, I must stress that everyone should take advantage of watching this wonderful tour de force of drama and comedy. I brought my friend and his girlfriend along, and truly they laughed their pants off. For the price paid, they raved about this “secret jewel” of Queensborough Community College, and they demand this production be promoted and be known by all in the community. Well I agree...this is me doing my part. Watch this show!

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Roger Toussaint, president of Transport Workers Union Local 100, led the illegal three-day December strike that crippled the city and brought massive financial penalties against the union. As a result of this action, Toussaint had to pay a personal price when he was sentenced to serve ten days in jail starting Monday, April 10, 2006. Toussaint was released from jail in less than a week on Friday morning. Toussaint was the only TWU leader sentenced to jail. He also had to pay a $1,000 fine, and Transport workers Union Local 100 had been ordered to pay $2.5 million. He did not appeal the sentence in hopes that it would impose a lighter financial penalty on the union. “I will do 30 years before transit workers surrender,” said Mr. Toussaint. (www.nytimes.com, 2006)

Toussaint volunteered to begin serving his sentence well before the set deadline. “It is my honor --- my honor --- to be standing here and about to turn myself in,” he told the crowd at a workers rally at Cadman Plaza in Brooklyn. (www.nydailynews.com, 2006) He stated he was not scared of going to jail, he was just worried that his 10 days behind bars will mean 10 days of fear for his family. He knows that this took the greatest toll on his ten year old son Tano. “He asked me whether I’ll be okay. I gave him assurance that I’ll be fine, that his father will not be at risk. But he is a 10 year old boy, he is very aware of what is going on.” (www.nydailynews.com, 2006)

Toussaint hopes his time in jail will not only rally New Yorkers who are worried about keeping their pensions and health benefits but also pressure the MTA to adopt a new contract with the union. The MTA on the other hand, pushed for a jail term, millions of dollars in fines, and revocation of the union’s automatic dues deductions from workers paychecks. Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Theodore Jones granted the MTA all three. “This is an attempt to subject the union to a public flogging in order to intimidate everyone from standing up,” Toussaint said. “It’s going to backfire. People see that we have a right to fight to defend pensions and health benefits that go along with hard work.” (www.nydailynews.com, 2006)

While Toussaint was serving his ten day sentence in jail, Toussaint was just another prisoner. In a wing with other nonviolent offenders, he had his own 7 by 11 foot cell and he’ll be allowed to wear his own clothing. Corrections officials say Toussaint was eligible for early release from his sentence after seven days. Since the 7th day fell on a Sunday, the law calls for him to be released the previous Friday. During an interview with NY1’s Dominic Carter, Toussaint said he does not regret last year’s illegal strike. The TWU and the MTA have still not agreed on a new contract. The MTA refused to recognize the contract the union voted to approve previously. MTA chairman Peter Kalikow, countering Toussaint, said the only victims were people who weren’t able to get to work during the strike. “There was a criminal act committed against the riders of the system. The poorest people in this city were denied paychecks at Christmas time, caused by a strike that was illegal,” said Peter Kalikow. (www.ny1.com, 2006)
How Different Are We When It Comes to Our Culture?  

BY CRISTAL ZELADA

When it comes to comparing North American culture to Latin American culture where does one begin? There are differences in education, food, and social customs. Every culture has distinct characteristics that make it different from every other culture. Some differences are quite evident such as language, political organization, and religion. Learning about the customs and cultural differences of a particular country can give someone on the outside a better understanding and appreciation regarding, for example, food and music – both of which contribute to the pleasure of life.

Socially, people in every country interact differently. In countries such as Argentina, Italy, and Uruguay men kiss on the cheek. In American culture many men greet each other with a simple handshake or in some occasions a hug. In most cases it would probably be awkward if an American man kissed another man on the cheek. A person must adapt when going to a country that has different customs. Traveling to Argentina, for example, I had to adapt to the lifestyle. In the small town of Taboada things moved at a slow pace. It was completely opposite from the lifestyle in New York City which is always accelerating. In Argentina, stores close from one to three in the afternoon for siesta. When you wake up in the morning in NYC you normally hear cars and other typical city noises. Not in Taboada. I woke up to the sounds of roosters, donkeys, and horses. The weather is very different as well; winter in Argentina is like spring for us. Also the heat is dry; it doesn’t have the humidity of NYC. To experience life from another’s perspective is amazing. I never understood why my aunt and uncle were so fascinated with New York when they came, maybe it was because I’ve always lived here. But, now I know, it’s the experience of learning new customs and social customs. Every culture has distinct characteristics that make it different from every other culture. Some differences are quite evident such as language, political organization, and religion. Learning about the customs and cultural differences of a particular country can give someone on the outside a better understanding and appreciation regarding, for example, food and music – both of which contribute to the pleasure of life.

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Women’s “Fast Pitch” Softball News

The Lady Tigers played in the Region XV Tournament on 5/5-5/6/06 @ Nassau CC. They defeated Westchester CC (7-6) for a last inning come from behind victory. The Tigers then suffered losses to Dutchess CC and Monroe College. Congratulations to Gloria Fernandez & Cindy Gonzalez, they were both honored with ALL Tournament Awards.

Congratulations to Dutchess CC, they advance to NICCAA College World Series @ Minnesota on 5/19-5/23.

Men’s Baseball News

QCC lost the CUNY Championship to Bronx CC (10-8) on 5/4/06. The Tigers will be playing a one game regional playoff on 5/9/06 against Monroe College @ American Legion Field. The winner of this game will advance to the Regional Tournament @ Suffolk CC on 5/12-5/14/06. The Winner of the Tournament will advance to the NICCAA College World Series @ Glens Falls, NY on 5/20-5/27/06.

Men’s & Women’s Track News

The Tigers will be participating in the NICCAA National Championships @ Buffalo, NY on 5/11-5/13. They will also be participating in the CUNY Championships @ Icahn Stadium on 5/14/06.

Go Tigers!

1st Place

Congratulations to the following QCC athletes that captured

ALL Regional (Region XV) Honors:

Renita Raghbubir – 1st Team, All Region
Yahaira Bernal – 2nd Team, All Region
Tasha Brignoni – Honorable Mention, Region XV
Cindy Gonzalez – 2nd Team, All Region
Samantha Pine – Honorable Mention, Region XV
Brenda Heredia – 2nd Team, All Region

Congratulations to the QCC Women’s Softball Coaching Staff.
They have been awarded the 2006 Coaches of the Year Award.

Go Lady Tigers!

Looking for a Job

continued from page 11

ing. While it’s true that some employers may be harsh or test you, others will leave you feeling respected and valued when you meet them. Remember, most hiring managers were once in entry-level jobs themselves at one time. Should you not be selected for a particular opportunity, it may be that it would not be the right level of challenge for you anyway. It is important to keep looking and not let initial disappointment prevent you from succeeding. Learn where you fit in and improve your presentation skills with employers as you conduct the search. Believe it or not, a job search can be fun at times! If you give yourself the chance, you can feel more confident as you proceed. You live through the ups and downs of job hunting and benefit from it. At some point, you may even find yourself with more than one job offer from which to choose. However, if you still find yourself getting stuck or confused, remember that there are staff on campus who can help you move ahead.

Women's “Fast Pitch”

Softball News

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Go Lady Tigers!

OTHER STUDENT NEWS

Rafael Perez has been named a 2006 NIH Genome Scholar

Congratulations to Rafael and his mentors Dr. Regina Sullivan and Dr. Susan Rotenberg, ‘Department of Biology, Queensborough Community College; ‘Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Queens College.

Rafael is a participant in RIMS funded by QCC-NIH Bridges to Future Program

Wagging the Dog

continued from page 2

and reality. They take bits of intelligence to support their agenda and ignore everything contrary. They should be eliminated." "The Raw Story" journalist Larisa Alexandrova in 2006 reported that the OSP “deployed several extra-legal and unapproved task force missions.” An analyst working for Douglas Feith, former defense department employee Larry Franklin has been charged in the APIAC espionage scandal, and Douglas Feith is being investigated by the FBI as well. Both men are under suspicion of conspiracy to overthrow the governments of Iran and Syria. Larry Franklin has since pleaded guilty to the espionage charge and in January 2006 was sentenced to 13 years in prison.

Ramsey Clark, former 66th United States Attorney General, although not a particularly popular figure having joined the defense team for Saddam Hussein, is one among several influential government and public figures who supports the movement to impeach George Bush. One-time presidential hopeful Ralph Nader, fellow Republican and Congressman John Conyers, Senator Barbara Boxer, politician and American Civil Rights movement leader John Lewis Clark, and even the state legislatures of Illinois and California are but a few of the individuals and organizational bodies who have presently advocated the impeachment.

Even Barron’s Magazine, a highly reputable weekly publication for investors on Wall Street, featured an editorial to consider the impeachment of George Bush. This editorial by Editor Thomas G. Donlan, states “...Putting the president above the Congress is an invitation to tyranny. The president has no powers except those specified in the Constitution and those enacted by law. President Bush is stretching the power of commander-in-chief of the Army and Navy by indicating that he can order the military and its agencies, such as the National Security Agency, to do whatever furthers the defense of the country from terrorists, regardless of whether actual force is involved.”

A book released just this month, The Case for Impeachment: The Legal Argument for Removing President w. Bush from Office, written by David Lindorff and released by St. Martin’s Press, outlines the allegations against the Bush Administration in great detail. It follows events pre- 9/11 all the way to the declaration of the Patriot Act and Homeland Security. The author in the preface hopes to make the general American public aware of the disturbing discrepancies in the presidency of George W. Bush, and calls Americans to take back their liberties and their country.

The responsibility of protecting the Constitution and our civil liberties lies with us, the American public. We cannot hope to fully trust in the government that has dominion over us without being allowed, even encouraged, to question and debate its decisions and when necessary to dissent. The Bush Administration asks us to give up our civil liberties for the sake of national security in the “War on Terror.” Benjamin Franklin said it best: “They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.” If we exchange our liberties for security, the inevitable result will be the loss of both.