An Albany Committee approved a bill that would allow the seriously ill to smoke marijuana to ease pain and other medical troubles reported on one website called NORML.org. The committee voted 16-6 to report the measure, which would require doctors to certify that patients have a serious condition that could benefit from the use of marijuana. The bill also could receive a month’s supply of marijuana from organizations authorized by the state Health Department to grow and distribute marijuana.

The bill, headed by Health Committee Chairman Richard Gottfried, D-Manhattan, must also be approved by two other committees before going to the full democrat-dominated Assembly for approval. The bill lacks sponsors in the Republican-controlled Senate and is not supported by Governor George Pataki.

These obstacles did not stop the bill’s supporters from showing a sense of victory. “Approval of this bill by the Assembly Health Committee is a historic first step,” said Vincent Marrone, a lobbyist for New Yorkers for Compassionate Care, a pro-medical marijuana group funded by Peter Lewis, chairman of the Progressive Insurance Co. “It provides hope to people across the state that would benefit from its enactment.”

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EDITORIALS

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Spring Break
A Luxury and a Necessity
BY TODD THOMAS

Even with Saddam and his Baath party’s regime down, there is still much work to be done by the American military. Law and order, food, and keeping the peace between ethnic groups are some of many things that the American military has to complete in its mission in Iraq. So while many people around our age are out fighting a war and keeping the peace to a foreign country does it make it okay for the young people over here to party and enjoy the luxuries of things like spring break?

While many of us were at Cancun, South Beach or just watching Spring Break on MTV at home we seemed to forget about more important issues abroad. It’s okay to go about our daily routine and enjoy vacation time as we please because it’s a part of our freedom. Many people are making the sacrifice for us so we were able to fly out to South Beach and enjoy some of the best times of our lives. If we as Americans stop going about our normal lives and sacrifice our social lives because of foreign issues, then we are losing a part of our way of life. The president is constantly telling us to keep doing the things we do despite the turmoil abroad and the potential turmoil that can be inflicted at home.

This doesn’t mean however that we should forget why we can enjoy the luxuries that we have. While people were rubbing sun tan lotion on a gorgeous babe in Cancun, people should also remember that soldiers were rubbing sun tan lotion to combat the scorching desert sun. While people were lying in bed sick with a hangover after binge drinking the night before, remember that soldiers are also are lying in hospital cots because they have been wounded in combat. Or if you were bored to death watching reruns of MTV’s spring break at home, remember someone would’ve loved to trade places with what you enjoy vacation time as we please because it’s a part of our freedom. Many people are making the sacrifice for us so we were able to fly out to South Beach and enjoy some of the best times of our lives. If we as Americans stop going about our normal lives and sacrifice our social lives because of foreign issues, then we are losing a part of our way of life. The president is constantly telling us to keep doing the things we do despite the turmoil abroad and the potential turmoil that can be inflicted at home.

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Reflecting on Words For War
BY DEMITRI DIAKANTONIS

Queensborough students have mixed feelings for the war in Iraq. Although the war has drawn to a close, most students still feel the same way as they felt from the beginning, while others have no opinions at all.

Some students are against the war and others feel we did a good thing by going into Iraq.

“I’m against it, I was against it the whole time,” one student commented. Another student had a more political view, “I don’t like politics at all, I think there are too many corrupt people, I think it’s too corrupt.” When it came to the war itself, he had four simple words: “I think it’s stupid.”

Not all QCC students are against the war. There are those who like what we have done with the war. “From the beginning I agreed with the war because Saddam Hussein needs to be dismantled.” The same student at the same time supports the U.S. troops. “It was nice to see the coalition forces doing what they needed to do and that was liberating the Iraqi people.”

Todd Thomas, another student at QCC, had a more worldwide view on the war: “We shouldn’t really worry about world opinions so much.” Thomas feels that the European countries are too worried about our place in the world. “The reason they stress it so much because that’s how they used to be, and they are not the world police,” commented Thomas.

Lauren M. Hersh, who is a visiting student here at QCC, is not for or against the war. “I don’t think I’m well informed to honestly say or state my opinion of the war,” Hersch stated.

Not everyone has an opinion about the war but there seems to be an even division of those who are for it and against the war.
Just recently NYPIRG conducted a new survey of electronic banking fees and are they calling for an end to unfair and unnecessary ATM fees. The group published a report about their findings called ATMs—Always Taking Money and they came to the conclusion that using Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) and Debit Cards are costly activities for New York consumers. Since 1997 they have published six reports about this issue.

It all started on April 1, 1996 when Plus and Cirrus which are owned by Visa and MasterCard lifted the ban on ATM surcharging. NYPIRG realized that these surcharges were especially bad for low-income consumers like students. As a result, they conducted an ATM survey. At first they found no ATMs had assessed a surcharge, but that changed over the years. First 1/3 of the ATMs surcharged; then 2/3, then ninety percent and now in 2003 almost ninety-nine percent of the ATMs surveyed surcharge. Over the years both Senator Alphonse D’Amato and City Council Speaker Peter Vallone have introduced state legislation. The legislation was challenged by banks in court and all of it died out.

There were four key findings in the latest NYPIRG ATM report. The first concerns Debit Card confusion. Debit card fees were assessed by half the banks surveyed when customers made purchase-based purchases, with the highest fee being $1.50. A pin-based purchase occurs when a consumer swipes their card in a point of sale (POS) machine and is required to enter their Personal Identification Number (PIN). In contrast, banks do not assess Debit Card fees when consumers use them for signature-based transactions. Signature-based transactions are when a consumer uses their card like a credit card. The consumer signs for the purchase, and the amount is deducted from that person’s checking account in a day or two.

The second finding concerns Triple Dipping. The consumer has to pay three different (triple) fees when using an Independent Service Operator (ISO) ATM. ISOs are non-bank ATM machines found in places such as convenience stores, train stations, bars and cashing establishments. The first fee is paid to the operator of the ATM, who might be for example Citibank. They might charge $1.00 to non-Citibank customers. The Second fee is paid to the owner of the ATM terminal, who might be for example MoneyMaker Network. They might charge $1.50 to non-Citibank customers. The third is a transaction fee for using a foreign ATM, which can be as high as $2.25. In this case the customer would be charged $4.75 for just one ATM transaction.

The third concerns Predatory Banking practices. When a neighborhood is under-banked (non-white, low-income neighborhoods where banks are scarce), there are many ways that they can be preyed upon. The person living in this type of neighborhood usually can’t afford the fees of a bank account. They may have to use ISOs which can have fees of $150 or higher. They also have to watch out for Check Cashers. In a survey of forty-five check cashers nearly all charged the 1.4 percent per transaction fee allowed by state law. That could add up to $324 a year in fees for a typical person. They should also be careful about prepaid Visa or MasterCards. With these cards come hefty activation fees, per transaction fees, fees to check a balance at ATMs or on the phone, dormancy fees and per check fees (if checks are even offered at all).

The fourth and most shocking finding is how much banks are benefiting from all these new fees they have inflicted on the customer. Banks have had a record-breaking year with profits exceeding ninety billion dollars despite the recession and the September eleventh attacks. Compare this to last year’s record-breaking bank profits of seventy-four billion dollars. A significant amount of this extra sixteen billion dollars came from non-interest revenues, particularly fee income. This translates to ATM surcharges, credit card fees, foreign ATM fees and other fees. This is how NYPIRG came to the conclusion that banks would continue to thrive without this extra money these fees bring in.

In order to reduce or eliminate these ATM related fees, there are several things that can be done. Complain to the individual banks about the foreign ATM transaction fees and debit card fees. Choose a bank that offers “basic banking accounts.” Contact the bank periodically to review the exact terms of current accounts. Use the bank’s ATM where you have an account to avoid foreign fees. Use ATMs that do not surcharge or that assess a lower surcharge. Or withdraw larger amounts of money, thereby reducing the number of times fees are charged. Or go to a teller instead of an ATM, but first make sure that there is no “Teller fee.” On April 10, 2003 NYPIRG held a news conference in the Empire State Building to discuss their latest ATM surcharge survey and report. Reporters attended it from television stations such as FOX5, as well other TV stations and newspapers in both English and Spanish. NYPIRG consumer attorney Tracey Shelton made a point of saying that “banks survived and thrived because the 1996 ban on surcharging was lifted.” For those who agree with what Shelton said and are interested in more information concerning ATM fees, NYPIRG can be contacted at: 9 Murray Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10007. NYPIRG can also be reached at (212) 349-6460. Tracey Shelton, NYPIRG consumer attorney; Susan Craine, NYPIRG legislative counsel; Russ Haven, NYPIRG legislative counsel; and Ed Mierzwinski, USPIRG senior consumer associate, authored the ATM report.

SARS: An Epidemic On The Rise

By Marlene Rivera

SARS better known as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome is an epidemic which has no cure. The virus so far has spread to nearly 30 countries, killing more than 300 and infecting about 5,000 people worldwide. Where was the place from which this disease initially spread? The World Health Organization has said that this disease started in the Asian community. Apparently the virus started as early as November in Guangdong. The Chinese government has apologized for covering it up. China has reported 3,300 cases and 148 deaths. Most of these cases come from the capital of China, Beijing. This disease has also proven to be a severe and deadly disease for Toronto, which is near the Asian community.

SARS is not only a threat to the health of the population. It is also a threat to the economy. The virus has caused a problem for Chinese tourists, who are a major source of revenue for China. The virus has also caused a problem for the economy of Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan.

How do you stop such a rapidly growing virus? The Chinese government has started to screen travelers. This program was started in order to stop further spread of the virus. The virus is set to make a rise in Singapore, Hong Kong, Vietnam and Canada.

With SARS on a rapid rise it is safe to assume that this country would like to see more added protection. Our economy is not at its lowest point. What can we do? We can take these four steps:

1. A fever over 100.4 degrees
2. One or more of the following: cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.
3. Close contact with a SARS case, or a recent travel to Hong Kong, southern China, Vietnam or Singapore.
4. If you feel that you have any of these symptoms, then you should see a doctor as soon as possible.
Patient Privacy Law Goes Into Effect  

**BY WENDY DIAZ**

The medical information of patients is a very delicate issue of privacy that all wish not to be given out. A patient privacy rule was established on April 14, 2003. This will be the first federal law that will guarantee medical privacy to everyone.

The changes that will be made are that the patient’s sign-in sheet will no longer be asked to write down their conditions because other patients will be able to see the sheet. In emergency rooms, the large white boards where patients’ names and medical conditions are posted will be removed out of the public view. Patients’ charts should be turned to face the wall in the hospitals so people walking by cannot read them. In addition, new computer software that allows doctors to identify patients by only their full name or initials.

Hospitals will have new polices about giving information about patients’ conditions. No information at all may be released to anyone even if the patients should agree. Hospitals can only release limited information. According to Dr. Hausfeld, “This is the biggest thing to hit health care sector since Medicare.”

The Clinton Administration first started this and now Bush administration has decided to allow and proceed with the changes. All patients will be notified of their new rights. Patients will have the complete right to know if their medical records are being shared with anyone. Neither doctors nor hospitals will be able to give out information without the patient’s consent. This first federal law will provide medical privacy to patients who do not wish to share their information. Anyone that violates this law will have to face fines $250,000 and 10 years in prison. Patients will now get their rights and protection that they deserve.

Laval University Researches “Invisible Condom”  

**BY ANNISA SMITH**

In November 1997 a Canadian University unveiled the “invisible condom.” The new condom, which has been developing for over seven years by Laval University’s Infectious Diseases Research Center, is an odorless, clear liquid which takes the form of a gel at body temperature. Laval said tests showed that the gel formed a waterproof shield that reduced the transmission of the HIV virus (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) responsible for AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) and may also block the virus responsible for genital herpes. If it is used with a spermicide, it can serve as a contraceptive.

According to Michael Bergeron, director of the center, “Our invisible condom was developed to protect women who are victims of men who refuse to wear latex. We call it invisible because it can be used without telling the partner who doesn’t want to use a latex condom.” BBC news stated that researchers have been granted more than $150,000 in federal funds to trial the invisible condom.

According to the AIDS research alliance website in the year 2001 a worldwide estimation of 40 million people live with AIDS; there was also a report of 3 million deaths and 5 million new cases of the virus. The virus has also been linked to over 13 million orphans worldwide.

The Fifth Social Security Digit: Conspiracy or Coincidence?  

**BY Todd Thomas**

In this day and age it seems that as Americans we are reaching the ultimate democracy of freedom and justice. The minority population in the decade of the 90s made financial gains unprecedented than in any other decade. On college applications, for example, people have the option to indicate what ethnicity they are without people knowing. Or do they? According to most people when asked, they believe people can identify an ethnicity of someone by the fifth digit of their social security number.

According to an online study conducted by Tavis Smiley, all African Americans and Latinos he asked had an even number on the fifth digit of their social security number. Most people probably wouldn’t make anything of it; however, “Rumor has it, and some companies are looking at potential Social Security numbers to discriminate. Something like this could be a setback for people who submit an application and whose application is already discarded because they are a minority. It couldn’t be proven that a company was discriminating because the person who submitted the application never was called for an interview, so how could they be charged for discrimination? Some college boards could want a set criteria of minorities of a student population and even if a student applying doesn’t list what ethnicity they are, the social security number would give it away. To see how the numbers turned out, a survey was conducted of 60 individuals, 15 Hispanic, 15 black and 30 white. All 30 of the white individuals... continued on page 6
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Clubs on Campus: Learning Diverse Cultural Styles

By Kimberly Sanford

What really goes on at club meetings? Did you ever feel like you don’t belong, even if the signs say all are welcome? Of course, you might not want to go to a meeting you wouldn’t feel comfortable, but what if you were curious?

At a recent Muslim Student Association Club meeting the topic was marriage. This club meets Wednesdays from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. in room H-205. Usually attendance varies, mostly women attend but there are various speakers. Mainly the students are Muslims; however, their advisor Wendell Haynes does not practice.

From this meeting I learned many things about the ways of a Muslim in marriage. Can a Muslim have more than one wife? Circumstances may warrant the taking of another wife but the right is granted, according to the Quran, only on condition that the husband is scrupulously fair. A Muslim marriage is a simple legal agreement in which either partner is free to include conditions. Many of these ways are just ways to please the relationship they have with their god. Muslims are able to marry someone who believes in only one god.

Coming to a close of a two-hour meeting, I was able to sit down with the speaker. Brother Rawad, Abu Younus, was the speaker that day. Brother Rawad is a 20-year-old QCC student who speaks of the teachings of the book of the Quran. As we spoke, I asked of his background or what he felt comfortable to tell me. One question was do you consider yourself an American? With hesitation he replied, if America is used as an adjective: yes. Do you vote? From what I learned he does not, which is true of many young people today. Brother Rawad is a young man with insight but where could such insight come from?

During his discussion, those young adults in the classroom looked to him with such an eagerness to follow in his ways. Although many different clubs meet at QCC, what types of speakers are we inviting to share their ideas with our students? We may not agree with some things our government is doing, with such an eagerness to follow in his ways. Although many different clubs meet at QCC, what types of speakers are we inviting to share their ideas with our students? We may not agree with some things our government is doing, but should we not support the troops who are fighting for us? Should these clubs meeting be held if those who hold them are against the very country that makes freedom of speech occur? We all have our own nationalities we are proud of and religions we believe in. However, when you don’t believe in a country that lets you practice your beliefs, would you speculate: why live here?

Naturalization Benefits International Students

By Marie C. Phillips

America is the land of freedom. Most of the people who live here are foreign-born or the children of foreigners. In the U.S., freedom of speech and human rights are valued more than any other country. Queensborough CC is located in the most diversified borough-, Queens. This college is made up of people from all over the world. At Queensborough there are as many dialects as there are ethnic groups. In fact half of the students are foreigners.

We are all here learning, educating ourselves in the English language. To become truly unified, in spite of our diversities many foreigners need to become American citizens. Becoming a citizen is the most valuable gift a person can give themselves.

Citizenship is rewarded in a vast number of ways. You are entitled to most of the privileges and rights that are granted to those who are born here, the right to vote, one can hold public office and work for the government. Also, one can live outside of the country and still remain a citizen.

One can voice their opinions without the fear of danger or reprisals. This privilege alone is so valuable that people from other countries risk their lives to get to America. In some countries, even today, some people, torture, rape, and kill anyone who speaks negatively against their government and the people in power. One can say whatever they like as long as their opinion doesn’t advocate hate or crime.

In addition, if one is family oriented, a citizenship will give you the opportunity to bring your immediate family to America, married or single.

However, if one is here on a student visa granted by their country’s government, you should go back home for the betterment of your country. If one is here for more than five years, and has good moral character, they should look into becoming an American citizen.

The opportunities that it provides for one and their family are almost endless. As an American citizen, one feels more important than ever since they’re part of the greatest country in the world. Having self-pride and respect that comes from feeling important is one of the key goals human beings strive for.

If interested, please go to the Library Building Room 431 for more information. We are looking for more educated American citizens. Become part of this great country, the U.S.A.

Footnote- U.S. Immigration & Citizenship by Allan Wernickn

Fifth Social Security Digit

continued from page 4

black and 30 white. All 30 of the white individuals said they had an odd number as there fifth digit in the social security number. All 15 blacks said they had an even number as a fifth digit along with the 15 Hispanics asked. If the claim of the fifth digit in the social security number is true, what is the purpose for it? Perhaps it is a convenience for census purposes or to keep track of American migrations. In any case to indicate an ethnic background by a number seems like foul play on the part of the government. Perhaps the fifth digit of the social security number is just an exaggerated coincidence. Or is it a conspiracy?
Dr. Patricia E. Maher, Vice President for Student Affairs at Queensborough Community College (QCC) will be retiring this coming August 1, 2003. Her career at QCC began in September of 1969 where she started out as an instructor/counselor and elevated herself to her current position.

Dr. Maher better known as Dr. Evanoski came to QCC after completion of a Master’s program in Counselor Education at New York University (NYU). Prior to this she was the Director of Admissions and Scholarship at a Liberal Arts college in Ohio and at this college she found that she was doing more counseling of students. Dr. Evanoski said, “I realized the need for training. I applied to graduate school and enrolled in NYU.”

Dr. Evanoski has worked with many QCC students and faculty who are very fond and proud of her. Many agree that Dr. Evanoski is courteous, helpful and kind. Her role at QCC is a one that needs commitment and leadership and Dr. Evanoski assumes the role with ease. As the Vice President for Student Affairs as a member of the President’s Cabinet, her responsibility lies in providing leadership to formulate college policies that create a supportive environment for educational success and student development. Dr. Evanoski’s responsibilities also extend to the following areas: Recruitment and Admission, Counseling, Financial Aid, Career Services, Services for Student with Disabilities, College Discovery, International Student Services and Immigration Center, Student Activities, Health Services, Child Care, Students Judicial Affairs and several grant-funded programs such as CSTEP, COPE and Liberty Partnership.

Dr. Evanoski’s journey in her career has been a rewarding one and her goal has always been to work in an educational environment. She says “I have always enjoyed the opportunity of working in educational settings where people are given opportunities for growth, development and attainment of their personal goals. And I have enjoyed helping people.” She also adds, “Since most of my professional life has been devoted to QCC, I have seen tremendous change in our student body and have been pleased to have been a part of meeting the needs of our students and providing opportunities for their growth.” Moreover, “Our students are much more diverse than thirty years ago. This diversity has enriched the lives of all who are part of the Queensborough community.” The satisfaction of how QCC has evolved with regards to its diversity and accomplishments makes Dr. Evanoski proud.

Dr. Evanoski is looked upon as a role model by many and respected. She is a QCC veteran and her decision to retire was a difficult one. She said, “It was a difficult decision to retire. I love my work. I enjoy our students, my colleagues on the faculty and staff, and I’m especially fond of working with our new President, Dr. Marti who has invigorated the discourse about student learning.” Even though she is leaving, her presence will be missed but her long dedication to QCC will be remembered. She says, “I have wanted to make a difference in the lives of our students and I hope that I have.”

The recipe for leadership is respect, courteousness and professionalism and Dr. Evanoski is a person of that magnitude. She represents the recipe for leadership and the QCC spirit.
A Message for Meat Lovers!
  BY YOUNG LEE

“For over year now I don’t have to worry about stomachaches during long hours in classroom,” Says Mrs. Chen who is a Queens College student. “I loved to have meat for dinner every night. But over a year ago I started a vegetarian diet with my friend’s strong recommendation. I’ve lost 40 lbs. Since then and I’m more energetic than before. It was very difficult in the beginning but with my family’s participation in this diet and their support, I was able to stay away from meat for good. They also enjoy the benefits of this diet as well.” It isn’t uncommon to hear stories like this around us.

Majority of people know vegetarian diets are a powerful way to promote good health. But people get discouraged when they are told to cut meat from their diet. Even for those who start this diet, they tend to draw away from it before they see any results. Becoming vegetarian doesn’t mean that you can never have delicious food at home or in a restaurant. There are plenty of vegetarian foods out there that are delicious and healthful. You can buy vegetarian cooking book in bookstores or if you want to save money on books then search through the internet.

There are two major types of Vegetarians. Those who avoid meat, fish, poultry, eggs, and dairy products are called Vegans (pure vegetarians). Those who include dairy products and eggs in their diets are called lacto-ovo-vegetarians. Vegetarian diets significantly reduce the risk of a broad range of health concerns.

Research has been done on the health benefits of a vegetarian diet by an American-based medical organization called Physicians for Responsible Medicine. According to PRM’s research, Vegetarians have much lower cholesterol levels than meat-eaters. Vegans consume a cholesterol-free diet. Therefore heart disease is uncommon in vegetarians. Studies, dating back to the early 1920s, show that vegetarians have lower blood pressure than non-vegetarians do. In fact, in some studies show that adding meat to vegetarians diets increased their blood pressure. Many are able to eliminate their need for medication, when patients with high blood pressure begin a vegetarian diet.

A vegetarian diet helps prevent cancer. Studies of vegetarians show that death rates from cancer are only about one-half to three-quarters of those of the general population. Why do vegetarian diets help protect against cancer? One of the important factors is that vegetarian diets are lower in fat and higher in fiber than meat-based diets.

Pets Are People
  BY LEGUI LAURETANO

Animals are truly amazing creatures. All people should treat animals with the most genuine love and care as that is what they deserve. Did you ever see a stray dog or cat in your area running loose? I’m sure you did. I bet you stopped and felt sorry for it.

Unfortunately there are thousands of homeless abandoned animals in New York City alone. Luckily there exist several organizations to help care for these animals. These organizations provide the basics needed so that these animals could survive. The basics include shelter, food, water, and a little love. Animals have needs, yet they are at a disadvantage because they cannot voice their feelings. They can show emotion and it is up to us to figure out what they are trying to say.

There are many ways of helping these animals. One very good way is to adopt a dog or a cat from your local animal shelter. These shelters can include the Humane Society and The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). The ASPCA provides national programming and leadership in humane education and public awareness, government affairs and public policy, shelter support, animal medical services, and animal placement. The ASPCA is a non-profit corporation and is privately funded.

Each year up to 60% of dogs and up to 70% of cats that enter shelters die because there is no one to adopt them. The ASPCA and Pet Finder.com work with more then 60,000 shelters across the country to post their available animals online. There are 50,000 animals waiting to be adopted through Pet Finder.com right now.
Eduardo Marti, Ph.D., is one of those extraordinary people whose careers seem to sum up what makes New York City so unique and so great. He reminds us that from early on, Dr. Marti has been the stage of ambition and freedom, welcoming the unorthodox and visionary, and allowing them to blossom in its opportunity-rich environment. With his outstanding wisdom, his vision of excellence, and his dedication to high standards and to helping others achieve success, Marti’s career testifies that anyone can become successful with hard work and a dream.

As an educator of immigrant background, Dr. Marti has worked with diverse groups of people. He has served as a mentor, fostering in young students a keen sense of conscientiousness, responsibility, and leadership. He has encouraged immigrant populations, in general, to learn a new language and culture while still maintaining pride in their own cultural and linguistic heritage. He has assisted many administrators and teachers in developing innovative programs that enrich the educational experience of the diverse students of New York City. And, he has been instrumental in making the school environment more like a family than a hierarchy of power, with his open, faculty-oriented administrative style. Dubbed by some friends and colleagues as, “A man with a vision,” Dr. Marti is a true pioneer in the field of education.

So you may be wondering...why, if he is so qualified, so innovative, so extraordinary, would Eduardo Marti choose to work at a community college as opposed to a private university? Well, his answer is clear. Marti said, “I prefer community colleges because you get to really see people blossom in a community college. It is so much more meaningful. A community school is like a music school where you have to teach a student about music from scratch. A private university is like a specialized music school where everyone is already trained in violin or piano. I consider teaching someone something from scratch to be real teaching. Also, because of my interest in helping people like myself, I feel closer to teaching in a community college.”

With over two decades of senior-level administrative experience, Dr. Eduardo Marti was named President of Queensborough Community College on March 27, 2001. “QCC is very different from the past colleges I have worked at. QCC has a student body that is 46 percent immigrant, with over 115 countries represented and more than 60 languages spoken within its student population. The student body is almost evenly divided amongst all races. I like that diversity. I like all the different populations together. Also, the quality of the faculty is absolutely amazing. QCC has a higher percentage of faculty who hold a Ph.D., that is at a remarkable number of 63 percent, whereas only 11 percent of other community colleges nationwide hold a Ph.D. It was the combination of such a diverse student body and an excellent faculty, which interested me from the start,” said Marti.

Dr. Marti’s commitment to excellence has been apparent throughout his career at QCC. “When I came to QCC, it needed some TLC. The institution was very badly underfunded and needed some reaffirmation,” said Marti. To institute his plan, Marti laid out four goals: physically clean up the plant; institute a faculty development program; create a strategic plan; and begin fundraising.

A man of enormous energy, Marti’s work goes far beyond the classroom. After implementing such changes as putting automatic flushers in all the bathrooms, instituting a faculty development program, and creating one of the best strategic plans in the system, Marti acknowledges that there is still much more work to do, especially in the area of fundraising. He offers a practical reason. “The reason I am fundraising is because I want people to take QCC seriously enough to dig in their pockets to give us significant gifts. By fundraising in an elegant manner, we can increase the value of the degree.”

Dr. Marti is currently fundraising for a $4.5 million campaign to renovate the QCC art gallery to the quality of a museum gallery; to create a Holocaust center in front of the college that will, “in a small way, contribute to the peace of our nation, and the world;” and to provide 10 scholarships for needy students. Six or seven of these scholarships will be granted to international students who attend QCC though its port-of-entry program.

Besides fundraising, Marti’s current focus is to maintain the college in a balanced atmosphere that stimulates creativity through a safe environment. “The importance of governance of an institution is based on the principle of mutual respect and tolerance,” said Marti, “See, a college is like a village, and I am the mayor of this village. There is also the academic senate. It is a combination of legislative and executive. I think I have been able to maintain some equilibrium by establishing an atmosphere of mutual trust, and by being smart about expenditures.”

Many of the faculty and staff at QCC agree with this sentiment. They praise him for going beyond the expectations of his job and effectively maintaining a challenging yet comfortable work environment. Dr. Paris Svoronos, chair of QCC’s Chemistry Department, offered one of his first memories about Dr. Marti. He said, “The previous president of QCC was here for many years, and I never talked to him. The incredible thing about this president is that he has great social skills. The first time I met him was at a registration fair at QCC. The place was a mad-house and I noticed that a phone kept on ringing, but nobody picked it up. And you know what, Dr. Marti picked up the phone. I’ve never known a president to do such a thing.” Ms. Arturine DeSola from the Counseling Department also commended Marti and noted the small things Marti has done that have made a great impact, such as creating a holiday luncheon that is open to everybody from the maintenance crew all the way up to the prez himself. “He is certainly a man with a vision, very engaging and very ambitious in his goals,” said Ms. DeSola.

So, Queensborough is a great school and Dr. Marti is a great president, but let’s face it...none of us really know what it is that he does all day in that gold-plated office of his. Although it may be a common misconception that a president is simply a manager who sits back and relaxes while others do the dirty work. Dr. Marti would certainly prove this notion to be wrong. “When I first became an acting president in 1982, I told my secretary at the time that being a president is easy. Two weeks later I was pulling the hair out of my head. Being president of a university is meetings, meetings, and more meetings. You have very little time to think, to reflect, or to write, because everyone wants you to make decisions and solve problems”, said Marti, “The job is somewhat like being a quarterback. I read the lay of the land, call the plays, and then I get hit. Sometimes I throw the ball, sometimes I connect, and sometimes I don’t.”

Well, according to his track record, Marti seems to be connecting most of his plays. Regardless of the difficulties involved in his job, Marti truly loves working at QCC. “Working as President of QCC is a tremendous pleasure,” said Marti, “It tests my values on a daily basis, and it makes me a better person because I have to make decisions on a moral ground. That is a privilege.”

Aside from his activities in education, Dr. Marti enjoys many of the simple things life has to offer. He, like many of us, admits that his one special indulgence is television. When he isn’t in the office or in a meeting, Dr. Marti loves to curl up in front of the TV and watch a good movie. In fact, his birthday wish (for anyone willing to score some extra points) is for DTV to be installed on his home set, so that he can tape all of the programs he’s missed while out being President.

For any student who wishes to follow in his footprints, Dr. Eduardo Marti leaves us with one important message, “Believe in the academy, believe in the beauty of discovering knowledge and disseminating knowledge, and most importantly, believe in yourself.” And my advice? One of these days, go take the trek up to the fifth floor of the Administration Building and introduce yourself to Dr. Marti. I guarantee it’ll be worth it.
Lisa Marie Presley has been in the public eye since she was born. As the daughter of King of Rock and Roll icon Elvis Presley and once being married to the King of Pop Michael Jackson has certainly put her on the map as the most talked about person in Hollywood.

Although she dislikes what the public thinks of her she still strives to do what she wants to do. And in this case, it happens to be singing; the very thing that made her father famous and put her in the news since before she was born. Although she’s pursuing a similar rock and roll lifestyle, her style of music is very different. And although she calls her music alternative, people in the music industry are placing her music in the Pop category; a label Presley is rather upset about but is slowly starting to deal with. In an interview with Chicago Sun Times, Presley said, “I just knew—I just felt—who I was going to work with and who was going sort of that way. The hardest part of this whole record for me was too radio-friendly. There are a couple of songs that I knew needed to go there because they would be safe. Otherwise I would have done a whole alternative album.”

Her father only wrote a few songs in his lifetime, making Lisa very different from him in that she wrote and co-wrote all of the songs on her new album To Whom It May Concern. Lisa’s new album is a full expression of her individuality. In her press release with Capitol Records she said that this album “is me. Every song is me. You’re going to see who really I am and not what the tabloids say or what everyone has to say about me."

Even though Lisa tried to move away from her status as the King’s daughter by not writing songs about him or her childhood, she found it rather inevitable to do so. She’s dedicated one song on the album to that period of time called Lights Out, stating that she “never wanted to write a song about something that made her famous and put her in the news since before she was born.”

As time passed Lenaure vocally has grown with a range of five octaves, anything indicating her genetic history whatsoever or background.

Presley is getting a late start as a singer at age 35, but she explains her longtime reluctance to appear in the spotlight by “invoking the incredible pressures and expectations” that come with being her father’s daughter. Even now, the press is paying more attention to her personal life than to her music. But despite the public view, this princess of Rock and Roll continues to make heads turn and doesn’t seem to care what everyone else thinks; she will forever remain focused on her singing career.

**The Princess of Rock and Roll:**
The Real Lisa Marie Presley Speaks Out

**By Lauren M. Hersh**

Lenaure, an influential NYC artist, has paved her way into the music industry. An inspired singer, dancer, vocal coach, songwriter, pianist, and businesswoman, Lenaure never let negative influences stop her from achieving her goals.

Recently, Lenaure has appeared on Sony entertainment with rapper Havoc from “Mob Deep” and a producer of Destiny’s Child’s on Columbia records. When asked how was the experience working with Havoc at Chuck King studio, she stated, “I am so thankful for this job, I’m now in the union AFTRA.” As of now Lenaure, a role model for teenage women, has finished her demo and is shipping it overseas to get some foreign feedback.

When asked about the entertainment industry Lenaure stated, “There isn’t a sense of being real; everyone is looking at the sex appeal and not the talent itself.”

What Lenaure is really proud of is helping out her community. A couple of years ago she started a dance company for children called the “NLB DreamWorks Project” that gave them the ability to show their crafts in performing arts at many shows in New York City. Even though this diva has come over many trumps in the entertainment industry as well as “being disappointed in the lack of standards in the black music scene and pop scene,” she always kept her head up and never stooped to any negative force in the music industry.

Lenaure has found her new glory and is at the moment busy trying to decide which label to sign, in the states or overseas.

Born and raised in Queens, Lenaure has studied her talent ever since she could talk and walk. As a little girl she learned how to play the piano at six years old and was performing within the tri-state area and in schools dancing and singing. Both parents were musicians who influenced her as well as Michael Jackson, Tina Turner, Jennifer Holiday, Chaka Khan, and Whitney Houston, just to name a few. Even growing up this talented songstress always hit the books making high marks in school, not allowing herself to get low grades. Even though her parents were strict, she always found time to practice her craft as well.

While attending Francis Lewis High School, Lenaure was always on her P’s and Q’s with her talent, school, and going to various auditions especially Juilliard in New York City. After graduating high school, she attended and successfully completed her degree in English and Music at Queens College. As time passed Lenaure vocally has grown with a range of five octaves, whereas she considers her style of music soul/link.

For all you readers who want to become an entertainer, Lenaure’s advice is to study your music, business, instrument, know how to bring it onstage, be a total performer and remember image is transient, it can change at any moment. Substance, talent, integrity and brains are all you can really build up and carry with you through life. However, if you’re looking for some raw talent that will give you your money’s worth, look out for this up and coming artist because she is going to give you a run for your money as well as make it to the top of the mountain.
The Meaning of Hip-Hop
BY LAURA LOPES

Hip-Hop, what does it mean? Music that is dated from the early days is said to be derived from the beats of the African drums; however, it has come a long way and it is now here to stay.

If you were to walk around and ask people if they knew what Hip-hop meant, they would look at you like you were crazy! You would say that hip-hop had its big start back in the 70s in the South Bronx. DJs would start this thing that is now very well known called rapping. What they would do was to go and DJ at parties and do shout outs which is calling people’s names out over the microphone while the music is still going. This would get the crowd pumped and people would soon grab the mic and have their own slangs to add.

This became very popular among the club goers and this also gave the DJs an idea. One of the first rhymes to ever be recorded was Kool Herc and the Herculoids, a rap group that evolved from a Jamaican DJ named Kool Herc, one of the first DJs to incorporate these shouts into the music. What he did was found a way to rev the party up by saying these lil rhymes over the mic and cutting and mixing them together. This was a Jamaican style manner. He did this all on two mixers which we call turntables. For instance, in the middle of a song he would take out the microphone and say something like “hey, hey, this is DJ Kool kid and you know what I dig, so grab the mic and do your thing, let the rhyme flow and let your body swing.”

In this manner others would get excited and start saying more things that would rhyme. This trend became so popular that people would go home and start extending the short rhymes into bigger ones. A few others deserve credit for the introduction of Hip-hop like Afrika Bambaataa, an important Muslim rapper, who was also from the Caribbean and very influential in the Muslim community. Together Herc and Bambaataa would compete against each other back and forth constructing these so called cutting contests also known as “battles.” The uproar of all this contributed to what we call mix tapes and played on the very popular boom box. These two became notorious and had very much to do with the rising of Hip-Hop.

As the years passed, the demand for Hip-Hop became very big. What was created in urban cities soon moved to the suburbs and now you can hear the sound wherever you go. This music is not only popular amongst teenagers it is popular amongst adults as well. From Black to White, Asian to Spanish to Indian, Hip-Hop has no bias against anyone. Those who listen to it feel it and with that everybody is equal because they all have something in common and that is the music.

As you walk down the streets you can hear the sounds blasting out of apartments, houses or car windows. This movement that started years ago is here for good and will only keep evolving. It will never die.
Children Home Alone
With the Television

ABSOLUTELY STOMP-ING
BY DIMITRI DIKANTONIS

It was original, it was unique, and it stood out from your standard Broadway show. As a matter of fact, it might not be the best option a parent can choose. However, it is the first resort for many low income families. Due to the economic circumstances in some families both parents have to work in order to survive. As a result, there is an increase in the number of latchkey children. It is against the law to leave children under thirteen years of age home alone due to safety reasons. It is also not suitable for the right upbringing of children as syndicated columnist Suzanne Field noted.

According to her ’Our Children face an unusual enemy of childhood today, grown ups who conduct a carpet bombing of information and images against kids who simply don’t have the maturity to understand what the see and hear. Understand it they may not, but enjoy it they do.’ It is not possible to censor what is on television because of freedom of speech. Television itself is not a problem but the content may be. Lastly the number of television sets per household is a contributing factor that makes young children act very成熟 of place.

In these day in times most young children have television in their rooms and even if the parent is home they can’t always actively monitor what their child is watching. In some households instead of parents spending quality time reading to their children before they fall asleep, the television takes on this role. With children falling asleep watching violence, sex, the news and other programs that can sometimes be mentally disturbing, it is a recipe for the destruction of our society. That is how horrific crimes like the Columbine massacre are committed by young offenders.

The average child watches twenty five hours of television a week according to a survey done by media violence opposing viewpoints. Some children spend more time watching television than being in school and many of are just trying to imitate what they see. They go to school acting like their favorite actors by using offensive language, disrespecting their teachers and peers and worst of all settling disputes with violence. At an early age most children watch cartoons on television which the characters engage in violence. It is a proven fact that children who watch a lot of television are poor readers, and extremely prone to being obese.

Parents are responsible for the kind of televisions programs that are seen in their homes. They need to be aware of what shows are suitable for each age group. For example, a G rated program (standing for general audience) may not be good for a five year old. Television is loaded with advertising for expensive clothes, video games, condoms, junk food, alcohol etc. which just don’t promote the best lifestyle necessarily if we’re raising our children with values and morals. Actually there are some shows on television can serve as a resource for developing a child’s intellectual growth nicely even though they may take some hard work to find. If parents instill in their children to watch these types of programs (PBS) only the results will be rewarding as the child develops good skills, behavior, and an in-depth knowledge of the important places and things in the world.

In 1996 Congress passed a law to put a V-chip in all thirteen inch screen televisions but most parents don’t read the instruction booklet that comes with the television set. In more educated households children are exposed to less television viewing at an early age. Most educated parents promote reading as a form of recreation. Some parents are convinced that television viewing has a major effect on the attitude, intellectual development, and behavior of their children.

The less children are in control of the remote control the better off they are. In conclusion, parents should control the television viewing in their homes by perhaps not allowing their young children to have televisions in their rooms, and utilizing the V-chip that accompanies television sets for starters.

Children Home Alone
Leaving children home alone with the television serving as a baby sitter is not the best option a parent can choose. However, it is the first resort for many low income families. Due to the economic circumstances in some families both parents have to work in order to survive. As a result, there is an increase in the number of latchkey children. It is against the law to leave children under thirteen years of age home alone due to safety reasons. It is also not suitable for the right upbringing of children as syndicated columnist Suzanne Field noted.

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Review On The Tube
continued from page 11

duced to rising actors such as Sarah Michelle Gellar, Nicholas Brendon, Alyson Hannigan. It was also a breakthrough hit for David Boreanaz who has set off on his own course. This vampire, woman rule, program got a lot of controversy. It was the first program to televise sex between two people. After it raps up we hope that Angel will deliver just as Buffy has. The series finale airs May 20 at 8 pm on UPN.

We have seen so many televised programs that it is hard to let them go to the end especially the program which transformed the lives of four teenage individuals, Dawson’s Creek airing January 20, 1998 on the WB. This teen drama proved to be an epic breakthrough for six seasons. It has helped many teenagers realize their life ambitions.

It was such a hit that it made all the actors into the hottest young stars today. We were introduced to rising actors such as Michelle Williams, Joshua Jackson and Kerr Smith. It was the breakthrough to the first gay kiss televised. It will be missed dearly. The series finale airs May 14 at 8 p.m. on the WB.

These shows plus many more have earned a place on our TVs and on our sofas. It doesn’t matter because shows like these will be up there with the best of them.

CUNY Athletic Conference Awards
QCC Scholar-Athletes

The CUNY Athletic Conference Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award is presented annually to two Student-Athletes (one male and one female) from the CUNY Junior Colleges and 2 Student-Athletes (one male and one female) from the CUNY Senior Colleges.

Nominees must have:
1. an overall GPA of 3.4
2. participated in 2 complete Athletic Seasons
3. a significant amount of school & community service

I am excited to announce that two QCC Scholar-Athletes will be receiving the prestigious honor of Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

Congratulations to Israel Henriques (3.6 GPA) and Brigette Burke (3.4 GPA). They both display high levels in academics, athletics and sportsmanship.

They will be honored during the CQ Athletic luncheon (5/14/03). The CUNY Awards Ceremony @ Baruch College (5/14/03) and the CQ Honors Convocation (5/27/03).

QCC Tigers

The QCC Tigers defeated Bronx CC @ the College of Staten Island (5/10/03) by a score of 3-1. As a result of this victory, the CQ Tigers have become CUNY Champions.

Congratulations to Melvin Batista, who was named CUNY MVP & Roger Mischel who pitched 9 full innings for the win.

Special Congratulations to Craig Everitt (2nd Year Head Coach), Richard Kashdan & Charlie Foster (Assistant Coaches) and the rest of the 2003 Tigers.

Region XV Playoffs begin next week.