Recession Hits New York
By Stephanie Buendia

Your boss stands close to your desk. His tone is different today, and his hesitation is a dead giveaway. You have been working there long enough to know these things always begin in the same manner. “It’s not that we don’t appreciate the hard work you’ve put into this company...,” he begins, “but due to the economy we’re going to have to do some downsizing.” A million thoughts cross your mind: “How will I make my next car payment?” “How will I pay my credit card bill due next week?” “How will I take care of my family?”

According to the Census Bureau’s 2009 American Community Survey, this is a grim reality for many New York City residents. The nation’s economic crisis has hit close to home for many New Yorkers, and situations like these are becoming all too common. Continued on page 18

Freak Tornado Hits Brooklyn and Queens
By Eve Johnson

On September 16th, New York experienced a brief but deadly tornado. But, according to the CBS online news article “Possible Tornado Eyed in Deadly NYC Storm,” this isn’t the first tornado to touch the city. In fact, last July, a small tornado occurred in the Bronx, leaving many people without power. However, this recent tornado hit Brooklyn and damaged many communities in Queens.

Forest Hills Park was completely destroyed by the storm. Trees were completely uprooted. Some store windows were broken, and tree limbs littered the streets. Queensborough Community College student Melissa Obermeier said, “My neighborhood was destroyed. I had no power for two days, and it’s just starting to get back to normal. I was inside with my nana, and I was terrified.” Obermeier’s fear was a common reaction for many people.

According to CBS News, there were as many as 37,000 people left without power throughout Brooklyn and Queens, and, as of now, that number is down to... Continued on page 8

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**GENERAL NEWS**

**Sexual Assault on Campus**

By Benigno Brockman

A Penn State student was charged on Tuesday for sexually assaulting a fellow student who invited him to a party at her home on Saturday.

The victim tried to fight back, according to the police report, but Zachary O. Kick overpowered her. After Kick raped her, she called the police. When the police arrived, they found signs of a struggle and rape in her apartment.

Rape is an under-reported crime in all schools across the country, according to the website, centredaily.com. One in five women who attend college will become the victim of a rape or an attempted rape by the time she graduates.

The Department of Justice conducted an investigation of students who have been sexually assaulted and discovered that many females refuse to report the incident because they feel the rape was their fault, or they don’t recognize that a sexual assault is a violation. Schools are obligated to respond to allegations of sexual assault on campus and to offer help to victims. According to the Department of Justice, sexual assaults on campuses are hugely underreported by victims as well as institutions, and students found responsible for the crime receive little or no punishment. Less than five percent of female undergraduates who have been victims of rape report it to the authorities, according to the website, publicintegrity.org.

There are certain procedures that students should follow in the case of rape or sexual assault. It’s imperative that the dean of students and the office of security be notified immediately after any emergency on campus. If a sex offense occurs, the security office will inform the student of the option of notifying the police and assist in receiving medical assistance and campus counseling. Also, it’s important to preserve evidence after an assault occurs. Before seeing a doctor, the victim should not douche, bathe, shower, or change clothes. The victim should inform the police of all details and give the officers any clothing stained or torn during the attack. Seeking a medical doctor and getting a medical examination is also important. Students should inform the doctor of the details of the incident. According to Queensborough Community College’s website link to sexual assault procedures, doctors should take semen smears and note any injuries.

Many women suffer from sexual abuse. It’s important for women to find out more information on ways to overcome abuse from their partners, and it’s important for women to see that they are not alone. Many males demand unprotected sex from their partners. Some men verbally abuse, physically abuse, and even threaten to rape their partners. There are many different organizations, such as the National Domestic Violence Hotline, that will offer help and support to people who are in domestic abuse situations. Women are encouraged to call this organization for help with controlling partners and relationships. Women have a voice, and their voice should be heard. For more information, please call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233.

**The Truth about ‘Man’s Best Friend’**

By Emilia Tercjak

Every day when I go to work as a Doctor’s Assistant in an animal clinic, a family with a new puppy comes in to get the first check-up for the new “baby.” Most of these puppies are small, mixed breeds called “designer breeds” that cost $1300-$2000 in puppy stores. There is nothing special about them, but everyone loves a puppy. Yet, the puppy is not simply a cute, adorable, family friend; the puppy will, sooner or later, become a dog that may have severe health problems. All of those cute, innocent little puppies, even “designer breeds,” that are almost always bought by impulse shopping from a pet store, are puppy mill puppies.

What is a puppy mill? It is a death sentence to all dogs that are bred there. Dogs are kept in confined, dirty conditions and forced to breed constantly so that Class B Dealers can sell them to puppy stores to make a profit. A Class B Dealer is a person 18 years or older, who obtains a license from the USDA, for a small fee, to sell live animals. Selling dogs is a business, one that values money more than the dog’s quality of life.

When purchasing a puppy from a Class B Dealer, a potential dog owner will sign paperwork for the new pet to be registered as an AKC purebred. But these puppy store dogs are not purebred dogs. The AKC works with puppy stores to offer the registration application for a fee to the customer.

*Continued on page 6*
Pick Up That Trash!

By Brian Spiegel

Picture this: you are casually walking around New York City with your head down. You see all different kinds of garbage, cigarette butts, water bottles, soda cans, pieces of paper, cups, candy wrappers, and fast food bags. This is never a pretty sight to see.

All people litter. But most do not even realize how much they litter on a daily basis. Simply throwing a wrapper from a little piece of gum to the floor is littering.

According to James H. Liu's article, "Differentiating Active and Passive Littering," littering is divided into two categories. There is the active litterer and the passive litterer. The active litterer is the person who does the actual act of littering. This person may drop an empty chip bag on the floor and keep on walking. The passive litterer, on the other hand, is the person who casually eats at a picnic table and fails to pick up used napkins before leaving. According to Liu, the categories of littering are determined by the time the litter was placed in the environment and the time the litter was removed from the premises. But whether littering happens actively or passively, it will always be litter.

People litter everywhere. They litter in their communities, in the park, at work, and even at the beach. The Marine Conservation System Beach Watch has reported that since 1994, beach litter has increased by 96.5%. According to the Beach Watch, the litter can originate from anywhere in the world because tides, currents, winds, and rivers cause the waters of the world to move. The Beach Watch also claims that litter comes from a variety of sources, but there are four main sources: beach visitors, fishing debris, sewage debris, and shipping litter. The Beach Watch claims that 41.9% of litter comes from unknown sources, but the second highest cause is beach visitors who are responsible for 35% of litter.

But is Queensborough Community College litter-free? Unfortunately, students often throw papers on the floor. The Missouri Department of Transportation reports that paper is responsible for 29% of litter. Students do not seem to realize that even cigarette butts on the floor take twelve years to decompose, and the filters contain many toxic chemicals that leak into the air and soil.

A few ways to cut down on the waste are to use cloth napkins instead of paper, use sealable storage containers rather than plastic wrap and, also, reuse cardboard boxes, plastic bags and paper sacks. Every little bit helps.

The Dangers of Alcohol Consumption

By Dianne Bhagwansingh

Alcohol addiction is one of the major drug problems in the United States that affects college students today. Many students’ lives are destroyed, while the rate of alcohol-related deaths has increased because of the way college students behave when under the influence of alcohol.

Alcohol affects the cells of the central nervous system, dulling the signals between the nerve system and the brain. So, after just having one or two drinks, a person’s physical coordination is reduced, as well as mental alertness, and mood swings may be experienced.

College students who consume alcohol usually have more than two drinks. Under this influence, students may engage in risky behavior that can result in physical injury or death. According to a study conducted by the University of Northern Florida, “It is estimated that 1,700 college students between the ages of 18 and 24 die each year from alcohol-related unintentional injuries,” and “599,000 college students between the ages of 18 and 24 are unintentionally injured while under the influence of alcohol each year.” These students may also increase the use of violent behavior on campus, and their academic studies will suffer as well.

Alcohol can lead to having unprotected sex and also cause unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases. The University of Northern Florida’s study also indicated that more than 400,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 had unprotected sex as a result of drinking, and more than 97,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are victims of alcohol-related sexual assault or date rape each year.

Teenagers usually consume alcohol for various reasons, such as wanting to fit in with friends or because they think drinking is a cool way of relieving stress. After all, the pressures of college studies, working and dealing with the drive to succeed are difficult to manage, but little do students realize that alcohol is a depressant that modifies their emotional and psychological state. Thus, turning to alcohol for some kind of relief will only make students more depressed and may also cause anxiety. Parents need to talk to their children, find out what’s going on in their lives and educate them about the dangers of drinking. Too many college students have committed suicide, homicide and have even drowned under the influence of alcohol.
Sponsored by South Jamaica Center for Children and Parents, Inc., the Queensborough Community College Child Care Center aids families by providing early childhood education for children ages three to five, absolutely free of charge.

South Jamaica Center for Children and Parents, Inc. provides early childhood education, including social, emotional, cognitive, and physical developmental curricula. It also gives children the opportunity to attend planned trips and experience nutritional meals for breakfast, lunch, and a few snacks with the help of a food monitor. The food monitor ensures that the children are receiving the proper servings of milk, fruit, vegetables, grains, and protein and also supervises meals even during off-campus field trips.

In addition to painting, drawing, and learning, children who are enrolled in Head Start also get the chance to bond with other peers.

When the time comes for the children to move forward, they leave the South Jamaica Center for Children and Parents, Inc. with the confidence they need to achieve anything they wish to in life.

Yet, the best part about South Jamaica Center for Children and Parents, Inc. is its Head Start program with a dedicated staff that has helped families since 1965. Head Start reaches out to millions of parents to help their children excel. Head Start also provides aid to the many children with disabilities, whether the disabilities are physical, developmental or behavioral. In fact, according to South Jamaica Head Start, children with disabilities make up over 10% of Head Start’s total enrollment.

The staff provides families with a helping hand and a beautiful, safe environment where parents and their children come to imagine and achieve. Most importantly, the Head Start program is free of charge. For more information, call (212) 232-0966 or 311.

Want Your Degree ASAP?

By Sam Ackerman

Would you like to make that dream of graduating from a two year college in actually two years come true? Want to avoid taking unnecessary courses by learning how to create an organized curriculum? If you do, and if you are eligible, then you’re fortunate enough to have the Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (A.S.A.P.) come to your aid.

A.S.A.P. is a fairly new program and is offered within the CUNY system for community colleges only. The program started three years ago and is currently growing in popularity. When you attend the college as an A.S.A.P. student, you attend college cost-free. A.S.A.P. will also pay for either two winter or two summer courses. In addition, A.S.A.P. students receive a free monthly Metro-Card ($89) and the use of textbooks on loan at no cost.

To be eligible for the A.S.A.P. program, you must be a QCC student who is eligible for PELL or falls within the poverty guidelines established by the city of New York and a registered New York City resident with 12 or few college credits earned. Undocumented students are eligible to apply for A.S.A.P. as well. All majors qualify except for Early Childhood Education and the Nursing Program. Also, students may not be a part of both College Discovery and A.S.A.P.

When you join A.S.A.P., you agree to follow all the rules and regulations of the A.S.A.P. program. You will be provided with your own personal A.S.A.P. Student Manager, with whom you will meet with twice each month. You will also meet with the Career and Employment Specialist at least once a semester to guide you with career placement and assistance with interviewing skills, resume writing, and other job-related issues. Leadership and scholarship opportunities become more accessible through A.S.A.P. as well. A.S.A.P. also offers convenient class schedules and smaller class sizes.

Take advantage of this great program while you can. The A.S.A.P. office is conveniently located on the first floor of the library building, L-116.
From Rucksack to Backpack: Helping Veterans Transition into Campus Life

By Luis A. Jordan

But it’s not easy for a soldier to return home and immediately enroll in school. “I can only imagine how difficult it must be for the soldiers to return to the realities of everyday life after their experiences overseas,” said Michael Mitsis, a sophomore at Queensborough Community College.

Soldiers have traditionally experienced difficulty returning to school to use their GI Bill benefits. Sometimes, veterans who are older and have families find it difficult to juggle family responsibilities with a full college course load, and, sometimes, without enough support for the transition from military life to campus life, “fitting in” at college can be overwhelming for military service members.

Soldiers who return to college after leaving the military often have difficulty interacting with people who don’t understand wartime experiences. But in college classes with other veterans, military students find they can relate more easily, and many students also said that they would welcome additional G.I. presence on campus. “I would be honored to be in class with a prior soldier,” said Lisa Collazo, a freshman at Queensborough Community College. “They served our country in a great way and sacrificed so much. It would bring a new perspective to a classroom that I’d welcome.”

Many college admissions offices, in fact, say they would like to see more students with the real-world experiences that veterans carry. At least 32 states this year have considered new veteran education benefits, while 11 states have signed new programs into law. Services for vets also vary greatly by school. Queensborough’s Student Veteran’s Association, a student run association, assists veterans with a smooth transition from military to college life. The QSV A is primarily a social outlet for its members, but it also provides a forum for the exchange of information, such as the availability of educational assistance, health benefits, financial perks, and referral information.

For more information, stop by the Veterans’ Center located on the lower level of the Student Union Bldg., Rm. 05, or call (718) 281-5767.

Healing the Wounds of War

By Francisco Romero

If you’re a Queensborough Community College veteran student, it’s not too late to put in for your health benefits, especially if you believe that you are suffering from Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

As of July 12, 2010, the VA has implemented new rules that will make it easier for combat veterans to file for a claim due to hearing loss, PTSD, back problems, etc. It has also taken steps to expedite the decision making process, so that veterans will get their health benefits as quickly as possible.

Many combat veterans are under the misconception that it is nearly impossible to put in for a claim. Others fear they will not get their claims approved or that the process is time consuming, so they decide not to put in for their health benefits. The fear factor rises because many veterans with PTSD fear that they will not be able to function properly under normal working conditions. Having their claims approved will ensure them financial stability.

Under the old regulations governing PTSD claims, veterans were required to provide extensive records regarding the event that caused the trauma, listing time, place, and mission. However, many non-combat veterans experience in-service stressors not related to actual combat. According to The New York Times from July 8, 2010, the new regulation, “eliminate[s] a requirement that veterans document specific events like bomb blasts, firefighters or mortar attacks that might have caused PTSD, an illness characterized by emotional numbness, irritability and flashbacks,” breaking some of the barriers that made it difficult for veterans to come forward, since many complained about the difficulties they encounter with finding these types of records.

This final regulation is necessary because it makes the VA’s adjudication of PTSD claims more timely and consistent with current medical science. According to the VA fact sheet from www.va.gov, “This final rulemaking will simplify and improve the PTSD claims adjudication process by eliminating this time-consuming requirement where the claimed stressor is related to ‘fear of hostile military or terrorist activity,’ is consistent with the places, types, and circumstances of their service, and a VA psychiatrist or psychologist, or contract psychiatrist or psychologist confirms that the claimed stressor is adequate to support a diagnosis of PTSD.”

Opponents argue that the new regulation will lead to economic dependency among young veterans whose conditions might be treatable. Moreover, dissenters point out that the new regulation is too costly with a rough estimate of $5 billion dollars over several years. However, advocates assert that the new rule will allow the Department of Veterans’ Affairs to extensively monitor and limit approvals, essentially strengthening its filters for fraudulent claims.

If you have questions about new rules on PTSD, call 1-877-527-5529.
The Most Important Things to Know about College

By James Audry

Before entering college, students in high school are given a false view of college in general. High school teachers tell students that college is the hardest place in the world to succeed. Although college may be difficult, understanding the things to know about college may make life and school more manageable.

Many factors contribute to a college student’s high stress levels. Tuition can be a burden for those who have taken a loan or are simply paying “out of pocket.” Students must manage homework, extensive papers, tests, and quizzes for multiple classes. Students also try to hold jobs and manage their social lives. This is a tough task that can seem overwhelming and, in the end, leave a student sleepless.

Time management is one of the best ways to make all of these tasks easier to complete. Wasting time is a bad habit, but having a planner or creating a to-do list will help a student manage time.

Students who have a major, no matter what it is, should stay with that major. Once the student goes to a four-year college, it will be easier to switch majors with 60 credits that the new school can’t deny. Switching majors can cause students to stay more than two years at Queensborough Community College. Many students feel as if they are trapped. The best way to speed up the process is to take classes that apply to and are requirements for the student’s program. A great idea would be to take summer and/or winter courses to stay ahead of the game and graduate either ahead of or on time.

Many students aren’t interested in joining a school club. Being active in school is something that looks good on a student’s resume. A way to narrow down the options is by choosing something interesting, educational and fun at the same time. Different people enjoy different hobbies and pastimes. Another important fact is that applying for an internship is also great for a student and will increase the hiring process once out of school.

The scariest thought in a student’s head is, “What am I going to do when I graduate?” Obviously, this might not apply to those who are locked into a program and know exactly what it is that they will be doing, but this definitely applies to those who spend two years questioning their future career goals. Life for the new generation is going to be really difficult, but hard work and time management are two of the major keys to being a successful and efficient student.
Jade Kim finishes her class in the Humanities Building on the Queensborough Community College campus. She runs down the stairs and out the building to her next class. As she exits the building, already breathing heavily, she has to gasp for air. Jade has just entered an engulfing pile of smoke. She struggles for air for a couple of minutes until she gets far enough away from the smokers standing outside of the Humanities Building. Jade Kim, 22, has asthma, making it difficult for her to catch her breath when walking through these clouds of smoke.

There are many cigarette smokers on QCC’s campus, and they don’t only stand outside the Humanities Building to smoke. Students smoke outside of almost every building on campus throughout most of the day. For some, it is a necessity. For others, it is an inconvenience. However, for everyone, smoking is a health risk.

QCC’s policy for smoking remained unchanged since the year 2003. This policy stated that smoking was prohibited inside any college vehicle or indoor facility. This policy only addressed smoking indoors. However, the college realized the problem of smoke surrounding the premises of the buildings outside.

QCC recently established a rule regarding smoking cigarettes on campus. The school has put up signs in various locations stating that students, faculty and staff are not allowed to smoke within a few feet of the area. For a student like Jade, this is a breather. She can now leave and enter her classes without having to worry about holding her breath or running through a cloud of smoke.

“I pay for my classes myself and didn’t feel protected by the school I was paying so much for when having to worry about breathing clean air on this campus,” Jade said. “I am really happy that they made this new rule. Smokers can still smoke, just away from areas where most people like me, who do not smoke, can roam freely.”

This new rule is a great advantage to all students. Second hand smoke is lethal, even to smokers. The rule will make QCC a healthier environment, making it easier and more comfortable for students and faculty to travel from one building to the next without having to pass through the smoke and odor.

The new smoking policy still gives smokers their right to smoke, and it also gives everyone the right to better health and a better education. The smoke no longer irritates Jade’s asthma, nor does it block the way to her education.

Texting While Driving: Just Say No

18 year-old Mariah West was a high school senior. In May, a day before her high school graduation, she drove to a baseball game. On her way to the game, she was texting and driving. As she was texting, she lost control of her car and clipped a bridge, flipping the car and skidding into oncoming traffic. She was partially ejected from her car, and her skull was crushed.

New York is one of the many states that have banned texting and driving. Drivers are 8 times more likely to get into an accident if they text and drive, according to Texting-While-driving.org. The National Safety Council reported that 28% of all traffic accidents are caused by the use of cell phones, and an estimated 200,000 crashes are caused each year from texting while driving.

Besides endangering the driver’s life while texting and driving, the driver also endangers the lives of others. In Florida two years ago, Heather Hurd, 26 years old, was on her way to see her wedding planner when a truck driver plowed right into her car. Hurd died instantly after the accident. This occurred because the truck driver was texting and driving. Hurd’s mother, Kim Hurd said, “I’ll never be the mother of a bride. I’ll never have grandchildren from Heather. It destroyed me.”

As drivers, we need to stop texting and driving. We not only put our own lives at risk but also other lives as well. So, save yourself, and save a life. Don’t text and drive.
The Truth about Students and Academic Advisement

By Kerris Segee

Is Queensborough Community College lacking a resourceful staff, or do students expect too much from their Academic Advisors? Interviews with students who attend QCC show dissatisfaction with the staff’s performance, stating that the college lacks the enthusiasm, skill, and the helpful attitude necessary to help students prepare for their future.

The purpose of the Academic Advisement Department is to interview and advise students regarding information, procedures and academic requirements of a specific program or major. Advisers are supposed to assist students in exploring careers, evaluating academic abilities, and setting goals and are required to provide helpful materials, such as advising guides and recruitment materials for potential students.

However, students have said that too often they rely on what they hear from other students to make academic decisions. Queensborough student Tiffany Diaz stated, “There isn’t enough support from academic advisement. Unless you know what career you want to pursue, you’re left behind taking unnecessary classes.” An Academic Advisor who wished to remain anonymous stated, “The advising relationship depends on active participation from you and your advisor. Just like any other relationship, it takes the respect, participation, and the time to make the most of it.”

Thinking about advising on campus, I’m reminded of my first day at QCC. My transition from high school to college was a rude awakening. In my experience, the faculty lacked the time to be effective advisors, and the information I needed for a successful future at QCC was nonexistent. Other students complained that advisors didn’t inform them enough about their classes. As a result, they attended classes that weren’t mandatory, throwing away valuable time and money, two important resources that students can’t afford to waste.

The Daily Parking Problem, with Possible Solutions

By Keith Swiader

Every morning at 7 a.m., the same event occurs: the mad rush for the next available parking space. Students who drive to Queensborough Community College every morning wake up extra early just to get parking. Of course, there is always the dollar-a-day parking lot inside the school, but the name of the game here is avoiding that.

I fight through traffic everyday to get a decent spot. I need to be on a tight schedule every morning. The question is, why? Why am I, along with hundreds of other students, forced to go to school two hours before class, only to sit and wait, constantly asking everyone I see, “Are you getting out?”

The parking time regulations create another problem with parking off campus. With parking available after 11 a.m., this leaves many early-bird students left out on the street, so to speak. Clearly, these signs are a plague to every student with classes at 8 a.m. However, the school has made minor changes to afternoon classes to accommodate the parking laws, which has helped students quite a bit.

Students can also do two things to alleviate the problem for themselves. Try making friends with residents of a nearby house, and ask if you can perhaps rent their driveway for the semester. Or, if you take late classes, ask a student with a class before you if you can meet, and, as that student leaves, you take the spot. These solutions may help the new students of Queensborough have an easier morning commute.

As of now, students continue to fight the good fight every morning. If enough people stand up on this matter, something will change, but, for now, the early-bird gets the worm.

Freak Tornado Hits Brooklyn and Queens

Continued from cover story

about 27,000 with most of the people still experiencing electrical, cable, or internet outages in Queens. In some areas, roofs were destroyed, and cars were smashed by trees and branches.

However, for those of us who live in areas not touched by the tornado, this may feel very surreal. One Queensborough student, Gregory Espinoza, said, “I thought the news was playing an April fool’s joke, but I guess it was real.” For many New Yorkers, this storm was, in fact, too real, causing the death of a woman from Pennsylvania when a tree fell on her parked car in Queens while she was sitting inside of it. According to an online article from Fox News, “Deadly Tornado-Like Storm Rips Through NYC,” Iline Levakis was pronounced dead on the scene. She was only 30.
A New Era: QCC Baseball Coach Roger Mischel

By David Russell

The Roger Mischel era has begun for the Queensborough Tigers baseball team. Mischel, who graduated from Queensborough Community College in 2003 and Adelphi University in 2006, is in his first year as head coach after several years as an assistant. Mischel’s goal is to finish “as the highest seed possible.”

Mischel replaces Rich Kashdan, who was the head coach since 2007 and was an assistant coach from 2001-2007. “I recommended him for the head coaching position. I spoke with the A.D. and told him Roger’s ready,” said Kashdan.

“He’s the reason I am where I am today,” Mischel said about Kashdan, who spent the last year mentoring Mischel. “He’s a good presence to have around. [Kashdan] knows the game very well.”

Kashdan has stepped into the role of Associate Head Coach. “We’re both flexible,” he stated. “Roger has the final decision as head coach. I bring 50 years of baseball and Roger 20. He has a lot of new ideas and I’m old school, with some new ideas.”

Mischel stated, “I significantly love coaching more than anything else. I love playing, but nothing compares to coaching.” He continued, “I love seeing when a play works that we went over in practice.” He is also trying to put the Tigers in the right mindset. “I want to get the team to believe they can achieve what they want to here. The team is a family. We all move as one, and the same rules go for everyone.”

Although Coach Mischel spends a lot of time coaching and teaching his players, he also learns from them. “I believe baseball is always a changing sport. You can always learn from a player or coach. You’re never too old to learn. The players benefit even more from this,” he said. “Whatever I learn, I try to express to my ballplayers. We try to teach through drills and words. If you listen to me and the coaches, I know you’ll become a better player. It’s better to learn by listening, not watching.”

Mischel said “helping developing players into better ballplayers” is the best part of his job. As for the worst part, “making sure everyone stays eligible.” Recruiting is another situation. “It’s time-consuming. It’s new for me, and it takes getting used to. Looking for new players is enjoyable, but I prefer to be coaching.”

Mischel has several baseball idols, such as Yankees star Alex Rodriguez. “A-Rod’s the best. He’s enjoyable to watch and to learn from.” Another idol is 1960s Mets star Todd Hundley. “He wears number nine, and he was a switch-hitting catcher, which is what I wanted to be.”

The Roger Mischel era has begun, and hopefully it will be a long one.

Should College Athletes Get Paid to Play?

By Lauren Williams

Many colleges and universities have a sports program that contains different levels of divisions, and the level of play and competition breaks down these divisions even further. These divisions include division one, two, and three. One is the top competitive division, and most athletes who play in division one receive a scholarship. These athletes use their physical talents to help pay for their education, a benefit of being a college athlete. Even though the athletes in this division are able to get a free education, do they deserve more benefits, such as money? Should these athletes get paid to play?

Some people feel that these athletes should get paid at the college level. In a recent survey around the Queensborough Community College campus, athletic students agreed with the idea of student athletes getting paid. On the other hand, a few non-athletic students opposed the idea. However, while interviewing a non-athletic student, he seemed to be amazed to discover that college athletes didn’t get paid. “You mean athletes at schools like UCLA don’t get paid? I thought they paid them.” After he learned that student athletes didn’t get paid and only receive a full scholarship, he stated, “They deserve it; it’s like they are working for the school.”

If colleges paid these athletes, the amount of scandals and investigations by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) would be reduced. The recent incident with the former University of Southern California football star Reggie Bush is an example of this highly debated topic. Before becoming a NFL player, Bush received $100,000 worth of personal benefits. Receiving under the table cash is illegal, however, and his college was cited for this unscrupulous behavior. Also, Bush’s Heisman Trophy Award, which he won in 2005, was returned this year because of these improper benefits. If Bush received a legitimate paid salary, this situation might not have occurred.

Athletes endure strenuous physical and mental pressures while trying to balance school and sports, needing to maintain an acceptable grade point average to be able to play. College athletes have a normal college life but don’t have time to work because of their practice schedules and games during the season. Like most college students, they have little money, but, unlike most students, they appear on TV every now and then. Queensborough Community College athletes can be seen on the Queens Public Television channel. Top athletes, therefore, bring attention to their schools, and these schools receive benefits from their sports programs. Is getting a free education the best benefit college athletes can receive, or should these athletes be rewarded with cash? This question will likely spark an ongoing discussion, but, for now, college athletes will have to be thankful for their free education.
Price Increase for Sports Fans

By Andres Londono

rising ticket prices have made it impossible to attend more than one professional sporting event without having to forego my college education.

In the past couple of years, ticket prices have risen dramatically. Earlier this year, the Jets and Giants opened a brand new stadium, with new, higher ticket prices. Jets non-premium tickets jumped 31.8 % and Giants’ tickets, 26.0 % making the average $113.00 per seat, according to the New York Times.

The NFL is not the only sport making changes for the new season. The NHL plans to hike ticket prices as well for the majority of their teams, according to the website, Sportsbusinessjournal.com. The Yankees and the Mets felt the backlash last year for having such high prices, forcing the franchises to lower their ticket prices.

Carlos Botero, a Queensborough student, claims that the new prices make it impossible for someone on a budget to get decent seats. “You can’t find tickets for less than $100, unless you’re in the nosebleed section,” Botero said.

But wait. There is more! Not only do people have to pay for overpriced tickets, they also have to shell out more cash for other miscellaneous necessities, such as souvenirs. With the already high prices of tickets, coupled with transportation costs, and the sinfully high prices for food and drinks, what is one supposed to do?

New challenges call for new measures, and even though it may seem impossible, there are some ways to cut costs and still watch the game live. Buy your tickets from bargain websites, such as Stubhub.com, where tickets are resold at a fraction of the price. Take public transportation to and from the game, which saves you gas and parking expenses. Also, eat before every game. Try going to a sports bar nearby, and pre-eat while you pre-game. Lastly, choose your event wisely. Since you can’t go to every game, do your research early and get the tickets for the games that you just have to see in person.

New Yorkers love to see their favorite teams in action, and sometimes watching a game on TV just doesn’t cut it. Going to see the Jets, Yankees, Mets, and Knicks always feels like a home run, until you realize how much that feeling is going to cost you.

During these frugal times, how can a sports fanatic afford to go to a sporting event, let alone make it a family outing, when ticket prices are on the rise?

As a college student, who happens to worship the art of competition, I try to enjoy one of these New York events as much as I can. Unfortunately, the
According to the *New York Post*, Chris Paul indicated a possible move to the New York franchise at Carmelo Anthony’s wedding on Sept. 19, 2010, saying, “We’ll form our own big three.” This was after Paul made a toast saying that Carmelo Anthony should join the Knicks. If this happens as planned, the New York Knicks will not only be a better franchise, but they will even pose a threat to the Miami Heat’s “Big Three”: LeBron James, Dwayne Wade, & Chris Bosh. Acquiring Chris Paul & Carmelo Anthony could be the Knicks’ best move, especially after a failed attempt to sign Lebron James.

With Chris Paul and Carmelo Anthony, in addition to the already acquired Amare Stoudmire, the Knicks will most definitely get back on track as a playoff team. Chris Paul is considered to be a triple threat in terms of inside scoring, outside shooting, and accurate passing. The Knicks can definitely use a versatile point guard like him, and he will also make it easier for players like Anthony and Stoudemire to score at will. His style of play keeps the defense guessing, leaving at least one player with an open opportunity to score. Carmelo Anthony can score when he wants. He makes the defense do what he wants them to do, making it easier for him to pass, score or get fouled. Thus, the “Big Three” can hopefully be formed.

Let’s make this happen, Knickerbockers. New York deserves to be a playoff team once again!
To be a movie star today, you don’t necessarily need talent; you need to have a connection. Being around the set of a mega-budget film will give you ample opportunity to meet the right people, in the right places, at the right time. Directors and other important people will approach you to give you direction, and if you impress your director you have done what many call – Breaking into the business!

### Finding Work

**As a Background Actor**

- **Casting Notices.** A breakdown of information for the acting jobs available. Includes the type of role, age range, and description of character and scene, date and time of filming, what you should bring or wear, the title of the project and how you should contact the casting agent.

- **Tips.** Find casting notices on Craigslist.org for free or pay a subscription fee for more reliable service, consistency, and lucrative roles on websites such as nycasting.com or backstage.com

*Check the bulletin board outside the Speech Communication and Theatre Arts Dept. room H125 for open casting calls and also the “Queensborough Communique” facebook group*

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### Extra Work

**Need to Know Information**

1. Take direction well. When a production assistant or director asks you to be quiet or move somewhere, do it. These people remember who follows directions because they make the best background actors and can handle better quality exposure.

2. Expect to work long hours. Dedicate your entire day to working on the set. Usually, background actors work 12 hour work days with an unpredictable time of leaving set.

3. Background acting is an entry-level position that pays minimum wage for non-union members. Union members who may be a part of the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) or the American Federation for Television and Radio Artists (AFTRA) are paid on a minimum scale rate of $135/8 hrs.

4. Do not bring friends; they will be unable to work unless they are booked for the same job in advance.

5. Don’t ask for autographs. It’s unprofessional and intolerable in a working environment.

6. Have fun! It’s an enjoyable and fascinating experience.
Bring your resume to an Internship/Cooperative Education Forum
November 16th - 1pm to 3pm
In the Student Union

Come meet and network with representatives from various companies recruiting interns to meet their needs in a broad range of functions and roles. In today’s ever-changing job market, employers are seeking individuals with experience. How do you get experience? One of the best ways is through internships. Cooperative Education Faculty Coordinators and Employers will participate in a panel discussion and one-to-one conferences with students.

Each student will receive a $5.00 Starbucks certificate. MUST BE PRESENT at the end of the event to receive the certificate.

To register for the Forum please log onto collegecentral.com/queensborough

Career Fields:

For information about the Internship Forum please call (718) 631-6297, or stop by Library 429.

Sponsored by The Office of Career Services
Pre-Production
- Prepare the day before. Make sure you have neatly packed your materials for set. Look up the address and directions to be ready to go.

- Get to the film location 30 minutes earlier than your call time to find a production assistant, usually wearing a headset or walkie-talkie, to sign you in and fill out required information.

- Enjoy breakfast provided by the production company, mingle with others involved to network and feel relaxed.

  WARNING: Arriving late to set is unacceptable and unforgiveable. However, arriving late is better than not showing up at all. Make sure to contact the casting agency that booked you if any issue occurs.

- Go to wardrobe to put on clothes provided by the production or get approval of outfit you were told to bring.

- Visit hair and make-up to prepare your look for the camera and touch-up imperfections.

- Wait in the holding area until further instructed by a production assistant. The holding area also allows you to introduce yourself to others working on the set.

Post Production

After a day on the job, what’s next?

- Resume. Record information such as title of production, role and director/producer. This information can be found on the voucher that you receive at the end of the day.

- Headshot. Invest in a professional headshot photographer to take pictures of you in a few different looks (happy, casual, and serious, never sad). This will cost an estimated $300. Contact Michael Benabib at digitalheadshotnyc.com for a professional and inexpensive headshot.

- Payoff. Watch the film, television show, or commercial you appeared in. Seeing yourself on the big screen is rewarding; it builds self-confidence and motivates your persistence as an actor. When you are proud of your work, it’s okay to show off to friends and family.

- More Pay. Keep looking for more background work and opportunities to progress in your acting career, to land more lucrative roles and suddenly become discovered.
COMPLETE YOUR Bachelor’s degree

When you’ve completed your associate degree you’ll have many great options ahead of you and one is DeVry College of New York. We work with community college students to make sure qualifying credits transfer seamlessly and that you have everything you need, including:

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For more information on earning your bachelor’s degree, please visit DeVry.edu/cc.
This year’s gratuitously violent film is Robert Rodriguez’s *Machete*, starring Danny Trejo as the title character. The other big action film of the summer, *The Expendables*, pales in comparison to *Machete*. *The Expendables* has star power but lacks an interesting story and has few memorable lines, and even fewer memorable kills, unlike *Machete*. Another in the growing line of 70s exploitation rip-offs, this grindhouse style film is, by far, the best.

Trejo’s character fights for the rights of immigrants coming to America, battling people who try to keep immigrants out of the country. But he is not alone in this fight. With help from the change-leading Michelle Rodriguez and vigilante-turned-priest-turned-vigilante Cheech Marin, they try to stop racist Texas Senator John McLaughlin, played by Robert DeNiro. McLaughlin and Texas Lieutenant Von Jackson, played by Don Johnson, enjoy shooting illegal immigrants at the border. Also trying to halt Machete’s progress is one of Machete’s arch-rivals, played by Steven Seagal. Machete’s wife is killed in the film’s opening by Seagal.

However, Jeff Fahey plays the main antagonist, Michael Booth, who frames Machete for attempted murder. Booth’s daughter is an adult film star, played by Lindsay Lohan.

Jessica Alba plays Sartana, a U.S. Customs and Enforcement Officer who attempts to stop Machete and a woman nicknamed “She”. Sartana has to decide if stopping Machete is really the right course of action, especially when she learns his story.

The directing and editing is true to the 70s style exploitation genre. The film is grainy for several seconds, just like the B-Movies of 35 years ago. Although *Machete* is a 70s exploitation spoof, it is relevant to today’s issues. The idea of illegal immigration is fresh in the minds of Americans, especially after the Arizona immigration laws. And this focus on an important current issue adds depth to a movie that could easily fall into the category of exploitation fluff.

The film also draws comparisons to Quentin Tarantino’s 2009 movie *Inglourious Basterds*, which was last year’s best action film. *Inglourious Basterds* contains subtle, understated humor, saving its violence for the end. *Machete*, on the other hand, displays absurdly hilarious kills and laugh-out-loud dialogue, with violence from beginning to end. Robert Rodriguez and Tarantino often inspire each other and collaborated on the 2007 film *Grindhouse*.

Just before the credits roll, a voiceover often used to announce sequels in 70s exploitation films warns that Machete will return in *Machete Kills* and *Machete Kills Again*. I sure hope so.
As a transfer student...

At Empire State College, you have the power to shape your bachelor's degree around your busy schedule. As an alternative to traditional classroom learning, you choose how and when you study with flexible options such as independent study, online courses, study groups, and residencies. You'll benefit from valuable one-on-one time with your faculty mentor who will advise and guide you to degree completion. You also may earn credit for college-level learning gained from work and life experience.

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Brooklyn
Sixth Floor
177 Washington Street
Mon., Oct. 18, 6 p.m.
Thurs., Oct. 21, 3 p.m.
Mon., Nov. 8, 6 p.m.

Old Westbury
223 Storm Hill Road
Sat., Oct. 23, 11 a.m.
Sat., Nov. 13, 11 a.m.

Online study only information sessions
www.esc.edu/COILinfo

For more information, call 866 372-3197.
Visit us at www.esc.edu
Recession Hits New York

Continued from cover story

The sluggish economy is creating a job market that is decreasing in size, creating a shift in demographics throughout the nation. New York City is no stranger to the difficulties and struggles of economic hardship.

More people are becoming dependant on food stamps and unemployment benefits to survive. Residents receiving food stamps rose from 13.3 percent in 2007 to 17.2 percent in 2009. The Census Bureau released information in September indicating that the number of people living below the poverty line is the highest it has been in 15 years. The poverty line for a single adult in 2009 was held at $10,830, and for a family of four it is $22,050 in pretax income. Millions of Americans as well as New Yorkers are struggling below these lines.

Even though more families are living below the poverty line, they are not the only ones who seem to be suffering. Middle class citizens are slowly beginning to see a decrease in income as well, according to the Census findings. The average household income of Bronx and Staten Island residents saw a significant drop in comparison with that of the averages of Queens, Manhattan and Brooklyn residents, which remained the same. In 2007, the average household income of Bronx residents was $35,341, compared to $32,893 in 2009, and $66,292, from $69,309 in 2007, on Staten Island. The average household income of Manhattan alone was reported to have the highest gap between rich and poor residents than any other city as well as the entire country.

The effects of this economic situation are reaching far beyond just the incomes of the residents. This study also suggests a social change as well. Information released from the Census Bureau states that the number of men and women remaining unmarried has reached the 40th percentile. Birthrates for women ages 20 to early 30 are seeing a decline from previous years. Statistics show that the income of singles dropped, so New Yorkers are moving in with roommates more often now than they have in the past to alleviate financial woes. This is a clear indication that the recession is changing the lifestyles of many New Yorkers all around the five boroughs.
# Fall 2010 Workshops and Activities

Workshops are held during Club Hours (Wednesdays 1:10-3 p.m.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 13th</td>
<td>Learn about Engineering Programs at QCC</td>
<td>LB-15</td>
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<td>If you are interested in learning about the Engineering Science Major, Computer/Electrical Engineering Technology, and or Mechanical Technology major then this workshop is for you. Information will be provided on the degree programs which prepare you to get a job in the industry. Find out about what schools to transfer to, what is expected of you as a student in these majors, and what career opportunities would be available for you upon graduation.</td>
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<td>October 14th</td>
<td>Discover Your Campus</td>
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<td>Take a guided tour of the QCC Art Gallery and Holocaust Center to view exhibits, paintings and photos. RSVP only, space is limited by emailing: <a href="mailto:jbuxo@qcc.cuny.edu">jbuxo@qcc.cuny.edu</a>.</td>
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<td>October 20th</td>
<td>Rock Your Exams!</td>
<td>LB-15</td>
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<td>Helps students examine how they spend (and waste) time, teaches methods for setting and reaching goals by providing tips for enhancing study skills. Topic include: reading your textbook, improving time management, effective test and note taking strategies. Learn about resources on campus tutorial and counseling services.</td>
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<td>October 27th</td>
<td>Why Get involved with Research</td>
<td>LB-15</td>
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<td>Topics covered will include: the importance of Internship &amp; Research participation, types of research &amp; internships that fit your career path, how &amp; where to find these opportunities, Abstract Writing, creating your poster for presentations, and publishing your work.</td>
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<td>November 10th</td>
<td>QCC Multi Cultural Fest</td>
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<td>November 10th</td>
<td>Focus Lab/ Optimal Resume</td>
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<td>Learn about Focus 2 an online career exploration and education planning system that combines self assessment, career exploration and decision making; Optimal resume is a comprehensive, web-based application that helps job seekers create, present and mange resume. Interviewing skills, cover letters and dressing for success.</td>
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<td>November 16th</td>
<td>Internship/Cooperative Education Forum</td>
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<td>Network with representative from various companies recruiting interns to meet their need in a broad range functions and roles. Cooperative Education Faculty, Coordinators and, Employers will participate in a panel discussion and one-to one conference with students. (Students will receive a $5.00 Starbucks Certificate at the end of the forum)</td>
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<td>November 17th</td>
<td>Walk to Aspire</td>
<td>Track &amp; Field</td>
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<td>Make a difference in someone’s life by participating in this 2 mile walk-a-thon to raise funds to support student scholarships. Prizes will be awarded to the highest individual fundraiser, the top fundraising team, and the best team presentation. Join the CSTEP &amp; STEM team and help to give back.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 1st</td>
<td>Where Can an LS Degree Lead You?</td>
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<td>Are you in the Liberal Arts Curriculum? Would you like to know more about the various careers you can get into? If so, please join us for an informative session which will provide an overview of the following careers: (PA, Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Medical School, and Biotechnology.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 8th</td>
<td>CSTEP Annual Holiday Party</td>
<td>LB-15</td>
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<td>Join the CSTEP staff and students for the end of the year celebration. Enjoy food music and chatting with your friends.</td>
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Please come in to the CSTEP office, located in the Library building, Room 440 for more information and additional events.
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