Donald Trump has been elected as the 45th President of the United States of America. The Republican candidate won the necessary 270 electoral votes. However, Democrat Hillary Clinton won the popular vote, receiving 60.1 million votes to Trump’s 59.8 million. This has now occurred five times in our nation’s history, most recently in the 2000 election in which Al Gore received the majority of the popular vote, but was defeated by George W. Bush, who won the electoral vote.

Due to the Electoral College, it is theoretically possible for a candidate to win the presidency with as little as 23 percent of the popular vote. The presidential election is not a direct democratic process and may not truly represent the will of the majority of the people. Although the national popular vote is calculated, it is distorted and often misrepresented by the Electoral College process.

The United States Electoral College was established in 1787 by the Constitutional Convention as a compromise between election of the President by a vote in Congress and election by popular vote. This was a time in which the country was in its infancy and the political landscape was very different. This system was intended to address problems that have vastly evolved or no longer exist in modern times. The United States at the time consisted of 13 loosely amalgamated states spread along the Atlantic seaboard. There was very little transportation and communication infrastructure connecting them. Large-scale national political campaigns were simply not practical or feasible.

One of the concerns was that urban centers with a greater flow of information would give candidates in these regions an unfair advantage. The founding fathers also believed that much of the population would be uninformed and unqualified to vote directly in a presidential election. They had little confidence in the people of the time, and fearing that a shrewd politician could take advantage of them (perhaps rightly so) created the electoral process to mitigate these perceived risks.

continued on page 2

Lady Tigers Win CUNY Volleyball Championship (p.18)

Trump Wins the Presidency

By Nikkita Jones

On Tuesday, November 8, everyone across America was doing one thing and one thing only, sitting by their television with bated breaths awaiting the results of the Presidential Election. Some of us may have went to bed not knowing the results while others myself included, waited all night to see the outcome! Well here it is: the winner of the Presidential election with 276 electoral votes.

From the beginning of the tallying of votes Clinton and Trump were neck to neck, with Trump leading by only a few electoral votes, it was a close call. For the first time in history a non-politician ran and won the Presidential election. It was also the first time that it took all night to declare the winner due to the fact that many swing states were too close to call.

According to the New York Times, the reason Trump won was “by riding a big wave of support among white working-class voters.” He also won many swing states like Florida, Ohio, North Carolina, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, which had the most electoral votes. The Times also noted that “Democrats were far more dependent on white working-class voters than many believed.”

Donald Trump made his victory speech at his headquarters in New York, which was broadcasted on all major US and international news networks. In his speech he thanked all his supporters and his family for supporting him and he also graciously said that Hillary “...fought very hard...we owe her a major debt of gratitude for her service to our country.” Trump ended his victory speech with saying “...hopefully you continued on page 2

More Than Ever, Students Are Speaking Up about the Burden of College Tuition

By Nirvana Simon

As a college student, ask yourself, how much does your education really cost? Many students wonder to themselves, why do we have to pay for school? When it is time to register for classes, college students often find it overwhelming to think about financial aid. We all know the infamous line in the financial aid office where we wait to find out how much we have to pay or when to expect our refund checks from TAP. Along with concerns for maintaining good grades, they also have to worry about being able to attend school. One of the questions echoed by college students everywhere is why is tuition so high?

Many students are pressured into balancing a part-time job while attending college and that is known to induce stress. Many prestigious universities have provided therapy services for kids who are feeling overwhelmed by the pressure of classes. All this magnitude of stress leads to breaking under pressure and dropping out of college to pursue working full time.

continued on page 5

Inside the Communiqué

Election/National page 1
Campus News, page 4
Local, page 6
Science/Tech., page 9
Arts, page 10
Lifestyles, page 15
Sports, page 17
Opinion, page 19

The Jacket from Dachau (p.10)

White Women Who Voted Trump

By Glyne Harper

With Donald Trump’s recent and unexpected election to the presidency, news outlets have been trying to find out how he managed to win. Sites like the Boston Globe, New York Times, and CNN have pointed to the fact that Trump got 53 percent of white women who voted to vote for him. Yet prior to the election, a Gallup poll released on April 1 found that seven out of 10 women had a negative opinion of Trump – which at the time seemed unsurprising, given the recording of him gloating about committing sexual assault.

Who are these these women who still view Trump in a positive light after so many

continued on page 2
Election/National

Why the Electoral College Trumps the Popular Vote for Clinton

continued from cover page

While these may certainly have been valid concerns at the time, critics argue that the information age we live in has made them obsolete. Availability of and access to information has never been more prevalent. Political campaigns can extend to every corner of the country. The political and historical contexts for which the Electoral College was developed are no longer relevant and have not been so for a long time.

The Electoral College as it exists today consists of 538 electors, with a majority of 270 required to elect the President. Each state is allotted one elector for each member in the House of Representatives and each Senator. The District of Columbia is treated as a state for electoral purposes and is allotted three electors. The number of representatives is adjusted once every ten years, following the national census held at the beginning of each decade. However, population shifts throughout the decade are unaccounted for.

This process means that the allocation of electoral votes always over-represents some states and under-represents others. For example, in the election of 2000, the electoral votes represented the population distribution recorded in 1990, a full decade earlier. There are many irregularities among states concerning the electoral process.

The Supreme Court has confirmed in several landmark cases that the states are individually responsible for deciding their electoral processes and that there is no obligation at all to include a popular vote. Moreover, there is no Constitutional provision or Federal law that requires electors to vote according to the results of the popular vote in their states. In fact, electors can be influenced to pledge their vote to a particular party. The state laws concerning this practice vary. Only about half of the 50 states have provisions against so-called “faithless electors”, those who go against the state’s popular vote. These inconsistencies only make way for discrepancies in the electoral process.

The concerns of the people, “Americans are vulnerable right now, in need of feeling secure from all these attacks and killings.” On the question of why Hillary lost, she said that America is not ready for a female President, “…as bad as that sound[s] this country is…. male dominated.” On the issue of immigration she stated that the new President should find a way to legalize undocumented immigrants so that they can pay their taxes, which would make them productive citizens.

Donald J. Trump will be inaugurated as the 45th President of the United States of America on January 20, 2017.

Trump Wins the Presidency

continued from cover page

Hillary Clinton’s campaign chair John Podesta sent their supporters home after a long night of waiting, many left with tears in their eyes from their headquarters, which was also in New York. Right after sending her supporters home, at 2:45am, Hillary made the call to Trump to concede the Presidential election.

I had the opportunity to interview students at Queensborough Community College and their reactions on the election. When students were asked how they felt about the new President, Marian, a Clinton supporter, stated that she was not thrilled about it but “…it’s what America want[s] and I respect their [its] choice.” She also said that Trump addressed the concerns of the people, “Americans are vulnerable right now, in need of feeling secure from all these attacks and killings.” The question of why Hillary lost, she said that America is not ready for a female President, “…as bad as that sound[s] this country is…. male dominated.” On the issue of immigration she stated that the new President should find a way to legalize undocumented immigrants so that they can pay their taxes, which would make them productive citizens.

Donald J. Trump will be inaugurated as the 45th President of the United States of America on January 20, 2017.

Why White Women Voted Trump

continued from cover page

of his actions have shown a lack of respect for women. In an article titled “9 Women on Why They’re (Still) Voting for Trump” written by Nick Tabor for the November 2 issue of New York Magazine, one woman named Valerie Still was quick to defend Trump for his recorded statements about his sexually assaulting of women. “If women grabbed men like that, it wouldn’t be a big deal. But if men do that to women, they blow it out of proportion… I think Hillary is crooked enough to pay women to talk badly about Trump.”

All the female Trump supporters who were interviewed shared the negative feelings toward Clinton expressed by Ms. Still and were also quick to dismiss the things that Trump has done that show his lack of respect towards women.

The women interviewed felt that the system and politicians are crooked.

Debbie Eberly, another Trump supporter, stated, “I settled on Trump at the beginning of the primary. I felt he was taking on the Establishment, which has grown very corrupt.”

As a career politician, Clinton represents the government that many people feel has left them behind. Considering how bad the economy has gotten in many parts of the country, according to an economic growth and recovery map created by the Economic Innovation Group (which is an amalgamation of entrepreneurs, investors, economists, and policymakers from across the political spectrum to address America’s economic challenges), people have decided that in order to fix the economy a different type of president has to be elected.

Many of the women interviewed by Tabor felt that Trump was that change that America needed.

“We wanted something different. We didn’t want the same stuffy guy,” said Nicole Martin. “Those people aren’t reaching the working class… You can look at a lot of people born into money who blew it away on drugs and partying, but he turned it into an empire. The working class relates to that. I honestly don’t trust Hillary Clinton. I just feel like she’s a liar.”
A Brief History of Donald Trump’s Misogyny During the Election

By Thomas Colon

Presidential Candidate Donald J. Trump is no stranger to controversy and this became evident when on October 7, 2016, audio was leaked from 2005 just days before the second presidential debate. A day later, Trump apologized for his offensive comments. “Anyone who knows me knows these wouldn’t reflect my views. I said it, I was wrong, and I apologize. I’ve traveled the country talking about change for America, but my travels have also changed me,” Trump says in the videoapologized.
He touches on it briefly during the debate saying “I have great respect for women. Nobody has more respect for women than I do,” Trump argues that the leaked audio shouldn’t be relevant because it was 10 years old and his presidential campaign changed him. However, his history of sexism, misogyny and discrimination towards women say otherwise; not only during his campaign but throughout his life.

One cannot acknowledge Donald Trump’s misogyny without mentioning his various feuds with women. Trump has had feuds with the likes of Martha Stewart, Cher, Heidi Klum, and Former Miss Universe Alicia Machado that involved Trump judging these women based on their looks. One of Trump’s more notable feuds is with Rosie O’Donnell when in December 2009, he called a “big, fat pig.” But if Donald Trump was a changed man like he alleged, he would have attempted to make amends with the women he verbally abused in the past. Instead, on August 6, 2015, almost two months after his presidential campaign, he responded to a question calling women “fat pigs, dogs, slobs, and disgusting animals” by Megyn Kelly, he responded that he only said those comments to Rosie O’Donnell. To make matters worse, because of Kelly’s acknowledgement of Trump’s misogyny and past comments, he insinuated Kelly stating, “You could see there was blood coming out of her eyes, Blood coming out of her wherever” implying that PMS was the cause of her attitude towards him.

Donald Trump claims to have respect for women more than anyone else however, his policies that involve women’s issues don’t reflect that at all. It’s no secret that the GOP has a long history of attacking women’s rights. For instance, countless times the mainly Republican senate has rejected bills regarding abortion and equal pay. However, unlike most Republicans, Trump handled the issues with a lack of empathy towards women, instead using prior experiences to dictate his view on the stance. For example, on April 12, 2011, during an interview with the Brody File on CNBC, when explaining why he went from a pro-choice stance to a pro-life stance one, Trump stated, “One of the reasons I changed ... a friend of my wife was pregnant, ... he didn’t really want the baby. ... He ends up having the baby and the baby is the apple of his eye … And you know here’s a baby that wasn’t going to be let into life. And I heard this, and some other stories, and I am pro-life.”

A decision that may affect millions of women in America wasn’t decided for the consideration for women but was instead decided because Trump associated the issue with himself and his colleague. Some may argue that being Pro-Life doesn’t necessarily mean misogyny, however, others argue. Robbing women of the ability to make decisions regarding their own bodies is a form of misogyny. This isn’t the only women’s issue Trump has displayed his lack of empathy for women as he also showed no consideration for the gender wage gap. Trump has gone on record saying he supports the notion of bridging the wage gap. However, in a move to seemingly pander to the Republican party, he didn’t implement any plan to fix the wage gap even stating “You’re gonna make the same if you do as good a job” rejecting the idea of gender wage gap.

Despite all the misogyny, sexual assault accusers, bullying and incitement for women’s rights, Donald J. Trump was still voted the President elect of the United States on November 8, 2016. However, as a turner of hope for the future, maybe there was truth to the claim that Trump was changed by the election. During the speech following his win, Trump not only seemed grateful in victory but also acknowledged his competitor Hillary Clinton.

“Hillary has worked very long and very hard over a long period of time, and we owe her a major debt of gratitude for her service to our country” he says regarding Clinton, making amends for the months of slanderous and malicious comments. Let’s hope for the sake of women of every race and every age of this country that Donald Trump’s Misogynist language is not a foreshadowing of the next four years.

WikiLeaks’ Impact on the Presidential Election

By Vanessa Lewis

As Americans reflect on the surprising 2016 presidential election results, many consider just how much WikiLeaks has impacted this election cycle. On October 18, the Ecuadorian government moved to restrict the internet access of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange in response to his consistent release of hacked emails from Hillary Clinton and the Democratic National Committee. In the recent weeks leading up to the current United States presidential election, WikiLeaks has released tens of thousands of emails that shed light on the behind the scenes activities taking place within the Clinton campaign as well as that of the DNC. These released emails have led to disruptions that have consequently resulted in the firing of top officials connected to the DNC and contributed to Hillary Clinton’s narrow defeat in the presidential election.

In July of 2016 Debbie Wasserman Shultz, Chairperson of the DNC, resigned after emails obtained by WikiLeaks revealed that members of the Committee attempted to sabotage the campaign of Clinton’s democratic rival Bernie Sanders. The information found in the leaked emails created outrage, particularly among the Sanders supporters. As Clinton went on to secure the Democratic nomination for President, she additionally gained the support of fellow democrat Bernie Sanders. Even with the backing of her former rival, some Sanders supporters continued to intensify their refusal to support Clinton. Many of the Sanders supporters went even further, voting to vote for third party candidates such as the Green Party’s Jill Stein or Libertarian Party nominee Gary Johnson.

After her resignation from the DNC, Wasserman Shultz was replaced by Donna Brazile, a Democratic Party member and a longtime CNN political analyst who currently serves as the committee’s interim chairperson. Like her predecessor, Brazile has also become associated with WikiLeaks. The leaked emails exposed Brazile’s involvement in the sharing of questions from a potential voter to prepare the Clinton campaign for a CNN-sponsored Democratic primary debate in March of 2016.

Despite the storm of embarrassing information obtained and shared by WikiLeaks, Brazile has not been asked to step down from her current position as DNC chair. Although Brazile continues to remain active as head of the DNC, she has however decided to resign from her position at CNN, where she had worked as a political analyst on the network’s “The Situation Room” with Wolf Blitzer.

Acting quickly to distance themselves from Brazil, CNN’s Lauren Pratapas, a spokesperson for the network, released a statement saying, “We are completely uncomfortable with what we have learned about her interactions with the Clinton campaign while she was a CNN contributor.”

When interviewed by the New York Times about the WikiLeaks emails that forced her to resign, Brazile stated, “I didn’t want CNN to get involved in this WikiLeaks controversy, I didn’t want to put CNN in the middle of what has been a real invasive cyberintrusion. I am not going to verify, deny, confirm or even try to make sense out of stolen emails that were hacked.”

When Assange first created WikiLeaks in 2006, he stated that his mission was to focus on oppressive governments worldwide. According to the WikiLeaks website, “WikiLeaks specializes in the analysis and publication of large datasets of censored or otherwise restricted official materials involving war, spying and corruption. It has so far published more than 10 million documents and associated analyses.” Today there are many who believe Assange has moved away from that mission, as it appears Assange is motivated by biases with the types of information that he chooses to release. The enormous amounts of emails released so far have been entirely from Hillary Clinton and those she is associated with in her campaign. This rapid release of information associated only with the Clinton campaign has led many to question Assange’s true motives.

White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest has recently said, “The kinds of disclosures that we’ve seen, including at WikiLeaks, of stolen e-mails from people who play an important role in our political process is consistent with Russian-directed efforts.”

As of now there has been no official credit taken by any group or foreign nation as to who is responsible for the email hackings. Assange and the Russian government have both adamantly denied any Russian involvement in the hacking of Clinton campaign and DNC emails. As Assange continues to take refuge at the Ecuadorian embassy in London, the embassy has made their frustrations with Assange clear when it temporarily restricted Assange’s most valuable tool, access to the internet.

Shortly after restricting Assange’s internet access, the government of Ecuador released a statement saying, “The government of Ecuador respects the principle of noninterference in the affairs of other countries and it does not interfere in the electoral processes in support of any candidate in particular.”

The 2016 U.S. Presidential election cycle has been one that has been colorful, explosive, unpredictable, and at times concerning. On election day, Americans went to the polls and cast their ballots after a long and exhausting campaign. They exercised their Constitutional right to vote and as a result Donald Trump, the controversial and the face of fourteenth presidential nominee has now been elected as the nations forty-fifth president.

That WikiLeaks influenced the outcome of the election is certain, though the extent of its impact can never be known for sure.

We can only hope that in this current period of government mistrust and national division, the American public may continue to have faith that our democracy will continue to be “by the people” and “for the people” with the consistent aim of protecting the inalienable rights of all citizens regardless of race, socioeconomic class, gender, or religion.
What Change Would You Make In Your College?

By Jessica Arias

Many students in choosing a college campus consider the opportunities provided by the college, others choose the campus because they like the variety and diversity, and still others choose one because of the affordability of the tuition. Queensborough Community College has a bit of everything – diversity, affordability and opportunities.

The Queensborough Community College (QCC) Communiqué conducted a poll asking active students what else could be added or changed at QCC to make their stay even better?

Most QCC students agree that there should be more parking lots for students. “I get to class late almost every time, even if I wake up earlier, and this is because I am not able to find a parking space,” said Isaac Ramroop a second year student. “The waiting time is at least twenty minutes until someone comes out. For some of us public transportation is not an option so the only way to commute to College is our own transportation,” Isaac added.

Johanna Fernandez, another QCC student, suggested that she wouldn’t mind paying a little more to know she has a secure spot for parking. “Parking has been a problem over the years with more and more youth attending the college, but no changes on parking has occurred,” she exclaimed.

Having more food variety is something students agreed on as well. They feel if they had more food options they wouldn’t have to travel to other places to get it.

“I’ve been in QCC for almost three semesters, I have seen the same food every time so now I have to travel to other restaurants that are far from the campus,” said Maria Peralta (21). “Sometimes I can’t travel that distance because I don’t have much break time so I have to settle with the food serve in the campus.” She suggests that adding Chinese, Hispanic or vegan food in the campus would make a difference to many of the students who want to try new food.

Ruth Mejia (23) who has been in QCC for six semesters said, “The college should implement activities for students that take night classes.”

Ruth has been working in the morning and attending college at night. Other students agreed with Ruth, they believe themselves to be excluded from the activities provided during the day and would like to have some activities for them.

“Many of us want to participate but when we try to see if there’s any activity for us, the answer is no”, Ruth concluded. Ruth thinks having activities that involved a movie night or a comedy show which will help them relax after the long day also they will concentrate more because they will be in a good mood.

Many students in the campus had some great changes that will benefit their stay in QCC. If you have more comments or suggestions about the future of the College Campus please feel free to speak up or send your ideas to the Communiqué. The only way to change something is if people rise in a single voice. The change will come with time but it also starts with you.
Impacts the Nation
The Minority Vote that Impacts the Nation

By Tanya Cabrera

Almost every presidential election since the 1980s, but their electoral impact during a long time period has been limited by low attendance and a population that is single-minded in states with no battlefield.

According to the National Survey of Latinos, one-in-five registered Latino voters that are completely sure of their vote will have voted for their first time this year. There are seven competitive states, but Latinos have a substantial presence in three: Arizona which has 22% of the Latino vote, Florida with 18% and Nevada by 17%. Latinos represent 5% or less of eligible voters in Ohio, Georgia, North Carolina, and Iowa. Latinos represent 52% of all eligible voters that live in the non-battlefield states of New York, California and Texas.

In a chart by the Pew Research Center, the percentage of votes for the Congressional Candidates in National Elections in the years 2010, '12, and '14. Surprisingly the percentage of Latinos slightly changes throughout those years, also for the Whites and Blacks. The ratio of Latino voters for the Democrats in the year of 2010 was 60%, differing to the Republicans by 38%. In 2012 the ratio elevated up to 68% to 30% for the Republicans.

As reported by Politico, an online survey in May distributed by Survey Monkey and authorized by NBC News, showed that 28% of the Hispanic vote went out to Trump, meanwhile in 2012 Romney’s share was 27% of the Hispanic vote. In the first weeks of June, 28% increased to 32% among Hispanics supporting Trump, that is only half of the Hispanic quantity. In 2004 Hispanics comprised 8% of the electorate, 9% in 2008, and 10% in 2012, due to its comparative increase forming part of the electorate has been lower, especially in California.

Caption: “College Students Protesting Tuition - Credit: Michael Fleshman”

“I wish I did not have to work to pay for classes,” one Brooklyn College student has said. “I have to take this semester off so I can save up for classes or take out a loan.”

Another student who attends SUNY Albany says, “I decided to move off campus and work part time to pay for expenses because dorming was costing me almost twenty thousand a year.”

Many students feel the pressure of society, which tells them that in order to become successful you must attend college and obtain a degree. In reality, even a college degree does not guarantee a job in the field of your choice or even any job at all. Many college students are not able to find jobs right after graduation. Tuition has nearly doubled in the last couple of years and will only keep increasing if there is no adjustment.

“Today, tuition costs are higher than ever before, and they are continuing to rise at an alarming rate,” the House of Representatives Committee on Education and Labor reports. “College costs have grown nearly 40 percent in the last five years.”

New York City is known for having one of the highest tuition rates in the state and even though tuition continues to rise, financial aid does not. How are students expected to pay for college in today’s era?

One writer from “I Am Not a Loan,” an online organization which encourages universities to sign a pledge stating that they will reduce student debt, has stated, “Pell Grants have lost much of their purchasing power. In the 1980s, Pell Grants covered 77 percent of the cost of college at a four-year public college for low-income students. Today that share has dropped significantly to only 31 percent of the cost.”

On this website students are able to post and blog their assessments regarding college, tuition, interest rates, and many other propositions they are concerned about. At QCC we have our own student advocacy group, the “New York Public Interest Research Group” or NYPIRG, who work on a variety of issues, including making education more affordable.

CUNY is known for being more affordable along with providing great education compared to private universities. CUNY also offers programs such as ASAP which covers the cost of tuition, book vouchers, and also provides metro cards; unfortunately this program only applies to incoming freshman or transfer students who have less than fifteen college credits. Students turn to taking out loans as a way to pay off tuition while they are attending school, in order for them to focus solely on classes. Loans appear to be the “affordable” way to pay off school while attending it.

Suli Breaks, a spoken-word poet and activist, has also spoken out against the increase in tuition, using social media as his outlet to convey his viewpoint about the education system and college in general. His most viewed videos on YouTube are “Why I Hate School But Love Education” and “I Will Not Let An Exam Result Decide My Fate.” Both of these videos convey powerful messages because he is a college student speaking out against the same problems many other college students are facing in today’s society.

As college students, how are we supposed to enact change? What can we do? By helping these organizations and activist by signing petitions or joining programs that will allow these organizations to thrive; also helping them appeal to the government for additional funding and even to cut cost completely. As a college student you are constantly asking yourself, how much is my education worth? and depending on the person, each answer will differentiate. One thing students share equally is, we will not continue to allow the school system or the government to take advantage of us for much longer than they already have. As students we need to make a difference because without standing up, and speaking out there will be no change and without change the cost of tuition will only continue to go up.

Many American citizens got their vote in, especially the Latinos. Who did they vote for? The 2016 election only presented Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton as main options for our nation’s highest office. On November 9, 2016, social media, news, and newspapers announced the president of the United States. Donald Trump! But besides the point, the point is that although many Latinos were mistreated by the words Donald Trump said, many Latinos voted for him. The question millions of Latinos are asking themselves is why would the Hispanic population vote for someone that does not have any kindheartedness for them.

According to the Pew Research Center, 27.3 million Latinos are eligible to submit their votes. Each year there are more eligible Latino voters, this year Latinos killed the record, 57 million of the Hispanic population will be U.S citizens, establishing 17% of the total populace. This 17% contributed on Election Day this year. Latinos have continually chosen the Democratic party over the Republican party in almost every presidential election since the 1980s, but their electoral impact during a long time period has been limited by low attendance and a population that is single-minded in states with no battlefield.

According to the National Survey of Latinos, one-in-five registered Latino voters that are completely sure of their vote will have voted for their first time this year. There are seven competitive states, but Latinos have a substantial presence in three: Arizona which has 22% of the Latino vote, Florida with 18% and Nevada by 17%. Latinos represent 5% or less of eligible voters in Ohio, Georgia, North Carolina, and Iowa. Latinos represent 52% of all eligible voters that live in the non-battlefield states of New York, California and Texas.

In a chart by the Pew Research Center, the percentage of votes for the Congressional Candidates in National Elections in the years 2010, ‘12, and ‘14. Surprisingly the percentage of Latinos slightly changes throughout those years, also for the Whites and Blacks. The ratio of Latino voters for the Democrats in the year of 2010 was 60%, differing to the Republicans by 38%. In 2012 the ratio elevated up to 68% to 30% for the Republicans.

As reported by Politico, an online survey in May distributed by Survey Monkey and authorized by NBC News, showed that 28% of the Hispanic vote went out to Trump, meanwhile in 2012 Romney’s share was 27% of the Hispanic vote. In the first weeks of June, 28% increased to 32% among Hispanics supporting Trump, that is only half of the Hispanic quantity. In 2004 Hispanics comprised 8% of the electorate, 9% in 2008, and 10% in 2012, due to its comparative increase forming part of the electorate has been lower, especially in California.

Caption: “College Students Protesting Tuition - Credit: Michael Fleshman”

“I wish I did not have to work to pay for classes,” one Brooklyn College student has said. “I have to take this semester off so I can save up for classes or take out a loan.”

Another student who attends SUNY Albany says, “I decided to move off campus and work part time to pay for expenses because dorming was costing me almost twenty thousand a year.”

Many students feel the pressure of society, which tells them that in order to become successful you must attend college and obtain a degree. In reality, even a college degree does not guarantee a job in the field of your choice or even any job at all. Many college students are not able to find jobs right after graduation. Tuition has nearly doubled in the last couple of years and will only keep increasing if there is no adjustment.

“Today, tuition costs are higher than ever before, and they are continuing to rise at an alarming rate,” the House of Representatives Committee on Education and Labor reports. “College costs have grown nearly 40 percent in the last five years.”

New York City is known for having one of the highest tuition rates in the state and even though tuition continues to rise, financial aid does not. How are students expected to pay for college in today’s era?

One writer from “I Am Not a Loan,” an online organization which encourages universities to sign a pledge stating that they will reduce student debt, has stated, “Pell Grants have lost much of their purchasing power. In the 1980s, Pell Grants covered 77 percent of the cost of college at a four-year public college for low-income students. Today that share has dropped significantly to only 31 percent of the cost.”

On this website students are able to post and blog their assessments regarding college, tuition, interest rates, and many other propositions they are concerned about. At QCC we have our own student advocacy group, the “New York Public Interest Research Group” or NYPIRG, who work on a variety of issues, including making education more affordable.

CUNY is known for being more affordable along with providing great education compared to private universities. CUNY also offers programs such as ASAP which covers the cost of tuition, book vouchers, and also provides metro cards; unfortunately this program only applies to incoming freshman or transfer students who have less than fifteen college credits. Students turn to taking out loans as a way to pay off tuition while they are attending school, in order for them to focus solely on classes. Loans appear to be the “affordable” way to pay off school while attending it.

Suli Breaks, a spoken-word poet and activist, has also spoken out against the increase in tuition, using social media as his outlet to convey his viewpoint about the education system and college in general. His most viewed videos on YouTube are “Why I Hate School But Love Education” and “I Will Not Let An Exam Result Decide My Fate.” Both of these videos convey powerful messages because he is a college student speaking out against the same problems many other college students are facing in today’s society.

As college students, how are we supposed to enact change? What can we do? By helping these organizations and activist by signing petitions or joining programs that will allow these organizations to thrive; also helping them appeal to the government for additional funding and even to cut cost completely. As a college student you are constantly asking yourself, how much is my education worth? and depending on the person, each answer will differentiate. One thing students share equally is, we will not continue to allow the school system or the government to take advantage of us for much longer than they already have. As students we need to make a difference because without standing up, and speaking out there will be no change and without change the cost of tuition will only continue to go up.
Childcare at QCC?

By Melina Abreu

Why is it important to have affordable childcare in college?

First, it’s a must have for student parents who may want to continue their chance of attaining a career and employment opportunities, but lack the ability to afford childcare. This inability creates further barriers for families who already lack economic resources and are at risk of missing out on a fruitful future. Unfortunately, if childcare is not available, student parents are more likely to drop out of school since they lack the finances to continue.

“Lack of quality child care is the third greatest barrier to completing a degree,” says a study by the University of Washington’s Graduate Center.

Furthermore, student parents are under an immense amount of stress while raising a child and this is only augmented when childcare is limited. Even students who are not parents can imagine that being a single parent is a lot of work. Yet many parents at QCC struggle with the stress that comes from being faced with the choice of having to miss out on class because nobody is available to take care of their child.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, “4.8 million students are attending college while raising children at the same time. Of these 4.8 million students who are also parents, 71 percent are women and an estimated 43 percent are single mothers.” As such, more assistance is need for student parents, not just at QCC but at other community colleges across the nation, as well.

On-campus childcare would give student parents peace of mind and allow them to devote more time to their academic career and lifelong aspirations. Student parents deserve the opportunity to attend classes without the stress and struggles that a lack of childcare can bring. Moreover, such an implementation will also assist in increasing graduation retention rates among single parent populations who are likely to drop out of college due to further limited child care resources.

In essence, childcare can be one of the most effective ways colleges can help their student parents earn a degree, and it’s something we should all consider.

Diana Caro is a mother and a part-time student at QCC majoring as a medical assistant. Caro 28, and her husband, both work and attend classes. “Many students like me don’t go to school as a full time student, not because we don’t want to. It’s because sometimes we don’t have a babysitter or daycare where to leave our babies,” she explains. “Having a daycare in school would motivate me to finish with my degree. It would also allow me to take on more classes or even become a full time student and complete a college degree, while trying to raise a child,” she added.

Erum Jabeen, a mother of four kids and a full-time student at QCC, is majoring in Health Science. “If the college had its own daycare it could facilitate the mother by all means. She will know that her child is in good hands and also in case of an emergency can see them between breaks. As far as the college goes, if there is a daycare present at the campus more and more mothers would think of going back to school,” says Jabeen.

A number of CUNY colleges offer child-care programs, including the EarlyLearn NYC that provides services for Queensborough Community College students and their children. This program is an initiative that encompasses all center and home based contracted childcare. The Communique tried to contact to the committee of administrators of Student Affairs and Enrollment to gather more information about the program, however they were unavailable for further comment.

So why is on-campus childcare important? Well, not only would it help simplify parent’s student schedule, thus allowing them to spend less time and money, from home to daycare, to school and the whole routine over and over again. But, it also gives parents the tranquility of thinking that while attending school they can easily see their child in case of an emergency. Integrating these facilities could also increase student parents graduation rates, thus allowing them to secure better jobs and provide more stable homes for themselves and their families.

2nd Avenue Subway opening...FINALLY!

By Karol Escamilla

New Yorkers have been waiting for the new Second Avenue subway station since the start of its construction in 2007. Is it too late to show some excitement for this update along Second Avenue? Here are some things you may find interesting about this new addition to the NYC subway system.

According to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), “The Second Avenue Subway will be New York City’s first major expansion of the subway system in over 50 years. When fully completed, the line will stretch 8.5 miles along the length of Manhattan’s East Side, from 125th Street in Harlem to Hanover Square in Lower Manhattan.”

In 1931, after the Great Depression, ideas for a new subway line arose giving New Yorkers a hope for a less crowded train service experience. According to the 2nd Avenue Subway Community Information Center, the construction on the 2nd Avenue line started in 1972 but was constantly halted by various reasons. The construction stopped completely in 1975 but was reintitated in 2007. Since then, New Yorkers have watched the growth of the city’s population, giving a greater urgency to the wait for the grand opening of Phase I of this expansion.

This December, the MTA will officially open Phase I to the public with three new train stations along the Upper East Side of Manhattan. These will include a new station on E. 72nd Street, 86th Street, and 96th Street. This expansion will extend the Q train service, which would normally end on 57th – 7th Avenue.

For a long time now, the Lexington Avenue line has been the only one able to connect riders to the Upper East Side of Manhattan. In 1955, the 3rd Avenue line was removed from the grid. Now, with the construction of the 2nd Avenue line slowly entering the lives of over 200,000 riders, the demand for extended service will benefit many.

In a New York Times article, reporter Emma Fitzsimmons stated, “The Second Avenue line has been on the drawing board since the 1920s and will be the most ambitious expansion of the subway system in a half-century. It will also be a critical milestone for the authority at a time when both New York’s population and the number of tourists flooding the city have reached record levels, placing enormous pressure on public transit.”

This expansion has been a dream for New York City since the 1920’s. The new addition will help facilitate public transit not only for tourists but for New Yorkers as well. According to the MTA, in 2015 New York’s annual subway ridership was at 1.763 billion people. That means there were 5.7 million people riding the train every day. This update in our subway system will give riders a smooth and less crowded experience on the train, wherever they may be headed. The W train returned with express service on November 7, 2016, replacing the Q train service to Queens.

Soon, a new train will be added to our subway system: the T train. During Phase III and IV of this project, the T train will provide service from 125th street down to Hanover Square. Of course, these phases are yet to start.

According to the MTA, “Sixteen new stations will be built, serving communities in Harlem, the Upper East Side, East Midtown, Gramercy Park, East Village, the Lower East Side, Chinatown and Lower Manhattan. The new stations will also provide transfers to other subway and commuter rail lines.” The new stations in Lower Manhattan will connect riders to the Finance District, giving New Yorkers many service options throughout their day.

Many believe that the unveiling of the complete product of Phase I will not happen this year. However, visiting the Second Avenue Subway Community Information Center can give everyone a clear perspective of how much hard work has been incorporated into the project.

In MTA’s latest news, an interview with the Capital Construction President Micheal Horodniceanu explains the benefits the center has provided. “The Community Information Center has helped residents and businesses understand what is involved in building such a massive project,” said Horodniceanu. “Combined with our workshops; community tours; community board presentations; construction advisory committee meetings; newsletters; email communications and more, our proactive approach to community relations has resulted in more tolerance to the inconveniences caused by construction.”

At the end of this capital program, New Yorkers and people from all around the world visiting are beautiful city will benefit significantly.

Less crowded train service equals happy riders and a fluent subway system New York has been waiting for.
Driving with a Feminine Touch: Taxi Services for Women

By Wendy Rivera

With the recent news headlines pertaining to attacks on women, it is apparent that SAFETY is the keyword emphasized. Women are almost programmed to think, dress, talk or act in a certain way to avoid danger. Even a harmless birthday dinner can lead to a journey back home with unwanted encounters making it worrisome to walk the streets alone. In an effort to ward off these mishaps many women turn to taxicabs as a “smart choice,” and yet still aren’t safe.

The Wall Street Journal reported that 14 rapes occurred within New York City taxicabs in 2015. Every incident occurred between a male taxicab driver and a female passenger. On average that is one woman per month being raped. This is without consideration of all the women who are not reporting incidents to the police authorities. With safety being the main concern for women, and even some men, women have felt obliged to take matters into their own hands.

Stella Mateo is the creator of SheRides (initially called SheTaxis) a taxi-service driven by women and for women that launched in 2014, located in New York City, Long Island and Westchester County. The website explains, SheRides, has a goal of providing women with a comfortable and easy experience to their destination. It also has an iPhone app enabling them to compete with other taxi-service apps such as Lyft, Gett, and Uber.

With this new innovation, most women feel a sense of trust and relief when stepping in their cab for a ride home. Although this is an accommodating service for women, many providers have to plan for possible legal issues. Based on an interview with TeenVogue, Michael Pelletz, founder of SafeHer, says he’s ready to tackle problems such as gender discrimination. Pelletz says, “We’re not trying to discriminate against anybody. All we’re trying to do is offer a safe place for women to travel without being harassed and assaulted.

This newly-developed concept of women specific transportation is not only in New York. Cities in California and Massachusetts have also formed their own versions. SeeJaneGo is based in Orange County, CA, and started their business in fall 2016, while SafeHer in Boston has been advertised to start this fall, but it seems to be delayed. Other countries have emerged with their own names but embody the same goal as these companies. New Zealand’s Cabs for Women, is another one of the many services that are trying to embark on this necessity for women’s safety.

Stella Mateo spoke to Times Magazine in 2014. She recalls wishing her two daughters could have used a service like this when they were younger and hopes these types of services will also broaden and expand job markets for women.

Most of these companies have been promoted on major networks such as ABC and CNBC as well as other local outlets. No matter your gender keep a lookout for these evolutionary apps.

Hotels Housing the Homeless

By Stephanie Russo

According to the Coalition for the Homeless, during the month of August there were “61,464 homeless people, including 15,501 homeless families with 23,929 homeless children sleeping each night in the New York City municipal shelter system.” Homelessness in New York City has been a major problem since the time period of the Great Depression in the 1930s. Mayor De Blasio has attempted to solve the problem in his own way by opening over 23 new shelters throughout the city, some of which were originally hotels. Many of these hotels that have been transformed into shelters have caused great uproar among the residents of these communities resulting in meetings, protesting, and rallying.

The Holiday Inn, located near the Long Island Expressway in Maspeth, Queens is currently under the process of being remodeled into a 110 room homeless shelter for adults only. The Maspeth residents are not willing to allow a homeless shelter to be placed in their neighborhood so easily without raising their voice. With the rate of homelessness reaching such a high peak this year, where else would these men and women be placed especially with the decrease in temperatures?

The residents of Maspeth, Queens have been protesting outside of the Holiday Inn for the past three months with signs and t-shirts. According to the Juniper Berry, there was a meeting on August 11th at the Martin Luther High School Gymnasium. The turnout for this meeting was so vast that hundreds of people were outside the school because they could not all fit in the gym. The people were filled with questions meanwhile the Commissioner of the Department of Homeless Services, Steven Banks was short on answers for them. Assembly Member Marge Markey claimed to organizers that she was going home to change clothes, yet never returned to the meeting. The shelter is part of a plan by Mayor De Blasio meanwhile he has not attended any of the events. His representative, Lincoln Restler was inattentive during the meeting at Martin Luther High School while he barely looked up from his smart phone. Without answers and support, the residents of Maspeth grew both angry and confused, although they did not stop or become discouraged. There was a 5-mile march on August 27th from the Holiday Inn all throughout the streets of Maspeth protesting the shelter.

In an interview with Maureen Francavilla, a resident of Maspeth and frequent protestor she stated, “The march was very successful, it opened doors and let a lot of people know what’s going on in the neighborhood. We also got a lot of coverage that day through the media.” When asked how often she participates in the movement and her opinion on the hotel transformation, she answered, “I stand outside the Holiday Inn Monday through Friday to protest. Hotels are not a fit environment for the replacement of a homeless shelter being that there are no kitchens available, no medical services/therapy, and no social workers. The people are not allowed to stay in the hotel during the day and since they are not working, they will be roaming the neighborhood and parks. There are supposed to be families moved into the hotel, but instead over 80 men have been moved onto the first floor. These men have unknown backgrounds and could have mental disorders, be possible ex cons, sex offenders, and or drug abusers.” As a final thought she added, “Mayor De Blasio is just sticking these people in hotels instead of proper housing, this hotel is just a band aid; a temporary solution to homelessness.”

Homelessness in New York City had its highest rates during the years of the Depression, and has not reached such heights up until the current year of 2016. With these rates increasing where else would these people have to go? The dramatic decrease in temperatures may result in a medical emergency such as hypothermia. According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, “Approximately 700 homeless people die from hypothermia every year.” The streets may be dangerous and can cause various types of illnesses. Families will be vulnerable to these conditions and to any crime or injustice taking place.

Many homeless people suffer from disabilities and or mental disorders. They are not able to fend for themselves and therefore must be taken in by shelters. According to reporter, Michelle Diament, “More than 40 percent of America’s homeless population are people with disabilities and the number appears to be rising.” With the number of homelessness increasing along with the disability rate these people are in need of the assistance that a shelter may provide. They are defenseless to various types of sicknesses by living on the streets. According to The Treatment Advocacy Center, “Inadequate hygiene due to homelessness, this may lead to physical problems such as respiratory infections, skin diseases, or exposure to tuberculosis or HIV. Approximately one-third of the total homeless population includes individuals with serious, untreated mental illnesses.” Without a stable and healthy environment, the disabled and mentally ill homeless people are left on their own.

The renovation of hotels into homeless shelters is a controversial topic in New York City. Hotels like the Holiday Inn located in Maspeth, Queens are being converted into shelters causing commotion among the community. The shelter system is an important topic that demands attention and must be made known to the public. Are hotels really a fit surrounding for the homeless? Where will these people go to be safe and warm this winter? These questions must be answered for the benefit of our city!!
Helping Those in Need

By Zaida Chunga

Many times we overlook the fact that there exist those that are in need. Now that the weather is getting colder and the holidays are arriving, it is not uncommon to see businesses and advertisements encouraging people to donate to local food banks or the Salvation Army. There are thousands of New Yorkers that sleep on the streets and do not have the necessary resources to receive a healthy meal every day. In New York, homeless shelters are located in all boroughs and these shelters rely on donations from better situated individuals. Even the smallest donation can make a difference to someone in need.

According to the Volunteers of America, “Over 670,000 Americans are homeless, 48 million people go hungry every night.” Homelessness is all too common in New York City. We see them in our transit systems, public benches, and street corners. They are often seen begging for money and food. Most people’s reaction is to ignore the pleas and walk past them. What we fail to realize is that these people are just like us. Giving them even the slightest amount of help can change their mood.

What many of us do not know is that it is difficult to be allowed in shelters. Safety is a big concern amongst the homeless and shelters are not necessarily a safe haven. These shelters pose many problems that are attributed to sleeping amongst hundreds of strangers, protecting limited property, and hygienic conditions. In addition, there are waiting lists to enter many of these shelters. Aside from these issues, public opinion is also a main concern. The homeless are not only at the mercy of those willing to work at these shelters but they are also judged by strangers just for being there.

Donations are necessary to help the homeless and a donation can be almost anything. They can range from canned, non-perishable foods, clothing, supplies, monetary contributions; the less fortunate are not a picky kind. Community groups can make it easier for an individual to donate. They are informed and can direct you to the appropriate sources.

Melissa Moreira, a member of the Nazareth church in Jamaica, Queens said, “The population of homeless people is rising. We as a church make lunch for them and break into groups to distribute them. We go around, even to train stations and pray with them.”

Volunteering for the NYC food bank can be as simple as signing up online. Volunteering at a food bank consists of organizing, packing and collecting food, serving meals and food preparation. These efforts have a goal in mind. For example, food banks distribute food to end hunger amongst the homeless. Donations banks provide supplies such as clothing to make sure that the homeless are prepared for the weather conditions. Finding the right organization or church can alleviate the confusion of how to start helping.

Additional ways to help include dropping off unused clothing or supplies to drop-off boxes near you. These items are often picked up and rummaged through by the homeless in the immediate area before getting picked up to donation centers. Everyday items such as, toothbrushes, socks, or even an extra pair of clothes can be helpful. Around the holidays, collecting or raising money for toys to give to needy children is also an alternative to giving back. Coalition for the Homeless stated that “with 24,148 homeless children… families comprise just over three-quarters of the homeless shelter population.”

Signing up to volunteer can be done mainly online. These online sign ups can show local volunteering centers that need your help. Calling or even searching up specific volunteer work can give you a better understanding on what is done to help out. The holiday season is approaching, and this is often the time of the year where most people are on vacation and have free time. Keep in mind many families that are not fortunate will sleep in shelters and not have the comfort of being in a home with their belongings. Giving back to anyone of the streets or through volunteering makes a change. It is easy to give back to those in need.

Next Stop: Astoria, Queens

By Ashley Rodriguez

Walking through the neighborhood of Astoria, Queens, is truly an adventure with numerous selections of different restaurants, bars and clothing stores. Astoria is home to Astoria Park, beautifully overlooking the Manhattan Skyline making it a popular hangout spot. Along with the attractions of Astoria Park, this neighborhood has gained popularity through the diverse restaurants in the area. Whether you go to Ditmars, Steinway, or 30th Ave, the number of different cultural foods is endless.

I have lived in Astoria my whole life yet there are many restaurants I still haven’t tried, so, I decided to explore my neighborhood more and sample some new restaurants. The first restaurant that caught my attention was Milkflower, located on 34st and 31st Avenue. When I walked inside Milkflower, I was immediately greeted and seated despite how crowded it was. The environment was enjoyable with 80s music playing throughout the whole night. The service was quick and the waiters were extremely polite. Milkflower consists of Italian food that includes different salads, pasta, and pizza. I ordered the pizza named “Queen” ($13), which has tomato, mozzarella, basil, Parmigiano-Reggiano. The oven-baked pizza got more delicious with every bite. The prices vary depending on the dish, however they’re reasonable and well worth it. Milkflower is a unique restaurant that everyone should add to their list of new places to visit.

The second place I discovered was Tu Casa, a Peruvian restaurant, located on Steinway Street and 30th Avenue. Tu Casa had a very entertaining atmosphere with Spanish music and TV’s playing the sports channel. The waiters were really friendly making sure the experience there was great. Besides the music and friendly environment, the food was impeccable. “Bistec Tu Casa” ($15), was the plate I ordered and it was an incredibly tasty dinner. This dish included steak with rice, beans, maduros (fried plantain), and chorizo (pork sausage). The prices were really inexpensive for the abundance of food the platter had. I would definitely recommend Tu Casa to anyone who loves to try new things.

Astoria is changing tremendously with the rapid growing restaurants occurring in the neighborhood. There’s still many places being introduced to the area that are becoming popular and getting recognition allowing more people to explore the variety. So next time you’re feeling adventurous to try something new, hop on the N or W train to Astoria where you’ll be found with multiple restaurants to choose from.
Science/Technology

Queensborough’s State of the Art 3D Printer Is Like No Other in the World

By Adeley Sanchez

What would you think if I told you we have a lab here on the campus of Queensborough Community College that is equipped with over 1.5 million dollars worth of state of the art technology, equipment that as the capability of creating literally anything your heart desires?

Located on the first floor of the technology building is a jaw dropping state of the art lab facility. The Stratasys J750, worth $350,000 alone and one of thirteen in an academic institution, can manufacture practically anything by the click of a mouse and is within the reach of every single student and faculty member. This is in thanks to the CUNY 2020 grant awarded to Professor Stuart Asser and Assistant Professor Michael Lawrence.

Some might ask, what is a 3D printer? A 3D printer (which has nothing to do with paper printers) creates an object by stacking one layer of material, typically plastic or metal, on top of another. This technology dates back to the 1980s and was first used to produce complex objects for the space and aeronautics industry. It is also known as “additive manufacturing.” As technology became more efficient and less expensive, 3D printing has expanded into new fields and has paved the way for everyday consumers to benefit from, have access to, and experience 3D printing like never before.

“There is no room like this at any college in the world,” explained Professor Lawrence. We have purchased things that are incredibly brand new, the breath of equipment here is unprecedented.”

Because of this grant, the world of 3D printing has become available to all of our students and faculty members in all varied areas of study. For example, some projects include, but are certainly not limited to theater props, scientific learning models, architectural models, prosthesis, and even signs with braille on them.

“What is so very exciting is not the technology but watching the students embrace and learn how to use the technology. Our students that have the talent and propensity to do this would not have a way to express that talent if this lab did not exist,” says Professor Lawrence.

Marcos Contreras, a mechanical engineer major, is currently working on a portable micro-sized sphere with the capability to hold a camera in it. It is made from plastic and can withstand a lot of pressure and therefore, very durable. Marcos, who travels over two hours to get to campus, is exhilarated at having the opportunity to gain the first hand experience needed for his success once his academic studies have been completed and he enters the workforce. The opportunities for him and many others are extraordinary.

The technology here is singular and the professionalism and expertise of this department is notable. Conversations about partnerships with established institutions and corporations are certainly things to keep an eye out for in the future.

Bernard Hunter, with 11 years of service to QCC, is the master of everything in the lab. He has a level of expertise for both the proper operations of the equipment to the maintenance of the equipment here,” Professor Lawrence explained.

The future of 3D printing has caught the world’s imagination and some have even proclaimed that it will trigger the next Industrial Revolution. Roll up your sleeves and let your imagination run wild because you have the possibility to make it all happen in this lab here at Queensborough. There are demonstrations held during club hours and faculty members are encouraged to incorporate this technology into their curriculums. Professor Lawrence has put together a website, mdlawrence.net, which goes more in depth on the printers and what the process is like for anyone who would like to begin working on projects.

Do you like to write?
Do you want to share your writing with others?

Then write for the Communiqué. The QCC Communiqué is looking for a few good writers for its Fall 2016 issues. We are especially interested in micro-reviews (200-300 words) of new movies; editorials related to QCC, higher education, NYC, and the world; feature articles about college life; and book, theatre, and music reviews for our arts section.

Writing for the Communiqué is a great opportunity to share your ideas with other QCC students and contribute to the campus community. It’s also an excellent way to beef up your resume and your college applications. Interested students should contact Communiqué Faculty Adviser Alisa Cerccone at : ACerccone@qcc.cuny.edu or Elizabeth Toohey at EToohey@qcc.cuny.edu

The COMMUNIQUÉ:
It’s Your Paper!
The Jacket from Dachau at the Kupferberg Holocaust Center

By Michell Cabrera

Queensborough Community College is fortunate to host the year-long exhibition, *The Jacket from Dachau: One Survivor’s Search for Justice, Identity, and Home*, which is currently on display at the Kupferberg Holocaust Center.

The exhibit provides a captivating and detailed account of the survival, immigration and perseverance of a Lithuanian Holocaust survivor named Benzion Peresecki. The centerpiece of the exhibit is Benzion’s actual prisoner uniform from the Dachau concentration camp.

In 2015, the Kupferberg Holocaust Center was contacted by vintage clothing dealer named Jillian Eisman, who bought a unique garment at an estate sale. It was a faded striped blue and gray jacket with a set of numbers on it. With some research, Eisman and the KHC were able to identify the survivor whom the jacket belonged to: Benzion Peresecki. Less than a year later, the Kupferberg Holocaust center was able to tell the compelling story of a young Jewish man who wore this jacket for ten months in Dachau, and who kept it with him for 33 years after his liberation.

Peresecki was a Lithuanian teenager who was forced into a ghetto with his mother after the Nazis invaded Lithuania and murdered his brother. After three years in the Lithuanian ghetto, Ben’s mother was sent to the Stutthof concentration camp while Benzion himself was subjected to forced labor at the Dachau concentration camp. At the Dachau, Benzion suffered from starvation, beatings, and severe headaches which continued throughout his life.

After being liberated by American troops in 1945, Peresecki and his mother spent five years in a German displaced persons camp, where they received vocational training and recovered from their torment. Ben Peresecki and his mother decided to immigrate to the United States and build a new life. He then changed his name to “Ben Peres.”

Dr. Cary Lane, Curator-in-Residence at the Kupferberg Holocaust Center, reflected on the unique nature of the artifacts in the exhibit, as well as their significance. “Despite all his suffering, Ben tenaciously fought to find justice for his family’s suffering, re-establish his identity, and create a new home after surviving the Holocaust. I find that these narratives of perseverance, which are all highlighted in the exhibit with artifacts of their own, are as compelling as the jacket itself,” said Dr. Lane.

The story of Ben’s search for justice from the German government, his search for identity, and a search for home after being displaced for so many years is told using the hundreds of actual pictures artifacts donated by the Peres family.

The exhibit also features a film from a psychologist who specializes in post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) of Holocaust survivors. She explains how Ben coped with his trauma and his decision not to share the fact that he had his jacket from Dachau with his family. She theorizes that Ben didn’t want to burden his children with the difficult and painful memories he had. “I find that quite significant, and worth reflecting about,” stated Dr. Lane.

Thirty-seven years after his death in 1978, Jillian Eisman, knowing the significance of the Jacket, decided to donate it to the Kupferberg Holocaust Center to give the public the opportunity of viewing the jacket and understand its significance. This single artifact represents the deep pain and suffering that Holocaust prisoners endured, yet also symbolizes the strength and perseverance of Ben and his family.

The Kupferberg Holocaust Center powerfully communicates the story of Benzion Peresecki, the incredible discovery of his jacket, and his tenacious search for a justice, identity, and a new home after World War II. The exhibit features a timeline in the wall of the events that happened to Peresecki from his birth to death, and even display the cameras Peresecki used to take loving films and pictures of his new family in New York.

The hundreds of original documents about his reparations effort, and his ability to buy a home with German reparations payments, and his ability to cope with his trauma are particularly moving.

The exhibit is on display at the KHC through June 2017.
Every year radio station Power 105.1 presents, “Powerhouse,” the hottest live music event for the month of October. There’s usually a lineup that you don’t want to miss. Performances feature old artists as well as new and upcoming artists like Fat Joe, Remy Ma, Usher, Wiz Khalifa, Bryson Tiller, Tony Lanez, and many more. Two of HipHop newer artists, Young M.A and Desiigner, who had major hit songs that rocked the nation this year, made the lineup to perform on the Powerhouse stage. This was the first Powerhouse concert performance for both of these artists.

Powerhouse typically happens in two cities, Brooklyn, New York, at the Barclays Center, and Philadelphia at the Wells Fargo Center. The lineups for these two locations are the same, with the exception of two or three different artists.

Non-stop hip-hop music is played at this event. When live performances are not going on the DJ is sure to make sure you’re still having a great time with family and friends by playing the most popular tracks on the radio. Powerhouse tickets range from $59 to $809, the closer your seats are to the stage the more expensive the tickets became. I personally attended this year’s concert at the Barclay Center and from my seats on the level above the floor seats. I was able to see the whole stage and the ticket price was reasonable for the seats I had.

On October 27, 2016 many artists brought the house down with their performances. The concert started at 7pm, but doors opened at 5:30pm – and of course, people are never on time. Powerhouse is an event where you “dress to impress,” so the Powerhouse audience was wearing the latest brand names and designer clothes. Some people were creative and had something custom made. Looking good from head to toe is definitely a must at this concert! By 8pm the Barclays was crowded with people still trying to get into the Powerhouse stage.
Power Brings Barclays House Down

continued from page 11

concert. The lines for security were long; they had to make sure everyone’s bags were checked.

As people were rushing in, Desiigner was already performing. Even though it’s hard for most listeners to understand Desiigner’s lyrics, his songs are still catchy and enthralled the crowd on their feet. The energy he brings to the performance entertains the crowd alone. When most of the audience finally got to their seats they found that they missed Young M.A, the second performer of the night. Young M.A is an upcoming artist and she is making history in the music industry. At the age of 18 she came out about being a lesbian and encountered some setbacks. In 2013 she posted some of her music on YouTube, but it wasn’t until 2016 when her song “Ooouuu” debuted that she caught everyone’s attention.

One audience member, Jedediah, complained about Young M.A’s place in the Powerhouse lineup. “Why would they put Young M.A second?” They usually put the people that are not really popular in the first and second spot. Everybody was waiting to hear Ooouuu!” he exclaimed.

Most of the audience was disappointed, along with Jedediah because they mainly came to see and hear Young M.A and her hit song “Ooouuu”. “They should have never made her perform in the beginning of the show,” Jedediah said with frustration.

One of the artists to grace the stage, Remy Ma, made a major comeback in the music industry after serving an eight-year sentence in jail. When she hit the stage she gave her all into her performance and it was extraordinary. “All The Way Up,” a hit song Remy Ma and Fat Joe collaborated on was performed. This song expressed how Remy felt when she was down and out and how now she’s making her way back up. She’s making sure nothing stops her from succeeding. Her entire performance was hype and full of emotion. She surprised the crowd by bringing out her husband Papoose, another hip-hop artist and became the center of attention when she was performed her famous hit “Conceited.” The audience was so excited, they basically sung the whole song for her.

“Rem bodied the stage!” exclaimed Kennea, a girl who also attended the concert.

When the next artist, Jeezy, hit the stage he had a surprise for the crowd. He brought out Young M.A, who sung the song everybody was waiting for. From the floor seats to the top seats the audience got up to their feet and started singing. All you could see were lights everywhere and the big screen showed a view of how the artists saw the audience, who knew every single word of the song. Young M.A represented for her city, Brooklyn NY, where she was born and raised. After that the crowd was satisfied. As drinks were in people hand smoke filled the room there was nothing but good vibes, music and more.

This concert was the most talked about show for the month of October. It was a five-hour celebration. It seemed as if it was a big party with people from state to state. There were many amazing performances with no drama, just a good time. To end this wonderful show, an older artist, Usher closed out the show. He performed older hits and newer hits, which kept the crowd on their feet. It was more work to keep the audience entertained because it was late and people were getting tired. He excited the crowd with his magical musical touch. He brought another surprise Young Thug, a new upcoming rapper with whom he recently collaborated with for his single “No Limit.”

Overall, the concert was amazing. The great thing about Powerhouse is that it gets bigger and better every year. The bar keeps raising and fans can hardly wait till next year!

This Lamp Still Sparkles

By Kurt Glenn

If the New Amsterdam Theatre was built as a magic lamp in 2014, it hopefully wouldn’t be tarnished. The theatre may not be a magic lamp, but it has been making magic for its audience members for the past three years. Based on the 1992 animated classic, Disney Theatrical’s production of Aladdin is a delightfully entertaining, whimsical musical comedy fantasy for both young and old alike.

If you haven’t watched the film, here’s the plot without giving away any spoilers. Aladdin (Adam Jacobs) is a “street rat” (in other words, a food thief trying to survive) out of the cave without even wishing for it, out comes the Genie in the flesh (Major Attaway) after a rest of ten-thousand years. The Genie is excited to have a new master and gives him three wishes. After getting out of the cave without even wishing for it, Aladdin gives him his first wish: to become a Prince, so that he can earn Jasmine’s love. I would you the rest, but I need to stick to my critic standards and hopefully not get any angry letters and e-mail for revealing any plot twists or endings from my readers.

As it is with many stage-to-screen adaptations, Aladdin has some changes from the film. These changes help make it a good-natured adaptation which, I’m happy to report, respect the spirit of the 1992 film. The songs from the movie penned by Alan Menken, Tim Rice and the late Howard Ashman (among those, “Friend Like Me”, “Prince Ali”, “Arabian Nights” and the Oscar-winning “A Whole New World”) are there and they’re still wonderful. The new songs by Menken and Chad Beguelin, as well as songs edited out of the film from Menken and Ashman are serviceable enough to make this show work. The nice enough book by Beguelin is filled with fourth wall jokes, puns and some pop culture references that will amuse kids and adults.

Casey Nicholaw is currently Broadway’s go-to guy for directing and choreographing musical comedies (such as The Book of Mormon and Something Rotten!) and in this show, he has made some flamboyant showstopping numbers that really bring the house down such as the brilliant “Friend Like Me” in the first act, which I thought was better on the stage than on cartoon celluloid. He even creates fantastic stage magic, as he proved with the “A Whole New World” number in the second act, complete with a real magic carpet without wings. You’ll suspend your disbelief once you see it. I did.

As always with a Disney show on Broadway, the designs help the whole production come to life. Bob Crowley’s 3D-pop-up storybook-like sets are superb and popular culture references that will amuse kids and adults. Jacobs and Reed both give likable performances and Freeman is sweet as he is sinister as Jafar. But Attaway (filling in for James Monroe Iglehart who won a 2014 Best Featured Actor Tony Award for this role) steals the show from the moment he pops out of the lamp. I thought he gave a funny, top-notch performance, but I think his Genie was more akin to Eddie Murphy than the sorely-missed Robin Williams, who, of course, gave unforgotten life to the blue-colored character in the film.

From the looks of it, Aladdin will still be granting many audiences’ wishes on West 42nd Street and 7th Avenue for a while. There’s still some life and glimmer in that lamp.

Rating: *** (Very Good)

Bottom Line: An entertaining enough and color-filled spectacle that’s still clean and fresh as it was since it opened in 2014. Recommended Best For: Ages 4 and up. Don’t worry, parents and adults. There’s nothing inappropriate here, folks.

Playing at: The New Amsterdam Theatre. On 214 West 42nd Street (between 7th and 8th Avenues). For tickets, go to ticketmaster.com or call 866-870-2717.

Kurt Glenn is a theatre critic for the QCC Communique. His most recent and past reviews can be read at glennbiz.blogspot.com.
Nick Cincotta has emerged onto the music scene as a very influential and inspiring pop artist. A big name in the Boston music scene, his name and fans are growing rapidly on a daily basis with the release of remixes on his Soundcloud. His dedicated and loyal fan base consists of over 23,000 people worldwide, with a concentration in the Northeast. Cincotta has always loved being on stage, performing at any chance he got. Cincotta penned and recorded his first album entirely on his own, something many stars could only dream of being able to do. I had the pleasure to sit down with Nick Cincotta on November 3rd, 2016. When I asked Cincotta a little about himself; this is what he had to say. “I go by my solo act Nick Cincotta.” “I am 20 years old, a musician and started making music at the age of seven years old.” He started taking piano lessons and writing songs at age ten. “I got interested in the whole idea of performing and writing my own songs, I always had that creative piece in my mind. At age 13 I decided how can I turn this piano playing into something real that I can market and show people.”

When I asked Cincotta who his favorite artists were, he said “when I was younger I used to love Billy Joel; he was my first influence to become what I wanted to be.” “Then, I started to get into other bands like The Fray and Coldplay during my early years.” As a result, “I started to get into hip hop during my freshman year of high school. I was fourteen years old and that was the wave of new artists, such as Wiz Khalifa and Mac Miller. I was obsessed with them, they really inspired me into what I love they were ‘pioneers’ for me. My other major influences would have to be my family especially my dad, I love his hustle and work ethic which drove me to have the same type of work ethic.” Both of my grandfathers’ also played a very important part of my life. They are very influential people who make me want to chase of dreams and are a part of who I am.

“If I were not a rapper, I would love to pursue a job as a psychiatrist because I love helping people mentally. I am good at understanding the thought process of people and breaking their thought process, really getting into their head by helping them for the better and getting them to get over certain things to move forward and believe. Cincotta said before each performance “I feel the need to give my best during each performance, the feeling of butterflies in my stomach. I get an intense blood running feeling.” “I have gotten much better to remain calm and have an attitude of whatever happens happens and move on.” “I have learned to believe in myself and have confidence.” After each performance “it’s the best feeling I walk off stage all sweaty everyone gives me a confidence boost by shaking my hand saying good job, getting a pat on my back, I drink my water take a guzzle saying ahh its done let’s go get some recording done I’m back to reality.”

Cincotta says what really motivates him is changing people’s emotions for the better by helping people mentally. “The drive I have is to help people get through the problems, emotions and situations they may be facing. I want people to be themselves, to love themselves, I promote a lot of good things positive vibes and attitude. I love people in a large gatherings joining together for the same reason to form unity for example, my shows I absolutely love the vibe and energy it’s what I live for it’s amazing to see my work whether it’s fifteen people or a thousand people it does not matter to me it’s the same thing.”

Cincotta said “my favorite songs to perform live would be “Headphones”, my remix of “Closer” everyone in the crowd jumps to it, “DMV”, “Zone”, “No Idea”, sometimes the crowd vibed out to one of them sometimes the crowd vibed out to another song so it mostly depends on the situation of the songs.” “What made me want to be in the music industry is my love for music not ‘oh the music industry is sick so let me do music’ but rather does remixes for a song and adds his own beat to it. I love collaborating with different artists as many as I can.” “It expands my knowledge to new heights things I’m not used to and I learn new things from other people.” “It doesn’t matter what their status is or how many fans they have I love working with talented people because we both learn something about each other as artists.” Cincotta said he writes and composes all his songs.

The main theme behind his songs are getting through problems. “If I can help people be happy with themselves it’s a good feeling.” Cincotta describes the music making process as the energy in the room has to be great its important because it affects the vibe of the room very intensely. His music has matured over time by situations he has experienced. “My biggest challenge as an artist would be getting people to be invested in the brand because being a new artist is hard for people to believe in especially when you’re just starting out as an artist.” “My ultimate goal or direction as an artist is to move forward, getting better by directing myself in the right direction and becoming great at what I do.”

“I am not seeking fame and fortune when people talk about you as well as value you as a person and your skills, fame and fortune just come hand and hand with being true to yourself.” “If you only focus on fame and fortune it is not going to happen because you lose touch with the importance of it all.” People can detect that you’re not being true to them or yourself. Nick says the advice that he has for people who want to start their own bands or become performers is: don’t hesitate. “If it’s on your mind just do it and follow your heart. If you’re surrounding yourself with people on the other hand you need to be honest with them communication is key in all situations, that’s what’s going to propel you to be strong. Being yourself means you’re comfortable in your skin.”

Fans to be can gain access to my music by using Itunes, Spotify, Tidal, Apple Music , Youtube, Soundcloud, Facebook , Twitter, Instagram and www.nickcincotta.com. Anyone that is in need of some good music, great fandom and to associate with is my music we are more of a family than fandom we stick together.
Bring your resume to an
INTERNSHIP & COOPERATIVE
EDUCATION FORUM

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 an internship. Come meet and network with representatives from various companies recruiting interns to meet their needs in a broad range of functions and roles.

Earn credits toward your degree
Cooperative Education Faculty Coordinators will answer your questions in one-to-one conferences.

Wednesday, November 16th, 2016
12:00pm to 3:00pm in the Student Union Upper Level

For information about the Internship Forum please call (718) 631-6297, or stop by Library, Room 429
Open to QCC students ONLY!

Companies to date - More to come

Sponsored by The Office of Career Services
Lifestyles

Don’t Gobble Yourself Over This Thanksgiving

By Francesca Pacheco

Halloween is over and now we start to get the feeling that the holidays are creeping in. The walls are closing in on us, and it’s too late to back up now. In just a few weeks it will be Thanksgiving, and the cooking begins! We may be overwhelmed with school, work, kids and many other responsibilities but don’t fear, we have solutions here. Your grandma isn’t the only one who can make a delicious turkey. There are many places that will cater holiday food for your feast. Your local super markets and Fairway, Whole Foods and BJ’s have holiday meals that are complete with hors d’oeuvres, appetizers, entrées and dessert. They all have different price ranges, depending on how many people you are ordering for and what you want in your meal. Starting with Whole Foods, the priciest is the meal that serves 16-18 people, at $399.99 and the lowest vegan Thanksgiving meal for 1 is $19.99. If you don’t want to pay that much for a Thanksgiving meal another inexpensive option is BJ’s. Their most expensive dinner costs $189.99 and serves 12 people. Most of the places range between those two prices including your choice of oven ready turkey, your choice of soup, sides and gravy. There is also an option to order from Boston Market which offers a hot and ready buffet or the ready to cook meal.

Although it may not be the traditional way of doing things it is the more relaxing and less stressful way of preparing a holiday meal when you have so many things on your plate. Now that the world is changing around us, we have options of making things that would normally be stressful, more easy going for us. If you’re having reservations about your family not liking the food there are always options to try a sample before you purchase the whole turkey.

Credit: Chocolateboxwriters.com
Thanksgiving: Healthy, Better Food Options Across the Year

By Ariel Hart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thanksgiving Dish</th>
<th>Why it shouldn't be eaten all the time</th>
<th>Healthy Alternative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Turkey with gravy and stuffing</td>
<td>- High in fat/sat fat, sodium</td>
<td>- Lean, skinless turkey (especially the turkey breast)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Candied yams with marshmallow casserole</td>
<td>- Very high in sugar</td>
<td>- (without salt) Boiled and drained sweet potatoes/yams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cranberry sauce</td>
<td>- High in sugar/sweeteners/additives</td>
<td>- Cranberries alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- String bean casserole</td>
<td>- High in fat, sodium, carbohydrates</td>
<td>- Plain string beans sautéed with olive oil, ginger, and garlic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Corn on the cob</td>
<td>- Often served with butter</td>
<td>- Air popped popcorn without butter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Dinner rolls/Croissants</td>
<td>- Often served with butter</td>
<td>- Whole wheat bread/pita served with hummus or peanut butter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Pumpkin pie/apple pie</td>
<td>- High in sugar and fat</td>
<td>- Plain fresh fruits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Carb heavy</td>
<td>- Roasted apple chips</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is November, and here in the United States, Thanksgiving is a major holiday and a time for food, fun, festivities, and family for all to enjoy! I know we all can’t wait. Thanksgiving occurs once a year, and not counting the days of leftovers, that means only one day to eat the delicious Thanksgiving food. But what if I was to tell you the various “life hacks” that allow you to eat these foods anytime you want, anytime of the year?

Now hold for a moment! Before you give into the temptations of pigging out on the tasty foods and treats, hear me out on the fact that I mean you can enjoy these foods anytime, but as much healthier without sacrificing flavor.

According to CalorieControl.org’s article “Stuff the Bird, Not Yourself: How to Deal with the 3000 Calorie Thanksgiving Meal” the average American may consume more than 4,500 calories... 229 grams of fat.” Think about if we were to indulge like this on a regular basis. Obesity rates would continue to go up the roof with of the excessive saturated fat, sodium, carbohydrates, and sugar consumption.

It is because of this that I will take the time to tackle different Thanksgiving foods (no NFL football puns intended) and rather nutritious, healthy, and heart friendly ways a person can enjoy them during times that it’s not Thanksgiving.

For starters, let’s begin with one of Thanksgiving’s most iconic dishes, candied yams with marshmallow casserole. Sounds delicious, right? The dish is a Thanksgiving classic with its sweetness and “melt in your mouth” feeling in every bite. That being said, it seems to be a bit going over the top if one was to eat the side dish all the time.

The sweet potato dish is made often with butter, brown sugar, marshmallows, cinnamon, and other spices. According to Caloriecount.com’s information about the dish, one serving can contain up to sixteen grams of sugar! Imagine it being eaten on the special day where people are more than likely to have two to three servings which essentially adds up to over forty-five grams of sugar! Sounds more like a dessert than an entree.

If you are in the mood for sweet potatoes but do not want to consume the extra calories, then look no further. My alternative recipe for candied yams is that of simple boiled sweet potatoes which are drained and ready to eat! Yes, it’s that easy. A recipe that my family cooks regularly, this alternative yam dish is one that is nutritious and delicious as it manages to keep bits of sweetness to its Thanksgiving counterpart. These sweet potatoes according to Caloriecount.com, contains less than one gram of sugar (0.3g to be exact). Now that you know how the yam dish can be enjoyed with much less sugar, we can see it as a food that is more than a sweet treat (as it is in fact a side dish).

Many argue that Thanksgiving isn’t itself without the big bird; the turkey. It’s truly the main event/highlight of Thanksgiving dinner to many. Turkey alone is generally quite healthy as it gives consumers a generous amount of protein. But you’re to get more than what you bargained when it is served with stuffing and gravy on the side. They are in fact mouth watering when they compliment the turkey, but their additives and ingredients will give you a chance to reconsider eating them regularly.

In its information on bread stuffing mix alone, Calorieking.com has stated that one cup of stuffing contains about one thousand-eighty-six grams of sodium and seventeen grams of fat (three and a half of them being saturated (bad fats)!) Wow!

Even more mind boggling, according to a similar source on CalorieCount.com, a quarter cup of gravy contains an extra three hundred and fifty grams of sodium. When joined with the stuffing, that’s nearly fifteen hundred grams of sodium!

It’s because of this that I have a proposal for turkey lovers all around that don’t feel like eating the bird with so much added sodium and bad fats. The proposal is to consume the turkey, without the skin and extra sides (gravy and stuffing). By doing this, you are eating turkey at its finest when it comes to healthy eating as you are getting in on its rich, lean goodness. The lean meat (particularly the breast) can be accompanied by foods such as brown rice, whole grain pasta, and fresh vegetables to create a perfectly balanced meal when it’s not Thanksgiving or the holiday times. With such a spin on the classic turkey, you won’t regret it one bit.

As seen through its entirety, it’s fair to say that I’ve identified the primary “suspects” of food in regard to Thanksgiving. To many, those two are just a small sample of the endless possible number of dishes cooked on the holiday. The T-chart is here to identify what I discussed earlier as well as honorable mentions that are quite significant in their own special way. This T-chart’s purpose is to shed light on the plethora of Thanksgiving foods that can be enjoyed any and all of the time. From average to conscious eaters alike, they can be eaten without the worries of excess calories.

Like many other foods, Thanksgiving dishes should not be eaten everyday of the year. But that doesn’t mean it shouldn’t even be eaten. They should be eaten sparingly, to a small extent on days such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, and any other similar get-together.

Two distinct reasons behind this are as include the following: Moderation. Eating these foods moderately are ideal for the millions of people out there who don’t want to gain much weight for the holidays. You won’t be over-indulging, but instead eating it with discretion, thus not punishing yourself by not eating them at all. Secondly, by eating these foods primarily during the holidays, you are making eating them more special! It would solely be an average, everyday meal with little “character” if it was to be eaten constantly, all the time. So for purposes of nostalgia and memory, it’s an eating highlight to enjoy for such a special occasion in Thanksgiving.

In it’s essence, with these two reasons in mind, it’s a wonderful experience to eat Thanksgiving food. But I would say that it’s not to be eaten at every waking moment and that there’s a time and place for it. That way people limit their chances of packing on the weight as well as losing a sense of significance in the food that lies before them.

If anyone desires to treat themselves to Thanksgiving goodness when it’s not the special day, your best option is to go for the much healthier alternatives. It is by doing this that you maintain having a delicious meal without adding in unnecessary calories and ingredients.

Lastly, I wish you all a happy Thanksgiving!!
The Most Wonderful Time?: Women, Retail and a Too Early Christmas

By Karla Cardenas

In contrast, women have a hard time enjoying the holidays and focusing on family time because feel obligated to create the “perfect Christmas,” spending countless hours trying to create and recreate family traditions.

“They’re all rituals to demonstrate that we care for one another,” says Leslie Bella in her book “The Christmas Imperative: Leisure, Family and Women’s Work.” This consists in part of buying countless perfectly thought out gifts.

Women will spend an average of thirteen hours in retail stores searching for the perfect gifts, according to Statista, a research website with over 18,000 different sources. It is not surprising, considering how expensive the holidays can get. From purchasing extravagantly also like Christmas decorations to your colleague’s secret Santa present, the average American will spend around $700 on gifts this year. As reported by Statista, six out of ten Americans will also gift themselves, spending an average of $140.

However, with more spending also comes more jobs. Consumers are starting their holiday shopping early in September. Most retail stores compensate for the demand. “Over 768,000 employees were hired throughout the United States to compensate for the holiday rush” in 2013, reported Statista.

The holidays not only generate money for retail stores but also move the economy by providing job opportunities for thousands of workers.

“Last summer I tried to get a job at a retail store [but] I didn’t get the job,” Laura Bocanegra explains. “Then almost five months later I got a call back during November to work as a sales clerk.”

Last year Wal-Mart started its holiday preparations in early September, hiring an estimated sixty thousand seasonal employees for the holiday rush, according to Claire Zillman in an article for Fortune. And this year Wal-Mart is not falling far behind on its “permanent Christmas,” the Christmas merchandise year around in retail stores. On the first day of September while parents were finally putting the finishing touches on back to school shopping, Wal-Mart began its “115 days till Xmas,” a countdown to get parents to go on a never-ending spending spree, Gersh Kuntzman reported in the Daily News.

A “permanent Christmas” is not profitable to all, however. In Bryant Park, trees still have their leaves, yet the annual Bank of America Winter Village has opened its doors to over 125 vendors. One small business owner expressed her concern on the winter village early opening in an interview with Jaime Stupiño – she must pay for parking and workers for those extra days, but the money generated during the last days of October and first weeks of November will not lead to enough revenue for those expenses.

In the end when it comes down to living up to modern day social dynamics and expectations, a whole lot of spending seems to be norm—he secret ingredient to the “perfect Christmas”. The pressure of creating the perfect harmony may get the best of us and our wallets.

Josh Brown and the NFL’s recurring Domestic Violence Problems

By Toussaint Carter

Throughout recent years, the NFL has been plagued by a tremendous number of domestic violence cases. In the past three years there have been over 111 counts of domestic violence in the NFL that have been reported. Sources around the NFL say that there are many more, but they don’t get reported to help protect the players and teams image. Players like former Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice, Josh Gordon of the Cleveland Browns, and Adrian Peterson of the Minnesota Vikings have all been accused of domestic violence, all in the same year of 2014. This year, it was reported that Josh Brown the Kicker for the New York Giants had abused his ex-wife Molly Brown.

On May 22, 2015, Brown was arrested for a domestic violence charge in Woodinville, Washington. According to the police report, the victim’s wrist was red, and had a cut which was thought to be from a fingernail. The charges against Brown were dropped a few days after the arrest.

It was later revealed that there were over 28 reports of domestic violence against Brown. According to documents, released by the Kings County Sheriff’s Office, Brown himself admitted to committing domestic violence.

In journal entries and emails released by police, Brown was on record stating, “I have abused my wife” and “I objectedified women and never really worried about the pain and hurt I caused them.”

When the NFL caught the news of Josh Brown’s admission they had planned to give him a merely one game suspension. That decision led to major backlash from fans and league officials towards NFL commissioner Roger Goodell.

One reason for that is because, when NFL players violate the anti-drug policy for smoking marijuana, they are normally suspended for up to ten games, as opposed to players that commit domestic violence, like Josh Brown, who only got suspended for one. Also the Giants decision not to release Josh Brown right away, did not sit well with players around the league.

By contrast, players like Ray Rice were released as soon as the news broke on the brutality of his actions. With Brown, the Giants did not release him until over a year after his arrest in May of 2015. On October 25, 2016 Josh Brown was released by the New York Giants after Browns journal entries and emails were released.

“What you see here is a [Personal Conduct Policy] that’s evolved,” Roger Goodell said in an interview on WFAN’s “Chalk Talk” hosted by NFL Columnist Gary Myres. “We’ve learned a lot, but these are complex matters. When you talk to the domestic violence experts, these are difficult matters to deal with.”

The two problems with the outcome of the Brown situation was the timing and the severity of the punishment. Many people ask, what took the Giants so long to release Brown and how did they not have knowledge of his abusive ways with wife before the journal entries and emails were released? Also, why does a something as serious as domestic violence get only a one game suspension, when players that smoke marijuana get suspended for 10-plus games?

Mike Freeman, another NFL Columnist asked players around the league about how the NFL and the Giants handled the Brown situation. Freeman stated that players around the league felt as though Brown got such a minimal suspension because of his race.

Another NFL player that Mike Freeman spoke to, who preferred to remain anonymous, noted, “We must have the worst run league in sports,” and then joked, “Who is our commissioner? Donald Trump?”

Although Josh Brown’s case of domestic violence was handled, the consensus is that Roger Goodell still has some work to do prioritizing punishment for different actions, so if and when the next time something this severe occurs, it can be settled efficiently and effectively.
The Untouchable QCC Lady Tigers

By Brian Santana

The Lady Tigers do it again! For the second year in a row the Queensborough Tigers have won the City University of New York (CUNY) volleyball championship. For the first time in Queensborough Community College (QCC) history the girls had an undefeated season.

The program has come along way. They won their first CUNY championship in 2010 and have won four more since.

“When I first arrived at QCC ten years ago the team would have two wins per season, we lacked equipment we went from four volleyballs to over 50 volleyballs,” said Head Coach Jason Demas.

Coming into this season the Lady Tigers had seven returning players and six freshmen with all one goal: victory. The new determination and hard work would lead them right to where they needed to be.

“Being with each other six days a week, for three months straight, you become a family, and just like family we may fight a little but we pick each other up and battle together,” said Coach Demas.

One of the hardest tasks for a student athlete is to be able to juggle schoolwork and still give the sport you love your 100 percent.

“Time management is everything I had to learn the hard way but I feel that playing volleyball has given me a routine, and it pushes me to be better to be able to go to that four years school I have always dreamed of,” said team captain Brittany McNally. After QCC, McNally plans on going on to a four-year university at Molloy College or NYU.

The QCC Tigers played on October 29 at Orange County Community College where they defeated the number four seed, 3-0 semi-finals. Later on that day, they beat the number two seed, Suffolk Community College, to win the 2016 Division III Region XV Women’s Community College Volleyball Championship.

For a team that is with each other for only the first three months of the fall semester, the players have created an unbreakable bond. The six freshmen were welcomed on to the team like no other, and they became a family in no time.

“To be a champion you have to have each others back on and off the court,” McNally said. “If one person makes a mistake you expect the person next to you to help you out.”

For the first time in QCC history, the Lady Tigers traveled to Rochester, MN, for the NJCAA National Championship, where they played the best ranked Division Three schools in the nation. There, the Lady Tigers experienced their first loss of the season, but still, were ranked an impressive number seven in th entire country. The Tigers had the best volleyball season that QCC has ever seen. Congratulations to the untouchable Tigers!

The Road to the Cubs First Championship in 108 Years

By Cesar Hernandez

The Cubs celebrate their first World Series victory since 1908 at Cleveland’s Progressive Field. Credit: flickr.com

This season in baseball witnessed a playoff push like no other seen. The MLB playoffs had an interesting Division and Championship series for both the American and National Leagues. However, this World Series was the main spotlight that encapsulated what baseball is all about.

The 2016 World Series was played by two teams who had different paths up to the end. The Cleveland Indians came up against the Chicago Cubs in the 112th edition of the World Series. The Series kicked off at the Indians’ Progressive Field in Cleveland for the first two games then went to Chicago’s Wrigley field for the next three games followed by a return to Progressive Field for the final two games of the series. On October 25, Game 1 of the World Series saw the two aces matchup, Indians’ Corey Kluber and Cubs’ John Lester. Kluber pitched the first three innings flawlessly striking out almost all of the batters he faced. The Indians’ batters gave Jon Lester a tough time by allowing three runs including Roberto Perez’s two home runs. The Indians only added onto their lead as the night progressed. The Indians scored three more runs to finish off a Cubs team that went scoreless all night: final score 6-0.

Game 2 on the next day saw the Chicago Cubs perform exactly how the Indians did in Game 1. The Cubs starting pitcher Jake Arrieta had an impressive outing by only allowing four hits in the six innings he pitched meanwhile his offense complimented him with five runs in five innings. The Cubs would go on to seal the deal that night and have a bounce back 5-1 victory going back to Chicago.

Game 3 on October 28, was witness to exemplary pitching and frustrating offensive performances. The game only scored one run which was driven home by the Indians outfielder Coco Crisp. Both teams left many players on base throughout the game but at the end the Indians got a 1-0 win and spoiled the Cubs historic World Series game at Wrigley Field. Game 4 on the next day, saw the Indians overshadow the Cubs’ first inning lead by driving home seven runs in seven innings and just allow the Cubs two runs the whole night.

For the second straight night the Indians disappointed the Cubs home crowd with a 7-2 win. So this led up to Game 5 which would either witness the Cubs winning at least one game at home or witness the Cleveland Indians holding the championship. The fear of possible elimination in Chicago fueled them to get a historic win in front of the Wrigley Field faithful. The Cubs wrapped up Game 5 with a come from behind 3-2 win that saw great pitching performances from starter Jon Lester and reliever Aroldis Chapman, as well as a homer by MVP candidate Kris Bryant.

The series returned to Cleveland where again the Indians were on the verge of being champions with a win or would wait another night. The Cubs made the Cleveland Indians take the second option and force a Game 7 with their performance in Game 6. In that game on November 1st, the Cubs hustled to avoid elimination for a second straight night. The Cubs offense went back to Cleveland firing and got an early 7-0 lead by the third inning. The continued on the next page
night would finish in a 9-2 Chicago win with notable mentions to Addison Russell’s 6 RBI game including a Grand Slam. 

So, the stage was set for a promising Game 5 which is every boy’s dream to play in and both players of the Indians and the Cubs are up to live for it. This game would witness a Game 7 that had almost everything a baseball fan would want in a game. The Cubs overall attitude was represented with Dexter Fowler’s lead-off home run in the first inning. The Indians tied up the game at 1-1 in the third inning. The fourth and fifth inning was a back and forth between both teams. The Cubs scored four runs in those two innings and the Indians added on two more to their score. Cody Ross added on to the Cubs lead 5-3 lead in the 6th inning with a home run. 

This made way to a dramatic Indians comeback three run homer by Rajai Davis in the 8th inning to make the game was tied 6-6. Eventually a stalemate after all nine innings would call for a 10th inning. To make matters worse for the fans, they had to wait more for the 10th inning to start because of a half hour rain delay. But Cubs fans would get what by traveling to Cleveland. Ben Zobrist delivered a two run RBI to put the Cubs ahead in the 10th inning. Finally, Carl Edwards Jr. would be the pitcher to close out the game and close out 108 years of Cubs fans misery. The Cubs became the champions of baseball and ended one of the biggest droughts in baseball and sports history. Because of their World Series victory they managed to tarnish the Billy Goat and Steve Bartman curses. This incredible comeback would be the best way to top off a historic season in baseball and a great way to reward Cubs fans of all ages that have waited so long to see their team triumph.

Opinion

“For Black Lives Really Matter?”

By Anfernee Cooke

“If you look at the creator of the National Anthem he was a racist,” said thirty-two year old celebrity mentor and public speaker Brother Polight, also an author of 90 plus books and founder of the group Nu-covenant, a civil rights group that speaks about oneness, goodness, humility and respect for all mankind. “He goes by the name of Francis Scott Key. This white man named Francis Scott Key said that black people, I’ ma paraphrase, are instinct and inferior species and this is the creator of the national anthem song. “

Francis Scott Key was an American lawyer, author, and amateur poet from Georgetown who wrote the lyrics to the United States’ national anthem. According to theroots.com, “The Star-Spangled Banner” meant that the blood of all the former slaves and “hirelings” on the battlefield will wash away the pollution of the British invaders. With Key still bitter that some black soldiers got the best of him in the British and American fight in September 1815. “The Star-Spangled Banner” is as much a patriotic song as it is a diss track to black people who had the audacity to fight for their freedom.

If this is the truth about the national anthem, do black lives really matter in America?

When professional football player Colin Kaepernick took a knee instead of putting his hand over his heart during the national anthem, he did so to stand up for African American civil rights. “For me, it was something that I couldn’t see, another ‘hash tag Sandra Bland, hash tag Tamir Rice, hash tag Walter Scott, hash tag Eric Garner, the list goes on and on and on.”

Kaepernick is making the choice to stand up for blacks in America who have suffer from police brutality and whose suffering from white racism. “At what point do we do something about it? At what point do we take a stand and as a people say this isn’t right? You have a badge, yes. You’re supposed to be protecting us, not murdering us, and that’s what the issue really is and we need to change that.”

The Black Lives Matter movement started in the summer of 2013, after George Zimmerman’s acquittal for the shooting death of Trayvon Martin, a 17-year-old African American male from Miami Gardens, Florida who went to a convenience store and purchased candy and a canned drink. As Martin returned from the store, he walked through a neighborhood that had been victimized by robberies several times that year. George Zimmerman, a white Latino male who was a member of the neighborhood watch, spotted him and called the Sanford Police to report him for suspicious behavior. Moments later, there was an altercation between the two individuals in which Zimmerman shot Martin in the chest and was pronounced dead moments later.

Soon after the start of the movement “Black Lives Matter,” it seemed like there were more and more African American deaths at the hands of Caucasian police officers. There was Eric Garner and Mike Brown in 2014. In 2015 when Sandra Bland was killed, the officers involved claimed she had committed suicide in her jail cell. It didn’t appear to be a regular mug shot that would be taken. Then there was Walter Scott in 2015. Where does it end?

“Some people can go to Iraq and come back with post traumatic stress disorder right? From seeing his man get killed,” Brother Polight said in his “The Truth About The National Anthem” video on YouTube. “But we can suffer from police brutality but no one think black people are getting sick, from seeing their own brother being murder In front of his wife to be. You don’t think that traumatized black people in America? Once you get people to start thinking about this, you become a target.”

On October 26, 2016 the Philadelphia 76ers invited R&B singer Sevyn Streeter to sing the national anthem at their season opener. Two minutes before she was going to perform on they asked her to remove a shirt she was wearing that said “We Matter” referring to the Black Lives Matter moment. Sevyn refused to take off her shirt, resulting in the cancellation of her performance at the game.

Is this the way America is trying to avoid the black lives matter movement? America is said to be the land of the free and the home of the brave. If we can’t even wear a shirt representing a movement to make us a better country, do we really live in the land of the free and the home of the brave? Now ask yourself this, do black lives really matter?
TRANSFER HERE TO COMPLETE YOUR DEGREE AND BEGIN YOUR CAREER CLIMB.

As a student in the NYU School of Professional Studies McGhee Division for Undergraduate Studies, the depth of knowledge and the range of skills that you acquire will open the doors to unparalleled professional opportunity. Benefit from small classes led by scholars and industry leaders as you network with students from around the globe. Our professionally focused programs are designed to give you a competitive edge and the long-lasting rewards of a rich, liberal arts education. On-demand academic coaching, tailored career development services, and seamless credit transfer make your NYU education the professional investment of a lifetime.

ATTEND: Walk-in Wednesdays, Nov. 16, 30, or Dec. 7, anytime during 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
REGISTER: sps.nyu.edu/mcghee-events2f  VISIT: sps.nyu.edu/mcghee2f  CALL: 212-998-7100
REQUEST INFO./APPLY TODAY: sps.nyu.edu/requestmcgheeinfo2f

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY IS AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION. ©2016 NYU School of Professional Studies.