NYPD Targets Muslim Population

By JOHANNA GILGIN

In April of 2008, eighteen CCNY Muslim students who participated in a whitewater rafting excursion in upstate New York were unknowingly accompanied by an undercover agent of the NYPD. The agent reported back that the students prayed several times during the day and conversed a great deal about Islam, both common Muslim practices. Although knowledge of covert police activities within CUNY has only recently come to light, the Associated Press has traced them back to 2003 when long time police reporter, Leonard Levitt, blogged on NYPD Confidential that undercover police officers were officially assigned to Baruch, Queens, Brooklyn, CCNY, and La Guardia and attended various Muslim sponsored events throughout CUNY.

Such operations have had the entire support of Police Commissioner, Ray Kelly, who insists that all the police are doing is “following special leads.” Mayor Bloomberg has given Kelly his full backing and insists that the information that is being leaked to the press is simply “media hype.”

Chancellor Matthew Goldstein, while neither denouncing nor condoning such police activities on CUNY campuses, issued the following statement on February 12, 2012:

“(CUNY) must be vigilant about maintaining a learning environment that protects diverse opinions, encourages inquiry and respects religious freedom for our students, our faculty and all members of our community. It is imperative we sustain these (CUNY’s) core values through an open exchange with students, faculty, staff, and alumni, as well as city, state and federal agencies and community and religious groups, in order to safeguard the rights and ensure the safety of CUNY’s entire community.”

In addition, several CUNY administrators and faculty members have expressed similar concern about the alleged surveillance. Queens College President, James Muyskens, while stating that he personally was unaware of any undercover police operations, indicated that “it is very disconcerting that things like that could be going on, and we have no knowledge of it. However,” he continued, “that is the nature of being ‘undercover.’”

Similarly, Brooklyn College President Karen Gould, while denying any knowledge of covert activities on campus, said “We do not in any way condone the alleged intrusion of the NYPD into campus life. If true, we believe this was a violation of freedom of expression and the constitutional rights of our students, faculty, and staff.”

Moreover, on September 13, 2011, the entire Brooklyn College Faculty Council voted unanimously in favor of a resolution which not only condemned the surveillance activities on CUNY campuses, but required the NYPD to alert those “they had spied upon about the nature of the information gathered.” More specifically, Associate Professor of English at Brooklyn College, and author of How Does It Feel to Be a Problem?: Being Young and Arab in America, Moustafa Bayoumi, has stated, “Police have a right to investigate crimes, but they don’t have the right to investigate people based on their religion or their ethnic identity.”

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QCC Has a Daycare Center?

By MICHELLE VIERA

Parents eager to get back to school are often confused about where to leave their child. Within the many resources of QCC we can find the Child Care Center. This facility has been available to us since 1988, located next to the book store since then. Fortunately for QCC student’s registration is open to all applicants who qualify and admission is free of charge. Perhaps not many know of its location and its existence, but it is one of the many hidden resources that you as parents/students can benefit from. This program is specifically targeted for students with low income who wish to continue their studies at QCC. All students who are taking an accumulative amount of six credits may apply.

Articles such as “Choosing a daycare center” by Crown Financial Ministries on the www.crown.org website can help you form a guideline when it comes to finding a good day care such as the QCC daycare center. The writer in this article states “although pick up and drop off times are usually flexible payment arrangements are not”, when speaking of most Day care facilities, but in this case that is one of the benefit factors our daycare center has to offer. Other important factors you may want to look into according to Crown Financial Ministries are to “Make sure there is a balance between learning activities, indoor play, outdoor time (during good weather), and quiet time. Without balance children will become confused.”

Rather than simply caring for the children, the QCC daycare center is designed to prepare children to move on to Pre-k and kinder garden by providing them with certified teachers. Although they care for children ages 3-5, children may begin in a special program called UPK (Universal Pre-K) as soon as they turn four years old, if parents wish to enroll them. Former coordinator Cynthia Clendenin who has been a part of the program since 1990 and was a teacher for 10 years says “We have a full curriculum to teach children language, science, math and even computers.”

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Haiti Earthquake Survivor Shares Wisdom

BY BRITTANY FRANKLIN

On January 12, 2010, a 7.0 Mw earthquake ruptured Haiti. We've heard devastating stories of many trapped beneath tons of rubble, residents left homeless and bereft, but we may be unaware that one of its victims caught under the rubble, Darlene Bertil, 26, is a student here at QCC with all of us.

This natural disaster aroused many countries around the world to offer relief aide to Haiti which is but a few miles of Los Angeles, but the scars do remain. Bertil was unconscious for seven days and lost her limbs. As I make my way to math class, her brilliant smile empowers me to not only want to endure two hours of arithmetic but to be more optimistic about life. In an interview, Darlene speaks out about her beautifully country and would like to share her triumphant story with fellow students.

Q: Where were you born?
A: Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Q: What was it like growing up (your childhood)?
A: My childhood was quiet. I grew up in a small neighborhood in Port-au-Prince. There was a nice park in front of my house. Sometimes my cousin would go there with me to play and take pictures. I had some good memories of my cousin I grew up with.

Q: As a kid where/who did you envision yourself to be at the age you are now?
A: As a kid I always envisioned me as an independent dentist.

Q: When the earthquake struck Haiti I was at home sleeping. I got wind of the information through tweets and re-tweets from people in Haiti! Where were you at that time?
A: I was at work just starting my shift, I worked in the evening.

Q: What was your first thought when you realized what was going on?
A: A few months ago there was a landslide in Petion-Ville that caused a school to collapse. I thought it was the same thing happening all over again, since my job was not that far from where it happened.

Q: In the hospital, the numerous doctors’ appointments, how did you process the information the doctors gave you?
A: I had the chance to meet my medical doctor. He told me I was unconscious for seven days. I was really sick and close to death.
The Counseling Center Supports Mental Health Awareness  

By Linda Ostrowe

In an effort to raise awareness, QCC’s Counseling Center will be sponsoring various events, workshops, and activities for Mental Health Awareness Month in May. The goal is to assist students, faculty & staff to familiarize themselves with the services provided by the Counseling Center and to get helpful information pertaining to mental health and well-being.

Many students have personal problems that may interfere with achieving success in college. These may involve such matters as getting along with one’s family, making friends, feeling lonely, anxious or depressed. Our trained counselor’s help students learn to cope with such problems. Our counselors also assist students with information and techniques to improve upon their academic success, as well as career counseling, transfer information, and referrals to outside agencies.

Students can easily schedule an appointment to meet with a counselor by visiting the Counseling Center in the Library Building, Room 422 or by calling 718-631-6370. We welcome you to also visit our website at: http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/counseling/.

Students can find out about upcoming events for Mental Health Awareness Month through Tigermail. We encourage you to get involved to help raise awareness.

Services for International Students  

By Irlanda Zea

Undocumented college students go through more struggles and disappointments when financial aid is not an option nor are state scholarships. They are very limited because of their immigration status. Their status in this country is extremely important for educational and health purposes. In consequence of this they have to save up for an education, which are college books, college tuition and school supplies. These things are expensive yet necessary for a successful career.

Queens Community College has a Center of Immigration, which offers students the opportunity to speak to the staff. There is also an experienced immigration counselor who can educate, guide and advise the students to know the benefits they are eligible for.

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The Center for Immigration provides students, their families and members of the Queen’s community with many related services to reach the goal of getting their documents. They offer services based on citizenship application, application for permanent residency, employment-based visas and so much more.

In order for an immigrant to become a citizen, you first have to obtain a green card and be older than 18 years old. You must be a lawful permanent resident and have a period of five years to then file for U.S. Citizenship. Students, the ways you can get a green card is through a family member that is a citizen, a job offer, or employment and even refugee status etc.

With or without the green card you can seek for advice in the Queensborough College Center for Immigration. A counselor that specializes in immigration issues will give you legal advice on how you can apply to become a citizen and the process to get there.

According to www.usimmigration.com, the benefits of being a citizen are that you have the right to vote and have a voice in federal elections, the right to reunite with your family in United States, and the right to petition for qualified relatives and bring them to live permanently in the U.S. As a citizen you have the right to bring your child born from another country over and they can immediately turn into U.S citizens. You can obtain a U.S passport and you are free to travel all over the world which also gives you the opportunity to leave as many times and as long as you want. Another great benefit is getting Medicare and social security; you can be a federal worker and also get to participate in official elections.

Don’t be shy and get help now! The hours of operation are Monday-Thursday 9:00 am-7:00 pm, Friday 9:00 am-5:00 pm, and Saturday 10:00am-3:00pm. Tutoring will also be offered the last three Sundays of the semester from 10:00 am-2:00pm. Walk-ins are available for any subject except for foreign language, biology, and physics, which require a same-day appointment. To make an appointment, or if you have any questions, you can go to Room L-125 or call (718)631-6660.
THOUGHTFUL BUT INEXPENSIVE BIRTHDAY

Question #1: Dear “Love Gurus,”
I want to do something for my boyfriend’s birthday, but I can’t find a gift that is cheap and desirable at the same time. What should I do?
Signed,
No Cents for Presents

Answer: Dear “No Cents for Presents,”
Finding a gift can be quite a challenging task. Firstly, you should focus on your boyfriend’s interests. What does he like to do? What sport does he like? What kind of music does he listen to? What talents does he have? The answers to these questions will generate ideas of their own. For example, if he loves a certain band, you can buy him a CD. Secondly, I do realize that you are on a budget and are in need of a gift that won’t take much weight out of your wallet. Well, what gift is more sweet and personal than a homemade one? Personally, I love receiving homemade gifts. There is always something unique about them. You can write him a poem, or write down 100 reasons why you love him. If you are not much of a writer, you can draw your gift. A nice little scrapbook is something that will really touch his heart, and it won’t touch too much of your savings. Get creative! Use anything you find in your house that you don’t think you will use. Believe me, that gift is better than any pricey item in a store. Good Luck!

INTER-RACIAL DATING

Question #2: Dear “Love Gurus,”
I am an African American woman who is dating an Asian man. Personally, I have no problem with it. He is kind, considerate, and cute. However, my friends are a different story. They aren’t completely comfortable with us being a couple because of our races. I’m stuck in the middle and I am just out of ideas. What should I do?
Signed,
Inter-racial Issues

Answer: Dear “Inter-racial Issues,”
I completely understand the difficult predicament that you are in. However, the answer to this is clear. He’s a sweet guy right? You said it yourself, and you seem to really like him. It shouldn’t matter what race he is, it should matter if he is a high quality person. That is stating the obvious. Having said that, unfortunately, most of our world does judge according to many things which they shouldn’t, including race. You have to tell your friends that you realize their concerns. Acknowledge that you appreciate that they are looking out for you. However, you have to tell them that dating him makes you happy, and that his race isn’t an issue for you. If it isn’t an issue for you, then it certainly shouldn’t be an issue for your friends. If they are truly your friends, they will want to see you with someone who puts a smile on your face. Whether that man is African American, Asian, Latino, or Jewish, that smile on your face is the only thing that counts.

THREE IS A CROWD!

Question #3: Dear “Love Gurus,”
My best friend recently introduced me to this guy she has known for a while. However, since we got serious, my friend is now attracted to him. Why are girls after guys who are in relationships? How do I fix this problem?
Signed,
Mrs. Love Triangle

Answer: Dear “Mrs. Love Triangle,”
First of all, all three individuals need to sit down and address this pressing issue, which is a disaster waiting to happen. There have to be some boundaries established. I am going to assume that your best friend is not in a relationship, and therefore, has a lot more time on her hands to observe your relationship with your partner. She is your best friend, but also a third wheel. The time you used to spend exclusively with your best friend is now being taken over by your partner. One possible solution might be to help your friend find a date or meet new people. Ultimately, everyone has to come up with a solution. Be gentle with your friend. I know it can be difficult, but tell her that you understand that she has feelings for your partner, however you would appreciate it if she would accept the fact that he is with you now. Try to let go of any bitterness or feelings of resentment that you most likely have towards her. It will just lead to more trouble. To answer your question, I think girls and guys tend to want what they can’t have. The minute someone goes off the market, he becomes instantly desirable. Talk it out with her and see if you can reach some sort of agreement. Don’t let a guy ruin your friendship. Too many girls have made that mistake in the past, and it’s just not worth it. Good Luck!

*** If any of you need any relationship advice and have questions that you would like us to respond to, please send them to qcccommunique@gmail.com. Make sure to specify that your question is for the advice column by writing “Ask the Love Gurus” in the subject line. You are free to ask these questions anonymously. Thank you very much for your cooperation. We look forward to hearing from you!

NOTE: NEXT MONTH WE ARE FOCUSING ON RELATIONSHIPS OF THE SAME GENDER.
In this issue of “A Gamer’s P.O.V.” you’ll be happy to know that I got my hands on the demo for Bioware’s Mass Effect 3 and boy, I must say it’s a blockbuster. The demo starts out on Earth. Yes, my friends, I’m surprised, as well. Out of all the planets you play on, in the Mass Effect universe, this one normally isn’t one of them. Until now, that is. The game now has three different play styles for the campaign mode. They are adjusted for those who like the combat but not the narrative and those who like the narrative and not the combat, in addition to the usual normal mode which is a mix of both combat and narrative. I’ve noticed when picking the skills for my Commander Shepard that the skills now branch off into different choices after level four, making customizing Shepard even more viable than in previous games. The combat is the same as Mass Effect 2 except for one tiny bit, it looks like Shepard can actually train a new skill called “fitness” which allows his melee attack to hit even harder. This will help considering the implementation of the heavy melee attack, hitting down on the melee charges up a heavy melee attack that is sure to send your opponent flying. The demo also features an online co-op mode which you can pick the same class from the campaign mode along with the sex of your character. You can also choose the race but certain races are limited to certain classes. The online component has several different stages but primarily the same play style which is kinda like a survival mode. The main objective of the online mode is that you and three other people in your party are pitted against waves after waves of enemies (there are other objectives as well, such as killing a certain enemy) until you reach the final stage, which is usually like level eleven. After you complete or FAIL a stage you earn experience points to level up yourself allowing you to level up your skills but not to the extent as Commander Shepard’s. You also earn currency which you can put towards the customization of your operative such as mods for a weapon (yay! now we can pistol whip with a scope!). I think I will give this epic game an epic 9/10. You can expect to finish the fight on 3/6/12

After the action movie set in Africa that was Resident Evil 5 (yes, that’s how I feel) diehard fans will be happy to hear that Capcom is going back to the roots of where it all started in the newest release of their long time running franchise, Resident Evil: Operation Raccoon City. Raccoon City is a third person shooter that takes place in the city of Resident Evil 2 &3 universe and no this is not a re make but pretty much an “what if” scenario. What I mean by this is that instead of playing as heroes such as Jill Valentine or Leon S. Kennedy you will be playing as Umbrella Corp’s elite personal security service also known as U.S.S and your mission is to erase all traces of the T-virus outbreak to Umbrella. As such, this means all of the heroes you have come to know and love are kill-able. If the story doesn’t peak your interest in this game there is also the multiplayer aspect to indulge. But this isn’t your usual 8 on 8 action you and your opponents will be attacked by zombies and B.O.Ws (Bio-Organic Weapons) alike. One awesome element of multiplayer that I think will attract a lot of people is the fact that you can become infected by a zombie, while infected you won’t be attacked by zombies you can then take this perfect opportunity to go after your opponents. Of course there’s a catch, your health depletes rapidly and once it’s all gone you’ll be turned into the very thing you’ve been called on to destroy. Although if you have an anti-viral spray, the infection can be cured. When former SOCOM developer, Slant Six, developed this game they included the aspect of a third person shooter that was typically not there before in any of the older Resident Evil games such as running and gunning. Long gone are the days of stopping to shoot a zombie. Another element is an automatic cover system where if you align your character up against an object the game automatically allows the character to go into cover, while in cover you have the choice to shoot off the hip (shoot without aiming) or aim with the sight. Although auto cover sounds convenient, I can’t shake the feeling that it’s going to be of some annoyance when you’re trying to run along a wall. I could go on and on but without a demo in hand, one’s words are meaningless, especially when it comes to spin off game like this. I will give this a 7/10 you can revisit Raccoon City in a whole new perspective on 3/20/12.

Having a rage quitting power level of over 9,000 Team Ninja’s Ninja Gaiden series has a new addition under its belt claiming remotes as well as our ego. Yes, that’s right! Ninja Gaiden 3 is on its way and its look like we will be having a more personal viewpoint into our favorite fiend slaying ninja, Ryu Hayabusa. The game will take place after Ninja Gaiden 2 and it will reveal Ryu’s past, unmasking him, if you will (who would’ve thought there was a face under that mask). But to be honest when it comes to Ninja Gaiden I think we can all agree we don’t buy it for the story, but more for the challenges that are lacking in other action games. But while on the topic of challenges developers from Team Ninja have stated that the game won’t be as hard as Ninja Gaiden 2, I guess they did that to appeal to a broader range of audience but what about hardcore veterans like me? I sure do hope this doesn’t ruin the Ninja Gaiden 3 experience. I’ve noticed a couple of things while watching gameplay footage of Ninja Gaiden 3. One is the addition of quick timed event such as when Ryu slides under cars thrown at him by a giant robotic spider, you must hit the displayed button in a timely manner in order to save his life. Another is after all the killing Ryu did I failed to notice the limbs and heads dismemberment that is familiar with the series. Developers say that they want to the player to actually feel like they are killing an enemy, including the sound of bones snapping and your sword getting stuck in a person’s body. Of course, you wouldn’t want to run around sword-less, so you will now have to saw the sword out from the person body by button mashing and riding out waves of vibrations in your new controller, that is yet to come. Personally, I don’t care for how killing someone with a sword really feels like. I want heads to roll. Oh, and one can’t forget to mention the little curse on Ryu’s arm because if you do you might end up incinerated by its powers. Yes, Ryu is cursed yet again but this time it’s a little more beneficial as you slay enemies your arm glows more red until your able to unleash a sort of ultimate attack that deals great damage to surrounding enemies. Oh and did I forget to mention that Ninja Gaiden 3 has multiplayer (seems everyone is trying is putting multiplayer in everything) all I know about it is that there seems to be an 8 player death match mode and a 4 vs. 4 team death match mode. This will change as it nears its drop date but to be honest, I just don’t see it. Ninja Gaiden 3 gets a 7/10.
Insight into the Trayvon Martín Case

BY BRITTANY FRANKLIN AND MELISSA DUPLAN

On February 26, 2012, Trayvon Martin, 17, was visiting his father’s fiancé in Sanford, Florida when he was shot and killed by neighborhood watch captain George Zimmerman, 28. An influx of information has been received since the incident which incited protests and tributes around the country. It is understood that Trayvon, a black male, was pursued by Zimmerman, classified as Hispanic by relatives, whilst making a store run in a gated community. In his hand he held a pack of Skittles and a bottle of iced-tea. Zimmerman, however, held a gun. The main argument seems to be whether justice should be served and to what extent. A Facebook page titled “Justice For Trayvon Martin” has reached over 62,000 likes and counting. Trayvon’s parents, Tracy Martin and Sabrina Fulton, posted a petition calling for Zimmerman’s persecution. This petition is currently one of the top featured with about 1.3 million signatures on Change.org. On March 21, Trayvon’s parents joined hooded protestors whose call for justice and peace flooded the streets of Manhattan, New York.

Gun rights advocates, civilians and attorneys all have different opinions on the matter. A member of the National Rifle Association, who wishes to remain anonymous, states, “Florida has passed a law [‘Stand Your Ground’ Law] that takes self defense a step too far. In this case we have found proof that prejudice is lawful. Only with the oversight of the Department of Justice do I believe justice will be served.” The law was passed in Florida in 2005 and is also called “shoot first” by its critics. Since this law has been in effect it was reportedly invoked in at least 93 cases with 65 deaths. It has been under increasing scrutiny recently, however, former Sen. Durell Peadon told CBS News “[Zimmerman] has no protection under my law…he lost his defense when he said ‘I’m following him’. You would think that since Zimmerman admitted shooting Trayvon, and considering his numerous recorded conversations with 911 dispatchers telling him...
Open Houses
Saturday, May 5 & June 9 at 1 pm

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The situation is very complex in Syria and to understand it we must be very objective and critical as to what we believe and what information is valid or distorted through devious sources. This conflict is unlike any in the Arab spring and is a very important strategic point in the region. With a divided opposition and very contradicting news coming from both sides, one must investigate this conflict with much critical attention and skepticism. In order to get an idea about the present situation in Syria, it is important to look at the country’s history.

Elaine Hagopian, Prof. Emeritus of Sociology at Simmons College, says that, “In 2001, a group of 1000 people called for reform in Syria and in 2005 another declaration for reforms began, each time more intense and more demanding.” According to Hagopian, “the call for specific reforms was not a call for regime change and is very important; to take into account.” In an interview with Paul Jay from The Real News Network, she said that, “Assad’s regime out of all its horrors, brought stability to Syria.” Bashar Al Assad’s father, Hafez Al Assad, ruled Syria for 29 years; after his death his son was elected unopposed each time. Another important fact about the Assad’s regime is that it is Alawi, a religious group that is Shia Muslim. The majority who oppose are said to be Sunni Muslims who are coming from outside of Syria.

To help bring an end to this instability the government of Bashar Al Assad made a referendum of the constitution in which 57% of eligible voters voted and 87% approved the reforms in the constitution. Many in Washington including Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, called this absolutely cynical dismissing it immediately. Also the Chief of the Arab League accused the Assad Regime of crimes against humanity. The UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) approved a resolution proposed by Turkey with 37 states voting in favor and 3 states against it, which were Russia, China, and Cuba.

According to many sources, the Arab League and Qatar are selling weapons to the “Free Syrian Army”, and the Rebel Militia formed by parts of the opposition are made up of mostly foreigners, not Syrians. US Arizona Senator McCain proposed selling weapons to the Syrian Opposition and went as far as to say, the US should begin air strikes over Syria. Now we saw how effective that went in Libya, contributing to higher civilian casualties and arming a more oppressive regime than the previous one. The US sells weapons to many countries that are already flooding Syria with weapons. Russia has also mentioned they will not stop arming the Syrian government.

President Obama warned that “Bashar Assad’s days are numbered,” so why does the US not support this government? Can it be because Syria is an ally with Iran and its destabilization can be favorable to a geopolitical agenda? The US has a history of preferring friendly regimes rather than democratic, ignoring human rights violations with many of its allies, including the Arab League, which has outlawed public protest. International law is being violated by superpowers violating sovereignties all over the world, creating destabilizations.

Author, historian, and journalist Webster Tarply, former president of the Schiller Institute, reported directly from Syria. As a freelance journalist, he reported something very different than what we have been hearing from the mainstream media. He reports that the CIA hired squadrons similar to the ones they sent into Central America, called “Escuadron de la Muerte,” during the dirt wars of Central America. He and many other journalists are reporting that mercenaries are the ones doing most of the killing. He claims these groups are sniping people on the streets. These groups have been reported by more than one source entering Syria from Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey. Tarply claims this isn’t just about the Syrian regime, just cracking down on protesters; this is much more complex, and difficult to understand if you don’t objectively research various sources. According to Mr. Tarply, it is possible that external forces will benefit from a regime change in Syria, creating a back door into Iran by provoking a first shot from the Iranian government.

With Russia supporting the Assad government and China preparing to mobilize, one can say that we are living through another Cold War. Have we not learned from history? Lack of diplomacy can repeat history, except this time a World War can reset our peculiar civilization. We are at the brink of war, meanwhile President Obama signs new legislations that many are calling unconstitutional, such as, the National Defense Authorization Act, HR 347 and The National Defense Resources Preparedness Executive Order. These laws include very dangerous language which eradicates our First Amendment right to protest and have general assembly. Can the United States government be preparing for Marshall Law in America? With US citizens repressed from dissenting and the President gaining complete control of the country’s resources one might conclude that the winds of war are blowing our way. With super-powers colliding behind this situation, we must pay close attention to the Syrian conflict because it can possibly escalate to a global destabilization.

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The Facts Behind Syrian Protests

By Sergio Bejarano

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Haiti Earthquake

Survivor Shares Wisdom

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NYPD Targets Muslim Population

continued from cover page

However, The NYPD continues to this day to deny the investigation of students based on demographic data even after the Associated Press uncovered and posted evidence online of a closeted Demographics Unit within the NYPD which lists, among its “Ancestries of Interest,” “American Black Muslims.”

Several Muslim students have spoken out as well about their reactions to being targeted by the NYPD. Soheeb Amin, President of the Islamic Society at Brooklyn College, and third year business management student, has stated:

“It happens on a daily basis. I don’t even discuss politics and controversial topics. If I say torturing terrorists is cruel, then I might be seen as a terrorist sympathizer.”

James Haque, a doctoral student in history, who last year served as a faculty advisor for The Muslim Student Association at Lehman College, expressed a similar reaction: “It’s very unnerving because you are assumed to be a criminal.”

*The QCC Muslim Student Association was contacted for comment but declined to participate in the article.

References:


National Poetry Month at QCC

April is National Poetry Month and there are countless events, all over New York and within Queens, throughout the month which often bleed into May. Make sure to read the poems that your fellow students and faculty have posted. Also, be sure to mark your calendar for our Multilingual Poetry Festival, complete with an open mic on May 2nd, beginning at 1 p.m., in the Humanities Quad. Sign up and read a poem or come to listen to quality words.

Enjoy!

Arts & Entertainment

Darkness

By Marc Carpentier

Darkness is a dreamless night filled with corrupt moons
It is the ocean imagining itself to be a lake,
so that it may reflect its misery
It is the entire earth pretending it can fill a shallow grave,
so that it may heap its sorrow
It is the universe, bereft of all its stars, ageless and timeless,
and still lost within itself
Darkness is a shadow that doesn’t know from whom it is cast

Occupy

By Sergio Bejarano

Oligarchy fascist corporate police state
Modern day advanced form of feudalism
The people asleep but slowly they awake
Humanity is evolving organizing organism
Occupied with distractions, preoccupied in routine
Occupied with traditions and old norms always preoccupied
Occupied with movies and preoccupied with a dream
Occupied with preoccupied with religion, occupied with there children
Their government monopolized and corporatized civilian lives
While They where preoccupied with Thanksgiving
Then came a new generation that occupied the Internet
The government was preoccupied, occupying an empire
The undeniable truth occupied the web and intellect
Collective mind set, organized and mobilized an entire movement
This occupation is not over; it spread into a global uprising
We will occupy till the power is given back to the people
From every community From every block to every corner
We will occupy for our human rights, because we are all equal
We stand side by side shoulder to shoulder we stand together and occupy
The Potter’s Wheel

By Felix Cruz

Before the clay is on the wheel,
It must be ready for use,
Compressing and kneading is needed,
Unevenness of particles is removed.

The clay is thrown unto the wheel,
Slapped and shaped and centered,
Now I am ready for firing,
This will help me to endure,

If I am not perfect, the process is redone,
I must be made over and refined,
All impurities removed,
Adorned into a beautiful piece of art.

Twinkle, Twinkle

By Ronit Cohen

Twinkle, twinkle, little star that’s sparkling in the sky, grant my wish, if you so please, so he’s here when I open my eyes.

Make it seem true, so genuine and true, so I won’t question whether he’s real. Bring back my jumpy, joyful heart, bring back what I once would feel.

Show me his hands, those same soft hands that held mine and were never meant to let go. Show me his eyes, his mesmerizing eyes, so perfect in their caramel glow.

Recreate the memory of walking in the rain, his arms wrapped around me so tight. Recreate the time we danced alone, gracefully, side by side.

Let me hear his voice, his soothing voice singing me love songs, each one more precious than gold. Let me read his poems, each heartfelt poem, which I am confident will fail to get old.

Allow his laugh to captivate my once fairytale world, the way it did when I was feeling low. Allow his smile to brighten up the darkest of days, the way it did so long ago.

Give me his love, his undeniable love that he presented me with from the moment we met. Give me his heart, his unmistakable heart, so that piece of him I’ll never forget.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star that’s sparkling in the night, grant my wish, if you so please, and bring my soul mate back to life.
“The movie is coming out but I think I want to read the book first.” That is what should go through our minds when we hear that a movie is coming out and is based on a book series. Now in the year 2012 we have become a completely visual civilization. Many of us would never read or even heard of some books until we hear about the movie. Over the years many books have been made into movies such as “The Chronicles of Narnia,” by C.S. Lewis, the “Harry Potter” series, by J.K. Rowling, and most recently “The Hunger Games” trilogy, by Suzanne Collins, which will be in theaters as of March 23rd.

In 2009, “The Hunger Games” began production and shortly afterwards an official statement was released on the upcoming film. This announcement sparked interest in teens as to what this movie was going to be about. After readers discovered what the series was about, book sales for the series skyrocketed as people wanted to read the series before the movie hit the theaters. This is in no way different than the announcement that the “Harry Potter” series would be making its film debut back in 2001.

According to Barnes and Nobles employee and fellow QCC student, Andrew Shin, the book sales for “The Hunger Games” always did fairly well even before it was considered for a film series, but after the movie announcement came out, sales for the series grew even larger than before. According to thehob.org, the trilogy had 9.6 million copies circulating in the United States when Lionsgate began production of the movie. After the teaser trailer of the movie was released, 16 million copies had to be printed in order to keep up with the online demand of the book. Now there are 23.5 million copies around the United States alone.

When books are made into movies those books become wildly more popular than they were before. Movies and television have such an impact in our lives now that without them, we might miss out on everything the world has to offer. Reading for the sake of reading is slowly dying out because of our need to be visually interested. Books can be taken with you wherever you like, as opposed to movies, which need a screen and some sort of player. It is easier to carry a book around with you, so don’t just read because a movie is coming out, read because it is a good way to learn and expand your imagination.
Aquarius: (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19) April is a strong month for social, creative, and learning endeavors, dear Aquarius. Love is simpler, and attraction is easy and natural. You are expressing yourself with extra charm. Your eagerness, flexibility, and willingness to tag along with others just for the company endear you to friends and family. Financial complexities begin to unravel this month. Dealings with a partner and with financial institutions become more straightforward after a feeling of treading water. Even so, it’s not yet the time for quick settlements or bold moves. Be patient.

Pisces: (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20) Dealing with others in a straightforward manner has been difficult recently, dear Pisces. Support for your personal endeavors hasn’t been very forthcoming, but by mid-April, relationship dynamics smooth over and you feel that you can move forward. Home life should be especially pleasant. Focus is on beautifying your surroundings and bringing harmony to family relationships. Familiarity rather than excitement is sought in love. Financial surprises are likely in April. You may have to rework a money-making idea or your budget, but the improvements will take you further in the long run.

Aries: (Mar. 21 - Apr. 20) Slowly but surely in April, you’ll enjoy considerable more clarity and confidence, dear Aries. Your drive is returning full force, and friends will enjoy that you’re more interested in socializing this month. Personal revelations can come around the Full Moon on the 6th. Some of you will be pursuing relationships more heartily now. Certainly, you have some admirers this month. After the 15th, when setbacks can discourage you, begin to see the rewards for your work efforts in the past few months. The 22-23 can bring a new friendship or alliance. Finances are strong.

Taurus: (Apr. 21 - May 20) You’re likely working very hard this month to make extra cash, dear Taurus. The desire for beautiful and comfortable objects is strong. You’re building up your resources and your “nest” in April, while for the most part keeping a low profile by choice. The 21st, however, brings a blast of personal energy and increased confidence. You’re ready to pursue your desires. A love relationship may be revived and moving forward in the last week of the month. Nevertheless, there are a few lingering problems to iron out, and you’ll need to be patient.

Gemini: (March 21 - June 21) This month, you’re enjoying extra attention and appreciation for the very qualities that come most naturally to you, dear Gemini. This is due to Venus, the goddess of love, moving through your sign from the 3rd forward. Increased social, romantic, and creative activity is likely, especially around the 6-8 and 22nd. New friendships can be formed this month. More clarity comes to your career this month, as projects that were previously stalled push forward, and to your life with family and domestic matters in the last week of April.

Cancer: (June 22 - July 22) Career goals are in focus this month, dear Cancer. Daily affairs become less muddled and overwhelming, and this frees you up to tend to more worldly goals. Your original ideas can capture the attention of higher-ups. Don’t be afraid to express them. Unexpected professional opportunities pop up. Be sure to reconnect and stay in touch with acquaintances and relatives in April. Make up for lost time. Friendships enliven from the 21st forward. Love has a private feel to it this month. You’re not yet ready to share your feelings with the world.

Leo: (July 23 - Aug. 22) People you meet this month are likely to be a source of inspiration, dear Leo. You’re being exposed to different ways of thinking and you especially enjoy exchanging ideas with others. Unexpected opportunities to travel or expand your education can emerge. Love is enhanced through shared goals and visions. Single Leos may find romance with or through a friend or group association. Mid-month, you begin to see progress with finances and money-making endeavors. Career matters push forward suddenly from the 21st. You’re taking charge and others are following your lead.

Virgo: (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Recent relationship challenges and personal frustrations will begin to dissipate this month, dear Virgo, and you can more confidently move your plans forward. Finances are a big focus and possibly a concern, as you face problems and find ways to improve your spending and borrowing habits. You might receive good advice or come up with novel new ideas on how to do so. The 22-23 can bring a pleasant surprise or bonus. Career prospects and your reputation improve considerably after the first week of April, due in part to a more inviting and amenable manner.

Libra: (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) April is a relationship-centered month, dear Libra. A Full Moon in your sign brightens your emotions and could bring a partnership matter to light around the 6th. Relationships become clearer, both with a partner and in your work, after mid-month. You feel you have more information with which to make good decisions. As well, you are more willing to broaden your perceptions of the people in your life. Cultural events and other forms of learning and experience appeal this month. The 21-23 brings good energy for money matters.

Scorpio: (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) This month, dear Scorpio, and you can more confidently move your plans forward. Finances are a big focus and possibly a concern, as you face problems and find ways to improve your spending and borrowing habits. You might receive good advice or come up with novel new ideas on how to do so. The 22-23 can bring a pleasant surprise or bonus. Career prospects and your reputation improve considerably after the first week of April, due in part to a more inviting and amenable manner.

Sagittarius: (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) Excitement on romantic and creative levels is in store for you this month, dear Sagittarius. Love matters may be laced with a touch of drama, and certainly bring surprise to your life. More clarity in your love life begins to show itself from mid-month forward. People you meet are especially helpful and appealing. While pastimes, hobbies, and entertainment are in strong focus in the first few weeks of the month, it’s back to business by the 21st. Career picks up pace, and it becomes easier to get straight answers from bosses and co-workers.

Capricorn: (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) Considerable progress can be made around the home, with family, and at work in April, dear Capricorn. However, when it comes to work, it’s more about your working environment and the social aspect of your job that are set to improve significantly. This could be a time when you pursue a bit of a home “makeover”. You take pleasure in lending a hand to others and organizing your work space. The 21st forward is a period that brings a more outgoing, playful, and creative energy to your life and, for some, budding romance.
How does one define “success” and how do you get it? I’ve wanted to interview exceptional art students and have myself fully understand what trials they must go through to accomplish their dreams. After speaking with Karen Joy Ortiz, I did not prepare myself to become inspired by her dedication in her schoolwork, as well as in her personal projects. I loved that she was extremely demanding of herself to make even the smallest detail in her work perfect, and if it wasn’t perfect in five hours, she would take another five to correct any “mistakes” that she has made. This tenacious attitude to become the best artist has been driven by Karen’s professor since last semester. I start with my questions for Karen.

**Question 1:** What is your most cherished piece of work and what led you to make it?

When I was younger, in the first few years of elementary school, my art class had to make a postcard – either draw a picture on white paper or create a collage. I cut paper to make an airplane – either draw a picture or cut construction paper and put it on the postcard. I cut paper to make an airplane and when pasting the plane, I thought it looked flat, so instead of just cutting the shape of the airplane wing, I cut it to make the wing pop out of the postcard. When my art teacher saw my work, she was surprised of me “thinking outside the box.” Considering we didn’t learn to make pop up objects yet in the school years.

**Question 2:** What inspired you to be an artist and how has the path treated you?

Were there more ups or downs? What inspired me to go into the art field was more of a realization of my interest over the years. When I was, I believe 10 or 11 years old, my parent’s anniversary was coming up and I wanted to surprise them with dinner in a transformed kitchen and I thought of ways I can rearrange the dinner table into a romantic setting and blanket our washing machine as a catering table – with the food made by my older brothers of course. I just like to decorate.

So far, I feel pretty good about being in the art field. There have been more downs than ups unfortunately, but I can say, the "up" experiences wouldn’t be as high if it weren’t for the downs. It’s been pretty hard and time-consuming, but at the end of each project, considering that you never know the exact amount of supplies you need, I make various amount of trips to various art stores over the summer; but I’m proud to have been through the hard work because it shows me that I could do it. And it lets me remember that’s how you get to where you want in life. Through hard work.

**Question 3:** To become a successful artist it’s universally known that one should be prolific. So are there any more ideas coming into fruition in your head?

There are a few ideas coming to mind, which I would make real when I find time to myself which I can devote myself to the piece entirely. But always, on the daily, I am creating personal art in my books and on my arms but creating art for others is where it becomes more cherishing for me because I am giving a part of me – a piece of where my mind drifts off – someone else.

A week after I spoke with Karen, I met with Prof, Nicole Tschampel in her 3-Dimensional Design class. We stepped out into the hall to participate in the interview without distracting her students. The meeting was recorded with my iPhone; my first question was, “So, how would you describe Karen’s style and what example could you give?”

Ms. Tschampel pondered for a moment and replied with, “I think that Karen has a great sense of humor and that shows through her work in terms of how she makes the work, the subject matter of the work, and then even the marks that she uses are whimsical, playful marks. Um, I think that she is a really, also a very hard-working student and so that level of craft is always present in her work. Things are always presented really well, the projects are always—visually organized in a manner that is synched with what I want.”

Then I asked Prof. Tschampel if she would be able to give any examples of Karen’s well-made projects and she responded with “Um, what examples could I give of those sorts of, like, humor, and work ethic? In the work that she’s done? Well, obviously, the easiest stuff, she’s always worked in art in time and when she’s struggling with a project, she does something and then comes and asks a lot of questions which is all I ask of students ever, y’know, it, figure out what you don’t understand and then come back to me so we can work together. To me, that’s always a testament to somebody’s work ethic. Um, and even when she does things incorrectly, she does them really well, um, which I also y’know, a lot of times when students are confused or frustrated they give up quickly and she has a high level of perseverance.”

“I’ve become quite familiar with Karen’s perfectionist outlook and I even gave my own statement for it. “Yeah, and she’s like, spent eight hours making an octagon.”

“Absolutely,” agreed Prof. Tschampel, “and if she doesn’t and if she’s not happy with what she’s done after 12 hours, she’ll start all over again, which is a very gutsy thing to do. It can be hard if you’ve invested so much time in something, to be like, okay, this isn’t what I want.” Karen will do anything to make sure that the work she gives in is acceptable to her first, and then everything after will be fine. Prof. Tschampel went on to say. “No, but it’s such a testament to her as a student...” and to her as a person.” “Yeah! Yeah! that is one of the things to me that stand out. I mean, her work is always, on average, a higher quality than most of the other students. She’s always in the top ten percent of the class when it comes to what she’s completing and how it looks and her ideas. It’s a testament to her; I mean it has nothing to do with me. She’s great.”

After we wrapped up the first half of the interview, I asked Prof. Tschampel if she could use only three words to describe Karen’s work ethic and once I finished the inquiry, the professor had grown silent for awhile before she recited “Focused, thoughtful... and persistent.”

I acknowledged the answer with a small remark, ‘cool’, and she wondered if she had responded correctly and I assured her she had. I threw another question towards her which I had attempted to focus on Karen’s prospective career choice, which was to be an interior designer. “Do you believe these traits will help her in becoming an interior designer?”

“Absolutely, without a doubt, I think you have to have all of those traits to be successful in anything, I mean, beyond interior design and I think that those are pretty essential traits to surviving in general. Yeah, I have nothing but confidence that Karen is going to be wildly successful with whatever she does.” I was unconditionally happy for Karen’s future and how it seemed to be set in stone that success will come her way. The both of us continued to discuss the talent that leaves her hands when creating her art and after a few moments we had said our goodbyes and thanked each other for the other’s time.

After speaking with Karen about her decision in majoring in art, and the immense amount of money one must invest in art products, it was clear to me that the field is very demanding for many art students. Of course, every major asks a lot for the people enrolled in the program, but it seems as if art majors need to devote more of their time and money for their courses, and Karen, who wishes to become an interior designer, recognizes these obstacles that are placed for her but will never use these tribulations as an excuse to give in second-rate work. Prof. Nicole Tschampel is aware of Karen’s intent to carve her way towards her dream and has faith that her student will leave her mark with any career that she pursues.
Meet Your Student: Basal Gang

BY Yu (Briana) Cheng

Welcome to this month’s section of Meet Your Student. Our feature profile of April is a band called Basal Gang. Basal Gang is an experimental rock alliance consisting of students Amir Toussi, Nils Kovelevsky and Adam Debbarh.

1. Please introduce yourselves to us. (name, position in band, studying/work, and your favorite color)

Amir: I’m Amir Toussi and I play guitar and do backup vocals for Basal Gang. I’m studying Liberal Arts at QC until I find out what I want to do with myself. Adam, Nils and I work at the Red Mango on Bell Blvd in Bayside. My favorite color is light blue.

Nils: I’m Nils! I’m the drummer! I’m currently between schools, working at red mango and pinkberry within the last two years so I’ve had a lot of experience with toppings I put honey because it tastes good, and it’s good for you; blueberries and bananas are my favorite fruits for yogurt. You really don’t want to do more than 3 different fruits because it just gets messy and there are too many flavors in the cup, and the only non-fruity toppings that I use are the granola/fruit pebbles add a crunch to something like mango, blueberry, orange, etc. Then, drizzle honey all over it before you release before the summer.

Adam: Amir or Adam showing us riffs they’ve written and us making stuff up to go along with it. I’m not sure if that’s how songs are supposed to be written. Like, do other bands write songs like that? I don’t think so. We’ve all recently started writing full songs ourselves and will probably have more fluid and cohesive song structures with our new tunes. To be honest, it might sound a lot different than the stuff we have up on our bandcamp now so stay tuned!

Adam: Amir and I would come up with our own separate parts and then show them to Nils and he’d make his drums. We just worked from there.

5. What are your thoughts on the rock scene in Queens?

Adam: I don’t know of a lot of Queens-based local bands nor am I familiar with the scene. However, I do know of many NYC based local bands! We’ve been meeting a lot of rad bands and awesome people ever since we started playing shows over the summer. To give a shout out to a few: King Salmon, Black Doctor Jr., and No Shoes. We’re recording a split EP with the folks over at No Shoes. Check em out at http://noshoesny.bandcamp.com/!

Adam: Shows in Ridgewood are really loud.

6. Pick three bands you guys are currently fans of and three bands you are not alive without.

Adam: Three bands we’re currently fans of. Hm, Tera Melos, Dismemberment Plan, The Number Twelve Looks Like You. 3 bands I wouldn’t be alive without? Weezer, The Fall of Troy, and Brand New.

Nils: Currently I’m the biggest fan of No Shoes, ever. Not just musically, as people they’ve really been nothing but super awesome guys that have completely renewed my dwindling faith in local music. Just some truly wonderful and sincere guys making rad music. I’ve been listening to a lot of Lemuria, a punk/indie band from Buffalo. The songs sound pop-punky without being bland by using seriously interesting song structures and rhythm, almost akin to a math rock band! That’s probably why I like them so much. If I can drag Amir and Adam along the path, maybe some of our newer songs will sound something like that. I’ve also been listening to the new Sidekicks album, which completely blew me away. This is what I imagine people think the new Titus Andronicus album sounds like, because apparently I’m the only one who didn’t like that album. It’s excellent. Yeah, lots a pop punk here…three bands I couldn’t live without are Bomb The Music Industry!, Radiohead, and Das Racist. Does Das Racist count? They’re not really a band, I guess. If they don’t, then Modest Mouse.

Adam: Recently I’ve been listening to Dismemberment Plan, Tera Melos, and The Smiths. Tera Melos, The Fall of Troy and Bomb the Music Industry!

7. When is your next show?

Adam: I’ve been talking to a few talent buyers and promoters but we’re not planning on playing any songs until we’re done with the recording and mixing process. We’re trying to prioritize getting our EP out as soon as possible. Work now. Play later.

Nils: Not really all that soon! We’re recording the EP first so we can have something to give out and promote at shows and so that people can become familiar with our totally crazy songs. We’ll probably start playing shows again in the summer.

Adam: EP then shows.

8. One of your FB statuses say “call us yogurt gang.” Describe the ideal yogurt creation.

Adan: I’ll let Nils elaborate on the next question. He’s the FroYo master.

Nils: Your (frozen) yogurt should be a flavor that’s sweet, but one that won’t overpower the toppings that you get. You can’t go wrong with the fruit flavors. Start with something like mango, blueberry, orange, etc. Then, drizzle honey all over it before you put any toppings on. It quickly congeals on the yogurt itself and is delicious. From there, I recommend pearing either fruits pebbles or granola on most of the cup, while making subsections around the cup for different fruits. The granola/fruit pebbles add a crunch to every bite that brings the whole thing together. Strawberries, raspberries, and pineapple are my favorite fruits for yogurt. You really don’t want to do more than 3 different fruits because it just gets messy and there are too many flavors in the cup, and the only non-fruit topping that I can honestly recommend is mochi because it’s insane. So good. I’ve worked at both red mango and pinkberry within the last two years so I’ve had a lot of time to mess around and I think this is the best way to do it.

Adam: We all work at mango town. I like original swirled with pomegranate and for toppings I put honey because it tastes good, and it’s good for you; blueberries and bananas. Bananas are my favorite.
Both Track Teams 1st Place Winners!

By David Coba

The QCC track and field teams have finished first place in the Indoor CUNY Championship in both the men’s and women’s categories. QCC swept the floor dustless scoring 146 points for QCC, followed by 96 for KCC and 30 for Bronx CC. For the women’s team, they had scored 117 points for QCC, 80 for KCC and 20 for BCC. Among all the colleges in the conference, QCC was dominant.

The day started out with dominant performances sweeping all the senior colleges in the Distance Medley Relay. The women’s Distance Medley team placed first finishing with the time of 15:03.21 and was comprised of HANNAH DELAPNHA, AMANDA MUROLO, KAREN RODRIGUEZ and GINA SCALES. On the men’s side, they had broken
The winners celebrate their triumph.

The Queensborough Community College soccer program’s mission for the upcoming 2012 season is to have successful participation in the NJCAA Region Tournament. The QCC Soccer Team has been training and the coaches have been putting players together for the upcoming season in September.

Athletic Director Pete Marchitello has said he wants a program that is like back in the 70’s, when Queensborough was considered one of the top five community college programs in the nation. Current Head Coach Zef Kabashi wants this program to succeed and to take his team to an elite status. Kabashi’s career started as an assistant coach at Nassau Community College (2001-2002). He also had a stint at Hostos Community College (2005-2008). He was named Coach of the Queensborough Men’s Soccer Team in 2008 and has since been in charge of this program. Throughout the past years Queensborough Men’s Soccer hasn’t had much success. Coach Kabashi wanted to change that as quickly as possible and make his soccer team a contender for many years to come. Kabashi believes with the proper training, max effort, and dedication, his team will be very competitive and also reach those promising heights that were once during the 1970’s.

During fall of 2011, his 2nd stint in charge of his team, he coached them to a record of 10-4-2 and finished 1st in the region XV standings overall. His team also went on to win the CUNY ALTHETIC CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP by the score of 2-0 over Hostos Community College at Macomb Dam Park. Unfortunately Zef Kabashi 1st seeded team were upset in the first round against Bronx Community College with a score of 2-1. The expectations of Kabashi and Athletic Director Pete Marchitello were not realized by the soccer. Nonetheless, last season was not a failure because of finishing 1st in the Region XV standing and winning the CUNY Championship. Their first goal was to advance to the NJCAA Region tournament but the goal was never met due to the upset lost against Bronx Community College.

For the 2012 fall season, nothing has changed and expectations are the same as they were since Kabashi took over. Kabashi’s men have begun their spring training recently and you can say their season has started. Not only is Kabashi more driven, but so are his players, especially when thinking of how their season ended on a bad note. He also wants his players to take the good and bad from last year and learn from it. The Queensborough Men’s Soccer try-outs will start late July until the end of August. Before the 2012 fall season is underway, the coach will select his best 20 players from his try-out and proceed with them for the 2012 season. In addition, the returning players will make the team. Last season will give them an edge, I believe.
Insight into the Trayvon Martin Case

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not to pursue the young man that he would immediately be arrested. Let us also consider that in one recording Zimmerman is heard saying a racial epithet. As a local civilian and active member in the community, rapper Troy Jackson believes that Zimmerman should be arrested. “I think he should go to jail, like anyone else would. Florida should repeal the law because it’s giving people an excuse to murder people for minor reasons,” he says. Jahi Rose, a fellow CUNY student, believes that the law “needs to be repealed if reports show that this has been a trend in increased crime” and if it is not repealed then maybe lawmakers “should be more astringent in the interpretation of the law.”

We believe that there is a severe flaw in the laws that have been passed. Laws were made to constitute, organize, to help create uniformity in the wake of a young and complexly diverse country. Now, there are laws that kill. There are laws that severely hinder our ability to feel safe and free! There are also people who manipulate laws to seek to justify crime and they should be held accountable. Unfortunately, it has to come to the death of an innocent, beautiful, and intelligent young man for many Americans to say, “Enough is enough!” This incident is only one of the many incidents that have occurred which demonstrate the threat of bigotry. As students and future leaders we have a right and responsibility to enlighten the close-minded, to motivate the lax, and create accepting and safe environments in which we wish to live. Our history and generation has come too far to suddenly relapse.

QCC Has a Daycare Center?

continued from cover page

Besides the curriculum the program has assets that focus on the family as a whole, worried about not only the child attending, but the parents and siblings as well. They have workshops for parents such as the “Pedestrian safety class”, individual stress management counseling for parents having a hard time, orientation to guide parents and children and a program called “Baby buggy” that focuses on mothers who are pregnant. Cynthia Clendenin says “This program is great; it helps moms by providing them with anything from a socket cover to a stroller.”

Parents search for the best place to leave their child not often feeling secure of their decision. The QCC daycare center provides parents with the comfort of assuring the wellbeing of your child by keeping you informed on everything you as a parent should know. A monthly calendar is provided to parents with events and updates going on in the daycare. For those concerned of what their children eat, the program has a weekly menu consisting of breakfast, lunch and snack that must be approved and signed by the daycare center nutritionist Mattie Johnson each week.

After speaking with the coordinator, she informed me of how reliable this program is for students to be able to continue their studies, but she mentioned it was a shame to have to tell parents that there is a waiting list since the building is small they can’t except as many children as our college really needs. Perhaps that is why it is one of our hidden resources, because it is very limited. Raising awareness of this program might inspire more people to pay a visit to the QCC daycare center and maybe even find a bigger space to transfer the program. As we all know being parents is not an easy task and it is important to be aware of all available benefits.

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