The Wonderful World of Art & Design at QCC

BY CHRISTINA REME-FRANCE

The exhibition featured many different types of art. From drawings and paintings, to collages and photographs, digital designs and sculptures, to ceramics and animations, the show exemplified the various talents by the QCC students walking around campus. And without the tireless efforts of Professor Javier Cambre and the Chair of the Art Department Professor Bob Rogers, the Student Exhibition for Art and Design would not have been possible.

The Art Department has always put on a show, but not on such a grand scale. Previously, curator Ken Walpuck did his best to display the art by the students in a smaller space. Now the gallery is larger with the help and funding from current curator and Gallery Director Faustino Quintanilla, and as a consequence more students were able to be presented in this years show. The Art Department has always been partnered with the QCC gallery to help make the gallery a resource for students. Also, according to Professor Bob Rogers, this is the first time the QCC student exhibition has had a professional looking catalog.

The entire show was amazing, but one work which I found to be absolutely incredible was the “Mediterranean World” by Arnold Asrelsky. If you have ever wondered what it would be like to go to the Mediterranean, then you should see Asrelsky’s work. You will get lost in an array of vibrant colors which really capture the essence of the Mediterranean World. “Chios 2005” is a picture of Italy that is really beautiful, when you’re looking at the photograph a feeling of calm overcomes you. But if the Mediterranean isn’t your thing, I urge you to see some of the other great works of art which feature the most impressive array of drawings, paintings and sculptures.

While at the Student Exhibit, I had the opportunity to talk to the artists about their artwork and find out the inspiration that lies beneath the surface of their brilliance. A photography student of one year, Brian Chan, had the following comments on his piece: “I had taken a picture of the jazz composer, Butch Morris. He was a friend of the professor, who had come in to get pictures taken for the book. The man had charisma and this compelled me to take pictures of him.” Alvare Corzo, whose piece was titled “Subterreanea,” Spanish for “underground,” talked about his inspiration for his piece, which was an exercise of the conscious mind. This photograph was taken in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. A piece of art I found absolutely beautiful was by Jorge Rodriguez, titled “Front and Back.”

Students Graduate and Lose Health Insurance

BY CINDY GORENSTEIN

Given the state of the economy, many students are graduating high school and college to face unemployment and the loss of health insurance. According to a press release from Fidelis Care Health Insurance Company, graduates are finding that they are no longer covered by college plans or qualified for health coverage under their parent’s plans. Instead, students need to obtain a job that provides health insurance, and in the current financial environment that can be a challenge.

The unfortunate fact is that Americans age 19 to 29 make up the largest group of the uninsured population. According to the latest information from the Census Bureau, in 2007 an alarming 29% or 13.2 million of Americans in their twenties were uninsured. Even more disturbing is that this group, dubbed as “the young invincibles,” by the health care industry because their age makes them feel invulnerable, often choose do-it-yourself healthcare because individual health insurance policies prove too costly. This group is not only jeopardizing their health, they are risking financial ruin.

In a February 17, 2009 article on CNN.com by Cara Buckley, a spokesman for the State Insurance Department states that the typical premium for insurance for a single adult costs $900 a month. For 20-somethings just trying to make rent and pay for food or recent graduates that find themselves unemployed, the cost is simply out of reach. Many states are trying to pass legislation to cover this generation that seems to have fallen between the cracks. Sara Collins of the nonpartisan health care group the Commonwealth Fund estimates that 25% of states are trying to increase the age that young adults can be covered on their parent’s policy to twenty-four. In New York, Governor David Paterson has proposed allowing parents to have adult children on their policies until the age of twenty-nine.

In New York, people who find themselves without jobs or insurance may be eligible for Fidelis Care insurance. As recent grads typically don’t have large savings, they may qualify for this free to low cost government sponsored health coverage just on the basis of being unemployed. Through its Family Health Plus program, Fidelis provides comprehensive healthcare to New Yorkers of limited means that are not eligible for Medicaid.

Until legislation is passed or programs similar (continued on page 3)
Ever since 9/11, the Muslim world has been in the spotlight. When people in the West look at the Muslim world, they see it as a breeding ground for religious fundamentalists and terrorists trying to spread their extremist ideologies. President Bush was famous for saying, “we do not negotiate with terrorists.” However if you can’t negotiate with someone then you really can’t resolve problems (i.e. the “War on Terror”). We must ask terrorists why they hate, what can we do to address their grievances? What the U.S. and its allies need to do, as former Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf was often quoted as saying on many occasions, is “win the hearts and minds of the people in the region” in which terrorist groups find protection and shelter.

The question is how does the U.S. “win the hearts and minds” of such people? In order for the U.S. to succeed in such an effort, it must address the basic needs of the people in the Muslim world. Most people in the Muslim world don’t have the basic essentials which we take for granted in the West. They don’t get the opportunity to obtain a good education, or a good job; they can’t even feed their families. The way many people in the Muslim world (in particular those living below the poverty line) look at life is that they were born poor and will remain so for the rest of their lives.

By dropping bombs and putting boots on the ground the U.S. has only added to the woes of these people and given them a new reason to hate the West, which religious fundamentalists use to their advantage. Under such conditions terrorist organizations such as Al-Qaeda are able to build support. Al-Qaeda targets the politically disenfranchised and the poor and the Muslim world contains some of the poorest countries in the world. Countries in the Muslim world also have the lowest literacy rates in the world, which enables the extremists to more easily recruit tender minds and fill them with hate.

America does not need to remind the Muslim world of what it is capable of doing. After WWII, the U.S. was able to feed all of Europe through programs like the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan. The reason the U.S. did such things was because there was a fear that if these poor people starved they might turn to Communism. Why can’t our elected leaders think like this again? Why can’t we acknowledge that if we let poor people in the Muslim world starve they might turn to extremism? Sadly, that is exactly what is happening today.

Why can’t the U.S. and its allies introduce a massive aid program for the Muslim world aimed at socially uplifting the lives of the people in the region? I fear if we don’t come to the aid of the Muslim world it will eventually turn to terrorism. We must build trust with the Muslim world; we must truly reach out to the people, address their problems and issues, and be more sympathetic towards them.

One way we can build trust is by carrying out what I call the “Three E Policy,” the three E’s are “Education, Employment and Empowerment.” These are the biggest problems the Muslim world addresses them in a creative fashion is what the U.S. and its allies must do if they are going to win this “War on Terror.”

On his inauguration day, President Obama said, “To the Muslim world, we seek a new way forward, based on mutual interest and mutual respect.” Such statements have been given before but never really acted upon. What I hope for is that policy makers in the West realize how dangerous it will be if they continue to drop bombs and put boots on the ground. The root of the problem is that people in the Muslim world do not have the “Three E’s.” What we have to do is build schools in the region so that we can get people to think on their own. We must create employment opportunities so that people don’t starve and turn to terrorism. We must empower people in the region so that they have a voice in their society.

Terrorist organizations, including Al-Qaeda and others, provide aid to poor people in their time of need, which is a reason why they are able to receive sympathy. The U.S. must seize the opportunity and come to the aid of these poor people so that there is no reason why Al-Qaeda is able to grow. The U.S. can never win its war on terror by dropping bombs or putting boots on the ground but by “winning the hearts and minds” of the people in the region.
responsibilities, not to mention the daily commute to and from campus, become on occasion insurmountable hurdles. With such busy schedules many students often miss the opportunities presented by schools to make the education process a bit easier. Cluttered bulletin boards and obscure LED overhead displays are just a few ways schools make an attempt to communicate on-campus activities and critical information. This method of communication often misses its target, as the average student pushing on or off campus, worried about making it to work on time, will simply breeze by flashing displays, xeroxed flyers, and checking their Tigermail.

The email system on CUNY campuses is a fine representative of the disconnect between school and student. A college’s email system is always a separate address than what one would typically use at business or home, and after Tigermail is mentioned a few times by teachers who feel like putting forth the extra effort it is all but forgotten.

Any adult would tell you such obstacles to successfully completing one’s college education are easy to solve with a little good old-fashioned motivation and ambition. However, in an age when human communication is becoming more one sided and computer driven, it sometimes feels as if there are only dying ears to speak to. While students must put forth extra initiative in getting work completed, academic advisement seems to be the underutilized medium on campus when it comes to providing useful information, i.e., information delivered in a timely manner that students can use.

Twenty QCC students were randomly chosen by this reporter and asked to answer the following question: “Do you feel that at QCC you are treated as a number in the system, or as a valuable commodity?” An underwhelming 10.5 percent chose the latter, while the other students proceeded to tell personal anecdotes of negative experiences with the schools advisement system.

Jennifer Ruiz Diaz, a diligent student who attends St. Johns University, is only now hearing through the grapevine of fellow students the opportunities her school offers to help her graduate. “I could have been finished (with school) this semester, but no one will just tell you these things,” a very livid Ruiz Diaz says. “I could have been taking some extracurricular stuff that could have netted me some credits, but my advisor never mentioned these classes,” emphasizing how “advisement” is a meaningless term when applied to the guidance offered by CUNY college advisement offices.

While some students from other schools, such as Justin Powere, a graduate of USC, say that while the one on one isn’t great, they recognize how larger scale efforts are used on their campuses to grab the student’s attention. “We would always have events where booths would be set up around campus for you to go get your information...For everyone who lived on campus it was even a hassle. When these events happened the lines were so long and when you got to the front all you got was a pamphlet.”

Any student will tell you that the most effective way to go about getting crucial information about your school is simply word of mouth. This is most likely not the ideal form of communication with students that most colleges intend, but with talk of cuts in education funding and higher tuitions it is becoming more evident that the “traditional” experience of college where students are professionally counseled and mentored is being lost. It is, for one, can’t imagine the one to one communication improving anytime soon. Of course, it is widely understood that the hand-holding high school counseling provides cannot be expected to continue when one enters college. Also as college students and as adults most people understand that they must undertake new responsibilities, and that the world is out there for those who are motivated to succeed. However, living standards are constantly shifting, and students entering adulthood in a rapidly changing economic landscape are learning this the hard way. The perception of “too much hand-holding” is justified, but if the hand-holding were interpreted as more of a spousal relationship than that of a parent to child, communications might no longer suffer.

Higher level education is something I don’t mind paying for, just as I would not mind paying for the top of the line bookshelf. However, when that bookshelf collapses because it didn’t include assembly instructions, there is reason to be angry. Cleaning up the broken mess is tedious, but realizing you have to pay for a new bookshelf entirely is disheartening.
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trunk was parallel to the ground and finally cover the holes.

to unravel the burlap surrounding the roots, adjust the level of dirt so the tree received help from the employees at city parks and recreation. Volunteers had inside waiting to be planted thanks to our campus gardening staff and we rows of 5 to complete. The holes had already been dug with the trees already
demonstration on how we were to plant the tree, and then we were given a classroom of students from P.S. 203. We were first given an instructional included Queensborough staff and students, residents of the community, and finally a handy dandy poncho for the unpredictable weather. The volunteers

The MillionTreesNYC is part of Plan NYC, proposed on April 2007 by Mayor Michael Bloomberg. According to the website MillionTreesNYC.org, “the 127 point plan is designed to create the first environmentally sustainable 21st century city by 2017.”

I interviewed Fiorella Trimble, a Forester, with city parks and recreation who was in charge of communicating with the QCC gardening staff, securing a good sight for “reforestation,” and taking measurements to see how many and what specific species could be planted. She explained to me that the area was chosen because it followed the guideline set by the natural resources group, which included but was not limited to an area with little foot traffic and a small amount of weeds that would suffice for the trees proper growth. When asked what the benefits of re-forestation included, Fiorella Trimble explained, “Reforestation not only improves environmental quality but it also improves air quality, habitat, promotes species diversity, reduces storm surge, and reverses the urban heat island effect.” She went on to further explain that there were a total of 10 sites that had planted about 4,000 trees that day.

By the end of the day, the volunteers at QCC planted a total of 284 trees out of the 384 provided, with the balance left to our great gardening staff. It was a true team effort proving that when we work together as a community or campus we can accomplish great things. There are so many great events that occur at QCC, it is just a matter of looking in the right places and checking tigermail for current updates.

Planting so many trees was no easy task, but the experience was one of a kind. Knowing that you are helping your community and the earth have a better and healthier future makes you feel part of something truly meaningful!
The Ups And The Downs

BY CHRISTIAN CISNEROS

Despite CUNY’s recent victory in the new state budget for 2009/10 that includes the essence of the fair share tax and a reversal of the deepest cuts made by Governor Patterson, CUNY advocates are now concerned over Mayor Bloomberg’s proposed city budget.

Tuition hikes and cuts from funding still have students concerned for their academic future.

Many CUNY college students and activists are delighted with the outcome of the new state budget outline, with the restoration of $183.3 million in community college aid, no change to the TAP system, and a $20 million restoration of the University wide program fund. The criticism of the new budget has mainly centered on the $600 annual tuition increase, only a fraction of which will be reinvested in CUNY. Most of the dollars from the tuition increase will be used to close the gap in the state revenue. In a recent editorial in The Daily News, the tuition increase was slammed as being a “hidden tax” placed upon students and their families.

The New York City budget is currently under review as well. Mayor Bloomberg has made it clear that he wants to cut support to CUNY community colleges as well as raise tuition by $400 a year. Cuts would include $6.8 million from the Peter F. Vallone scholarship (a program that is a crucial aid to many CUNY students), alongside cuts in black male empowerment initiatives and more. These budgeting outlines will affect CUNY colleges’ ability to assist its 217,000 students in degree and continued education programs. It will not allow an improvement in support for full-time staff, additional counseling, or student services.

Dania Rajendra, associate editor of the Professional Staff Congress of CUNY has explained the severity of the situation, “CUNY’s budgets increased only because tuition increased—not because State funding rose. In fact, the State’s contribution to operating aid to CUNY decreased by $64.8 million. Families already facing intense economic pressure are being asked to pay more.”

Although only a portion of the money raised will return to CUNY, the soaring enrollment in this upcoming year is expected to raise 3.9% more than last year to cover operation costs even though public funds will decrease.

On March 19th students, faculty, professional staff, alumni and local residents of Queens College and Queensborough Community College helped fill the seats of the Benjamin Rosenthal library. Emotions were high as students and staff took the microphone to provide testimonies on the hardships they faced, including heart breaking stories of the struggles international students (who pay nearly double of what state residents pay per credit) must overcome in order to attend school, as well as tales of the sacrifices made by students attending Queens and Queensborough merely in order to stay in school. Most CUNY students juggle part-time jobs in order to remain afloat with the cost of tuition and books, as well as other living expenses. The hearing on March 19 was just one of the budget hearings the PSC had arranged to show elected officials the people being affected by the proposed cuts and increases. City Council member John Liu, and NYS Assembly members Grace Meng, Rory Lanzman, Michael DenDecker, James Gennaro all sent staff representatives, while Tony Avella came in person to hear the testimonies. Similar hearing have been taking place on campuses around the city for months now, including the campuses of Brooklyn College, CSI and NYVCC, Baruch, BMCC Bronx CC, Hostos CC, John Jay, and LaGuardia.

Dania Rajendra said on behalf of the PSC: “We’re committed to continuing the fight for more public money for CUNY. Now we’re focused on fighting Mayor Bloomberg’s proposals that would cut City support to CUNY 12.5% -- and cut important programs like the Vallone Scholarships. (City support accounts for roughly a third of the funding for CUNY community colleges.) This is the wrong direction. The right way forward for New York State and NYC is to invest in CUNY, because that’s an investment in New York’s future.”

CUNY has taken some actions in order to help students adjust to the new hike in tuition. According to the CUNY Newswire the trustees have approved the funding of $10.0 million to provide financial assistance to students. This program is being called the CUNY Student financial aid initiative, and it is made of 5 different components: Partial tuition waivers, tuition payment plan, textbooks aid, a student employment program and a food stamps now initiative.

This program is not for students who already receive full aid from the tuition assistance program (TAP) or the Pell grant awards.
Roxana Saberi, the 32-year-old Iranian-American journalist charged with espionage and sentenced to 8 years in Tehran’s notorious Evin prison, ended a two-week hunger strike upon news that an appeals hearing would be held to review her case. This is good news not only for Ms. Saberi and her family, but also for President Obama whose efforts to thaw the 30-year diplomatic freeze between Iran and the U.S. ran into its first major obstacle in the form of Ms. Saberi.

Originally detained in January for buying alcohol, which is illegal in Iran, Ms. Saberi was then charged with working without press credentials. An Iranian judge later charged Saberi of passing classified information to the U.S. Her trial before the Revolutionary Court, which hears cases involving national security, occurred behind closed-doors. The Iranian government has refused to provide details of the evidence against Ms. Saberi.

Speaking to CNN, Foreign Ministry spokesman Hassan Qashqavi said, “In fact, her press card was revoked. Without a permit, she should not have been allowed all legal rights and freedom in defending themselves and that their rights are not violated even by one iota.” The contents of the letter were reported by the Iranian official government news agency Fars.

That there are political motives behind Ahmadinejad’s actions is almost without doubt. His re-election in June is far from being a certainty. What it means for a possible U.S.-Iran rapprochement is also anyone’s guess. It is doubtful that the Obama administration wants to see Ahmadinejad re-elected. Mir-Hossein Moussavi, the moderate reformist party candidate, would undoubtedly be preferable to the ultra-conservative Ahmadinejad. Moreover, relations between Obama and Israel’s new government are likely to run into conflict with U.S. efforts to engage Iran, which Israel considers a nuclear threat.

Hossein Derakhshan, a Canadian-Iranian blogger who was arrested, she was taken to the emergency room and pronounced brain-dead. Dr. Shahram A’zam, a neurologist who later examined her, said that she was suffering from “extremism” and “mismanagement,” and said that he favored better relations with the West and greater individual freedoms at home.

Ahmadinejad, who was elected in 2005, has consistently enforced radical restrictions in regard to civic freedoms. According to Human Rights Watch, since coming into power, treatment of detainees has worsened at Evin Prison, as well as at other detention centers operated clandestinely. The regime has sent students, labor organizers, feminist activists, bloggers, dissidents and journalists to prison. In 2007, according to a report filed by Roxana Saberi herself for NPR, Ahmadinejad’s religious fundamentalism resulted in a “morality crackdown,” where police targeted women deemed immodest in their dress and men with “western” haircuts.

Perhaps the most well known instance of human rights violations was the case of Zahra Kazemi, the 54-year-old Iranian-Canadian photojournalist who was arrested for taking pictures outside Evin prison. Like Saberi she was charged with espionage. Four days after being arrested, she was taken to the emergency room and pronounced brain-dead. Dr. Shahram A’zam, a former physician on the staff of the Iranian Ministry of Defense, examined Kazemi before she died. Speaking to Canadian newspapers after receiving political asylum from Canada, Dr. A’zam said that Kazemi had been “severely beaten,” “tortured,” and subject to “a very brutal rape.” Saberi is no doubt familiar with the case.

There has been no indication that Ms. Saberi has been subject to any physical violence and her parents and lawyers have been allowed to visit her. However, as the unfortunate victim of circumstances, Roxana Saberi is being used as a political pawn, caught in the labyrinthine crossfire of Iran’s national and international politics.

Since her case has become better known, Roxana Saberi has been adopted by groups of contrasting views looking to re-brand her imprisonment as a symbol for their own set of causes and agendas. As a folk hero of journalistic freedoms, she’s inspired Internet driven hunger strikes, where hundreds of would-be political prisoners have already signed up. At the same time, conservatives looking to take a shot at Obama’s approach towards the Middle East have exploited Saberi’s case to make the I-told-you-so point that Iran is full of radicals who only understand the language of violence. However, it is best to keep in mind the human consequences at the root of political and idealistic posturing.

As of this writing, Saberi’s conviction has not yet been overturned or reduced. She is still being detained in a prison that is synonymous with horrific human rights violations. She has been in prison since January. Even in the best possible case scenario, the unjust imprisonment of a journalist is far from ideal. Whatever the outcome of the presidential elections in June and the rapprochement between the U.S. and Iran, the destiny of one young journalist with dual U.S.-Iranian citizenship seems to have captured what is at stake when we talk about resolving these issues.

Iran, which hangs homosexuals, stones women for adultery, leads the world in the execution of juveniles and polices morality, is unlikely to change drastically even if Mr. Moussavi wins in June. Ms. Saberi is far from being the only journalist or dissident at Evin prison either. And yet, Ms. Saberi, who originally went to Iran to discover her father’s heritage, found enough about Iran that was positive that she was compelled to work on a book celebrating Iranian people and culture. I hope she gets to finish it soon.
**NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWS and POLITICS**

**Paterson’s Great Leap**

*By Alex Kern*

Joined by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, city council speaker Christine Quinn, as well as gay rights advocates, New York State Governor Paterson introduced a bill on Thursday April 16, 2009, to give same-sex couples the same legal recognition granted to partners of the opposite sex. Vowing to personally involve himself in passage of the bill, the governor discussed what is in effect an almost identical bill to the one proposed by former governor Elliot Spitzer that was denied by the senate in 2007. Governor Paterson made the announcement regarding the legislation on the first day Timothy Dolan officially became the new Arch Bishop. The Daily News article, “On first day as archbishop, Dolan says he won’t ‘shy away’ from gay marriage fight,” states that his views follow those of the Catholic Church, which opposes gay marriages. Bishop Dolan has stated that he will challenge the legislation on legalizing same-sex marriages.

Critics claim that the Governor’s move is an attempt to salvage his tremendously low approval rating, and it is estimated that only a quarter of New Yorkers support the Governor. According to the Newsday article, “Paterson: Lack of same-sex marriage is ‘discrimination’”, by Michael Frazier, the opponent of the bill Senate Minority Leader Dean Skelos claims Paterson’s intentions behind the bill is to distract people’s attention from the current state budget problems.

Currently in New York same-sex marriage is recognized if the couple weds out of state, although marrying in the state stands prohibited. Same sex marriage is currently legal in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and most recently in Iowa and Vermont. On Tuesday, May 5, Washington D.C.’s city council voted to recognize same-sex marriages and just the next day a bill was passed by lawmakers in Maine and New Hampshire. This leaves Rhode Island as the only New England state without the legislation passed supporting the issue. From the period of June 2008 until November 4, 2008 election, California allowed same-sex marriages until voters enacted Proposition 8 dismissing same-sex couples right to marry.

According to the Associated Press article, “N.Y. Governor Paterson pushes for gay marriage” by Michael Virtanen, Patterson states, “So my general feeling about all these issues is the right ethical decision will inevitably be the right political decision.” Patterson also justified the action claiming gays and lesbians in civil unions are deprived of over 1,200 civil protections such as health care and pension rights. The bill if passed will propel his previous memorandum issued last May, which directed state agencies to recognize same-sex couples legally married outside of New York.

With all the current momentum that same-sex marriage legislation is riding throughout the United States, it is interesting to see what the future holds in New York State. If Governor Patterson’s proposed legislation gets passed in New York it certainly will set an example for other states to proceed with passing similar bills.

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**The Wonderful World of Art & Design at QCC**

*continued from cover story*

According to Jorge, the piece is titled is derived from the idea that “The Main focus was to capture the beauty of the flower without realizing the photograph captures a flower from the front and two people in the background; front and back.” Alex Pau Orejuela’s photograph, which captures two men boxing, is also worthy of being mentioned. Alex’s inspiration was capturing something involving sports. Boxing has many aspects that are really hard to explain. The photograph brought out many issues, “You against the world, racial issues and sports.”

Another part of the show I found attention-grabbing was Felix Bones, an artist in the show who had a film on display called, “The Unwanted.” It was a horror flick about a dead person chasing people. What I liked about this particular film was it put me on the edge of my seat and it also took me away from the mundane life that most of us live. Felix, who produces videos and photography, told me that his inspiration lies in creating his movies, and anything that comes to mind. He is also inspired by watching other horror flicks and entertainment movies such as “old school horror movies”. What is great about Felix is by doing this he explores the imagination. If you want to see his fright fest you can on YouTube/ FB10 if the Unwanted.

Another amazing artist is Anthony Gianni whose inspiration was to basically reveal a certain mystique that people can’t identify with at first glance. His photograph was of a rock star. Anthony is in graphic design and he does advertisements. Caslon Cato is a Graphic Design Student who did a self portrait which I found to be immense interesting. Art can speak volumes when it presents an image or idea in its simplest form and that is what I found here. Caslon told me his inspiration is taking pictures of himself and others. He loves photography and he explores the city of lights, Manhattan.

Carolina Cardona took a picture of a man but she did it in an unconventional way, showing the feminine aspect of her subject. Her work is inspired by feminism. And, Charles Shim, and the artists who showcased Graphic Design by putting collages together, presented some of the most captivating work in the collage genre I have seen.

Art work is priceless, but what’s even more spectacular is putting up your own art work. The following is a list of all of the QCC artists with work featured in the 2009 Student Exhibition for Art and Design held on April 24, 2009:


If you missed the opening of the exhibit, don’t worry! It’s not too late. The student show will be up at the QCC Art Gallery through June 21, 2009.
HEALTH

Stem Cell 411

BY WOO SUNG PARK

On March 9, 2009, President Barack Obama issued an executive order allowing scientists to further embryonic stem cell research, upholding the Bush administration’s ban of using federal money to do research beyond the existing few stem cell lines. According to a New York Times article, Bush allowed federal funding for research on only 21 pre-existing stem cell lines with an executive order made on August 9, 2001. Five years later the Senate and House of Representatives passed legislation allowing for further development on embryonic stem cell research with federal money. Shortly after the Senate and House passed the bill on July 19, 2006, Bush enacted his first veto of his presidency, effectively shutting down further embryonic stem cell research with federal money. Almost a year later on June 20, 2007, Bush passed his second veto on embryonic stem cell research after the Senate and House once again passed legislation allowing further embryonic stem cell research with federal money.

There has been great controversy over research on embryonic stem cells, which was demonstrated by the disagreement between the Bush administration and Congress when George W. Bush was President. Not all of the Republican Party was in consensus with Bush however. John McCain, Republican presidential candidate in the 2008 election, did not agree with Bush’s two vetoes on embryonic stem cell research. Republican Senator of Tennessee Bill Frist, who opposes abortion, also did not agree with Bush’s decision to veto the first bill passed by Congress in 2006. Republican Senator Orrin G. Hatch of Utah did not back Bush concerning embryonic stem cell research and was one of the 19 Republican Senators who voted in favor of embryonic stem cell research in 2006 according to the New York Times.

What exactly is stem cell research?

Stem cell research is focused on curing many diseases, some being terminal, such as Parkinson’s disease, multiple sclerosis, diabetes, serious burns, as well as major nerve cell damage. This is due to the ability of embryonic stem cells to become any cell in the human body, which can be used to repair and/or replace damaged/diseased cells. When we go deeper into the mechanisms of stem cell research we must realize the two different types of stem cells; embryonic and adult. Adult stem cells are stem cells of an already differentiated cell, such as skin, hair, bone marrow, and muscle cells. Embryonic stem cells however have the potential to become any specialized cell found in the human body, such as a specific brain cell with a specific function. To obtain embryonic stem cells is a complex process which involves a human embryo (or more specifically, a blastocyst which is a ball of cells) and the harvesting of the embryonic stem cells found in the inner lining of the blastocyst, which results in the death of the blastocyst.

Due to the required death of the embryo there have been many ethical arguments made against embryonic stem cell research. Many opponents of embryonic stem cell research say that killing a potential human being is equated with murder, and killing human life for the sake of research is unethical. Cardinal Alfonso López Trujillo according to the NYT stated, “Destroying an embryo is equivalent to abortion...Excommunication is valid for the women, the doctors and researchers who destroy embryos.” (Cardinal Trujillo heads the Pontifical Council for the Family in the Catholic church). According to the NYT, Pope John Paul II said in 2000 that embryos from the moment of fertilization are considered human life and are to be protected as “human persons.” Outside the religious sect, Bill Saunders, director of the Family Research Council’s Center for Human Life and Bioethics stated in a NYT article, “The embryo is just that child at an earlier stage of development.” The main controversy is whether or not a 14 day old cluster of cells we term an “embryo” is considered to be on par with even a human fetus. Dr. Michael Stebbins states, “I prefer the argument that since these embryos have no nerve cells, and therefore no brain at all, they are not people, but nothing more than human cells in an undifferentiated vegetative state. They have no consciousness.”

(continued on page 16)
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WHITE PLAINS
TARRYTOWN HEIGHTS
Obesity In America

By LlOEL FLORES

American citizens are warned on a daily basis about how obesity can affect one’s health. In the YMCA television commercial, “Get up and do something,” viewers are encouraged to get off the couch and exercise to prevent heart attacks. And in documentaries such as “Super Size Me” the public is warned of the health risks involved with eating fast food. In that film, Morgan Spurlock went on a thirty-day McDonalds-only diet gaining 24.5 pounds. During his McDonalds-only diet he experienced mood swings, sexual dysfunction, and liver damage. It took Spurlock fourteen months to lose the weight he had gained in one month of his McDonalds-only diet.

Even with the large media campaigns explaining the dangers of obesity, Americans are still eating very unhealthy diets. The average person should consume 2,000 calories a day, but according to obesity.org statistics show that from 2001-2003 the average American consumed over 3,600 calories per day. The United States is the most obese country in the world, with Alaska being the most obese of the states. Two thirds of American adults are officially overweight and about half of those are technically obese, with African-Americans and Latino-Americans having the highest obesity rates. For American kids between the ages of 6 and 19 years old, 1 in 6 is overweight.

Even American pets are obese with 25% of cats and dogs being heavier than they should be.

Obesity causes high blood pressure, heart attacks, migraines, lower back pain, cellulite, stretch marks, fatty liver disease, asthma, and erectile dysfunction. For women obesity causes diabetes mellitus, polycystic ovarian syndrome, menstrual disorders, fertility complications, birth defects, intrauterine fetal death and depression.

Obesity is hard on the wallet as well. Jet Blue airlines, for example, charges an additional thirty dollars for an extra thirty eight inches of legroom. The estimated range for annual expenditures on diet products is $40 billion to $100 billion in the U.S. The average price for lap-band surgery ranges from $15,000 to $20,000. Medical studies on illnesses due to obesity run $117 billion a year.

The causes of obesity for Americans are easy to recognize. The fact is we eat too much of the wrong foods and in improper amounts and we fail to exercise. According to The American Obesity Association (AOA), statistics clearly show that the U.S. is among the most obese countries on the planet, even though it is supposed to be the most advanced and educated. Obesity in America continues to increase at record numbers as do diseases caused by obesity, and we have to do something about it.

For more information visit the AOA at http://www.obesity.org.

The Spread of Swine Flu Virus in Queens

By ANGELA PRADEL

Last month, during spring break, a dozen seniors from Saint Francis Prep High School in Queens flew to Cancun, Mexico to enjoy themselves. The Monday after, according to The Daily News, a few of the students reported being sick and returned home. It was the first sign in New York of a flu that was said to have originated in Mexico.

The World Health Organization recently posted that the virus is spread among pigs by aerosols, and by direct and indirect contact. The same organization also defined H1N1 as a unique mix of pig, bird and human flu viruses. According to the CNN website, researchers from the Department of Biomedical Informatics at Columbia University have found that the closest relatives to the new virus are viruses that were isolated from pigs in the United Sates in the past few years. The number of U.S. cases of H1N1 has risen to approximately 896 in 41 states, according to a daily report from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Parents, school officials and students were terrified by news of the swine flu, which was identified first as a simple virus. And it does, in fact, have the same exact symptoms as a regular flu, such as fever, fatigue, chills, cough, body aches, nausea, terrible headache and sore throat. Although, Mayor Bloomberg and other officials report that the cases have all been minor, should the population in Queens still be concerned?

Here are a few things that can prevent you from getting the flu. First, wash your hands more frequently, especially before and after eating, after contact with sick people and after using the bathroom. Second, use a tissue to blow your nose, sneeze into your elbow instead of into your hands, and always face away from others when sneezing. If you’re still afraid of catching the swine flu, you can also wear a surgical mask to feel safe.

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Queensborough Communiqué, May 2009 11
Unless you’ve been living under a rock, you know as well as I do that times have been rough. With everything going on not that many of us have gone unaffected by the recession. I myself have had to change my life in order to adapt to soaring prices and less hours at work. While struggling to maintain my lifestyle as well as keeping my pockets as full as possible, I’ve come across practical ways to save money. I’ve managed to find ways to still enjoy my life by doing all the things I love to do, at cheaper prices.

**DVDs**

Like most people, I love watching movies. I was a regular at Hollywood Video Rental and Blockbuster. These popular video rental stores are not inexpensive, especially if you rent a lot of DVDs. The cost of renting one DVD is about four to five dollars. Netflix, which is an online version of a movie rental store, gives you more bang for your buck. Most of us don’t want to wait for DVDs by mail but now Netflix has hundreds of movies and shows online and you can even watch some instantly on your television. Plus the DVDs arrive pretty quickly, and best of all... no late fees! They have plans as low as $4.99 a month. With this plan you get two DVDs a month and two hours of movies online. I would recommend the $8.99 a month plan where you get to exchange as many DVDs you want. You’re allowed one out at a time and unlimited movies online at anytime. To find the plan that’s right for you, visit www.netflix.com

**Movies**

Renting DVDs is great but some movies are just too tempting to wait for on DVD, so time to time you can catch me at the movies. Most moviegoers pick later show times, but that’s the most expensive time to go. You may think only early in the morning has the cheaper shows but some theatres have discount prices until 4 or 5 p.m. An average regular priced ticket can average $9-12 for adults, while matinee shows are as low as $6-7.50. So always check online and see which theatre near you has later matinee show times. My suggestion would be MovieWorld which is located in Douglaston. They have great deals on tickets and they have a café that offers snacks and food for a lot cheaper than any other theatre I’ve been to. Another alternative would be to pack your own snacks, which saves a lot of money.

**Food**

Instead of eating in all day and going out for dinner, why not enjoy a laid back inexpensive lunch? Most restaurants have deals early in the day. Prices can even be cut in half compared to dinner prices and it’s likely there will be less of a crowd which means a shorter wait. But if lunch or early dinners are not ideal for you, most restaurants now have select dinner items at value prices, or try eating at the bar. For instance, Cheesecake Factory’s bar menu has really good dishes for a steal. Another suggestion is to check online or call to find out which restaurants have deals and what hours. And remember, “happy hour” is different at every restaurant. But perhaps the best way to save money is to eat in. There are tons of easy recipes online. Cheapmeals.com offers hundreds of ideas for any budget. And to prepare for your home cooked meals you’ll need some tips to save at the grocery store. So maybe cutting coupons is annoying, but hey, it saves money. But there are some other things you can do such as buying store brands, buying items on sale, and buying items you use a lot of in bulk. A new way to save is also online. Yes, you can get groceries through the internet. Freshdirect.com has amazing deals and beats most store prices. Compare prices and buy cheaper.

**Theme Parks**

Most theme parks are pretty expensive. With the cost of gas for the drive there and back, and on top of that the ridiculous price for tickets, you can really empty your wallet. But it’s a lot cheaper if you use one of the bus services at Grand Central Station. Tickets are about $60.00 which includes round trip bus tickets and theme park passes. Plus the bus gets there a lot quicker due to private routes (Grandcentralstation.com). But if you’d rather drive you can still save money by checking online before your trip for coupons. Also at popular fast food chains you’ll usually find coupons for theme parks every summer. For example, every year you can find Six Flags, Splash Splash, Dorney Park, and Hershey’s Park coupons at McDonalds everywhere. Also every year Coke offers buy one get one free coupons for Six Flags tickets with specially marked cans. To save money during your trip bring your own food and leave your cooler in the car so that you can eat whenever you desire (most theme parks band outside food inside their gates). Most parks allow you to re-enter numerous times.

Using the tips mentioned above I’ve been able to save around $200 or more a month. A little pre-planning can save you lots of money. The key to saving is to research before you spend. There are ways to save, you just have to discover them.
Today’s economic times are rough for many if not most American families. Homes are being foreclosed, families are homeless, employers are sending out more pink slips or announcing pay cuts, and the middle class is the working class and the working class is becoming poor. Although some cities are hit harder than others by the current economic recession, it is hitting close to home for almost everyone.

The New York City Metropolitan Transit Authority is soon to set in place a “Doomsday Budget” to raise transit fare up to ten percent. The Daily News says the MTA’s transit hike includes an employer-paid payroll tax raising about $1.5 billion annually and fare and toll hikes of about 10% that will raise approximately $500 million. The MTA board expects new rates will go into effect in June or July 2009. The Affordable Card will jump to $89 from $81. A $2 one-way cash subway-bus fare will rise to $2.25. The MTA is even considering removing or lowering the number of school metro card passes for children in grades 5 to 12. The information in the chart below is from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority for New York City.

People are outraged by the fare hikes and are posing questions: “Where is the money going?” “How can I make a budget, and I barely have enough money to budget my living expenses already?” “Transit fares have been increasing every year from $1.25 to $1.50, to $2.00, now this!” “When will it stop?” “Where is the money going?” “It’s going to the new, but not needed, equipment would help a great deal, but when New York City tax payers are spending on high tech upgrades, wouldn’t it be reasonable to just wait for the train to arrive faster? New York is a tourist attraction and modifications and upgrades of MTA equipment would help a great deal, but when New York City tax payers are being pressed on all sides (e.g., see Christian Cisneros’ article on the CUNY budget in this issue of Communicqué) now is not the time. Though Mayor Bloomberg is blaming Governor Patterson for not helping, he does not want to increase taxes on upstate New York nor Long Island. It’s ironic (isn’t it?) that Mayor Bloomberg does not feel that the rich, who could actually afford it, should pay increased taxes to help support the MTA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fare Type</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>New</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Base Pay-Per-Ride Metro Card Fare</td>
<td>$2</td>
<td>$2.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum purchase for new Metro Card Cash/Single-Ride Ticket</td>
<td>$4</td>
<td>$4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unlimited Ride Metro Card</td>
<td>$2</td>
<td>$2.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-Day Metro Card</td>
<td>$81</td>
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I know there are many of you that pursue your relationships based on someone’s clothing gear, their ride, and physical appearance. Even though it has been proven that appearance seems to matter more than personality, I believe that personality should be an important factor in a person’s decisions regarding friends and intimate relationships.

First and foremost, let’s be clear that personality does matter in friendship, dating, choosing one’s colleagues, employees, and in employer relationships. A writer named Jessica Straub at www.Life123.com, states that you should find personality traits that are compatible with your own, including habits, hobbies, and goals. If you do find personality traits that bother you, remember they bother you for a reason, and you can’t change a person. Although different types of relationships have very different characteristics and specific needs, there are two basic areas which are critical in all relationships: Expectations, and Communication.

“How Your Looks Betray Your Personality,” a magazine article written by Roger Highfield, Richard Wiseman, and Rob Jenkins reports the idea that a person’s character can be glimpsed in their face dates back to the ancient Greeks. The idea was then famously popularized in the 18th century by the Swiss poet Johann Lavater. Psychological studies have shown that within a tenth of a second of seeing an unfamiliar face we have already made a judgment about its owners character, such as, being caring, trustworthy, aggressive, extroverted, and competent. Reporters Highfield, Wiseman, and Jenkins, also report that it is proven that people seen as good looking are also judged to be more outgoing, socially competent, powerful, sexually responsive, intelligent, and healthy. However, psychologist Alexander Todorov, of Princeton University, has pointed out that “The fact that different people come to remarkably similar conclusions about a particular face is very real in an individual’s personality.”

The article, “First Impressions: The Effect of Attractiveness and Personality,” on the Missouriwestern.edu website, states that researchers found men prefer attractiveness to personality when dating is involved, but women prefer personality to attractiveness in a dating relationship. And in a friendship men would prefer attractiveness to personality, whereas women would prefer personality to attractiveness in a friendship. However, other studies have shown that in dating relationships both men and women prefer attractiveness over personality.

There is no doubt that some people are less attractive than others, but no one is ugly; what doesn’t work for one person, may be good for another. Personality versus appearance is not addressed in the media as seriously as many other topics, but is instead an issue that blends in often invisible ways in our busy lives. Just as it takes a tenth of a second to judge an unfamiliar face, take the same time to remember that looks “ain’t everything”!!
ART REVIEWS

EVE 6 at Mulcahy’s

By Chris Evangelista

In 2007, vocalist Max Collins and drummer Tony Fagenson announced the reformation of EVE 6 with new guitarist Matt Bair. The band, mostly known for their singles “Inside Out” and “Here’s to the Night” (I am sure you heard that song at prom or your graduation slide show) is determined to release a new album this year. Due to a decrease in sales for their fourth album, “It’s All in Your Head,” the band was dropped from their record label RCA in 2004. Guitarist Jon Siebels indefinitely left the band while Max Collins and Tony Fagenson stuck around and formed a new band called Sugi Tap. Sugi Tap mostly played live shows in California and never released any singles.

Aficionados of the California based punk pop band EVE 6 flocked to Mulcahy’s Pub in Wantagh, Long Island on Sunday, April 26. My friends and I were very fortunate to get a ticket before they sold out. Semi-bummed that we were not the first ones on line, we were also psyched that there were more people than we thought would show up. Mulcahy’s is pretty big and provided a decent sized stage. At 8:00 P.M, the show was opened by two local bands. There was a ten minute (it seemed like forever) transition so that EVE 6 could bring their instruments on stage and do a sound check. At 10:15 P.M, the lights dimmed and the audience slowly succumbed to a titanic amount of nostalgia. The neon lights flickered brightly as my heart started racing. The crowd cheered as the first guitar chord was struck. The ovation got even louder when Max started singing “Promise” (which peaked at #3 on the U.S. Modern Rock Chart in 1999). EVE 6 knew how to get our adrenaline pumped. Every song became a duet between the audience and the band.

There was a spotlight on every band members’ individual talents. New guitarist Matt Bair amazed, and EVE 6 played a couple of new songs (new songs for EVE 6 but actually Sugi Tap songs) and all the fan favorites such as “Anytime,” “Amphetamines,” “Rescue,” “Leech,” “Think Twice,” “Tongue Tied,” “On the Roof Again,” and “Sunset Strip Bitch.” Fans raised their cell phones (replacing lighters) as they played the slow anthem “Here’s to the Night” and the crowd went wild when they performed their classic song “Inside Out.” The band thanked the crowd for showing up, told us that they are determined to release a new album this year and left us in awe. Everyone was still in ‘rock out’ mode and there was no way that it was over in less than an hour.

Fans chanted “EVE 6, encore!” and cheered as the band came back out. The shiny disco ball that hung in the middle of the ceiling glimmered as the spotlight focused on the stage. Max picked up his Fender jazz bass and the band initiated the first chords to the song “At Least We Were Dreaming.” They ended the evening with another Sugi Tap song called “Red and Black,” a slow song reminiscent of “Here’s to the Night.” The audience cheered, and suddenly we were back to reality. As a fan, it was surreal because it never occurred to me that I would be able to see EVE 6 live. As a music junkie, their show was the best live show I have ever attended. They looked like they had a great time and that really makes an impact on the crowd.

There is still time to experience EVE 6 live. As of now, they only have two more shows on the east coast: June 27 at Wolf Den in Mohegan Sun Casino (which according to their myspace page is free), and July 4th at Lake Side Festival in Illinois. Eve 6 is back with a fresh energy and an obvious eagerness to rock music fans.
4th Film in Fast and Furious Franchise Goes into Overdrive

BY CHRIS PEPLINSKI


It was really shocking that Fast and Furious ended up grossing $72.5 million in its opening weekend, surpassing the previous highest grossing opening in the franchise. 2 Fast 2 Furious, at $50.5 million back in 2003. It also made more money in its opening weekend than the previous film Tokyo Drift during its entire domestic run grossing only $62 million, making that one the least successful film in the franchise. The film also has the highest opening weekend ever for a film in April, surpassing the previous record holder Anger Management back in 2003 with $42.2 million opening weekend. Fast and Furious set other records as well, such as having the best three day opening ever for Universal Pictures and thereby beating Jurassic Park the Lost World back in 1997 with its $72.1 million. It also had the best opening ever for a car themed movie surpassing the film Cars back in 2006 with $60.1 million.

The 4th installment of the Fast and Furious Franchise re-teams the original cast from The Fast and the Furious. The events of this film are set in between 2 Fast 2 Furious and Tokyo Drift. Dominic Toretto is now an international criminal after having a successful run at stealing fuel tanks on the highways of the Dominican Republic where he now lives with his girlfriend Leticia Ortiz. Dominic receives tragic news from his sister Mia that Letty was killed and he wants revenge on those who killed her. He ends up finding out from a man named David Park that Ramon Campos is holding the key to finding out why Letty was killed. Brian O’Conner who is now an FBI Agent is tracking a drug lord named Arturo Braga who receives Intel that leads him to the same race that Dominic is participating in. Dominic discovers that it was someone named Fenix who was the one that was responsible for Letty’s death when she got involved in a deal that went wrong.

I think that it was a good idea for the 4th film to reunite the original cast, since it proves that sometimes old formulas work best. I was looking forward to Vin Diesel and Paul Walker returning to the franchise, having their characters Dominic and Brian work together to fight a common foe and rehash their rivalry by being forced to work together under dire circumstances. The cars were very impressive and the chase scenes were out of this world. It was good that the film also brought back original stars Jordana Brewster and Michelle Rodriguez as their love interests Mia and Letty.

I felt that Michelle Rodriguez’s character Letty should have been killed halfway into the movie instead of within the first 15 minutes since I think her death would then have created a bigger impact on Dominic. Vin Diesel manages to slip back into his old character by struggling with Dominic’s grief towards losing his girlfriend. Vin Diesel’s acting was a little weak, lacking sentimental emotion and communicating more anger than grief. Paul Walker seems to have lost the edge that made Brian O’Connor a rather popular character but he still managed to give a decent performance.

Fast and Furious is my 2nd favorite film in the franchise behind my number one favorite 2 Fast 2 Furious. Despite having a decent storyline and original cast members, the film did not offer any fresh material. I recommend the film for fans of flashy cars, high speed adventure and action packed thrills.

The Origin of the Most Popular X-Men Character

BY CHRIS PEPLINSKI


The X-Men Origins Wolverine story takes place 20 years before the events of the first X-men film. The story shows how Logan became the indestructible mutant that he is today. The film also explains his connection with William Stryker, his half-brother Victor Creed aka Sabretooth, and the reason behind his loss of memory. The film starts in 1845 when young Logan, whose real name is revealed to be James Howlett, witnesses his father getting killed by Victor Creed’s father and in an act of vengeance kills Victor’s father with the bone claws that come from his hands.

What young James discovers is that the man that he killed is actually his biological father, and that Victor Creed is his brother. Years later, James and Victor meet William Stryker who offers them a chance to join Team X, a team of mutants, and they accept. The members of the team include John Wraith, Wade Wilson, Chris Bradley, Fred Dukes, and David North. When Stryker orders the team to kill innocent civilians in Nigeria, Logan quits the team out of principal and ends up falling in love with Kayla Silverfox when he becomes a logger. Unfortunately for him, tragedy strikes when Victor Creed kills Kayla and Logan seeks revenge for her death by once again aligning himself with Stryker.

Logan ends up being fitted with the adamantium metal into his skeletal structure which makes him indestructible. He is given dogs tags that are named Wolverine after character in a story that Kayla once told him. When Stryker plans to erase his memory, Logan escapes from the lab and seeks refuge with an elderly couple. Unfortunately, they are killed when agent Zero

Getting a Chance to Relive Life Again

BY CHRIS PEPLINSKI


17 Again begins in 1989 at Hayden High School where senior basketball star Mike O’Donnell, played by Zac Efron, is in his final game of the season playing for a chance at a scholarship with Syracuse University. Unfortunately, Mike’s life does not turn out as planned when his girlfriend Scarlett tells him that she is pregnant. He decides against playing the game and feels that the best choice is to stay with Scarlett and become a father. Twenty years later, Mike O’Donnell lives in Los Angeles with his rich geek software tycoon friend Ned Gold, and is getting divorced from Scarlett who is fed up with his constant regrets, and to make matters worse his two children, Maggie and Alex, want nothing to do with him.

When Mike fails to get a promotion at work, he returns to his old high school wishing that he had a chance to relive his life again. He gets that chance when he meets an old man who he thinks is the school janitor but who turns him back into his 17 year old self again. Mike changes his alias to Mark Gold and pretends to be his friend Ned’s son. He then enrolls at his old high school with a chance to do his life over. Along the way he convinces his son Alex to join the basketball team, fight for the girl of his dreams Nicole and learn to stand up for himself. Mike also helps his daughter Maggie realize that her boyfriend Stan is an arrogant pompous jerk, and convinces her that...
The Origin of the Most Popular X-Men Character

(continued from page 15)

is in pursuit of Logan. He also discovers that his former teammates have been hunting mutants for Stryker and that he plans to create the ultimate weapon of unlimited power.

What I loved about this film is that it finally answered a lot of questions about Wolverines past, which was addressed in the X-Men trilogy, but not fully explained. I think Hugh Jackman was able to carry the film as Wolverine on his own, since he seems to bring a certain charm and mystique to his character. The film also introduced some new characters in the film such as Remy Lebeau aka Gambit who has the ability to turn any object he touches into potential energy causing it to explode. Patrick Stewart also reprises his role of Charles Xavier in a cameo appearance in which he helps the mutants escape from the Three Mile Island. Emma Frost is also introduced in the film and plays Kayla’s sister, with the ability to turn her body into diamond. Young Storm was supposed to have a cameo appearance in the film, but was cut.

The second reason I loved the film was the actions scenes and special effects. Liev Schreiber has done more with the Victor Creed/ Sabretooth character than its previous portrayor Tyler Mane, showing him to be more brutal and an older brother which was lacking when Tyler portrayed the character as a mindless brute and lackey. Danny Huston who plays the younger William Stryker portrays the character as much darker and menacing in his obsession to destroy mutants. This obsession was created by the hatred he had for his own mutant son Jason, who was responsible for the death of his mother. The film did a good job at depicting the character’s loss of innocence and how the events in this film shaped him into the character that he is today.

Despite the negative reviews for the film, it ended up grossing $87 million at the box office for its opening weekend which the 2nd highest opening ever for an X-Men film behind the third and final installment The Last Stand at $107 million back in 2006. The success of this film will hopefully allow more X-Men films to come in the future.

Stem Cell 411

(continued from page 9)

Embryonic stem cell research was such a controversial issue that it was the main topic of Bush’s first primetime television address to the nation on August 9, 2001, superseding the issue of possible terrorist attacks which then befall America on September 11, 2001.

President Barack Obama on March 9, 2009 with one signature made a firm statement to the American people and the world that the U.S. will no longer let politics and ideology get in the way of sound science. For the past eight years under the Bush administration embryonic stem cell research has been drowned with ideology and politics. Negative opinions, and at times hatred, have been spread by the American people. Such as the opinion held by Ms. Best (Ms. Best had embryos frozen in an in-vitro fertilization clinic) who in a NYT article, concerning the fate of her leftover embryos, stated that “[They] have the potential to become beautiful people.” And when asked about giving the leftover embryos to research she stated, “[It] conjures all sorts of horrors, from Frankenstein to the Holocaust.” When politics and ideology gets involved with science outrageous and absolutely ridiculous beliefs are produced—examples include the idea that the sun revolves around the Earth, that the world is flat, and that African-Americans are inferior to Whites. Those three beliefs were backed by science which was regulated by ideology and politics, it was not sound science based on pure facts with no outside pressures.

Ideology mixed with science has shown us multiple times throughout our history of the absolute absurdity of our opinions, and can produce opinions such as the one held by Mr. Deacon, 35, who in a NYT article dealing with Snowflakes (An embryo adoption program) said, “With another program, to be honest with you, they [embryos] could have been adopted by lesbian parents, and I’m totally against that.” Clearly, Mr. Deacon did not complete his humanities or science courses at QCC.

Getting a Chance to Relive Life Again

(continued from page 15)

there are better boyfriends out there that would love her for who she is. 17 Again may remind some viewers of the movie Big with Tom Hanks in which the character of the film, twelve year old Josh, wants to be an adult. The difference with this film is the role reversal, in which the adult wants to be a teenager again. Zac Efron manages to bring some charm and maturity to his role. Hunter Parrish who is best known as Silas from the hit TV show Weeds portrays Stan as an arrogant jock that people love to hate but yet admire at the same time. Michelle Trantenenberg, known for her role as Dawn Summers on Buffy the Vampire Slayer, is Harriet the spy, and Georgina Sparks from Gossip Girl, portrays Maggie as a rather sympathetic character with some naivety.

Nicole Sullivan, who is best known for her role as Holly Shumpert from the King of Queens, plays Scarlett’s bitchy friend Naomi who comes off as rather snobbish and narcissistic. Leslie Mann plays Mike’s wife Scarlett as a bit stuck up at times, but Scarlett wants her husband to enjoy his life and not be full of regret. What I loved about the film was Mike’s appreciation for his family and his new found self acceptance when he turned back into his former teenage self. The movie taught that sometimes the most important thing in life is your family, and realizing that sometimes takes a bit of self-discovery.
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Men’s Soccer…
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Participated in Region XV Playoffs
Nicholas Allen - 2nd Team All Region XV
Kimani Powell - Honorable Mention, Region XV
Christian Aburdene - Academic All Region XV & CUNY Athletic Conference
Marvin Ebanks - Academic All Region XV & CUNY Athletic Conference
Angel Garcia - Academic All Region XV & CUNY Athletic Conference
Stanislaw Grzegorzak - Academic All Region XV & CUNY Athletic Conference
Jose Mejia - Academic All Region XV & CUNY Athletic Conference
Denton Laing - Academic All Region XV & CUNY Athletic Conference

Women’s Volleyball…
Yadira Bernal - Academic All Region XV & CUNY Athletic Conference
Ashley Davis - Academic All Region XV & CUNY Athletic Conference
Gerlene Valcin - Academic All Region XV & CUNY Athletic Conference

Men’s & Women’s Cross Country…
Women - Community College CUNY Athletic Conference Champions
Men - Community College CUNY Athletic Conference Champions
Men’s Team - 2nd Place Region XV Championships, Sunken Meadow Park, NY
Women’s Team - Participated in Region XV Championships, Sunken Meadow Park, NY
Participated in District Championships, Massachusetts
Participated in NJCAA Championships,
Alex Medina - 2nd Team All American, NJCAA
Lizeth Pecho - Academic All CUNY Athletic Conference
Mercy Sablah - Academic All Region XV & CUNY Athletic Conference
Jean Desrosiers - Academic All Region XV & CUNY Athletic Conference
Kouri Falconer - Academic All Region XV & CUNY Athletic Conference
Robbie Ferro - Academic All Region XV & CUNY Athletic Conference
Alex Medina - Academic All Region XV & CUNY Athletic Conference
Paul Thimote - Academic All Region XV & CUNY Athletic Conference
Men’s Basketball...
Participated in Mohawk Valley Tournament
CUNY Athletic Conference Tournament Runner Ups
Ike Iwu - All Tournament Team, CUNY Athletic Conference
Gregory Steele - Honorable Mention & All Sportsmanship Team, Region XV & CUNY Athletic Conference All Star

Women’s Basketball...
CUNY Athletic Conference Champions
Participated in the Region XV Playoffs
Zaconja Bethea - 1st Team Region, XV, Rookie of Year & All Tournament Team, CUNY Athletic Conference
Jennifer Greene - CUNY Athletic Conference All Star
Cassandra Davis - All Sportsmanship Team, Region, XV & Academic All Region CUNY Athletic Conference
Melissa Dejesus - CUNY Athletic Conference Tournament MVP
Denise Finnegan - Academic All Region XV & CUNY Athletic Conference

Men’s & Women’s Swimming...
Participated in CUNY Athletic Conference Championships
Participated in District Championships, Rochester, NY
Men’s Team - Participated in NJCAA National Championships, Buffalo, NY
Daniel Armstrong - Academic All Region XV & CUNY Athletic Conference
So Hyun Bae - Academic All Region XV & CUNY Athletic Conference
Hye Jung Bahk - Academic All Region XV & CUNY Athletic Conference
Zong Zhang - Academic All Region XV & CUNY Athletic Conference

Men’s & Women’s Indoor Track Team...
Men’s Team - Community College CUNY Athletic Conference Champions
Women’s Team - Community College CUNY Athletic Conference Champions
Men’s Team - Participated in NJCAA National Championships, Texas Tech.

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