Michael Jackson: The Most Influential Legend of all Time

BY ELMIRA RUZ

Michael Jackson, the man, the legend, the icon. He was blessed with an extraordinary talent from God. He went through many struggles as a child growing up with an abusive father that sculpted him into the person he became. Throughout Michael’s life he experienced many ups and downs, but despite his hardships he still managed to be one of the best performers of all time. The documentary movie This Is It is composed of clips from rehearsals of what would have been an upcoming world tour, and portrays how much work he put into each performance. Michael Jackson will forever remain the king of pop.

Michael had gone through many stages in his career and in his later years was made out to be a monster by the media due to his alleged child molestation charges. He got even more negative press by dangling his own baby out of a window. Michael was always a child at heart because he never experienced a real childhood, which is why he was fascinated with Peter Pan and made his estate The Neverland Ranch. The spectacle of Michael’s plastic surgery, having altered his face, shrunk his nose, and allegedly having changed his skin color, provided more fuel for the negative media frenzy. Still, despite such negative reports, the pop singer performed to his maximum ability. His love and passion for music touched people’s hearts and souls. Michael changed music forever creating his own genre of music with 13 #1 hits.

Michael’s drive was music. He inspired the greatest artists of his time, and future artists as well as pop music forever. There would be no hip hop or today’s pop music scene if it weren’t for Michael Jackson. His music transcends all generation gaps from grandparents to parents to children—all listen to, respect, and love the music that he created.

Michael had three kids, two from his second wife, Debbie Rowe, whose names are Prince and Paris and the third which came from a surrogate mother and whose name is Blanket. There are many doubts as to whether Michael is the real father of these kids. Michael left most of his assets to his children, and to Sony Jackson owned the rights to the Beatles playlist which is a big account considering The Beatles were one of the greatest rock groups of all time.

Michael had booked a world tour which was set to begin a month after his death, the taped rehearsals for that tour provide the clips for the documentary This Is It. The film has been a big success and is set to run longer than anticipated through the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend. The film made 21.3 million during its opening weekend alone. On the 1st of November, MSNBC reported that worldwide the movie made 101 million within the first five days of its release. This Is It is a great depiction of Jackson as a performer. The movie starts out with clips of Michael’s dancers saying how much the pop singer has influenced them. The movie includes rehearsals (continued on page 15)

An Un-Happy Veterans Day for Students

BY CHRISTINA ROBERTS

Each year, millions of Veterans around the country are not properly acknowledged on Veterans Day.

According to census reports, as of 2007, there were 23.6 million U.S. Veterans. Veterans are important members of society and deserve to have a national holiday named in their honor, and in remembrance of their sacrifice. This is the one day during the year that citizens are given a chance to STOP and give thanks to the men and women of this country who stepped up to fight for the freedom that we take for granted; the men and women who fought to protect our lives as we know it by sacrificing their own.

While this day of recognition is set aside for the aforementioned reasons, veterans are still required to attend school and/or go to work on November 11. For example, CUNY students are required to attend school on this day, even though it is a national holiday. As a result, many veterans will be celebrating their holiday in classes or at their jobs.

While some professors may choose to excuse their veterans from attending class on November 11th, their absence requires that they miss the day’s lectures and content that they have paid to receive. Veterans should not have to attend school on Veterans Day, and the colleges should close their campuses so that all students can take part in the festivities. Korean War Veteran Larry Morse says, “We, as veterans, fought for this country to be free, and not to be honored by our school officials is a disgrace.”

When the United States Congress declared Veterans Day as a National Holiday, they stated, “… Whereas it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations.” One of those “exercises” CUNY participates in is the annual Veterans Day Parade held in Manhattan. While CUNY has the opportunity to be included in the parade (aboard a float), students being honored for their service to their nation are faced with having to miss class as a result of being honored for their sacrifice.

Veterans Day is not a new concept. It came about when, on November 11th, 1919, on “the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month,” an armistice was called by Germany, thus ending all wars. (continued on page 15)
Through the Eyes of an International Alien (F1 student visa holder)  
BY TASHANA TAIT

“Congratulations! You’ve been accepted.” These are the words that every college hopeful wants to see when they open that envelope with their name on it. For the international student though the work has just begun. After giving proof of financial support for the duration of the student’s stay in the U.S. to the accepting school, the student is then issued a document called the I-20. This document is important in that it outlines the do’s and don’ts for the I-20 holder. It is also for immigration purposes, to ensure that the holder is indeed enrolled in the institute specified on the document, at which time the student is then granted an F1 visa by the U.S. consulate. The student then leaves her home for school in the country of her choice.

Everything is so different. Nothing and no one is familiar. There are a lot of different emotions that one experiences. Excitement and fear are the two that are most evident. One good thing about being in a strange place is that it has a particular perk, you are anonymous. It’s like you’re in disguise and that changes everything. You feel liberated to be whoever you want to be. And that’s a breath of fresh air. On the other hand, you sometimes wish you had your old friends to keep you company.

One good thing about studying abroad is the opportunity to meet new people. It opens doors for new friendship as well as one’s awareness about other ethnic groups. You learn to appreciate other people’s beliefs and ways of life and at the same time you keep you fascinated. Diversity is apparent on the QCC campus. On any given day at least seven languages can be heard of life and at the same time they keep you fascinated. Diversity is apparent on the QCC campus. On any given day at least seven languages can be heard.

Being an international student is an experience one will treasure for life. School is fantastic and friends are priceless. Relationships are formed and then just like that you feel right at home, but being in a foreign country, away from family and friends and things that you are accustomed to can have a toll on a person. One experiences what is commonly called “culture shock.” This is an immense feeling of loneliness and slight stress. But “culture shock” doesn’t last for long and does not result in permanent damage. Surrounding one’s self with laughter and fun will eliminate but not always prevent “culture shock.”

Overall the experience of being an international student is priceless. The exposure to new ideas and new people is healthy and incredible. Memories and friendships will be made that will last a lifetime. You laugh when you figure which is which!! It’s amazing. The best reward is to achieve what we travelled to a new place for, the reason we left our loved ones and home and food, and that is a good education.

Turning the Third Time into a Charm?

BY JESSICA LO

On November 3, 2009, Michael R. Bloomberg became the mayor of New York City for a third term. The uncontested Republican and Independent nominee won the race against the candidate for the Democratic party, former City Comptroller William Thompson, by a narrow win of 50.6% to 46%. The next closest candidates were Conservative nominee Stephen Christopher, who received 1.7% of the vote, and the Green Party’s Billy Talen, with 0.8%.

Bloomberg is only the fourth person in the past century to have run and been elected for three terms as mayor of New York City, following Fiorello H. LaGuardia in 1941, Robert Wagner in 1961, and Ed Koch in 1985. Statistically, third term mayors have seen a decrease in support during their third term. But for Bloomberg, the fall has already begun. This victory follows on the heels of his unpopular decision to extend consecutive city term limits to three, despite citizens moving twice for it to be undone. Other unfavorable actions he has done as New York City’s mayor include favoring the demolition of historic Admiral’s Row to make room for a supermarket parking lot, offering large tax breaks to corporations such as Goldman Sachs, and the creation of bike lanes on the already-congested streets of Chinatown.

Despite such apparent handicaps, Bloomberg managed to edge out Thompson by achieving just over half the votes. As Bloomberg pointed out during the televised debate on October 13th, Thompson’s track record is also lacking for both his tenures as City Comptroller and President of the Board of Education. One voter interviewed by the New York Times said he voted for Bloomberg “unhappily,” commenting that “If there were somebody stronger I would have happily voted for them.” Representative Anthony D. Weiner observed, “We learned tonight that people do not forget easily. A lot of people, whether they said it to pollsters or not, were offended by the term limits fight.”

While for his first and second terms, he focused on reforming public education and lowering poverty as his legacies on New York City, this time Bloomberg ran on a platform of pulling the city out of the current financial crisis. At the same time, he declared, he wanted to strengthen “essential services.” Michael Goodwin, columnist for the New York Post, points out that while Bloomberg has done well for the city in decreasing crime and bettering the lifestyle of New Yorkers, the improvements to the public education system has not been enough to justify the costs. Goodwin also argues that Bloomberg has left us with a greatly increased cost of living. For his legacy to match his potential, Bloomberg must work on these issues during this third term. As his campaign slogan was “Vote for progress. Vote Bloomberg;” voters can only hope that Bloomberg will come through.
More Possible Budget Cuts to CUNY

By Kristina Beekie

According to PSC, the Professional Staff Congress for CUNY, Governor David Patterson will propose an additional budget cut for both CUNY community colleges and CUNY senior colleges before the New York State Legislature. Patterson is set to propose a $9.9 million dollars budget cut for community colleges and $55 million for senior colleges. To prevent these budget cuts the PSC and its supporters will be gathering at 633 3rd Ave (at 41st Street) in Manhattan at 4 pm on December 16th 2009. Their agenda is to present the signatures that they have collected from students, parents and other supporters on postcards and present them to petition Governor Patterson’s proposal. They are planning to tell the state legislature “to invest in CUNY with public funds - not tuition hikes.”

CUNY cannot withstand any more budget cuts. According to a press release found on PSC-CUNY.org titled, PSC Denounces Proposal to Cut Millions of Dollars from CUNY, PSC President Barbara Bowen states that CUNY has already had a $68 million cut last year, a $44 million cut this year and tuition has already raised 15% for students at CUNY senior colleges. These budget cuts are being felt by many students. According to Amber Grof, a Queensborough Community College student quoted in a recent NYPIRG press release, Students to Legislators: Reject the Governor’s Cuts to CUNY, “Classes are already overcrowded and students are graduating late because courses aren’t available.” CUNY desperately needs this money more than ever. Enrollment is at an all time high for community colleges with an 11.6% increase, and a 6.4% increase at senior colleges. The Governor’s proposed budget cuts will further increase tuition as well as classoom sizes. In addition, staff cuts will mean that students will not benefit from specific student academic and counseling services, including tutoring and helpful workshops. Therefore, the proposed budget cuts would serve as a potential threat to students’ ability to acquire the knowledge needed to succeed in the future and could result in plummeting graduation rates.

Many programs within CUNY may suffer from reduced funding. Aside from Patterson’s proposal to make cuts to both CUNY community colleges and senior colleges, he also wants to take additional money away from financial aid programs such as TAP, Liberty Partnerships, CSTEP, STEP, Aid for Part-time Student Study and many other Scholarship programs. Community colleges would have cuts made to the College Discovery Program, child care centers, workforce development and rental aid. Many students depend on these programs and resources to aid them financially as well as academically. Reduced funding to these programs will greatly affect college students and student life.

Moreover, the budget cuts will greatly affect the ability incoming students to excel in their academic studies. For example, incoming students would suffer if STEP, the Science and Technology Entry Program had reduced funding. STEP is a program in which high school students with the necessary qualifications are eligible to attend college courses and certain workshops in math and science as well as SAT preparatory training. These extra programs benefit students to successfully graduate from high school and to prepare for college admission. Without proper funding many qualified high school students as well as incoming students would not have the benefit of these free classes.

Another program that would be negatively impacted if funding was reduced is CSTEP: Collegiate Science Technology Program. The CSTEP Fact Sheet explains the goal of this program is to “increase minority and disadvantaged student representation in STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and licensed fields in New York State.” This program provides students with many advantages. If a student is eligible for this program they receive free tutoring, additional assistance, internships, textbook and laptop loans and specific academic advisement. According to the CSTEP Fact Sheet 2009, this program has “graduated 11,167 students from independent, SUNY, CUNY and two-year community colleges from 1986 to 2006.” Many Students would suffer without this program because it helps them to succeed in their area of study. CSTEP is funded by New York State with $8 million annually. The Governor wants to cut CSTEP funds up to 50%. These cuts will result in fewer student enrollments in CSTEP.

What’s being done in response to Patterson’s proposal? On October 23, 2009 Chancellor Matthew Goldstein submitted his testimony to the New York State Assembly about the possible budget cuts to CUNY. In his testimony, “Impact of Deficit Reduction Plan,” Goldstein highlighted the important factors regarding CUNY’s objections toward the budget cuts such as “the permanent damage that will result from a sustained period of reductions.” Also, in the most recent rally of November 2, 2009, the PSC and the SUNY union faculty and staff began met at Hunter College and then marched all the way to Fifth Avenue. Both the PSC and SUNY unions combined brought 400 people to the rally. The message to be heard loud and clear was “Hands off Higher Education! Invest in New York’s Future.” Many people voiced their opinions against the CUNY budget cuts, as did Barbra Bowen’s the PSC President who presented her testimony to the Senate committee concerning Patterson’s CUNY budget cut proposal. Her testimony gained lots of publicity from the media. This helped raised more public awareness about the threat to CUNY’s budget.

Further budget cuts to CUNY are harmful to both students and faculty. The PSC-CUNY urges you to add your voice to help fight against Governor Patterson’s CUNY budget cut proposal. Please contact your representative and say “NO” to further budget cuts to CUNY.

In with the New ASU

By Haleematu Emozozo

Queensborough Community College recently extended its welcome to the newly founded African Student Union (ASU). Together with the supervision of faculty advisor Natasha, President Chiamaka Onyejikuwa, a senior student on campus, worked hard fall semester 2009 to make this on-campus club happen. The ASU’s main purpose is to bring students of QCC together to learn about African culture.

Though ASU is a new organization, it quickly attracted twenty students within the first week and has since doubled. This progress can be traced to the organization and leadership skills of the club’s President, Vice President Uwayemwen Onokoro, and Senator Ihuoma Ezekwem. It would be difficult for them to be in such positions without highly studious attitudes. The college approves their suitability through their GPA.

“Just because it’s called African Student Union doesn’t mean it’s limited to African students only,” says Senator Ezekwem. “we welcome students of all races, ethnicties, classes, genders, anybody really that’s interested in experiencing African pride.” The club’s leaders explained that they want the members to actively support and exchange whatever ideas they have to make the group successful. Among the line-up of activities to display African culture are dances, fashion shows, culinary events and musical performances. The club’s first event has yet to take place but the planning process is very much in play.

“The African Student Union is really trying to step out and make an identity for themselves,” Vice President Uwayemwen Onokoro stated. “the group members as well as its leaders make it a duty to help out with other clubs and the varying social events the college has organized since the ASU was created.” Members have volunteered their time in the preparations of the October Halloween party and the Latin festival that took place in the student union building on the QCC campus.

There is also a charitable side to this new club; members are very much interested in participating in community services, such as volunteering at hospitals, animal shelters and senior citizen centers. The members plan to compliment the work of NYPIRG and the student government on projects outside campus. They plan to follow in their footsteps in terms of surrendering their time to do their part in the community.

If ever you wanted to experience or learn what Africa is about, and what it has to offer, then this would be the club to sign up for. Your ideas are welcomed and you can be of any background. Being a member of this club can only improve your college transcript. Bring your enthusiasm and interest to Room 212 of the Science building on Wednesdays during club hours from 1:30pm to 3pm.
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National & International News

13 Dead in Ft. Hood Shooting

BY CHRISTINA ROBERTS

On November 5th, 2009, 13 people were killed, and 31 were injured when a soldier opened fire on Fort Hood, a U.S. Army military base.

Major Nidal Malik Hasan, a psychologist working at the Darnell Medical Center at Fort Hood, was due to be deployed on Friday November 6th. After giving away belongings such as frozen vegetables, t-shirts, and a Koran to his neighbor, Patricia Villa, he reportedly told her that he was being deployed.

“DOD, DHS, FBI and other members of the intelligence community are assessing and gathering facts about the shootings,” according to spokeswoman Sara Kuban. “Because this is early in this event, we cannot at this time confirm motives behind these shootings.” President Obama in his press conference about the massacre said, “We don’t know all the answers yet and I would caution against jumping to conclusions until we have all the facts.” According to Obama, a thorough investigation will be conducted leaving no question unanswered.

Two hundred feet away from the Readiness Processing Center, a ceremony was about to be held honoring 138 soldiers who were receiving college graduate diplomas. It is estimated that 600 people were in attendance at the event, and due to quick response soldiers were able to protect and secure the family members and graduates.

Sergeant Howard Appleby, a U.S. Army soldier from the Bronx claimed the Readiness Processing Center “looked like a war zone.” According to eye witnesses, Hasan continually shot for approximately 3 minutes. Witnesses stated that he only stopped to reload his weapons. After he received four gunshot wounds, he laid on the floor completely motionless causing officials to believe he was dead. Appleby stated, “There was blood everywhere, it was unbelievable. Guys were screaming and yelling. People were rushing to help. I took my shirt off and began assisting the wounded.”

While it is unbelievable that Hasan was able to injure and kill so many people in such a short time, officials believe that because the area he and his victims occupied was small and enclosed it caused ricocheting bullets to be more effective. Immediately following the shooting, Fort Hood was put into a lockdown prohibiting people from entering or leaving the base for over 6 hours for security reasons. Sirens rang around the base as residents were asked to stay indoors until the lockdown had been lifted. Nearly 150 cars waited outside the gates of the base anxiously awaiting news that their loved ones were safe. It is estimated that 35,000 people live inside of Fort Hood.

On Friday November 6th, Lt. General Cone designated the day for mourning the killed soldiers. Obama ordered that U.S. flags were to be flown at half-mast until Veterans Day. Although time will be the only cure for the pain at Fort Hood, it will never be forgotten. Military officials are relieved that more were not killed and injured, but still recognize the shooting as a large tragedy to the American and American population. They send condolences to the families and loved ones of the victims.

For more up to date information or to learn how to help, visit http://pao.hood.army.mil/ Fort Hood’s official website.

New Age Hitler?

BY HOSAM IBRAHIM

October 21st 2009, controversial Dutch Parliament member, Geert Wilders who is known for is anti-Islamic views all over Europe, began his tour of the United States at Columbia University in New York City.

According to Wilders’ website www.geertwilders.nl, Wilders was formerly an elected member of the House of Representatives in Holland, a democratic European nation with a form of government very similar to our own, from 1998-2002. Since 1989, Wilders was a member of a liberal party called the People’s Party for Freedom and Democracy during his time in office, but left the party in 2004 because of his disagreement with the party’s position of allowing Turkey to enter the European Union. Wilders then moved on to form his own political party, the Party for Freedom. Wilders’ party is gaining support according to the European Parliament Election, which is a branch of the European Union, with the party having won four out of twenty-five seats. A poll taken in Holland in March of 2009 by Maurice de Hond, a Dutch opinion poller, indicated that if the poll results were to be matched in the actual Dutch Parliament elections Wilders would be able to take the position of Prime Minister.

Wilders is infamous in Europe for creating a fifteen minute movie titled Fitna, which was released on April 6th 2009 through liveleak.com. Although the website had to remove it due to legal issues, the video now streams through Youtube.com. The film is available all over the internet, and according to an article entitled “Anti-Islam Film’s director goes to Washington,” published on CNN.com February 26th 2009, Wilders has made numerous visits to other nations to show his film to politicians and lawmakers including the United (continued on page 18)
Have you ever imagined the end of the world? It’s the latest scary climate changes that have us thinking about it. 2012, starring John Cusack, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Amanda Peet, Oliver Platt, Thandie Newton, Danny Glover, and Woody Harrelson, is a disaster movie directed by Roland Emmerich/ written by Herald Kloser and Roland Emmerich, that premiered on November 13, 2009. The film promises to give its audience a jump on what to expect on our final day of destruction, predicted to be December 21, 2012.

The movie 2012 focuses on what is predicted to happen according to Mayan prophecies. In E.C Krupp’s article “The Great 2012 Scape,” based on the ancient Mayan calendar from Mexico and Guatemala, the transition of coastal and global convergence of environmental destruction causing social chaos and war will result in the rebirth of our earth. Everything will change (or end!), according to the movie and the Mayan day keepers at sunrise on December 21, 2012. For the first time in 26,000 years, the Sun will rise to conjure the intersection of the Milky Way and the plane of the ecliptic and it will be the start of the world of the Fifth Sun. Hence, the start of a new era resulting from the solar meridian crossing the galactic equator as the earth aligns itself with the center of the galaxy. The site for 2012 (www.whowillsurvive2012.com) declares that “Never before has a date in history been so significant to so many cultures, so many religions, scientists, and governments.”

Of course, many movies have been released on topics such as the end of time and natural disasters, and they continue to draw people seeking the truth and eager to learn more about the end of time into dark theaters everywhere. Many movie goers have an interest in such stories, and the aggressive marketing campaigns of such entertainments have many wondering if the end will happen or not. Today, we are facing many changes and challenges on earth from tsunamis to earthquakes and climate change; the question is what the outcome of a convergence of these changes will be? Is the end truly expected sometime soon? The Bible warns about such end of the world scenarios too. For example, in Matthew 24:29, “Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light and the stars of heaven shall fall from heaven.”

Perhaps the popular media has put the world in a head spin about the end of time, but people want more information. – apparently, both trustworthy and factual, and entertaining!

The following is a list of movies released in the past decade each of which includes natural disasters that threaten to end human civilization for good: Twister (1996), Armageddon (1998), Deep Impact (1998), The Day After Tomorrow (2004), War of The Worlds (2005), Ice Age: The Meltdown (2006), I Am Legend (2007), Sunshine (2007), and Cloverfield (2008). These are just a few of the better known big-budget movies that depict the destruction of earth and mankind. Although these films are simply entertainments, human civilization, believe it or not, might be playing a huge role in assisting Armageddon become a reality. Air, ground and water pollution, chemical plant explosions, forest fires, nuclear weapons and radioactive waste disposal, oil spills, growing mountains of garbage, all are stacking the odds against human survival.

One movie that has people talking is An Inconvenient Truth. Al Gore’s movie shows former Vice President Gore traveling the world delivering a presentation on global climate change and demonstrating that humankind must end its global warming now or face devastating consequences... This film captures his journey as a worldwide environmental champion. Yet, people have seen this film and remain careless about their own contribution to global warming and pollution.

The Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences (www.eas.slu.edu) has extensive information on Hurricane Katrina. It struck the U.S. Gulf Coast in August 2005 and the death toll was well over 1,000. In addition, the extensive urban flooding that occurred when was a secondary and disastrous effect, with estimates of insurance costs at $30 billion, and growing. Katrina was easily the most expensive disaster ever to hit the U.S., eclipsing Andrew in 1992. Interestingly, both hurricanes landed twice, first in Florida, then in Louisiana. From Andrew the death toll was “only” 26, but the property damage added up to (what was then) a staggering $25 billion.

An article at Times of India (timesofindia.indiatimes.com) states that on August 22, 2009 a raging forest fire took place in Athens, Greece, resulting in a massive evacuation of people from their homes. The amount of black smoke engulfed nearby hospitals and darkened the open sky. What does the smoke do to the planet? The smoke and the carbon released heats up the atmosphere which contributes to ice melt as far away as the North Pole and the Antarctic, and that melt results in flooding of coastal areas around the world further contributing to an unbalance in our planet’s eco-systems. Forest fires will not end anytime soon, but if we do not learn to better manage land resources and water resources planet wide, it will be only a matter of time before we meet the final product of our horrible creations, death.

People all over the world are frightened in the destruction of earth for many reasons. Many of us want to know how this planet will end, that way we can find a way to prevent it or even save ourselves. Although death is the end, people might feel as if it’s a beginning to a different life. We go to watch movies of destruction as a “safe” way to see death and destruction and not be afraid for one’s own life. Others may watch these movies for the purpose of being better prepared. Seeing what happens to our world might help prepare one for disaster and to take precautions to avoid death. The popular audience is so fanatic about these movies because of the numerous possibilities of what could happen to our fragile planet.

As people, we make mistakes but it’s our job to correct them. Think earth friendly when it comes to your car, put out all fires – and that includes your cigarettes you smokers! Recycle, and dispose of household items correctly. Maybe we can slow down our way of life, our endless consumerism, and take a breath of fresh air.

Grateful for Daylight Saving Time

By Brandon Hanson

On early Sunday November 1st, Daylight Saving Time (DST) struck at 2 a.m. People, knowing the time had changed to 1 a.m., had an extra hour to sleep. Daylight Saving brings more sunlight for everyone to enjoy earlier in the day. It was this year’s second and final change in time – it happens twice a year, once in spring and then again in the fall. Many people think that DST is a waste of time and do not understand the importance of turning clocks forwards and back.

The first nations to adopt the use of DST were Austria and Germany in 1916, and slowly other countries picked up on the idea. DST was first introduced in the United States officially on March 19, 1918, that at the time participation in DST was optional for each state. Of course, leaving the decision to individual states made things even more confusing state to state. The multiform use of DST lasted until April 12, 1966, when The Uniform Time Act was signed by President Lyndon Johnson. Congress decided to step in and end the confusion and non-uniformity from state to state with each having different time changes. Since then a few revisions have been made to DST; but, for the most part all states follow the same rule—except New Mexico abandoned its use altogether. This allowed for a number of physical activities—which definitely promotes a healthy lifestyle. Quality outdoor time may be spent with friends or family, which is always better than someone feeling the restricted limits from the dim moonlight. Sunlight is also necessary for the body to produce vitamin D which is vital for a healthy immune system. According to an article in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, vitamin D can lead to cardiovascular disease and ten to fifteen minutes per day of sunlight will allow the body to produce all it needs.
One of the most profitable designer vaccines that pharmaceutical companies are pushing hardest to young girls is Gardasil. Gardasil is prescribed for certain types of human papillomavirus (HPV) which is the primary cause of cervical cancer in women. Young girls all around the United States are being targeted by advertisements on television touting this vaccine as the best thing for prevention of cervical cancer. The advertisements, however, do little to inform the public about the potential risks that come with the HPV vaccine. Before making the decision to use Gardasil there are important health factors that should be taken into consideration regarding potential side effects.

Judicial Watch, a public interest group that investigates and prosecutes government corruption, is concerned about the aggressive attempt to market and mandate a drug with possible serious adverse effects. Stated land local governments have proposed the requirement of the vaccine for school girls entering the 6th grade. This vaccine is priced at $120 per injection, $360 for a full series over a 6 month period. Small wonder the pharmaceutical company Merck, the maker of Gardasil, promotes this product to young girls as well as women. According to Judicial Watch an FDA report cites 28 deaths since 2008 and as many as 19 deaths in 2007 for a total of 47 deaths linked to the vaccine Gardasil since it was approved in 2006. The FDA has also documented 6,723 cases of adverse reports in 2008 of which 1,061 were considered to be serious and 142 of these reports were considered life threatening. There were also 10 spontaneous abortions and 6 cases of Guillain-Barre Syndrome (a disease that causes the immune system to attack the nervous system and can lead to paralysis) since January 2008. Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton has gone on record regarding the vaccination Gardasil: “Given all the questions about Gardasil, the best public health policy would be to reevaluate the vaccination. Given all the questions about Gardasil, the vaccine was shown to reduce pre-cancers by 12.2%-16.5% in the general population. Thus, instead of 30-40 cases per year per million the HPV vaccine can potentially bring the number down to 26-35 cases of cervical cancer. What this means is that one million girls would have to be vaccinated to prevent cancer in 4-5 girls. According to Dr. Mercola, who became a family doctor in 1985 and started a natural health cote which is the most visited natural health cite on the internet, there are as many as 100 strains of human papillomaviruses that exist. Gardasil contains only four types of HPV strains. Therefore, if someone who is injected with the vaccine contracts the other 96 plus types that are not included the vaccine will not help. Further, if someone already has one of the four types of the virus that are in the vaccine, Gardasil will be ineffective in curing those as well.

According to Mercola.com, Gardasil can damage your immune system and lead to needless pain, suffering, and even potential death. The main causes of death include blood clots, acute respiratory failure, cardiac arrest, and sudden death due to unknown causes shortly after receiving the vaccine. Other side effects include miscarriages, genital warts outbreaks, hand and facial warts, anaphylactic shock, loss of consciousness, grand mal seizures, coma, and paralysis. There are other factors associated with increased risk of cervical cancer which include nutritional deficiencies, mineral deficiencies, smoking, birth control use, and douching. There are more efficient and beneficial ways to prevent cervical cancer and reduce your chance of contracting HPV, such as, avoiding smoking, eating a nutritional diet, and using condoms which can reduce HPV by 70% which offers better protection then Gardasil’s protection rate at 12.2-16.5%. Maintaining a healthy and strong immune system can clear up any treatment. It is extremely important that women and young girls know all that facts about Gardasil to make a well informed decision on the potential risks this drug offers.

Gardasil is currently offered at Queensborough Community College with a scheduled appointment with a nurse at the health services office located in the basement of the Medical Arts building MC02. The vaccination is offered free of charge to all Queensborough students with very helpful assistance and information to make the best judgment whether or not the vaccination is right for you. The facts about Gardasil will hopefully enlighten women of all ages on the prevention of cervical cancer, and the best ways to keep happy, healthy, and to live longer lives.

Do Not Flick That Butt

By Adam Gomez

How many cigarette butts do you see everyday on the ground and that you completely ignore? Try counting them and see how quickly you lose track. According to a New South Wales Litter survey in 2006 of over 100 sites, “cigarette butts and related items comprised 59.5% of all litter items - up from 55.4% in 2004.”

Why is littering on the rise and why is it not seen as wrong in the eyes of the perpetrators? It could be due to the lack of awareness of the subject, or it might be plain carelessness or negligence. Unlike the common misconception people have about their butts, they are not composed of cotton and do not easily decompose, dissolve or otherwise go away once you flick them. They are not biodegradable nor decompose quickly and can lead to paralysis. According to the Clean Virginia Watersways organization, “About 95% of cigarette filters are composed of cellulose acetate, a form of plastic which does not quickly degrade and can persist in the environment.” When you flick that butt it’s here to stay, for about 8 to 10 months after you have moved on or even longer.

Not only does cigarette litter pollute the ground you walk on, it is also responsible for polluting waterways and is harmful to wildlife. Animals eat the butts mistaking them for food which can make them ill and perhaps kill them. Think of all the chemicals that seep into waterways polluting the water fish inhabit. Cigarette butts have been found in the stomachs of birds, fish, whales and many other forms of marine life.

The majority of people who smoke do so while driving and instead of using the convenience of their in car ash tray they throw their finished cig out of the window onto local streets or highways. The Texas Department of Transportation found that “Each year more than 1 billion pieces of litter will accumulate on Texas highways. Of those, 13 percent are cigarette butts. That means 130 million butts will be tossed out in Texas alone this year.”

The next time you want to puff and drive, please discard your butts properly.

Many people on the OCC campus are guilty of the crime of littering, lumping themselves into the crowd of environmental polluters. The Los Angeles County Department of Public works “estimates that local smokers drop 600,000 butts on the ground every month, or more than 7 million a year.” If 20 cigarettes come in a pack, how many of those end up on the ground instead of their designated resting place, the garbage? Casting one’s butts on the ground could be attributed to the lack of awareness by smokers and the lack of ash receptacles at transitional locations, such as bus stops, building entrances, train platforms, restaurants, bars, and etcetera.

In addition to degrading the aesthetics of our environment cigarette litter can wreak havoc on taxpayer’s pockets, due to government programs enacted to combat this growing craze. A current proposal in San Francisco by Mayor Garvin Newsom to the San Fran Board of Supervisors would add 33% to the cost of a pack of cigarettes to contribute to the estimated 10.7 million dollars spent annually cleaning the butts out of gutters, sidewalks and drains. His proposal could be a possibility for New York City as well.

How do we combat this growing problem? First of all, and this message is directed to all the smokers reading this article, be responsible for your litter. Do not throw your butts on the ground for someone else to pick up. For people who do not smoke and know people who do and litter, tell them how you feel and inform them. Write letters to local officials to propose more ash receptacles and to increase efforts to battle litter. The best advice that can be offered is: think before you flick.
HEALTH

Protect Yourself

BY SAMANTHA PULLAY

Swine flu and the seasonal flu are circulating throughout the United States. However, do not be alarmed as there are many ways to protect yourself.

There are no cures for colds and flu; therefore, it should be one’s personal priority to prevent contracting either illness. Charles B. Inlander, President of The People’s Medical Society, posted an article, “12 Natural Tips to Prevent a Cold” on www.webmd.com (revised by Matthew Hoffman, a medical doctor and freelance writer). Mr. Inlander provides a list of 10 things you can do to protect yourself:

Wash your hands and cover your sneezes and coughs; avoid touching your face, viruses enter through your nose, mouth and ears; drink plenty of fluids – if your urine is light and clear you’re getting enough fluids, if it’s a deep yellow you need more; take a Sauna, it plays an important role in flu prevention. A 1989 German study found that people who steamed twice a week got half as many colds as people who did not. Saunas allow you to inhale air hotter than 80 degrees which is a temperature too hot for colds and flu viruses to survive; get plenty of fresh air, aerobic exercise, and do not smoke; cut alcohol consumption. The final and most important tip is to relax. Once you become stressed it affects your immune system, training yourself to be calm and positive will also help your life function better.

There are two strains of flu you need to protect yourself from, the common seasonal flu and H1N1. Symptoms can range from mild to severe for either strain of the flu. Rare human infections of H5N1 have been found. H5N1 is influenza virus that is extremely contagious among birds. In the United States no human cases of H5N1 have been confirmed. You can read about these influenza's and more on the WEBMD website.

For more information log onto www.whitehouse.gov.

The administration will create independent medical experts to identify health care coverage to 40 million Americans, most of whom are presently uninsured by improving the health care system. It’s a necessity that all Americans have health insurance to prevent denial of coverage because of pre-existing conditions, and to pay for all medical needs. The new bill includes a new government-run insurance plan to compete with the private companies.

For too long the problems with health care have been recognized but not taken into serious consideration by our elected officials. “Many families are one illness or accident away from financial ruin,” says President Obama. Citizens can no longer afford to wait. That is why the President has already begun the process of reforming health care by ending discrimination against people with pre-existing conditions, capping out-of-pocket expenses, protecting Medicare for senior citizens, and eliminating the “donut-hole” gap which would help reduce out of pocket medication costs.

President Obama’s plan gives you the opportunity to keep your original health insurance. According to Obama, “If you like your insurance you keep it.” In the future it will be against the law for insurance companies to deny you coverage for pre-existing conditions. Insurance companies will be required to cover for preventive care, like mammograms or colonoscopies. As soon as the President signs the new health care bill it will be against the law for the insurance companies to drop coverage when you become sick.

Additionally, the health care plan will eliminate yearly and lifetime caps on coverage. President Obama will place a limit on how much you are charged for out of pocket expenses, because he feels in the United States of America no one should be financially ruined because they get sick.

If you do not have health insurance the new health bill provides the option of quality affordable choices for all Americans. Obama will push for public health insurance options. This plan will not add one dime to our deficit, it will be paid for up front. The only thing his plan will eliminate is the millions of dollars in waste and fraud.

The administration will create independent medical experts to identify waste, fraud, and abuse. These steps will also insure that American senior citizens get the benefits they were promised, and eliminate the prescription drug “donut hole.” “The time for games is over, and now is the time to deliver on health care,” President Barack Obama.

For more information log onto www.whitehouse.gov.

Health Care Reform Bill

BY FELICIA KELLY

The health care reform bill seeks to develop health care coverage to 40 million Americans, most of whom are presently uninsured by improving the health care system.

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HIV: Take Action

BY STEPHANNIE SALAS

“As many as 5 percent of the adults in the District of Columbia are infected – a rate Dr. Hader says is comparable with those in West Africa – and one third to one-half do not even know they harbor the virus,” according to “Fighting H.I.V., a Community at a Time,” reported by Susan Okie at The New York Times Online, October 26, 2009. Dr. Hader is the director of H.I.V./AIDS administration at the city’s Department of Health. Human Immunodeficiency Virus is a disease that infects and gradually destroys an infected person’s immune system, reducing their protection against infection and cancers. By destroying the person’s immune system it not only reduces protection against cancers but makes a person vulnerable to any disease and infection.

There have been many attempts to find a medicine that can fight the virus but none have proved completely successful. With a new plan in hand the federal health officials want to carry out a strategy to fight the spread of the AIDS virus. This plan relies on a strategy called “test and treat,” in which two locations with the highest rates of infection with H.I.V., the District of Columbia and the Bronx, would be put on study for a period of three years. Every adult in the community would be tested and those who were found to be infected would be immediately put on treatment.

“The goal is not to measure whether ‘test and treat’ actually works to slow an epidemic, but whether such a strategy can even be carried out, given the many barriers to being tested and getting medical care,” states Dr. Hader in the Times article. “One of those barriers is the fact that even when people are diagnosed with H.I.V., not many follow an appropriate treatment or go to the doctor. For example, half of the residents of Washington diagnosed with H.I.V. in 2006 went to see a doctor within six months.” In an interview, Angela Fulwood Wood, deputy director of Family and Medical Counseling Service, an agency that operates a mobile H.I.V. testing clinic stated, “Someone who has just tested positive can walk off that day and decide, ‘I’m going to pretend that never happened.’ ” Federal health department officials want to take action and put a stop to this. Voluntary H.I.V. testing for 13 years old to 64 years old has been recommended by the C.D.C. as a part of regular medical care. Unfortunately, not many hospitals follow such recommendations and many times patients refuse to get tested.

Meetings between researchers involved in the study and doctors both from the District of Columbia and the Bronx have taken place to discuss steps being taken in the fight against H.I.V. and to make testing a routine every time patients visit their doctor, clinics and emergency rooms. They want to put testing at the hands of everybody and in everywhere possible; including those

(continued on page 18)
By Laurie Imhauser

Michael Moore has done it again with Capitalism: A Love Story. He has a sense of humor that often makes you laugh, but then he tells you a story that makes you want to cry. The documentary starts with the fall of the Roman Empire. We are told that games and spectacles were used as a diversion to keep the masses from knowing what was really going on. When you see the image of the Roman emperor, look closely. He seems to be familiar — why, it’s former Vice President Dick Cheney!

I went to the theater on a Sunday afternoon, surrounded by people old enough to be my grandparents. I suppose it might have been the time of day, but the theater was not crowded. I had hoped there would be more of a turn out, since Michael Moore’s films are about what is happening in this country and how it affects both young and old.

In another scene Moore returns with his Dad to a bulldozed GM plant site in Flint, Michigan, the town where he was born and raised. His Dad has good memories of working at a big corporate manufacturing plant, because it enabled him to provide his family with all aspects of “the American dream.” It was sad to hear his father’s stories, however, as we realize few people will have such stories in the future. Moore uses moments like this to pull at your heartstrings, and it makes you wish things were different.

This film tells us how capitalism has changed since the 1950’s, when women didn’t work and many Americans owned homes, took vacations and had family cars. In other words, life was good. It was a time when the very rich were in the 90% tax bracket and this revenue was used to build new roads and other infrastructure that benefited everyone. Capitalism was previously a system of give and take and people earned a living wage. Somewhere along the way, capitalism took a detour. Now it’s all take and no give and Americans are being paid less and less. According to Mr. Moore’s website, a leaked Citigroup memo concluded that the top 1% of the population has more financial wealth than the bottom 95% combined. However, Mr. Moore reminds us that the bottom 95% also have 95% of the vote.

Capitalism: A Love Story also gives us another important message — if we do not revolt, the middle class will no longer exist. Corporations now have too much influence over the government and this puts the middle class in jeopardy. Moore warns that corporations are trying to make this happen. One example is “Dead Peasants” insurance. Many large companies now take out life insurance on non-essential employees (or peasants). The beneficiaries of this insurance are not the families of the workers, as in the past, but the companies themselves.

This film covers everything from foreclosures to derivatives and from AIG to Goldman Sachs, attempting to provide an understanding of how today’s capitalism run amuck affects us all. Mr. Moore films several families as they are being forced by foreclosure to leave homes they have lived in for many years. His website tells us that “the FBI says 80% of the fraud was induced by the banks, not the individuals seeking loans.” In his film, Mr. Moore says that Ronald Reagan remade America to serve banks, so that we now have a revolving door between financial institutions and government, with many people working first for one and then the other. As seen on the TV ads for his film, Moore goes to a bank on Wall Street with a Brinks truck and tells the security people he is there to get the taxpayer’s money back.

The film continues with Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s little known 1944 speech, which includes a Second Bill of Rights that would serve as a “basis of security and prosperity.” These rights were for all, “regardless of station, or race or creed.” They included the right to a useful and remunerative job, to earn enough to provide adequate food, clothing and recreation, a decent home, adequate medical care, adequate protection from the economic fears of old (continued on page 14)
Everyone’s heard about Paranormal Activity and if anyone hasn’t movies aren’t their thing, or it’s time to stop living under a rock. Now, the big question everyone is pondering is where did this film come from and is it based on something real?

I hate to shatter the dreams of horror seeking fans, but the film is a fictional documentary film. It’s not real. There is no ghost hiding behind the closet door in a bedroom waiting for the couple to go to sleep so it could have a midnight snack munching on the woman’s back.

Paranormal Activity is a low budget film independently directed by Oren Peli. The film’s budget was under 15,000 dollars, and it was produced within a week. All those horrific scenes that make people jump in their chairs were created by cheap web tactics. PA shows how movies made with a handheld camera can make millions in a month.

According to the article, “Bed, Bath and the Great Beyond” in the New York Times, the story of Paranormal Activity originated with Oren Peli and his girlfriend, Toni Taylor. Since childhood, Peli always had a constant fear of ghosts, but that wasn’t what caused him to produce the film. It actually started off when he and his girlfriend moved into a suburban home in San Diego. Shortly after they moved in, Peli and Taylor would experience weird noises in the house. At first, the noises were explainable but soon the seemingly unnatural occurrences were not easily accounted for. For example, they had placed a plastic container of detergent on a deep shelf. The next morning it was across the room. At night, the couple would feel vibrations in bed but after conducting research on regional earthquakes, they discovered that none had occurred recently. Also, for those people who have seen the movie, remember the whispering sounds in the ear? In reality, Taylor does hear whispers in her ear too.

Taking these strange situations under consideration, Peli decided to make a movie based on the strange events that he and Toni had experienced. He started by renovating his house and purchasing a carved wooden piece for his bed. Then, he removed the carpet, and installed wood flooring in order to produce sounds such as footsteps, and so that objects could slide easily. Then he replaced the walls too. In 2007 the film was released and first screened at the Screamfest Horror Film festival. Soon after, it went straight to DVD. It was available to anyone who would distribute it.

In 2008 Dream Works Studio began debating on whether or not to promote the low budget film. The debate ended, however, once Steven Spielberg watched the move. “The Haunted History of Paranormal Activity” in the LA Times stated, “not long after he watched it, the door to his empty bedroom inexplicably worked from the inside, forcing him to summon a locksmith.”

The film was to be remade and launched in theaters in 2008, but due to conflicts between Paramount pictures and DreamWorks, production was delayed. Eventually on September 25, 2009, Paramount Pictures released the movie screening it in thirteen college towns. Of the 13 shows, 12 sold out. The film’s distribution later expanded thanks to Eventful.com and Paramountpictures.com when both received millions of requests by online users to play the movie in their home town. On October 2nd screenings were expanded to twenty additional cities across the country. By October 16th the film had become a nationwide phenomenon. The $15,000 film has gone on to make millions.
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MOVIE REVIEWS

Where the Wild Things Are
A Classic epic fantasy story comes to life

BY CHRIS PEPLINSKI

Starring: Max Records, James Gandolfini, Catherine O’Hara, Forest Whitaker, Chris Cooper, Lauren Ambrose, Paul Dano, Catherine Keener, and Mark Ruffalo Directed by Spike Jonze, Warner Bros Pictures.

Where the Wild Things Are follows the story of 9 year old Max (played by newcomer Max Records) who feels very alienated from his family. His sister Claire has her own set of friends. During the snowball fight, they end up destroying the igloo that Max made. When Claire doesn’t say anything about it, Max gets into a rage, breaking things in his sister’s room and stomping snow on the floor. His mother Connie (Catherine Keener) is a divorced single mother and a writer. She has been focusing on her boyfriend (Mark Ruffalo) and neglecting Max. Max runs away after biting his mother for not paying any attention to him. He ends up traveling to the Wild Thing Island by sailboat as a way to escape from his problems.

When Max arrives at the Wild Thing Island, he overhears an argument between The Wild Thing creatures and they nearly eat him when they notice him eavesdropping. He meets the Wild Thing creatures Carol (James Gandolfini), Judith (Catherine O’Hara), KW (Lauren Ambrose), and Douglas (Chris Cooper). When the creatures are convinced that he has some kind of magical powers to bring unity to the Island, they declare Max the king of the Wild Thing Island.

During his adventure at the Wild Thing Island, Max asks the Wild Thing Creatures to create a fort, which would be constructed to look like a kingdom. Max faces challenges in the Island such as Carol’s temper when he discovers from Douglas that Max has no magical powers and he is not really the king.

Max faces another situation when KW considers leaving the group again after a game of Diet Clot, which Max organized as a way to relieve tension which he has some kind of magical powers to bring unity to the Island, they declare Max the king of the Wild Thing Island.

When it comes to the performances in the film, I actually thought that Max Records actually did a good job with the part considering that it was his first film in a leading role. What I liked about the portrayal of Max is that he shows his vulnerability and neglect by acting out, which was his way of saying that he wants his sister Claire and his mother Connie’s attention. Another performance that I enjoyed was James Gandolfini, who is best known for his role of Tony Soprano in The Sopranos. In this film, he voices the character Carol as a creature who has a good heart, despite his aggressive behavior at times. Catherine O’Hara who voiced Wild Thing Judith is portrayed as a lonely, misunderstood and often much underappreciated by the group, which shows her sense of loneliness.

Overall, Where the Wild Things Are provides a faithful portrayal of the book despite making it more realistic and edgier to meet today’s standards.

The 6th chapter of Blood and Mayhem

BY CHRIS PEPLINSKI


In the 6th chapter of the Saw franchise, William Easton (Peter Outerbridge) an insurance businessman denies a male patient the loan that he needs in order to get a medical procedure done which later results in the man’s death. He ends up getting captured by a masked figure and ends up becoming another one of Jigsaw’s victims in a game of survival. Along with surviving the test that Jigsaw had planned for him, William faces another challenge when he has to rescue other fellow victims from Jigsaw’s menacing games and decide their fates.

In other parts of the story, Detective Mark Hoffman (Costas Mandylor) continues to be the late John Kramer / Jigsaw’s (Tobin Bell) unchallenged apprentice with continuing his life work because John Kramer felt that the only way for people to truly appreciate life is to see what it will take for his victims to survive when tested. He faces a situation of his own when it is revealed from Agents Perez and Erickson that they are trying to discover who the mysterious voice is on one of the tapes obtained from a deceased victim named Seth, in which the agents are unaware that he was killed by Hoffman. In other parts of the story, John Kramer’s ex-wife Jill Tuck (Betsy Russell) is given a box which contains her deceased husband’s last will and envelopes marked 1-6 for her to fulfill. Saw 6 was rather enjoyable, since the film explained a lot of unanswered questions behind what started John Kramer’s legacy and the reasons for his actions. Even though the film was graphic with the gore, it was toned down a bit. This was a good thing because the problem with the last two Saw films, that it focused more on the blood and gore rather than the story. For fans of the bloodshed, there is still plenty of gore to be found. One example is in the beginning of the film. Two victims are being held captive by one of Jigsaw’s sadistic torture games and they have to find a way out in order to survive. The two victims have to sever their own body parts and put them on the scale, or the devices attached to their skulls would crush them instantly. One of the victims Simone manages to survive by severing her arm and putting it on the scale, but watches in horror as the other victim Eddie dies in front of her.

Tobin Bell continues to give the wonderful eerie performance that he has done for the last 6 films and shines rather brilliantly. Costas Mandylor portrays Detective Mark Hoffman as someone who acts like a brutal madman to serve his own purpose and would kill anyone who gets in his way, if they discover who he really is or people that have wronged him. He brings life to an otherwise one dimensional character. The deceased Amanda Young, played by Shawnee Smith, returns in flashbacks and is fleshed out even further as it is explained how her character played a vital role towards key events that happened in the previous films. Betsy Russell also returns as Jill Tuck. One of the best things about the character is that the audience is left wondering if she is really hiding more than she is revealing. What fascinated me about Jill Tuck is that I think she may have played a bigger key role towards the motivation behind the late John Kramer’s legacy and the possibility that she may be a villain as well with her own agenda.

Even though this installment was one of the better films, I am not a diehard fan of the Saw films because I feel that the concept of Jigsaw using traps on his victims reminds me of the Hellraiser films, in which the villain Pinhead uses a puzzle box as source of pain and pleasure, which I think is rather sadistic and brutal. The 6th Saw film resolved a lot of the questions that were answered in the franchise, which left me feeling more satisfied since viewers finally understood why the events in the previous Saw films happened. I would recommend seeing this installment of the Saw franchise since it gets to the core of what John Kramer/Jigsaw is really all about and how the flashbacks shaped the Saw films that we know today.
Student Registration System Coming Soon!

Here are some of the key features and benefits of the CUNYfirst Student Registration System, in the opinion of the Queensborough students who tested the system over the summer. You will use CUNYfirst in the spring of '10 to register for your summer and fall classes.

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See your entire course history when you are registering on CUNYfirst.
The Women’s Basketball Team at Queensborough

BY JENESHA GAYLE

The women’s basketball team at Queensborough Community College played a very motivated CUNY Championship game in 2008-2009. From 2004 through 2008, the Queensborough basketball teams first time that they have won a CUNY Championship game. Head coach Joseph Medina and Assistant coach David Chambers have stated that the team will make regional, national, and the CUNY Championship this year.

The women’s basketball team players all want to pursue going further in life with basketball, and are very motivated to reach their goals. Melissa De Jesus is a senior on the women’s basketball team and most valuable player (MVP) in the 2007-2008 Season. “My family motivates me to play basketball, because they are always behind me with whatever I love to do,” says De Jesus. Basketball means everything to her and she hopes to have a future in the WNBA. “Basketball is my life, and becoming the most valuable player of last year motivates me even more to pursue my dreams.”

Lindsay Nixon is motivated to play basketball because of her family as well. She fears that she might have become involved with something destructive if was not for her involvement in sports. Outside the court she wants to be a team leader, and a role model to younger kids. “I am playing basketball to stay out of trouble [and] to perfect what I do.” She sees herself winning regional and going further in the future playing basketball with Queensborough Community College and beyond.

Ellysha Delva played on the team last year and has come back in the 2009-2010 season to help motivate the women’s team. She stated, “What makes me motivated to play basketball is the competitive nature of playing other teams. I get adrenaline every time before a game, which pushes me to work on my flaws.” To her playing basketball is important because she is able to build relationships with new people, network, meet coaches, and recruiters at 4-year universities. She played at Queensborough Community College because she had a lot of free time on her hands, and wanted to finish where she left off in high school to pursue her goals, by working with college basketball teams in the field of sports massage therapy and sport medicine.

Coach Medina feels what makes a motivated team is “[Seeing] the women basketball players showing him they can come together by working hard to reach their goals... and making sacrifices for the team and for yourself.” Medina has a passion for the game, and wants the women to reach where he never got to reach in his basketball career. He understands the game and is willing to coach from the highest level to the lowest level of basketball skills. He is motivated to coach the women’s basketball team at all times as long as the players stay motivated to learn.

Assistant coach Chambers also feels that what makes a motivated team is looking beyond skills gained on the team to having chemistry and unity with one another. “As a coach you always learn something new and everyday it’s a lesson and you learn more about yourself.” Striving to be better motivates him to achieve his goal of becoming a Head coach.

The coaches are motivated to teach basketball because they want to make it to regional and the CUNY Championship games this year. They also want to help women understand that basketball is not all about skills but also about changing your attitudes in life, and making you a better team player not only on the court, but in society as well. The players love to participate on the team because they love the sport and want to go further in life. Basketball keeps them motivated to be a strong. They have learned according to coach Medina to “never be a follower but be a leader, and if you’re going to be a follower be the best at it.”

Tigers Tip-Off

BY WILLIAM SABREBERRY

The start of the basketball season for the Queensborough Tigers kicks off this weekend. It is a very different look for the Queensborough Tigers this season as there are only 5 returning players with 10 freshmen. To add to the new look, there has been a coaching change from last season as previous head coach Billy Atkinson passed away. New head coach Larry Dantzler says, “We are dedicating this season to him in his memory.” Coach Dantzler feels he has a very talented team with no clashes between personalities. “There are no superstars on this team so we have no ego problems,” he says. “In my new system everyone has the chance to be involved and do well.”

Many players are really looking forward to this season and are expecting some big things to happen. Sophomore point guard Randy Williams says that “this season will be tough but with added hard work we will overcome.” The team goals are to reach the CUNY finals and win, a feat they were unable to accomplish last year. “We were so close but we fell short to Kingsborough in the championship game,” says second year player Anthony Davis. Fiery shooting guard Peter Samolis has no problem thinking big. “We have a very talented team and with everybody working hard and staying hungry maybe we’ll reach the nationals.”

Even though this season’s team is young, a lot of the players played ball with each other before so they are familiar with each other’s game. “We have some young athletic players that are ready to play straight out of high school,” reports sophomore forward Mark Hodge, Jr. First time player Nick Nissirios says, “I’m familiar with a couple players because of previous tournaments I played with and against them so the chemistry is great.” Everyone on the team has high hopes for the school team. See the upcoming season’s schedule below to check out some of their games. Go Tigers!!!

CAPITALISM: A LOVE STORY
(For the rich, but not the rest of us)

continued from page 9

age, sickness, accident and unemployment, and for every businessman, large and small, freedom from unfair competition and domination by monopolies at home and abroad. I agree that these are rights all citizens deserve in the richest country in the world. The actual film of FDR giving this speech was thought to no longer exist, but Moore’s staff unearthed a copy during their research.

The overall theme of Michael Moore’s movies is to point out what is wrong with our country, that we are losing our middle class, and that Americans are allowing it to happen because they aren’t protesting. Mr. Moore’s message, like his humor, can be subtle at times. In a laidback way, he calls for us, his audience, to revolt. If you aren’t fired up by this documentary, you won’t have much of a reaction. However, his message is definitely that America’s solution is revolution. After making this film, Michael Moore declared that he won’t make any more movies unless people take action.

I found this movie to be informative and entertaining, with many humorous moments. Mr. Moore’s staff conducted a lot of research to verify facts, and he uses interviews and humor to get his points across. While it must be difficult to get so much information into a short time span, the result is a jam-packed and enjoyable film that makes time pass quickly. I suggest you see this film twice, you might learn a few things and you certainly won’t be bored.
Movie and is then transitioned from cinema to stage. In the thriller criminal performance, Michael is edited into a scene from an old gangster were the smooth criminal and the thriller performances. In the smooth type of drugs Jackson was on before his death. Only when interviewed by Doctor Conrad Murray, did not give the hospital any details regarding the death. “It has been reported that the doctor Jackson was in the care of, “anesthetic propofol acted with at least two sedatives to cause Jackson’s death. Law enforcement states that due to this finding it is likely a homicide because he was under the care of his doctor who provided him with different prescription meds that when combined caused him to suffer a heart attack. Law enforcement states that due to this finding it is likely that Jackson’s doctor will face criminal charges. The coroner found that “anesthetic propofol acted with at least two sedatives to cause Jackson’s death.” It has been reported that the doctor Jackson was in the care of, Doctor Conrad Murray, did not give the hospital any details regarding the type of drugs Jackson was on before his death. Only when interviewed by law enforcement officials sometime later did Dr. Murray provide details regarding the events leading up to Michael’s death.

An Un-Happy Veterans Day for Students
continued from cover story

of all the songs he was to perform on the tour. My favorite two performances were the smooth criminal and the thriller performances. In the smooth criminal performance, Michael is edited into a scene from an old gangster movie and is then transitioned from cinema to stage. In the thriller performance there is a video of scary ghost zombies in creepy scenery, and what appeared was a huge spider which transitioned onto stage. Michael entered the stage from under the spider, and gave his thriller performance. This Is It shows his fans how dedicated he was to his craft as an entertainer. His legacy is that he was one of the best dancers and singers, to his craft as an entertainer. His legacy is that he was one of the best dancers and singers, who set the bar for performers worldwide. Many artists have tried to replicate Jackson’s dancing style and integrate it into their own performances. Michael set the path for many aspiring entertainers and without his work as an influence today’s popular music would not be the same.

Michael died in June 2009 at the age of 50. His death has been ruled a homicide by the Los Angeles County coroner according to a report on MSNBC by Jon Friedman on the 24th of August of this year. Although it was indicated that Jackson died due to a heart attack, his death is classified a homicide because he was under the care of his doctor who provided him with different prescription meds that when combined caused him to suffer a heart attack. Law enforcement states that due to this finding it is likely that Jackson’s doctor will face criminal charges. The coroner found that “anesthetic propofol acted with at least two sedatives to cause Jackson’s death.” It has been reported that the doctor Jackson was in the care of, Doctor Conrad Murray, did not give the hospital any details regarding the type of drugs Jackson was on before his death. Only when interviewed by law enforcement officials sometime later did Dr. Murray provide details regarding the events leading up to Michael’s death.

Tigers Tip-Off Schedule

2009 Scrimmage Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Mohawk Tournament</td>
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<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>11/7</td>
<td>Mohawk Tournament</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>11/10</td>
<td>Bergen CC</td>
<td>QCC</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>11/13</td>
<td>Bronx CC</td>
<td>QCC</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>11/24</td>
<td>Hostos CC</td>
<td>QCC</td>
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<td>12/1</td>
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<tr>
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<td>12/5</td>
<td>Sullivan CC</td>
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<tr>
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<td>12/8</td>
<td>Kingsborough CC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>1/5</td>
<td>Borough of Manhattan CC</td>
<td>QCC</td>
<td>7:30 pm * QCC DH</td>
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<tr>
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A Competition for CUNY Undergraduate Students

The Nobel Prizes in Physiology or Medicine, Physics, Chemistry, and Economics are among the world’s most prestigious awards for humanity’s most complex and far-reaching ideas.

Now, CUNY undergraduates are invited to submit an essay of 1000-1500 words explaining the science behind the 2009 Nobel prizes – to describe how these concepts are influencing our world today, and to predict the future significance of this research to humanity.

Essays must make the science accessible to the lay person.

Prizes will be awarded in each category:

- **Physiology or Medicine**
- **Chemistry**
- **Physics**
- **Economics**

- **First Prize**: Apple iMac Computer (incl MS Office & Photoshop software)
- **Second Prize**: Dell Mini 10 Netbook (w/ MS Office & wireless printer)
- **Third Prize**: Amazon Kindle wireless reading device

First Prize winners from each category will be forwarded to a second faculty committee that will select the Grand Prize winner for the best essay submitted overall. The winner will receive a Grand Prize of $5,000.

Essays must be submitted by **December 7, 2009**.

For more information, visit [www.cuny.edu/research](http://www.cuny.edu/research)

Questions may also be submitted to the [CUNY.nobel@mail.cuny.edu](mailto:CUNY.nobel@mail.cuny.edu)
New Age Hitler?

States Congress after he was invited by Arizona Republican Senator Jon Kyl. *Fitna* links verses from the Islamic holy book the Quran to footage of terrorist attacks, compares the Islamic holy book to Hitler’s *Mein Kampf*, and compares Islam itself to Fascism. The propaganda presented as fact in *Fitna* has been called extremely dangerous by many reviewers, and might be seen as persuasive to someone ignorant about the Islamic religion. Wilders manipulates three or four verses of the Quran along with footage of Islamic extremists and tries to make it seem as if all Muslims are extremists, thereby fostering an atmosphere of Islamophobia. With this film in hand, Wilders is trying to gain support for his cause, which is to eliminate Islam from Europe. He wants the viewer to believe that all Muslims are extremists who mean to harm everyone who is not Muslim.

Wilders is seen as a hate monger by some and a freedom of speech crusader to others. According to the articles “Anti-Islam Film’s Maker Faces UK Ban,” CNN.com February 12th 2009, and “Controversial Dutch Lawmaker Enters UK after Ban Overturned” October 16th 2009, after being banned from entering the UK, from February 12th until October 13th 2009, in fear his presence would be a safety issue, eyebrows were raised about how openly Capitol Hill welcomed “The al-Qaeda of the Netherlands,” as Wilders is referred to by some.

“I have nothing against Muslims, but I am very much afraid of the islamization of our continent.” This statement by Wilders quoted from an interview on February 26th 2009 between CNN’s Carroll Costello and Wilders, raises troubling questions. Wilders states he is afraid of the islamization of our continent. By “our” does he mean the white Christians of Europe? If so, his rhetoric sounds a bit too familiar. Remember Hitler’s reasoning for wanting to remove the Jewish population from Europe? He too was afraid of another ethnic group having any involvement in his country’s culture and government. Another question is whether Wilders is exercising freedom of speech, or whether it is speech of hatred and bigotry.

Wilders was quoted saying that Turkey would not join the European Union, “not in ten years, not in a million years,” because it is a Muslim country. If that is not racism, what is? Allowing such a bigot into “our” country to speak to our lawmakers on Capitol Hill and show them his short film is very troubling. What makes him different from other controversial political figures from around the world that are given a very hard time when they visit the United States, such as Iranian leader Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, or Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi, both of whom were met by a media frenzy and groups upon groups of protestors?

Unfortunately, the phrase “history repeats itself” easily comes to mind. Hitler had given many speeches and was not seen as a threat by his own people or those of several other nations when he stated that eliminating Jews would be the solution to Germany’s and Europe’s economic hard times. Is Wilders really stating something that different, except for plugging Muslims into the equation? The power of persuasion cannot be ignored. It was a strong tool in Hitler’s plan, and if Wilders really wants Muslims out of Europe, persuasive propaganda meant to forcibly expel the Muslim population may prove to be his plan.

Grateful for Daylight Saving Time

Additionally, a major component supporting the use of DST is energy conservation. With much speculation on this topic, theories and statistics vary throughout: mainly because of the improvements made in technology and energy sources. Historically used as a means to conserve candle use, DST is now geared towards electricity and oil consumption—through lighting, air conditioning and heating systems. DST is aimed at providing as much natural light when most useful—between 5-8 p.m. when most people are coming home from work—allowing the use of less artificial lights. As stated by the Official manuscript between Subcommittee on Energy, Committee of Science, House of Representatives, May 24, 2001, “History has shown that round day light saving time can save between 1% and 2% of energy consumption.” It may not seem like much, but it adds up over time—especially in times when conserving everything is necessary.

Clearly, Daylight Saving Time is in effect for a purpose; the benefits that it provides are unmatched by the problems it may cause. The fact that almost every major world power has adopted some sort of time adjustment schedule is proof enough that it is beneficial. Nothing is given away for free, but every November—with the demands and burdens weighing one down from everyday life—it’s nice to have that extra hour that seems to come from heaven, even though you will have to pay it back in March.

HIV: Take Action

It is said that the results of taking one of the standard three-drug regiments make the level of the virus in the blood of the infected partner drop rapidly. As a result, studies have shown that the uninfected partner is less likely to get the virus from their partner. For those who are infected with the virus, there has been evidence that they can live longer if early treatment is applied. A study was published last January by Dr. Reuben Granich and colleagues at the World Health Organization, who are following the latest discoveries on H.I.V., in which they talk about all types of prevention along with promotion of condoms and male circumcision which would eliminate transmission of the virus within 10 years. For such reasons, “researchers and public health officials are eager to test the potential of such a strategy for stemming the epidemic.” Specialists in the District of Columbia are already taking steps to make this plan work, and to start treatment as soon as possible.

Jacqueline Williams, senior peer educator and outreach specialist from J-Cap, Inc., states that anyone can find and will always get help in their clinic. This clinic is located on Saphin Boulevard in Queens, and its services are open to everybody. Clinicians also visit colleges, including Queensborough, offering free testing for students. J-Cap provides not only free testing and distribution of condoms but also provides clients with the mental health care needed for any situation and the education necessary to those who wish to learn about H.I.V. The J-Cap primary care program will be visiting Queensborough on November 18, 2009 to provide free testing, to distribute condoms, and to teach about the virus and how can one take action and the protection needed to prevent exposure. Mobile H.I.V. testing clinics will also be visiting our campus offering free testing and condoms through the rest of the fall semester.

It is necessary for everyone to take control of their health and their lives and get tested. Take the first step. GET YOURSELF TESTED!
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