Impact of Islamophobia

By Nikita Jones

On September 22nd, at Queensborough Community College, Dr. Michelle Fine spoke on one of the leading issues that Americans are facing today: Islamophobia.

Dr. Fine is a professor in the Ph.D. program in psychology at the CUNY Graduate Center. Her main focus is on social injustice of any kind. She studies social injustice in prisons, with the formerly incarcerated, with high school dropouts and the youths in urban communities.

She explained in her talk “I have worked alongside and been inspired by young people born/thrown/placed or exiled to the “margins” of society for 30 years… and I have always learned from/with their insights.” In 2012, Dr. Fine was awarded the Henry Murray award from the Society for Personality and Social Psychology of the APA.

The event started off with Dr. Fine talking about a study that she did with her colleague Selcuk Sirin in New Jersey, to find out from young U.S. Muslims, “how they experienced being “exiled” from the moral community of the U.S. where they had grown up.” The research was participatory research, where victims of Islamophobia did the research. Dr. Fine stated that “it’s arrogant for academics or researchers to think that we can study communities that are not our own and write about them.”

In the study she did a focus group with young people five years after 9/11 and asked them to draw how they felt. Some of the drawings showed that they felt divided between being a Muslim and an American, like they lived in two different worlds. Some showed that they were stuck in the middle, they felt like they went from being accepted to being discriminated against. Dr. Fine said that the stories reminded her of the Japanese concentration camps for Americans, “in some ways this is what has happened to Muslim American kids in the US they were a part of the community and then exiled.”

In the study it showed that 61 percent of these youths said that they experienced discrimination because of religion in the last six months, in the last week 22 percent experienced it. In the research Dr. Fine found that “the more discrimination you experience…the more discriminating you become…”. Hate crimes against Arabs/ Muslim Americans in the last year have increased by 219 percent, Dr. Fine asked continued on page 3

The Cozy Relationship of the Presidency to Corporate Power

By Lee Slanos

On Sept. 15, Senator Elizabeth Warren wrote a letter to the Department of Justice Inspector General Michael Horowitz concerning the public release of FCIC (Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission) documents related to the investigation into the financial crash of 2008. In the letter she said her staff found “11 separate FCIC referrals of individuals or corporations to DOJ [Department of Justice].” remarking that not one has been indicted or convicted, even though 14 corporations and nine persons were implicated in the referrals, including the likes of Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan Chase, Citigroup and HSBC.

Eric Holder, Attorney General at the time of the investigation, would come to be implicated for such refusals to prosecute.

“I am concerned that the size of some of these institutions becomes so large that it does become difficult for us to prosecute them when we are hit with indications that if you do prosecute, if you do bring a criminal charge, it will have a negative impact on the national economy, perhaps even the world economy,” said Holder, testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee in 2013.

In this statement, he gave birth to the same commonly used phrase, “too big to fail.”

Such statements showed remarkable consistency with a memo titled “Bringing Criminal Charges Against Corporations” released in 1999 when he worked as a lawyer for the President Bill Clinton’s Justice Department, where he referred to “collateral consequences” for the economy in pursuing prosecutions for corporate violations and instead proposed a policy of non-criminal consequences for violators.

That Holder represents an example of the “Revolving-Door” between Corporate and State positions is clearly illuminated by continued on page 3

Bonjour From France!!
How Would You Like The Chance To Experience a Semester Abroad?

By Melina Abreu

Have you ever considered the studying abroad? If so, have you checked out your local study abroad advisor and learned about the wonderful opportunities the program has to offer? Studying abroad is an experience unlike any other and it should be something all students should experience at least once in their lifetime!

Traveling abroad can provide exposure and personal growth, but only if you are willing to expand your understanding of the world and overcome any fear of independence – which, face it, many of us have. Not enough people give themselves the chance to experience a new city, let alone a new country. Yet, by spreading your wings you can gain the confidence needed to handle most challenges that come your way. Plus, it may also help you land your dream job - since having multiple languages under your belt can go a long way in business. In essence, studying abroad will give you the skills need for the real world, including being independent – which, face it, many of us have. Not enough people give themselves the chance to experience a new city, let alone a new country. Yet, by spreading your wings you can gain the confidence needed to handle most challenges that come your way. Plus, it may also help you land your dream job - since having multiple languages under your belt can go a long way in business.
Tips for Freshman

By Dominique Danile

Starting college is tricky, and even trickier at a community college. As a freshman you may feel lost and alone, don’t worry we’ve all been there. Here are tips to avoid a freshman freak out!

1. Start out with a Good Attitude- Depending on your personality, you may or may not be excited to start school. Regardless of what type person you are, beginning with a good attitude is extremely important. Being positive will help you get through your early morning and late night classes and also make you want to get more involved at your school. Good attitudes are contagious and may help you make friends.

2. Make friends (or at least try) - Just because you go to a largely commuter school, does not mean you shouldn’t try to make friends. Friends make everything better so maybe there is a class you really dislike, or you have a two hour break between classes, try and make a friend! You will feel less awkward then sitting around on campus alone making you feel more at ease. Engaging with your classmates is helpful just in case you miss a class and need to catch up on work.

3. Make a realistic schedule- You may have this “great” idea to take as many classes as possible to get as many credits as possible. The problem with this is that you may feel overwhelmed. Whether you’re just getting back to school or straight from high school, you may find the workload to be too much. Also think about other responsibilities, like work, and family that may deter you from homework. If you’re not an early morning person, and know you won’t be able to wake up, don’t take early classes. Fix your schedule in a way that is comfortable for you, so that you will do well.

4. Try not to miss class (especially if you don’t have to)- Tip number four, don’t skip class. As tempting as it is to miss a few classes, whether you missed classes or don’t understand material. At Queensborough there are many places you can go to be tutored by other friendly students. Also students with disabilities or looking to further their education may go to other centers on campus for help. The list is under Resources for Tutoring and Help on the QCC website.

5. Be on Time- Along with not skipping class, being on time for class is just as important. Coming late to class every once in a while because of an emergency is understandable, making it a habit is not. Make sure you give yourself enough time. Enough lateness will add up to an absence or absences which is not good. Also a lot of the time teachers make announcements about deadlines and test dates at the beginning of class. So pick out your outfit the night before, get enough sleep so you don’t wake up late and miss the bus, or get stuck in traffic.

6. Student Activities and events- Everyone you have talked with have most likely told you to get involved and join some student clubs, sports teams, or just attend an event or two. These are all great ways to make new friends, and learn about your school. It may also give you some school spirit, which is never a bad thing. If you’re not sure what activities are offered you can visit the QCC website under “Student Life” and “Students Clubs and activities.” You can also visit the Office of Student Activities on campus in the lower level of the Student Union.

7. Follow your academic- Make sure you know what is going on in your academic. Some events may be geared towards your major and can help you in the future and even now with your time in Queensborough. Academic advisors are on campus ready to help you. To find your academic advisement center visit the Queensborough website under the “Student Life.”

8. Take time to relax- We all know school can be stressful, especially if you have other going on like jobs, and family matters, so it’s important to take time for yourself. Make sure you get all your work done and then spend the remaining time binge watching your favorite television show, or go out with friends. Studying and working all the time isn’t always the best, you will slowly go mad.

9. Need help? It is on campus- Its never good to fall behind on classes, whether you missed classes or don’t understand material. At Queensborough there are many places you can go to be tutored by other friendly students. Also students with disabilities or looking to further their education may go to other centers on campus for help. The list is under Resources for Tutoring and Help on the QCC website.

10. Download the App- The QCC app, QCC Connect, helps you find your classes, has a map of campus, campus news, you can access email and even look at your schedule so you’re never lost or out of date with what is going on at Queensborough. It is a great app for all QCC students to have.

What are the Pros and Cons of Going to a 2-Year College?

By Sara-Frances Sassine

Barack Obama has stated, “In the coming years, jobs requiring at least an associate degree are projected to grow twice as fast as those requiring no college experience.”

Community college is now beginning to become more important in a society that values higher education.

Some people would not even consider a community college because they believe that community college is only a place for people who had low grades in high school, when in actuality it is a practical choice for the average student who is looking to save money and better their future.

Students that do graduate from community college end up saving a lot of money and get to transfer to big universities. Even after just graduating from community college they are able to get jobs with their associate’s degrees and those who end up transferring get to move onto a four year college.

“I found that my professors were attentive and the faculty here at a two-year college focuses more on teaching and helping their students, whereas in a four year college the professors main focus was on research,” said Professor Steven Cheng, a professor in the math department and a Queensborough Community College alumnus.

He also spoke about how the teachers were more personable and friendly—you can just go to their office hours and they will surely help you.

At community college you are able to learn basic skills. There are many options to transfer when graduating from a community college.

“When I came to QCC I found out that when I graduate I get to keep all 60 credits when I go on to a four year college,” said Professor Cheng.

It is better to graduate with the 60 credits than transfer with the 30 because it is uncertain that all the credits will transfer over depending on your major.

The College Board states that “93% of first-time community college students in 2008 earned a credential within six years, including 10% who completed a degree at a four-year institution.”

Although community college has its many positives it also comes with many negatives.

“After community college, it is only the beginning, you aren’t finished when you graduate,” said QCC alum Romel Martinez.

This is true, after community college there is still a long way to go. Unless the associate’s degree is your last stop on your academic venture you still need to go finish at a four year college with a bachelor and then if you want continue onto your masters or even your PHD.

The options aren’t as vast in community college compared to a four year university. You can learn your basics at a community college but focusing on certain careers may be difficult if you are looking to go into a specific career type. Examples?

Community college overall is a great beginning to a long academic journey.

Barack Obama said “Community Colleges are particularly important for students who are older, working, or need remedial classes. Community colleges work with businesses, industry and government to create tailored training programs to meet economic needs like nursing, health information technology, advanced manufacturing, and green jobs.”

With help of your advisors, your professors and your friends it should be an easy enough way to transition into a four year college and then onto life.
The Cozy Relationship of the Presidency to Corporate Power

his working both before and after his time as Attorney General at the Corporate Law- firm Covington and Burling, whose client list includes the self-same companies that could have faced criminal charges had Holder committed to the referrals of the FCIC. In conformity with the principles of the Holder “Collateral Consequences” memo, the British Corporation HSBC, has only to pay large fines that are tax deductible for its money laundering for Mexican Drug-Cartels and sanctioned states and for its involvement with the collapse of the U.S. housing bubble, the foreclosures of which contributed to the financial crash of 2008.

Holder himself is one of the appointees from the corporate world who made it into the Obama administration, whose 2008 election received significant financial support from the financial sector.

The cozy relationship between the financial sector and the office of the presidency has been manifest by many similar appointments (the following of which do not even represent an exhaustive list): Obama’s original Chief-of-Staff in 2008-09, Bill Daley, who formerly had a number of executive positions at JPMorgan Chase (a recipient of the TARP bailouts) and worked for the Clinton Administration prior; Rahm Emanuel, who he replaced, who worked for Goldman Sachs, another TARP recipient; Obama’s friend and classmate, Citigroup executive, Michael Froman; and Timothy Geithner, former President of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, who became 75th U.S. Secretary of Treasury under Obama.

But corporate involvement is not limited to the Obama administration and the Financial Sector alone, rather the “Revolving Door” extends much further, and can be seen in senior officials in the Bush Administration before him, most recently notable in the High Ranking position of Vice-President Dick Cheney, the Former CEO of Oil-Services Multinational Halliburton. Halliburton’s Subsidiary company, KBR, would receive “No-Bid” contracts in Iraq following the Invasion of 2003. Though Cheney had resigned in 2000, he had received deferred payments and Stock-Options during his time as Vice-President.

Though a Senior Executive from the Fossil Fuel Industry being involved in U.S. military policy is not new, the particular example of a former CEO becoming Vice President and advocating an invasion that would provide large no-bid contracts to a subsidiary of the self-same VP’s former company, may strike us as a particularly egregious case of the exploitation of political power for personal gain – yet it exists in a cultural climate where the overlap of corporate and state interests and personnel is treated as natural.

In 1953, the CIA under Eisenhower collided with the British Secret Intelligence Service on behalf of the interests of B.P., Standard Oil and other energy companies to overthrow the democratically elected Prime-Minister of Iran, Mohammad Mosaddegh, who had nationalized the Iranian Oil Industry previously controlled by British Powers. The outcome was an installation of the Western backed Shah monarchy, which lasted with United States support until the Iranian Revolution of 1979.

Though these isolated examples are far from exhaustive (the U.S. occupation of Haiti comes to mind) each shows how the corporate and state overlap of interests and personnel impacts the policies of major global events, and that militaristic force may be advocated and implemented under their influences.

As we approach the election in November, considering this very brief sketch of corporate influence on U.S. Politics and Political institutions, we are then forced to ask what corporate powers are involved with the two major candidates on present offer for the electorate. Whatever industries they may represent, we can be relatively certain they will be involved with the policies and prejudices of the acting administration, and from whose ranks the President elect will choose to populate their administration with once they take office.

Getting More Bang for Your Buck: Student Discounts

By Lisette Ramos

As college students we’re all aware of one thing, college is expensive! After all of the money spent on tuition, textbooks, and transportation it’s no wonder that college students and ramen noodles have become synonymous. Being a college student does have its perks though. Not many people know that just having your student email and/ or ID card entitles you to one great thing, student discounts! Just by being a student you can save lots of money shopping at your favorite places and purchasing things you were going to buy anyway. What college student wouldn’t enjoy saving money?

Many people think that because they are attending a community college they aren’t entitled to student discounts the whole time that they are there. In fact, there are student discounts that depend on your college there is a whole list for students in general, regardless of what school. One great website that college students can benefit from is www.myunidays.com. Simply join by entering your student email and you have a list of many retailers that offer student discounts. The website is very organized, a column for discounts that can only be used online and a column for discounts that can only be used in stores. One can find discounts for clothes, beauty products, hotels, and electronics. Just click on the retailer you are interested in and you get the amount of the discount being offered and the discount code. Students can even earn money by referring other students to join. Check it out and invite your friends, everyone can save some money.

Another great website that offers student discounts is of course www.amazon.com. These days it’s pretty hard to find someone that hasn’t shopped on Amazon at least once. Amazon Prime is pretty much essential to college students; two day deliveries has saved many student lives when ordering things such as textbooks and learning materials. By registering for an Amazon student prime account you are entitled to a free 6 month trial period of Amazon Prime. After the trial period is over you receive the option of continuing with amazon student prime for 50% off, only $49 a year, or canceling your prime membership. This price is locked in until your fourth year of school or you graduate, whichever comes first. Amazon also offers $10 for referring a friend to join. With such things like free two day shipping, prime music and video this seems like a great offer.

Museums are a great place to go for college students looking for inexpensive dates. Most of the museums in the New York City area offer discounts for all students, the only thing needed is your student ID card. Some museums, such as The Metropolitan Museum of Art and The American Museum of Natural History are in free. The admission prices are actually suggested donations and are not mandatory. If you’re on a budget but would like to do something nice museums can keep you entertained for hours for little to no money.

Most college students and staff are on the CUNY portal at least once a day. What most of us don’t realize is the CUNY eMALL link on that page. The CUNY eMALL updates frequently with special discounts and offers just for CUNY students and staff. If you click on eMALL you’ll find such things as cell phone discounts, free anti-virus software, special gym offers and great pricing on computers. There is no charge for signing up for, just countless offers and discounts everywhere. Next time you sign on to CUNY portals give it a try.

Student discounts can be found in many places; the best way to save money is to ask. As college students your school ID should be on you at all times. Simply asking a retailer if they offer student discounts and showing their ID has saved many college students tons of money. Not all retailers publicize their student discounts so asking is definitely the best policy, at best you’ll save a couple of bucks and at worst you’ll get a no. College is expensive, purchasing things you need doesn’t have to be. Utilize those student discounts while you still can, your wallet will thank you.
The Common Read program is usually introduced during a college semester. It is typically run by a campus committee who invest their time in selecting a book that can be incorporated in various academic departments. It is not simply limited to an English course as you might assume. Every year many students are encouraged to read a book that embody some aspect of what the particular course is about.

Susan Madera is the academic program manager of High Impact Practices at Queensborough Community College (QCC). She gathers faculty members from different departments who are willing to embark on a journey for students to enhance learning techniques in and out of the classroom. It takes a dedicated staff to research, read, and agree upon on a particular book that can function multiple uses in various courses. Madera says she has seen how various professors “from music, design, nursing and business courses apply the same book in their classes and develop an amazing outlook for their students” all through uniformity.

In February 2016, The National Association of Scholars (NAS) reported most books that are chosen are primarily based on the fact that they are non-traditional historical or military based books that many students tune out. On the contrary, common read books are typically trendy and modernized in their writing style. Most books are based on the values of community, civic engagement and social justice. All of this is in efforts to attract today’s generations and engage them more deeply.

Spring 2016’s common read book was Picking Cotton: Our Memoir of Injustice and Redemption by Jennifer Thompson-Cannino and Ronald Cotton. QCC reinforced and strengthened the common read program choice last semester by providing workshops, all based on different concepts of the book. At one event, a New York Post journalist visited Queensborough’s campus, which gave students a chance to interact with them about the book and speak on their point of views.

These events are not only organized by efforts from the faculty and staff but from many students who want to show their appreciation for the common read program.

“It’s amazing – several students formed poetry and dance events based on forgiveness which was a popular theme in the book,” Madera reflects.

One particularly interesting event was a Q and A with Jennifer Thompson herself.

“I enjoyed the book way better than I thought I would, and it was pretty cool how the author was able to speak about her story and experience here on campus,” Tiffany Hurtado ’17 said. “It made it feel so much more relatable and personal.”

Students who have been involved in this program are given a chance to experience their course material with books such as memoirs and biographies to connect more in depth with. Even with encouragement coming from their professors and events on campus, students still have to voluntarily participate. It is apparent that the support for the common read program at Queensborough is very much alive and active year round.

“The QCC Common Read program has successfully grown itself into 700 students in different courses currently since it started back in 2011, which we are very proud of,” says Madera.

With the help of supportive faculty members and interested students cooperating, the common read program at Queensborough will likely prosper and strengthen in numbers.

Bonjour From France!! How Would You Like The Chance To Experience a Semester Abroad?

Queensborough Community College offers a free one-week program during spring recess in Salzburg, Austria. Students will have the opportunity to experience a global studies program dedicated toward teaching participants about multiple global concerns.

“It helps teach [students] skills that are necessary for the job market today, being knowledgeable about global issues, understanding how the world operates and understanding the cultures that make up the world,” Bette Lampto Efthymiou, the director of the study abroad program, explains.

This program is a scholarship incentive, where everything is paid for, including housing and other basic essentials. This program is not a registered course and is a non-credit program. Students need only apply for the scholarship, and if the participant is eligible, the program will give them a mandatory pre-departure workshop, thus making sure the students are ready for a memorable adventure.

In all, fifteen students get the opportunity to develop their cross-cultural communication and domestic and international problem solving skills.

“Studying abroad allowed me to meet peers with the similar academic goals and aspirations,” Joanne Perez a QCC alumni, explained. “I was able to take a peek and a taste of a culture I had never been exposed to. I was learning about things I never heard about in my classes. It was fantastic!”

Some CUNY schools offer study abroad programs for credit, as well, during the winter and summer sessions. In these programs, studying abroad can be beneficial for liberal arts students and those seeking to supplant elective courses in departments such as English, History, Languages Cultures and that would be transferable. How much do these programs cost? For those applying to and receiving financial aid (e.g., PELL Grant or TAP), visit one of schools advisers regarding the study abroad and ask them how you can save or keep you aid for the study abroad program.

Each study abroad program cost will differ depending on how many credits the class offers. There is, however, a program fee and a tuition fee. Students, must, as usual pay for tuition fees at CUNY College, but the study abroad program fee will be paid by QCC on your behalf. The upshot is that students will return home with a critical eye, a broader perspective of the world, and a set of diverse lifelong friends.

“Would I do it again? YES,” says Joanne Perez. “It was so fun and fantastic and a great opportunity to learn in a different environment. I am even still friends with the fellow students I went on my trip with.”

In “Going Global: Understanding the Choice Process of the Intent to Study Abroad,” Mark H. Salisbury, Paul D. Umbach, Michael B. Paulsen and Ernest T. Pascarella discuss how such experiences are important for America education and should be the norm and not the exception. In other words, study abroad should be taken as a rule that all students should plan on taking sometime in their undergraduate career so as to develop a profound and long lasting understanding for global issues.

“I think every student should study abroad. Much of the time, we students that grow up in urban areas tend to live in a bubble,” Joanne says, “I mean that’s how I was before I started traveling. To me there was no life beyond the L and J train.”

Just remember, as St. Augustine of Hippo once said, “The world is a book and those who don’t travel read only a page,” 
National/International News

Is Making Two Year College Free a Necessity? Data Suggests So.

By Khushbakhat Siddiqui

College in this day and age is absolutely imperative to get a competitive opportunity in the job market, as well as become an educated part of society. College graduates make 98 percent more an hour than their non-degree counterparts. This is up from 89 percent five years ago as stated in the New York Times “Is College Worth It? Clearly, New Data Say,” an article about the worth of college in present time.

But this is not the only upward trend when talking about college since the price has also peaked. With college being a vital asset in getting a livable wage, the price of college has gone up in the past several decades. Data from the College Board, a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity, shows a 300 percent increase in yearly price.

Another commitment President Obama made is to build high-quality community colleges, “enacting programs within colleges to provide academic advising and supportive scheduling programs to better meet the needs of participating students, resulting in greater gains in college persistence and degree completion.”

His third promise is that the responsibility wouldn’t only be held to the federal government, but also the states that wish to participate. States would give one fourth of the contribution the federal government gives, meaning states that give more that than already can lessen their contribution and direct it towards college readiness, through outreach and early intervention.

With these three bullet points President Obama would essentially make higher education free, at least for the first two years.

When asked “Should two year colleges be free?” most students responded “of course college should be free!” but they expressed concern over where the funding will come from.

Obama never states exactly where the funds would come from, but it’s safe to assume that taxes will be involved. Increasing taxes isn’t a popular option but when it would benefit the millions of Americans, it may become popular.

Math professor, Lawrence Blake believes that “taxes will increase but the state will not be able to provide the funds for college tuitions.”

All the people surveyed all agreed on one thing, that this legislation would allow more people the opportunity to attend college and possibly pursue a higher degree.

In the current state of affairs it is undoubtedly known that college has a vital importance to providing Americans with a livable wage as well as a greater opportunity in the job market. With the benefit of having a four year degree increasing over the past decades as well as the price, a new plan is needed to provide the higher level of education for certain Americans. Students are already onboard with the plan. Though some are weary with the funding sources for the federal and state governments. One undeniable fact though, this country needs a change to its higher education system in order to get a better outcome.

Cousin of Earth Found

By Mara Gonzalez Sanchez

We all know that Earth is going to come to an end one day. NASA’s Kepler Space Telescope has discovered an Earth size planet, in an inhabitable zone of another star. NASA’s astronomers are calling this planet Kepler-186F, they also believe that this planet might have a pool of liquid water on the surface of it.

In the article “NASA’s Kepler Discovers First Earth size Planet in The ‘Habitable Zone’ of Another Star”, an Astrophysics Division director at the agency’s headquarters in Washington named Paul Hertz said that “The discovery of Kepler- 186F is a significant step towards finding world’s like our planet Earth.” Apparently that other planets have been abandoned.

The student continued to say, “it would take a long time and a lot of testing before people consider inhabiting a planet they barely know of.” In this situation Kepler-186F is now considered as Earth’s cousin. NASA’s Kepler Space telescope has measured the brightness of 150,000 stars, NASA job is to look for Earth size planets, measuring their components in, inhabitable zones. The next step for NASA’s astronomers is to find and look for Earth’s true twin.

NASA’s Unexpected Discovery on Dwarf Planet Ceres

By Natasha Charles

NASA’s Scientists have stumbled upon the groundbreaking discovery of an ice volcano on an exoplanet in our solar system. Data footage recovered from NASA’s Dawn spacecraft turned its initial speculation into hard and credible proof.

Scientists were thought to believe that Ceres was just another dormant asteroid in the asteroid belt orbiting between Mars and Jupiter. During the early years of its discovery in 1801, scientists tossed the theory that Ceres possessed desirable possibilities only to later find that it was comprised of only rock and ice. And in spite of all that, there has been recent activities that has left scientists astonished.

Over a year ago, NASA identified the presence of a gigantic pyramid-like mountain called Ahuna Mons. It sits on Ceres, near its equator composing of chunks of ice and rocks and dimensioning half the size of Mount Everest. NASA told Science that Ahuna Mons proves firm evidence that ice volcanoes do indeed exist.

They went on to hypothesize that the dome feature was caused by the process of Cryovolcanism. The differentiation of Cryovolcano from conventional volcanoes (like on earth) is that alternatively, a mixture of water and salt is emitted into the air. In the case of Ahuna Mons, the mixture freezes, plugging its vent and creating an icy dome at the top indicating to Scientists that there’s a probable presence of a Cryovolcano.

NASA is still conducting ongoing research as the Dawn spacecraft continues to orbit Ceres, under careful observation while also gathering more images of the mountain to keep abreast of any changes that might take place.
The Communique wanted to know what the students on QCC think about politics – specifically, the issues that matter most to students, which political group or party speaks to their interests, values, and beliefs, and where this campus stands on the political spectrum.

The current generation of “millennials” has been criticized for its incorporation of smartphones and apps into daily life, replacing the traditional means of interacting face-to-face with others.

“This puts them in a curious position. It makes them one of the most inscrutable generations in history-to people who desperately want to scrutinize them,” says Mary H.K Choi, in Wired’s September 2016 issue.

Another criticism is the perceived sense of narcissism that this generation has with the popular usage of “selfies”. However, this is one of the first generations to successfully use and make sense of the current and emerging technologies and tools that have become so crucial to society, such as social media.

“The new generation […] is in a hurry to be recognized, yes, but in a refreshingly thoughtful way,” says W’s editor-in-chief, Stefano Tonchi. “Unlike their predecessors, they are no slackers. Generally speaking, they are curious, determined, and hardworking. If there is anything they lack, it’s a sense of entitlement.”

This generation has the potential to become a crucial voting group, alongside traditional voting blocs based on political parties or ethnicities.

One Queensborough Community College (QCC) student, Ray, who agreed to be interviewed, believes voting is important, but does not favor either of the current political candidates for this election. The Democratic Party appears to appeal to his interests, mainly equal opportunity and social justice. However, he states that he does not believe one vote matter because, he says, of the corruption in our politics.

Another student tells me that she is not involved in politics and has no comment on voting. However, she watches the local news to get info on political events. Yet students should have an interest in politics, she feels, “because [eventually] we are going to be held responsible for what happens in our country.” She also disavows the idea that millennials are finicky, or have no knowledge of what they want. She is not registered to vote and does not have a particular view of the nominees of the political parties. We continue to talk and she tells me about how people tend to look at the faces of politicians, not their ideals, or what they look like instead of what they can actually do.

“At the end of the day, the electoral college gets to say who’s is president and who’s not,” she adds, citing the notorious election between Al Gore and George W. Bush, where Gore won the popular vote, but lost the electoral vote to Bush.

It is incidents like this, she says, that makes her wonder if voting matters, because the electoral vote is just as important as the popular vote.

A good number of QCC students said they were either Democratic or Independent. Social justice, equal opportunities, and women’s rights were cited as important issues, although immigration also came up at least once. Some students do not consider themselves politically active, nor do they follow political media such as CNN. Some do not favor either of the political candidates for this election, but are leaning towards Clinton over Trump.

According to one article in the July issue of Wired, for millennials, aged 18-35, the data estimates that there are 69 million eligible voters. Stats from the initial primaries show 12 percent of voters casted ballots on the Democratic side. For Republicans, the number is 17 percent. These numbers are for primaries, however. (The data, itself, is from the American National Election Studies, and other parties, such as the US Census Bureau, and a new voting data company, Civis Analytics.)

While the data shows a large number of eligible voters, it is not the exact number of voters who actually vote. Despite this, the current election cycle is believed to cause a large turnout of voters, specifically on the minority blocs and younger voters mainly because of the political rhetoric on both sides.

Thirty-one percent of eligible voters are minorities, up from 22 percent in 2000. One survey, which appears on Elle’s website and its July 2016 issue, collected data on a prominent voting bloc: Hispanic/Latino. According to the survey, 73 percent of respondents prefer Clinton, 16 percent prefer Trump, and 11 percent are unsure. Seventy-five percent of Latinos, in the millennial range lean, or are Democratic. This voting bloc is also considered the most progressive voting group.

Who wins and who loses? Only time will tell. The best thing anyone could do is put in their vote and choose their candidate. Again, voting is a civic right and responsibility.

It is one thing to criticize a candidate and their position, or to go on a social media outlet to voice an opinion, but the reality is different. For all the power social media has, it cannot turn a state blue or red, only votes do that.

If one feels passionate about an issue, no matter what it is, it would be in his or her best interest to do proper research and be on the lookout for officials or political hopefuls that share the same views. Even the smallest law has a large impact. Being involved shows one cares about oneself and their community, and forces change.

This should be applied not just to presidential elections, but local and city elections, as well. For better or worse, we’re all in this together.

Is Colin Kaepernick’s Protest Causing More Harm than Good?

By Toussaint Carter

For the past month, there has been an uncanny divide in the sports world, due to San Francisco 49ers Quarterback Colin Kaepernick. Kaepernick has made headlines, not by his on-field performances but by his methods of raising awareness of police brutality and racial inequality in America. Kaepernick’s way of doing so is by choosing not to stand during the National Anthem.

“I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag that oppresses black people and people of color,” Kaepernick told NFL Media in an exclusive interview after one game. “To me, this is bigger than football and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder.” Kaepernick stated.

Kaepernick’s protest has sparked the minds of many other athletes around the world, some from the NFL and NBA, and even trickling down to high school athletics. Since Kaepernick started his protest on August 27, it has gained notoriety from athletes such as Arian Foster of the Miami Dolphins, Brandon Marshall of the Denver Broncos, Carmelo Anthony of the New York Knicks and LeBron James of the Cleveland Cavaliers, who have all issued statements about what Kaepernick is doing. Some like Foster and Marshall have followed suit by kneeling during the Anthem. Both Anthony and James were involved in raising awareness of police brutality back in July following the deaths of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile. In a recent article in the New York Post by Marc Berman, Carmelo Anthony has been on record stating his support for Kaepernick, admiring his courage to take action.

continued on next page
National/International

Is Colin Kaepernick’s Protest Causing More Harm than Good?

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“I support him, to be honest with you,” Anthony said Tuesday after the Knicks’ first practice of training camp. “I support the courage he has to take that stand. He’s taken it as far anybody. The masses didn’t think it would get as big as it did. People thought everyone would turn his back on him. It actually brought people closer to handle his message. Everybody does it in their own way. He wanted to kneel for the anthem. His argument was black [oppression] and everything that comes with it. My thing was police brutality. For others it might be education.” Anthony explained.

It doesn’t stop there, since Kaepernick has recently become an inspiration for younger generations, as well. In Oakland, CA, the Castlemont Kings, a high school football team, decided to lay flat on their backs, with their arms up as a way to spread awareness about the racial inequalities, police brutality, and police injustice. Recently, Kaepernick payed a visit to the school to speak to the members of the team and give them words of encouragement. Students on the campus of Queensborough Community College have an opinions on the subject as well.

“I don’t understand why some people are so upset with Colin Kaepernick. In today’s world we see people ‘biting their tongues’ and being politically correct all the time, it’s refreshing to see an athlete speak out about an issue that has been going on for far too long and make people feel uncomfortable,” Marc a second year student at QCC stated. “I don’t even have a problem with him sitting during the anthem. If he did this during any other time a few people might talk about it, but by him doing it during the national anthem it garners national attention and he is constantly the topic of conversation,” Marc added.

Despite the positive reactions from some of Kaepernick’s peers and supporters around the nation, there are plenty of people who are one hundred percent against him and his protest. Many feel Kaepernick’s decision to sit during the National Anthem is deplorable, sacrilegious and take it as a “lack of respect to our flag.” A recent e-poll went out on September 22, where Colin Kaepernick was voted as the most disliked athlete in the NFL.

“I totally understand why he’s protesting. Police brutality and racial inequality is a problem that has to be solved in our country, but when you begin to disrespect our countries anthem and flag is where I draw the line,” another student on campus explained. “I have family members who went to war for this country, to keep us safe, and now because you want to shed light on something you think you’re bigger than this country?”

As you can see, this is where the divide begins, and with this divide some media outlets have turned Kaepernick’s protest into a debate of whether he’s right or wrong for the way he’s protesting, instead of shedding light onto his actual reason for protesting. Kaepernick’s protest has outraged some people so much to the point that he has received death threats and the loss of respect of his counterparts. Mike Ditka a former NFL Player who is now an analyst on ESPN’s NFL Countdown is on record stating his distain towards Kaepernick.

In an interview with Dallas Sports Radio, Ditka argued, “I don’t see all the atrocities going on in this country that people say are going on,” and later asserted, “I think it’s a problem, anybody who disrespects this country and the flag.” Ditka’s conclusion: “If they don’t like the country, they don’t like our flag – get the hell out, that’s what I think.”

According to the Washington Post, as of July 10, over 509 citizens have been killed by police and in 2015, 990 citizens had been killed by police. Rarely, do the police serve jail time and oftentimes after the murder, the officers are granted paid leave. Colin Kaepernick’s saga has showed the true divide in us as a society.

Election

How Will Your Future President Tackle International Security

By Glyne Harper

The threats that ISIS, other extremist groups, and lone wolf terrorism cause are urgent and how we as a nation plan to handle these problems is important. According to an article titled: Army lays out plan to cut 40,000 soldiers by Michelle Tan for the Army Times there has been a plan since 2012 to cut 120,000 soldiers, (21% of the active force) by the end of fiscal 2018. This plan was put in place because of the Budget Control act passed in 2011 that made major cuts to federal spending; which took a big chunk out of the defense budget. This sequester has become a big part of both Clinton and Trump’s running platforms.

This sequester has become a big part of both Clinton and Trump’s platforms.

According to the Council on Foreign Relations, an independent, nonpartisan membership organization, think tank, and publisher Trump plans on removing the defense sequester passed in 2011, and this is confirmed by Trump’s own campaign website. The Trump campaign states that Trump plans on creating a new military budget as soon as he is elected to office. He intends to increase the number of marine corps battalions from 21 to 36, the number of active Army soldiers from 490,000 to 540,000, increase the Navy from about 270 ships to 350, and increase air force fighter aircraft from roughly 1,000 to 1,200. Trump also wants to upgrade our ballistic missile defense system. While Trump talks about increasing U.S. military effectiveness he has also been very vocal about his aggravation with NATO and its effectiveness.

According to Clinton’s campaign website, she shares Trump’s goal of the ending of the sequester – but that is where the similarities end.

Unlike Trump, Clinton wants to strengthen ties with allies and create allies where the U.S. didn’t have them before. Clinton intends to keep supporting NATO and Israel while continuing to work toward a two state solution for Israel. She also plans to invest in partnerships in Latin America, Africa, and Asia.

Clinton plans to keep our rivals and adversaries in check by dampening Russian aggression and with a specific plan for defeating ISIS. Her plan involves taking out ISIS’s strongholds in Iraq and Syria by escalating the coalition air campaign against ISIS and boosting support for Arab and Kurdish forces while protecting civilians. Lastly Clinton plans to focus on identifying and stopping terrorist group affiliates and lone wolf terrorists from successfully attacking the U.S.

It is important to look up candidate policies in order to be informed about how they do or don’t reflect our own views. We should all take part in the political process and be well researched so as to form – and act on – informed opinions.
Behind Crime Statistics

By Jessica Arias

Over the recent years, the question of whether the crime rate in NYC has increased or decreased might be a certain percentage of the population skeptical. With the recent killing of many African Americans and the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement, the police department has lost the trust of the public in reporting the real facts about crime.

In one local example, a NYPD officer in front of an entire community killed Eric Garner, a 43-year-old Staten Island resident, but still the officer was only given “disciplinary charges.” Activists in the area argue that people are more afraid than ever to report crime because they don’t trust the police department. “I don’t want to call the police, I do not know if only because of the color of my skin I will get killed,” said Perla Lopez, a Staten Island resident.

However, statistics show that in NY the amount of index crimes over the last years has declined. In fact, a report by the NYPD shows that compared to 2015, in 2016, the number of crimes that were reported has decreased by a 2.67 percent.

Santiago Cornejo, a Criminal Justice Professor at Queensborough Community College (QCC), is skeptical of that statement, however.

“They have passed studies where it’s been shown that there is a lot of pressure for police precincts to fudge the crime stats,” explained Professor Cornejo.

Many crimes in the Uniformed Crime Report system use by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) aren’t reported which cause crime rate to go down.

The Computer Statistics program, CompStat, is used by NYPD for all the precincts to gather their weekly statistics and try to find a solution for those locations where crime has occurred the most. But the CompStat has been compromised according to a survey that was given to retired police officials.

“A combination of pressure to downgrade index crimes combined with lesser pressure to maintain crime data integrity has contributed to manipulation of crime statistics,” according to the Daily News. These results are later shared with the FBI to have an annually crime rate reporting.

If their crime rises, then the big bosses aren’t the ones that are going to feel the affects- they [the officers]get demoted or change their assignments. So a lot of times what happens is all this pressure makes police officers not want to report crime,” Professor Cornejo added.

Then there is the perception of crime among New Yorkers, who aren’t necessarily reading statistics.

“I don’t understand why NYPD is saying crime rate has gone down, because when I turn on the television I see different types of crimes such as robbery, murder and even rape,” said one second year QCC student.

Crime statistics have their strengths and weaknesses. It may allow us to know more about the crime rate nationwide, but precincts nationwide who hope to reduce their crime can also manipulate it.

Gentrification in Bushwick, Brooklyn

By Lysaia Henderson

Gentrification is the sudden change of a neighborhood going from old and disintegrated, to trendy and hip. In the process of this phenomenon many of the lower income residents are displaced. “We’re just like flies on the wall to them, they’re focused on making money and they don’t realize the effect gentrification has on us,” said a Brooklyn teenage resident. To be clear, gentrification is defined as “to renovate and improve (especially a house or district) so that it conforms to the middle-class taste.”

But what could be the positive and negative effects of gentrifying a neighborhood to appeal to a certain economic group? Despite the negative arguments made against gentrification, there are many positive effects. Gentrification is a sign of economic growth within the community. Many of those abandoned buildings and empty lots are being fixed up and made into either apartment buildings, hotels, or restaurants. The job market increases as these new spaces do provide employment for those inside and outside of the community. Gentrification can also diversify a neighborhood because of all the new residents moving there. The majority of these new residents are college graduates with a Bachelor’s degree or higher. These people are looking to move into a trendy, diversified neighborhood. They want to have access to the nearest restaurants, clubs, shopping centers, and the public transportation.

This explains why Bushwick, a neighborhood in Brooklyn, is targeted by gentrification because of the amount of public transportation in that area. According to http.money.cnn.com, Lance Freeman, a professor of urban planning at Columbia University said “it appears that when a neighborhood gentrifies, it doesn’t necessarily lead to widespread displacement.” Many of those who resided in those neighborhoods aren’t displaced when gentrification does begin to happen. Those longtime residents were said to have experienced lower crime rates, property rising values, better school systems, and some of these residents receive better credit scores as well. Gentrification provides economic stimulation within a community and can “bring a neighborhood back to life.” But do all of these economic benefits affect these two groups in the same way? How can one know that gentrification really helps those low income families as much as experts claim they do?

Gentrification can be a way of forcing lower income families out of neighborhoods that their families have resided in for generations. This consists of landlords increasing rent prices so their tenants can no longer afford it. Once their tenants vacate the premises, the process of renovation begins. The “improved space” gives the landlord the ability to double the rent and make more money off of his new middle class tenants.

According to The Bushwick Daily, “Bushwick is named the 4th most gentrifying neighborhood by NYU’s Furman Center.” This article states that residents experienced a 44% increase in rent over the past 25 years. This increase caused a one-bedroom apartment to be listed as $1,735 rather than $1,200 for a month’s rent. Although Bushwick is not the leading neighborhood being targeted by gentrification, it is still as important. Many of Bushwick’s residents are being forced out of their longtime homes. They leave New York or relocate to another lower income neighborhood where the rent is cheaper, like East New York. But moving by force isn’t the only issue many longtime tenants face.

Those who reside in The Bushwick Houses now have a horrible rat infestation problem. This is due to the demolition and construction going on in the area. In 2013 The Bushwick Daily reported that their neighborhood has won the “contest” for the neighborhood with the most rat sightings. “Uncontrolled garbage dumping also contributes,” said by residents who live in Bushwick in a NY Daily News report. When you try to create space where there is no space, it becomes crowded. In the article, Health Department Assistant Commissioner Daniel Kass says, “there’s more people living in those areas…. More people in tighter quarters…. More waste is being generated for the rats.” Tenants complain of the buildings being too old and are not being properly taken care of. This could be a possible tactic to force residents out of their homes as well as raising their rent, continued on next page
Gentrification in Bushwick, Brooklyn

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rent. The city lets the garbage pile up on the sidewalks, does little to no maintenance on the buildings, and is focused on making as much money as possible.

While those with the big bucks focus solely on renovating for a new crowd, they seem to forget about the others who already live there. These people are being ignored and their voices are not being heard. Their rent is being raised, they are forced out of their homes, and many of them have no idea where they’re going next. Low-income families depend on every paycheck, so the idea of just packing up and moving isn’t an ideal one. Governing.com reports that “nearly 20% of neighborhoods with lower income home values have experienced gentrification since 2000, compared to only 9% in the 1990s.” Since over 20% of Brooklyn’s population is living in poverty, that means there are a lot of people who are severely affected by gentrification.

I recently spoke with my aunt, who has been a Bushwick resident for the past few years. She expressed her thoughts on what is taking place in her neighborhood. She says, “they don’t clean our buildings, fix our elevators, and they leave the garbage outside for days at a time. But they can build brand new restaurents, hotels, and apartment complexes. It doesn’t make any sense.” She’s one of many who shares the same opinion on gentrification in their neighborhood. Now although gentrification may have its positive effects on a neighborhood, it still goes without saying, that those who currently live there still matter. They always have and they always will.

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 Cercone at: ACercone@qcc.cuny.edu

The COMMUNIQUÉ:

It’s Your Paper!
With rent at an all-time high, Jamaica, Queens, is seeing several changes in its diversity and population growth which has become a sign that gentrification is on the rise and has impacted the community.

Gentrification is spreading fast and has hit select boroughs including Manhattan and Brooklyn. According to StreetEasy, an online real estate assessment tool, Jamaica topped the list for “hottest” neighborhood of 2016.

For those who don’t know what gentrification is, according to pbs.org, “Gentrification is a general term for the arrival of wealthier people in an existing urban district, a related increase in rents and property values, and changes in the district’s character and culture.” With so many new areas to ‘discover’ in NYC, Jamaica has created quite a buzz for the gentrifiers trying to find Brooklyn’s successor.

When you think of Jamaica you might think it’s an African-American neighborhood known only for shopping, but it is so much more. Because Jamaica is one of America’s busiest shopping districts it has become the epicenter for diversity. Where else are you going to find a Jamaican restaurant, a Chinese restaurant, a Salvadorian restaurant, a pizzeria and a halal joint in the same area?

Along with the diversity in their restaurants they there is diversity on the streets too. According to urbanresearchmaps.org, the Black population declined 46.45%, a net loss of 1,922 - it was 85% Black in 2000, falling to 72% in 2010. That was six years ago. With the recent influx of people from El Salvador and Guatemala, the Hispanic population has quickly caught up with the Black population. The Asian population, including those from Southeast Asia, has increased dramatically as well. By the next census, we are guaranteed to see a dramatic increase in the population and its diversity.

In addition to the diversity, Jamaica has a plethora of different modes of transportation. In Jamaica there is the E, F, J, and Z subway lines, along with the Long Island Railroad and plenty of buses that can take anyone around the city. The trains and the buses are what attracts so many to Jamaica every day because of its easy access and connections to the city.

Together with its important transportation, it also has very important landmarks too. According to its website, The Jamaica Colosseum Mall has been around since 1984 and opened at a time where most of the stores in Jamaica had been burned down or abandoned, following the infamous NYC blackout of 1977. The Colosseum served as the rebirth of Jamaica as the busy shopping district we know it is today. It has become an iconic staple to Jamaica by attracting the attention of generations of people, including famous celebrities who have shot their music videos there and mentioned the Colosseum in their songs.

As well as the colosseum, King Manor Museum and Park is a huge attraction. The museum was once the home of Rufus King who was a member of the Continental Congress, one of the men who signed the Constitution, a senator from New York State, the ambassador to Great Britain and who also fought against slavery.

Jamaica, Queens, is also home to Jamaica Hospital, Jamaica Performing Arts Center, York College, several libraries, a multiplex, a DMV, various shopping centers, hotels, and John F. Kennedy Airport. All of which are very important services and amenities to have nearby.

With all that Jamaica, Queens, has to offer, many are starting to see why Jamaica has become a hot spot and others are starting to realize why they shouldn’t take it for granted.

Because of gentrification’s reputation around the city I recently sat down with two QCC students, Cesar Hernandez and Lysisia Henderson, who live in Jamaica and both shared different opinions on the issue. “I don’t mind it to be honest. I think it’s for the better. I’ve lived in the neighborhood all my life, and I think the neighborhood has gotten better. If it wasn’t for gentrification we wouldn’t have the Starbucks by the courthouse which is really good.” Cesar Hernandez said with a reassured look. When asked about any fears he has with the rise of gentrification in Jamaica, he explained, “I’m afraid of the rent getting too high and forcing me out of my home. I don’t know where I would go if I got kicked out.”

When I spoke to Lysisia Henderson she believed the cons outweighed the pros. “I believe gentrification is a term covering up the goal of forcing out people from their neighborhoods. It’s not right. They’re trying to raise the rent and make the neighborhood a higher class.” When asked about her thoughts on gentrification in Jamaica, she said, “The main reason they’re doing it is because of the transportation. They think it’s a great neighborhood to change but the residents are what make the community the community which is already a good place.” Henderson talked about her experiences with gentrification first hand mentioning a bad job they did at a construction site by her house where she felt it was done wrongfully on purpose to make the neighborhood less desirable. Also, she mentioned her landlord raising her family’s rent out of nowhere. “There are some pros with getting rid of empty spaces and they’ve recently put a few hotels in Jamaica which is good for the neighborhood, but money doesn’t make the world go round. It’s mostly good for the landlords but bad for the renters who can’t afford the rent getting higher and higher.” If and when faced with the reality of gentrification moving full force in her neighborhood, she plans to move down south while her parents relocate to California because of the cheaper rent.

When asked if either of them had a message for gentrifiers planning on moving to Jamaica, both Henderson and Hernandez gave similar answers. “My message would be for the new people moving in to try and adapt to the community who are very friendly people” he said with a smile. Henderson took a minute to carefully process and find the right words for her response and ultimately said, “My message is for the new people to take time to listen to the neighborhood to help make the community better together.”
Women of New York City, Listen Up!

By Paola Rojas

Whether you’re visiting the city on vacation or simply having a girls night out on the town, it is always important for women to stay safe and be aware of their surroundings. Regardless of age, race or physical ability, it is important to always be cautious while walking alone late at night. If one is not aware of what is going on, there could be some serious consequences. So here are some tips to help women around the city to stay safe.

According to the Police Department for the City of New York, the week to date number of rapes that have occurred in 2016 are 31. The number of robberies reported in the City of New York is 285 in the year of 2016. This means that 316 lives that have been affected so far this year and that’s not including the incidents that have gone unreported. According to Jamie Cohen of ABCnews.com, “experts say that because the majority of sexual assaults go unreported, the numbers from these studies may represent only a fraction of the violent of crimes against women.” This is a serious problem for women of New York.

While visiting the city during the evening, it is always important to be accompanied. If you do so happen to be traveling alone, the NYPD Crime Prevention suggests “Use well-populated and well-lit streets.” They also suggest that you stay away from deserted areas, and just in case you do happen to be under the predator’s control, it is important that you try everything in your power to try and fight the predator off and scream for help. Hopefully, you will never find yourself in this type of situation but, sometimes life works in funny ways and it is always important to stay safe.

Works Cited


Lifestyles Preview

From Runway to Closet: Fashion Week

By Nirvana Simon

As the summer winds down we begin to welcome in a new season, autumn. Along with going back to school and pumpkin spice lattes, we also enjoy a very eventful week known as fashion week. If you live in one of the fashion capitals such as New York, Milan or Paris you’re pretty much aware of this week and what it entails. This is the week that only comes around twice a year in September (and again in February) where prestigious and up-and-coming designers debut their upcoming collections and concepts in a series of shows.

“Fashion week is an amazing experience that I was happy to be a part of,” said Jenelle, a college student who worked with the Marcel Ostertag collection, which displayed a lot of neutral colors along with soft ruffles. “I love getting the chance to work in these shows because you can see how it is from a different perspective. You are able to experience what no one else gets to see, whether it is the chaos of getting the models into their next outfit and down the runway on time.”

Whether it was that fur lined jacket you wore last winter or that new printed tee you just bought, these are all spinoffs from designers who showcased their collection in the past. So, which trends are the highlight of this season? I’ll be focusing here on a few designers, some whom are already known and others who are climbing the fashion ladder.

Marie Antoinette’s theme was one displayed on the runway, as seen in Fendi. Their line featured floral designs and silk tied dresses. Floral print has always been a popular trend during the late spring and throughout summer.”Marie Antoinette was a woman who knew how to reinvent herself, and how to break rules,” Fendi said, according to New York Times, as their reason for choosing Marie Antoinette as inspiration. This personally was one of my favorite looks.

Dolce & Gabbana, another personal favorite of mine, depicted a very cultural twist when they decided to incorporate Italian culture by featuring bags shaped like drums and dressing their models in jeweled clothing with tiaras that light up. This is the exciting factor of the shows—when the designers step out of our comfort zone and present pieces that many people would not dare to wear.

Rihanna also decided to grace this year fashion week by launching her new collection, Fenty by Puma in Paris. Everyone knows Rihanna as the music mogul who has taken over this year top charts, especially with her number one single “Work,” but here her style and creativity as a designer is on display throughout her pieces. Not every artist is able to pull off their own fashion line, but Rihanna has done it again, especially when she came out with her footwear earlier this year. (I myself own a pair of her fashionable fur slippers.) Her collection will be featured in one of the trendiest and popular retail store Urban Outfitters.

One can definitely say that this fashion week was a memorable one and held up to the audience’s expectations.
A Look into the LIU Lockout

By Thomas Colon

On September 7, 2016, the students of Long Island University (LIU)- Brooklyn arrived on their first day of classes only to find that their professors were locked out. A contract dispute resulted in the faculty starting a protest to challenge their salaries on their new contracts. Some professors notified their students that their classes would be cancelled; others explained that substitute professors would take over the class.

These substitutes turned out to be administrators or union busting substitutes that were unqualified to teach the courses assigned to them. This resulted in the students of LIU Brooklyn to start a protest of their own to object the actions of the LIU administration to lockout the faculty. A student who choose to stay anonymous said “I think the President and the administration is wrong for locking out teachers”. “Because of her actions we aren’t getting the education that we paid for and that’s wrong” she tells me. The President she’s referring to, Kimberly R Cline, rose to the position in 2013. Since her inauguration as President, Kimberly has taken various cost cutting methods such as layoffs and cutting wages to ease LIU’s monetary woes, much to the dismay of the faculty. These changes were especially the case for LIU Brooklyn, the campus that gets paid significantly less than that of LIU Post, the larger campus located in Nassau County. Amid negotiations of a new contract (which expired on August 31, 2016), President Kimberly Cline and the LIU administration abruptly locked out the faculty on September 2, five days before the semester was scheduled to begin. Not only were the faculty not allowed to enter the building, but their school email addresses and health insurance was cut off as well. A day after the announcement of the lockout, faculty members gathered outside of the college to protest the actions of President Cline. This isn’t the first time the faculty has gone on strike, as there was once one a protest in 2011 also urging for a new contract.

Some students were sent letters from their instructors. One such instructor regarded how the lockout affected both students and faculty. “You deserve a legitimate professor to guide your course and to teach, mentor, and evaluate you; Please direct your displeasure to the president and her administration using the contact information on the fact sheet linked above” the instructor wrote referring to a fact sheet containing information regarding the lockout.

Students arrived to their classes to impromptu substitutes professors who were not qualified to teach the course assigned to them. “We came to class, and after about 20 minutes were given a syllabus and instructed to leave” says Santir, another student from LIU Brooklyn. On the second day of class, Students joined the 400 plus disgruntled faculty members, outraged over the treatment of the faculty and the unqualified professors given in replacement.

Finally, on September 14, 2016, the lockout came to an end with the administration extending to contract until May 31, 2017. However, the issue isn’t over as the LIU faculty are continuing to negotiate a fair contract with the President and the administration. The events of the lockout should serve as a precedent for other higher education schools and a need for a reform.

Science / Technology

iPhone 7, 7 Plus, 8, 8 Plus...You Get the Gist

By Karol Escamilla

Everyone is talking about it...THE iPhone 7. The better camera, the enhanced features, the rave about the wireless earbuds. Sounds like it is something worth looking into, right? Well, yes, it is worth looking into especially if you’re considering purchasing this phone. Here are some highlighted features of the iPhone 7 for you to make sure this product is worth your money.

Both the iPhone 7 and 7 Plus were released to the public on Friday, September 16th 2016. According to Apple, this iPhone “reaches a new level of innovation and precision”, a product long-awaited for by many. The phone comes in two sizes, regular (similar to the iPhone 6) and the plus size, along with five different finishes.

But that really isn’t what we want to know right? The big thing everyone questions is: “Is it really waterproof?”

Samsung, according to their website, recently released a phone that could fall into five feet of water without getting damaged. Therefore, it is easy to understand why many were excited to hear the iPhone 7 was “waterproof.” In reality, it is only water-resistant.

Ethan Williams, a student at Queensborough Community College (QCC), when he learned the phone is not entirely waterproof, he exclaimed: “I’m paying a lot of money for this phone…if they’re going to advertise that it is waterproof, it should be waterproof!”

And let’s face it, most likely all of us for a second thought the phone really was waterproof given that Apple created an ad for the phone on their page where it looks like as if it is rising from a puddle of water. Still, it is not possible to throw all the blame on Apple. On their site, all the way at the bottom of the page (where no one ever goes), they state: “Splash, water, and dust resistance are not permanent conditions and resistance might decrease as a result of normal wear...” “Liquid damage not covered under warants.”

That’s right. You’ll be purchasing a nearly $700 phone with the risk of losing the water-resistance feature over time.

Nonetheless, it is important not to jump to any conclusions at this point. Setting aside the most obvious setbacks of the phone such as no audio jack, it not being fully waterproof, or the need to buy earbuds separately, the iPhone 7 Plus does stand out from the rest of the iPhone generation. With an entirely new camera system, this one of a kind gadget will make you feel like a professional photographer.

According to Apple, the iPhone 7 Plus has two cameras built into its design. They work together to create the best quality pictures possible. They state: “The dual-camera system uses both cameras and advanced machine learning to make your subject sharp while creating the same out-of-focus blur in the background — known as the bokeh effect — previously reserved for DSLR cameras.” Sounds like a dream come true for all the people that cannot afford a DSLR camera but can take advantage of this opportunity in creating beautiful pictures buy purchasing a new phone instead.

Another specific and notable feature of the iPhone 7 is the missing audio jack. Many have concerns about this change in design. Destiny Sue, a current student at QCC, shared her point of view on this, saying: “How are you going to pass someone the aux cord when they have the iPhone 7? How is that going to work? That’s stupid. Now you won’t have any friends because you can’t use the aux cord!”

Let’s all think about the last time our phones were saved from falling to the ground because we had our earphones plugged into the audio jack. From the moment you see it falling away from you, in a matter of seconds the first thing you reach for are your earphones. Dangling in its sweet rescue, you think, “Oh my God, that was so close.” Now with the new earbuds, which don’t even come included in the purchase of your brand new iPhone 7, there will always be that risk of dropping your phone and have nothing that can save it.

Another feature is the double speakers also integrated in this phone. Apple.com states: “For the first time, iPhone comes with stereo speakers, delivering two times the audio output of iPhone 6s and increased dynamic range.” That’s right, no more raising the speaker to your ear to listen to a song. The speakers are located at both ends of the phone, making it 2 times louder than the iPhone 6.

Whether there is anything that can encourage or discourage you from purchasing this phone, keep in mind that the best way to figure out if it is the right phone for you is taking a look at it for yourself. Anthony Benedictio, an employee at a cell phone store, says: “I’m an iPhone person so, it would be easy for me to upgrade, but not like those couple of people that just go with the hype of stuff”... “I would wait like three to four months to buy it, just to see if the phone has some technical issues.”

And he is right; it is always best to let some time pass after the release date to consider buying the product. It will give you a better idea of what you’re truly spending your money on. Now, after learning a bit more about the iPhone 7/7 Plus, are the features enough to make YOU upgrade?
Science / Technology

T-MOBILE Changing The Way They Do Things

By Doris Kim

In the past T-Mobile has had a history of consistently being ranked at the bottom of all major wireless carriers. That is not the case anymore, in fact T-Mobile was ranked the number one wireless carrier in 2015 according to a CNNi consumer report. Things don’t seem to be changing in 2016 and in a very crowded market the question is how did T-Mobile climb up the ranks? In this day and age with incremental improvements in technology, it is impressive how T-Mobile’s increasing popularity has kept pace with all wireless carriers by simply thinking out the box. Well it seems that they have changed the way they are doing things by focusing on the consumers using creative ideas to attract more growing interest with the company.

So who said that change doesn’t start from the top? Well, T-Mobile CEO John Legere has changed that perception. According to The Los Angeles Times “John Legere has lifted T-Mobile’s flagging customer base and its reputation in unconventional ways.” He’s not afraid of doing things differently and shouldn’t stop since the results have been a success. He has been praised for his approach to change by using social media to actually listen and interact with both satisfied and unsatisfied customers to gauge what people actually want, need, or might like. He has also launched their popular app called T-Mobile Tuesday where their customers can redeem free prizes every week. The prizes are different every week (free food, movie tickets, and retail coupons) with a guaranteed LYFT ride, a popular car service app that is available for all smartphones. No other company provides this app where you can get awesome free stuff. Choosing a carrier isn’t just about the plans and services, it’s also about the perks and T-Mobile has many. These are just some example of the unconventional ways that CEO John Legere has done to make T-Mobile more consumer friendly and at the same time stand out from the rest of their competitors.

Another, and probably the most important reason to their new found success is the introduction of their marketing campaign called Un-carrier. This plan made its debut in 2013 and has been their blue print to success by getting rid of contracts, subsidized phones, overage fees, and termination fees. They were the first to actually give customers wireless freedom and after 3 years many of T-Mobiles competitors like AT&T, Verizon, and Sprint are slowly mimicking what T-Mobiles Un-carrier plan provides. Another game changer that was recently introduced was Un-Carrier 12. This new plan would eliminate data plans to allow every customer to have unlimited data. This is pretty much a game changer and the CEO John Legere has publicly said that he feels that it’s only fair that everyone has high speed unlimited data. According to Newsroom T-Mobile, “The era of the data plan is over” and this indeed proves why T-Mobile, with the right leadership, has propelled this company to the top not only by standing out but also setting new trends with unconventional ideas that has changed the face of the wireless industry.

“Hamlet” arrives at QCC

By Adelcy Sanchez

Part of a rounded education is having a broader perspective of the world. This is at the core when discussing the value of arts and culture. “Hamlet” coming to QCC gives our whole campus the opportunity to experience the arts and benefit from the enrichment of this exposure.

I recently had the pleasure of sitting with Prof. Georgia McGill, chair of the theater department for Queensborough Community College and the director of “Hamlet,” as well as some of the cast members for this production.

“Students are the center of all of our concerns and the core of our philosophy as a department; we want our students to not only perform in theater but we want the whole campus to be touched by the arts,” said Professor McGill.

“Art touches people and you never know where or when it will touch you, you just have to be open to this idea,” says Malique Richardson, who is playing Hamlet.

Professor McGill and the faculty have continued Shakespeare’s tradition of performing in modern dress for that time period, by having this semester’s production be in 1960’s dress. The diversity of our campus is also reflected on stage. Cast members are from all different races and backgrounds. There will be biracial romantic relationships and even a gender role reversal by having a male character be played by a woman.

“The audience will recognize themselves on the stage,” said Professor McGill. The 1960s was an era when the country was “out of joint,” similar to Denmark, and a country that was trying to restore an innocence and a simpler time, which had been lost- a core theme in Hamlet.”

“Some of us will be in mini skirts, high heels, totally new and exciting,” says Jessica Kreisler, who will be playing Ophelia.

“Hairstyles, makeup styles, costuming, furniture and props on the stage will all reflect the time period; music will be used in a way to propel and excite the story,” says Professor McGill.

“If you want to experience something new, this is it”, says Malique Dennis, who will be playing the Ghost.

This is exciting theater, you shouldn’t be afraid because it’s Shakespeare. This play will have romance, murder, intrigue, drama, and madness. It will have lots of action! “Hamlet” arrives Nov 8, with daily performances until the 15th.

I urge all of you to attend, enjoy, and nurture your soul with some Shakespeare.
Shakespeare’s stunning tragedy in a modern, fast paced production tells anew the tale of a murdered king who demands revenge from the grave.

By William Shakespeare

Directed by: Georgia McGill

Humanities Theatre

Hamlet

Tuesday, November 8 at 7:30pm
Thursday, November 10 at 7:30pm
Friday, November 11 at 7:30pm

Saturday, November 12 at 7:30pm
Monday, November 14 at 10:15am
Tuesday, November 15 at 10:15am
Special $1.00 Matinee
Wednesday, November 9 at 12:15pm

QCC Box Office: 718-631-6311  QCC Web Site: www.qcc.cuny.edu
TICKET PRICES: General Admission: $10; Seniors, Students & Veterans $5; QCC Students, Faculty and Staff $3
What Does it Mean to Stay in Shape?

By Zaida Chunga

How does a college student stay fit while juggling their daily routines and responsibilities? College can be a handful, especially with all the stress of papers and midterms. A large population of college students have the responsibility of maintaining a household, job, or even a family. So where does the physical activity come into play?

Staying healthy does not necessarily mean hitting the gym every day. Being active in the slightest way can still make a difference. “Do something athletically every day, it could be anything,” says PE teacher Pete Weiss, “It could be as simple as walking, any exercise... just be active.”

Health is not solely physical but also mental. Setting goals for yourself and staying motivated is how one mentally prepares themselves. A positive attitude can influence your work out as well.

Stephanie Insalaco, a Pilates instructor, recommends to “Do something that will make you feel free and liberated, work up a good sweat, and ultimately makes you feel better as a whole.”

The desire to have good grades and being healthy can impact a college student since they are already trying to set up a future ahead for themselves. Exercising, maintaining sleep, portioning the servings of food, and staying hydrated are a few easy steps to staying in shape. Getting to know your body’s weaknesses and strengths will benefit how well the body could work. The perfect body does not exist but a healthy lifestyle does.
Who is this upcoming band called City of the Sun? City of the Sun is an instrumental post-rock trio based in Brooklyn, New York. City of the Sun considers their genre of music to be “cinematic instrumental music which is a very broad genre it’s perfect to go with an image or movie you don’t really need words it’s more of how you feel. You can perceive the music and see the imagery in your head” says John. Since City of the Sun’s band is all instrumental they would love to collaborate with some singers, “we might put out something soon with a singer. Avi is working on it as we speak,” says John.

Music is an escape getaway. Music has many different genres that include reggae, pop, rock, alternative and many more. Music usually expresses a person’s persona and what they are going through. I had the pleasure to sit down with the band City of the Sun on September 29th, 2016. The band is comprised of members John Pita (lead guitarist), Avi Snow (rhythm guitarist) and Zach Para (percussionist and drummer). When I asked John a little bit about himself this is what he had to say, “I am 27 years old, I play the guitar, I am originally from Ecuador and have lived in New York for the past six years.” When asking Avi a little bit about himself this is what he had to say, “I am 28 years old, I play the guitar, I am originally from Brooklyn but was raised in Israel.” “I moved back to New York and have been living here for the past five years now.” Zach is 28 years old, he plays the drums and percussion, he is from Seattle and came to New York three years ago. Avi and John have known each other for four years, they even joked around stating Facebook said it was their friendship anniversary. John and Avi met through a mutual friend back in 2012. When I asked who John’s influences are they are “Bonnie Ver and Santana.” When I asked Avi what his major influences were it ranged from “Led Zeppelin, and Nirvana, to Bill Young and Santana.”

Before John became a musician he said, “I was working in retail during my last year of high school and listening to music, a passion I have had since the beginning”. Before Avi became a musician he said, “I worked at nightlife events running promotions.” John said, “If I were not a musician I would want to go to college to study psychology.” Avi said, “If I were not a musician I would be interested in cultivating medical marijuana.” John used to perform with a guy that knew Avi, all three of them started performing together. When the friend left the band it was only John and Avi until Zach joined City of the Sun. Avi met Zach in the summer of 2013 at Arlene’s Grocery and then he introduced Zach to John. Avi and John have known Zach for three years. The origin of the band’s name occurred when a close friend was looking for a name on google search. City of the Sun gained their initial popularity in New York City playing in the streets and on subways, then graduated to selling out major New York venues performing at Ted Talk conferences and Sofar Sounds. Sofar Sounds are secret shows that helped bring their “genre-bending” sound to more ears cross-country and world-wide. Even gaining major popularity City of the Sun still has faced some major challenges which includes the cops. John says, “the cops kick us out of cool places where we perform, we have fun playing outside.” “Rehearsing and playing shows get interrupted when we try and play as well as practicing for shows and trying to attract fans because of the cops.” John says, “We have been able to overcome the challenge a little bit of running into the cops by finding a way around them so we can play whenever.” City of the Sun’s latest release is a live LP, titled “To The Sun And All The Cities In Between”.

City of the Sun has an upcoming show October 14th, 2016, at Irving Plaza in New York which is their biggest headline show. The songs that City of the Sun perform most frequently are 2-3 new songs that they just recently wrote in the past month and a half which they are going to perform as well as other songs at their Irving Plaza show October 14th. City of the Sun has performed covers such as the XX intro and a Santana cover that they sometimes play called “Jingo.” When I asked John how he feels before a performance he responded by saying “It depends on the show and situation.” After performances John said, “I feel like I really want to interact with fans and talk to them, get to know them better and get to connect to them on a personal level.” “I am anxious to just put away my guitar and instruments it’s a good feeling.” When I asked Avi how he feels after a performance he said, “I feel the need after the show to immediately pack away my instruments a natural feeling and talk to the fans is the best thing because without the we wouldn’t be where we are now.” When I asked John what motivates him his response was, “music and playing for an energetic crowd.” John said “I have always been into music in general.” “When I asked Avi what motivates him his response was, “to get people to feel some kind of emotion.” Avi said, “I was always into music but, really started getting into music when I was in my early teen years.” “That’s when I truly developed my love for music.” When I asked John and Avi what their favorite venue was to perform they both agreed that it was the Beacon theater. When I asked what their least favorite venue was to perform they both agreed that they didn’t have a venue that they disliked. City of the Sun has performed at many different places including the United States, New Zealand, Mexico, Panama, and Spain. When I asked John what his favorite places to travel are he responded by saying “Spain and St. Lucia.” Avi said his favorite places to travel are “New Zealand and Panama.”

When I asked John what his favorite songs are to perform he said “we have written three new songs but have not set names for them at this time”, Avi also agrees that those are his favorite songs to perform. John says, “our band City of the Sun writes our own songs basically we write it spontaneously and perform the songs together, we write our music from scratch.” John describes the music making process as “we basically stay at our room or outside and one of our band members start playing something and we just go from there it’s really spontaneous and we don’t perform a certain way we just kind of just go with the flow.” “Our rehearsals are cool and fun” says John “we just play together and hang out in a room and get together before a show and practice.” “As of set times it depends on what we are doing because we have had a lot of shows lately so our band practices are more spontaneous.” John says the ultimate direction he wants for his band is “I just want us to play bigger shows for more people as we can.” “I want to do whatever attracts the most people when we play bigger stages, and travel whenever we can and perform for other crowds is what we aim for.” “We are not seeking fame and fortune but rather just want to do what we enjoy which is playing music and hopefully we would be able to become very successful at that and not have to worry about other things in life”, according to Avi. John’s advice for people that want to form their own bands is “just play as much music as they can when they get the chance and put yourself out there to get recognition.” Avi said what inspired them to make music together was “the busking and the shape of what the band is to a certain extent.” Avi said “we decided to perform and playing music is what we want to do for the rest of our lives, the driving force behind why we play overall.” Avi says “our music has evolved since we first began playing music together, each one of us has definitely improved as a musician and the songs that we are writing now are a little bit different than the songs we were writing beforehand but we have learnt to connect with each other a bit differently which shapes the new songs that we are making now.” “We have a more fuller sound than we had before.” If you are interested in learning more about City of the Sun, please go to www.wearerealityofthesun.com you can also check them out on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Youtube and Tumblr.
Lifestyles

The Right Way to Lose Weight

By Michell Cabrera

The type of healthy food you can’t resist from eating. Photo credit: Pixabay.com

When you are trying to lose weight you must not skip breakfast, lunch or dinner. It’s crucial that you eat well and healthy. You should not starve yourself if you want to lose some weight because that inversely will increase your weight and slow your metabolism. The number of calories, exercise and sleep that you provide to your body are the key points that make up your weight.

You need to work on these three points in order to lose weight. It’s very easy to gain weight and the hard thing is to know how to lose them, but don’t worry, by the end of this article you will be an expert of the right way to lose weight.

The type of food you eat is not necessarily what you have to focus on, your focus should be on the calories that the food you are consuming contains. Isha Prashar, in an article titled Weight Control article states, “In reality, you just need to keep the calories low no matter what you eat.” The less calories you get into your body, the less likely you will suffer from being overweight. There are simple meals that contains a lot of calories and sometimes we are unaware of how many and that is a huge problem. You should first investigate and you will automatically make conscious about how a simple meal can seriously alter your weight.

There is a sequence of what kind of meal you should eat during specific times of the day that will keep you fit and lose some weight. In the morning for breakfast, you should eat a healthy meal that will maintain you until lunch. For lunch, you should eat something heavy that will maintain you full through the afternoon and for dinner you should something light. Your metabolism slows when we are sleeping, that’s why we should not over eat at night.

According to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, “eating breakfast when you’re trying to lose weight not only helps prevent you from overeating at your next meal, it also improves mood, concentration and memory.” It’s very important to not skip breakfast in the morning and it also gives you other benefits according to ones above. There are different kinds of meals that you can prepare for breakfast to help you lose weight. According to Jill Corleone from the website livestrong.com, “you can have a two-egg omelet stuffed with 1 ounce of low-fat cheese and 1/2 cup of spinach, and served with two slices of dry, whole-wheat toast and a 6-ounce container of nonfat yogurt.” He states that this breakfast contains about 480 calories and can help you keep full longer. You can also continue eating a bowl of cereal with milk, a glass of milk with a piece of bread or yogurt with a granola bar. Remember, you need to prepare a meal that will give you energy and keep you full until lunch.

Consuming a good lunch can help you maintain satisfied through the afternoon. Jill Corleone states, “A good weight-loss lunch might include a 6-inch corn tortilla rolled with 3 ounces of turkey breast, lettuce, sliced tomato and mustard, served with 2 cups of vegetable soup, a small apple and a 6-ounce container of nonfat yogurt.” This is total of 485 calories. You can also consider preparing rice and beans with chicken. Remember, it doesn’t matter what you eat, you just need to keep the calories low and that it can help you keep full through the afternoon.

When it comes to preparing a meal for dinner, you should think about a meal that it’s light, healthy and that you will digest easily. You can prepare a chicken soup, sweet potato with shredded salad or even grill salmon with salad. Don’t consider eating bread or rice for dinner because they are not easy to digest during the night. Also you will be in a higher probability of gaining fat. Before going to bed, you should drink a glass of water to help speed up your metabolism.

Exercising is not only helpful to lose weight, but also for your health. You’re killing two birds in one shot by exercising. Exercising early in the morning is very helpful. A publication from The Doctors Health Press states that “45 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous exercise in the morning actually reduces the craving for food.” By exercising in the morning, you will feel less anxiety for food but that doesn’t mean that you shouldn’t eat breakfast, it just means that you will eat the right proportion that you need without feeling very hungry.

The things you should not forget is to not skip breakfast, lunch or dinner. Don’t overwhelm yourself doing the exercise without eating anything first. You need to drink a lot of water during the day and also eat fruits instead of junk food for snacks. Try to get the full amount of sleep that every human need. We don’t even realize the harm we are doing to our bodies and health when we overweight.

Sports

The Queensborough Swimming Team’s Finest

By Darshan Sheoshanker

Have you ever thought about swimming? Do you know how to swim? How far can you swim? Swimming is an amazing sport that uses both mental and physical strength. It enhances you to be amazing sport that uses both mental and physical strength. It enhances you to be

The love of the water has an amazing effect for the two captains. Thomas Skukauskas motivates, and help his team members who needs help with anything specific and is always there for them whenever they need him. Lauren Schrahi, the captain of the womens team also helps her team members become more confident and more ready for practice. Lauren has volunteered and coached a swim team and this led to a great opportunity for taking up the responsibility of being the captain of the womens swimming team.

Our QCC Tigers are ready for the upcoming competition. Their training methods, the determination, the look presented by the coach and captains of the teams, show and prove that they are ready for this fight. “The team will be ready” Lauren said.

Swimming is a sport that requires you to be relaxed. Have you ever heard about a sport that requires you to be relax? In order to swim your body and mind has to be relaxed and then you will be able to perform activates in the water without sinking.

“The water is your friend. You don’t have to fight with water, just share the same spirit as the water, and it will help you move,” said the Russian Olympic swimmer Alexander Popov.

Come and join our QCC swimming team, its full of energy and the room is full of so many confident swimmers!
New York City sports teams throughout history have had a huge backing from New Yorkers and residents from the tri-state area. Almost all New York teams are popular based on the fans they play for and the city they represent. Football, baseball, basketball, and hockey have always been the main attraction for New Yorkers. On May 21, 2013, New York City Football Club was announced to be the newest soccer team in America’s Major League Soccer which would begin playing in the 2015 MLS Season. New York City FC would become the third soccer team in the Tri-State Area alongside the New York Red Bulls and the New York Cosmos but would be the first team located in the five boroughs.

So how would soccer fare with New Yorkers? In New York City FC’s first professional season a surprising amount of fans were interested in what a soccer team had to offer. Around 20,000 season tickets were sold up to their debut in the 2015 season. The project and promise of this team was great from a marketing perspective because of the 29,016 home average attendance ranked third highest in the league in only their first season. But on the field New York City’s first season wasn’t impressive. They finished 8th out of 10th in the Eastern Conference standings and 16th out of 20 in the full league table.

Following the end of a disappointing inaugural season a major overhaul of the whole team began. First off, manager Jason Kreis was fired and job was taken by Patrick Vieira which was regarded amongst a lot as one of the best players to grace the game of soccer. His first order of business as newly appointed manager was to trade and release many of the players Jason Kreis had recruited. Vieira and his new coaching staff brought in a lot of new young players from Latin America and Europe. NYCFC traded for the 1st overall pick in the MLS SuperDraft and got an exciting young prospect named Jack Harrison whom played for Manhattan Soccer Club from 2013-2015. On top of that, the team looked to have a preseason with all their players finally playing together, which was something they lacked the season before because of the mid-season additions of Andrea Pirlo and Frank Lampard. New York City looked poised to make a mark on the league that better represents the talent they have as well as the city the play for.

The 2016 MLS season began off with a road win on March 6, only to be followed by a seven game winless drought. The team’s drought would come to an end with a 3-2 win at Yankee Stadium versus the Vancouver Whitecaps on April 30. That match would spark a five game unbeaten run that included a memorable 2-1 road win against 2015 MLS Champions Portland Timbers. Twelve games in and 2nd in the Eastern Conference by May 18, NYC’s season was shaping up nicely only to be halted by a breathtaking 7-0 loss to cross town rivals the New York Red Bulls at Yankee Stadium on May 21.

After a stunning day in NYFC’s young history the team recovered from such an embarrassing defeat the best way they could which was by winning four of their next six games. Notable wins in those games consisted of a 2-0 road win against the Seattle Sounders at their home stadium followed by a satisfying 2-0 win against the Red Bulls once again in the Bronx. Not only did this serve as revenge for what happened in their first meeting but also this win against the Red Bulls meant New York City Football Club would be first place in their conference for the first time this season. Starting off July as one of the best teams in the league was perfect momentum for the team. From July 6 to August 27, NYC FC would continue to maintain their first place spot and lead the league with the most goals scored. In that stretch NYC FC would have a record of 4-2-2 (Wins-Ties-Losses) outscoring teams 15-12 with noticeable wins at Yankee Stadium over two of the league’s best teams the Colorado Rapids and L.A Galaxy. Players like Captain David Villa, Jack Harrison, and Frank Lampard were the key guys behind team’s summer dominance.

As of Mid-October two games remain and the team is tied first place in the Eastern Conference with their cross time rivals the New York Red Bulls. Both teams are tied with a record of 14-9-9 (W-T-L). NYC FC has the joint top goal scorer in the league in David Villa with 21 goals this season and the team maintains the best offense with a combined 57 goals scored. As the season is coming to its close, NYCFC has become even more clinical when playing in their home at the Bronx and also has displayed some memorable come from behind wins that is definitely making the New York public more interesting in cheering on the team as they approach their first ever playoff games. The growth in popularity is evident even on campus. After an interview with a student, he detailed “I’ve been to one of their games and the atmosphere is amazing, I’ll definitely go watch them play again”. The 2016 MLS regular season has been a fun one for New York City FC fans so the postseason hopefully will promise to be even better with the fans support to encourage the players for a championship ending.
The American dream of almost every immigrant in the United States is to be healthy, wealthy and create a brighter future for their families and future generations. For many immigrants the United States is a symbol of perseverance and a simple opportunity for the well-being of their families. Often times these goals and expectations that they believed about the United States do not seem to reflect the reality of things. Immigrants are perceived as aliens coming to a new world with an unknown language and surrounding. People immigrate to flee the unfair political rules, leaving their set life, close relatives, and problems of their home land for a better future. America appeals to youth because of it is known to have better higher education. A very large portion of immigrants are young and desire a diverse place where they can improve their skills and knowledge to help them enhance their life. According to the Immigration Policy Center, College Board Advocacy, the frequency of undocumented immigrants that graduate from high school each year is up to 65 thousand. The percentage level that go on to college after high school is 7.5%. Community Colleges have 1.7% of students with no financial government help. Everyone desires a portion of the American dream.

Separating a family can be detrimental to the mental state of both the children and parents. When placing a child in an environment that is new to them without the comfort of knowing someone, it places distress on them. The government is desensitized concerning the emotional affliction of these families. They are hurting its citizens rather than being understanding and compassionate about them. In my opinion, immigration should avoid separating families and deport the criminals instead. Just because one person of a nation has done wrong does not create malice for the whole nation or should be punished.

According to the Supreme Court, as of June 2016, Obama has urged the United States Congress to act on immigration. After the nation’s highest court failed to support Obama’s order of protection, for five million undocumented immigrants from deportation, Obama made his latest request. The Supreme Court released the appeal a few weeks later after Obama submitted the petition. Because of the ruling there is a lower court decision that blocks the immigration order Obama realizes the negative effect immigration has on America and their reputation.

Based on an investigation, Migration Policy Institute, between 2013 - 2014 the population of people who aren’t American citizens has increased 2.5%. The Pew Hispanic Center in 2005 claimed that there were 6.2 million of undocumented immigrants. Inside the United States it is estimated that 56% of the population are immigrants and 26% are children born in the United States derive from immigrant families living in the states. The percentage of U.S born immigrant’s children is roughly 26% of the universal U.S population.

The majority of people in the upper class can also relate to the immigration system. The famous actor of ‘Orange Is the New Black’ and ‘Jane The Virgin’, Diane Guerrero, saw her parents deported to Colombia when she was only 14 years old and until this day she has not seen them. Guerrero came from school one day and found her home tremendously quiet, she had walked around the house to find unexplainable occurrences around. Her mom’s cup of coffee half empty, a pot of uncooked rice, sliced of plantains piled on a plate, “mama, papa I’m home!”, “where is everyone?”, said the young 14-year-old Diane.

A neighbor came over to her and told her that immigration officials had taken her parents and older brother away. Guerrero got so terrified that she went ahead to close all the curtains, turn off all lights, and hid under her bed. She called her best friend’s mother, who later on that night picked her up. She knew why her family was taken away, because they had been detained and were being deported back to Colombia. Guerrero relied on the support of friends after her parents were deported and received no government support regarding her status.

In an interview with The Boston Globe, Diane Guerrero said, “we should strive for keeping a family together and keeping the family alive, it does not just affect the people that are being deported but also the people who are here without them. I know that the system is broken, I know that the immigration system is outdated, I know there are a lot of problems because of it… nobody has ever heard the story of a citizen child left behind… you know when you are undocumented in this country, you think you have no rights, for the most part you feel less than, because you are not supposed to be here, everyone is telling you that you can not be here.” Guerrero continues to fight for immigration reform in the United States.

The United States is known as the country of dreams, where all your dreams will come true. What has happened to the system? Are immigrants not allowed to accomplish our own dreams anymore? Why has the Supreme Court denied so many times the immigration appeal, when we thought that everyone has that right, but at the end, we don’t.

Coming to a new nation does not simply involve adapting to a new language and all the differences between the United States and a country of origin, but it also means adapting to intimidating laws that can become a threat to immigrants.
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