

March 16, 2016

Volume 22

Issue 9



THE
KNIGHT
NEWS



theknightnews.com
Breaking News & Video

Journalism in the Interest of the Queens College Community

QUEENS COLLEGE GETS WILD

Nick Cannon and other comedians perform
at Colden Auditorium



WILD N
OUT

SEE PAGE 3

Photo by Albert Roman

CUNY allies rally
to restore investment
SEE PAGE 4

Touring Satchmo's house
in Corona, Queens
SEE PAGE 6

EDITORIAL

Athletes draw the line

On Feb. 27, Queens College men's basketball head coach Darryl Jacobs no longer lead the Division II program after a number of players complained about abusive behavior.

The basketball team boycotted practices and prepared to forfeit the season's final two games against Roberts Wesleyan and Daemen unless actions were taken.

Athletes staging protest to draw attention on important social issues is something going on for decades. Actions speak louder than words.

College athletes, as one example, are not afraid to boycott team activities to stand up against something they believe is wrong.

Last November, the University of Missouri football team threatened to boycott football-related activities until school president Tim Wolfe resigned or was fired. Wolfe was criticized over his negligence toward a series of incidents on campus, including racial slurs and the discovery of a swastika on campus. Two days later, Wolfe stepped down.

Even professional athletes draw attention to issues like the Los Angeles Clippers did in 2014. The team protested former team owner Donald Sterling after a tape of him released by TMZ contained racist remarks.

Before the Clippers played against the Golden State Warriors in a playoff game, they silently protested before and during the game. Players before the game wore an inside-out shirt excluding the Clippers logo or name. During the game, players wore black armbands and wristbands

In March 2012, Dwayne Wade,

LeBron James and the entire Miami Heat team put up a photo on Twitter with the players wearing hoodies, and the tweet included #WeAreTrayvonMartin. It referred to Trayvon Martin, the 16-year-old teen fatally shot in Florida by George Zimmerman.

In general, the history of sports does not just include players trying to score points and achieve victory. Sports reflect a collective where the individuals work together to achieve a common goal. Often times, the space to do this is positive and harmonious.

But, in the case of Jacobs, there are times when players feel harassed and bullied. Jacobs, according to former assistant coaches Steve Schneider and Mike Carrera in The New York Daily News, referred to the players as "losers" or "cancer."

For any head coach to display such disrespect and arrogance to players is unforgivable. These players spend four years, sometimes more, of their life at a college to grow and to learn. An unsafe environment only creates problems for everyone involved in it.

But the actions taken by the men's basketball team reflect actions other athletes, professional and collegiate, took in the past when faced with conflicts and problems. Their commendable stand against someone with a stuck-up attitude is not unique to QC. Rather, it points to athletes as competitors with a conscience.

As competitors, they work with teammates to achieve their goals like winning a game. But they know, to do this, the staff needs to provide support they deserve.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Regarding the March 2, 2016 article entitled 'Queens College bookstore is going digital,' I would like to correct some inaccuracies that appear in the article.

One person interviewed for the article stated that she would have "asked the students what they thought about a digital bookstore" before making the change to an online bookstore. As I explained in my response to the reporter's questions and as is stated in the story, "The process for a new vendor involved students, faculty and administrators"—students were fully consulted during the selection process. Another person implied that the new online bookstore would not be able to meet students' needs as well as the current bookstore. While it is true that the online bookstore will not sell Metrocards, QC branded merchandise, or other sundry items, students will be able to purchase these things, including Metrocards, at a new Campus Store that the College is planning on opening this fall.

Two people interviewed for the article seem to think that our new online bookstore

will only sell digital textbooks, but this could not be further from the truth. The online bookstore will sell and rent actual textbooks as well as digital textbooks, and students will be able to sell their textbooks back at the end of the semester just like they do currently. Finally, the article states that the current bookstore space in the Student Union will be used for "another One Stop." This is a completely inaccurate statement as no plans for future use of the space have been finalized.

We feel confident that the new online bookstore will provide numerous options for students to save money on their textbooks and course material costs, and are prepared to offer guidance and support during the transition at the following information sessions in I Building room 120: Monday, March 14th at 10:30am, 12:30pm, 2:30pm, and 4:30pm; and Wednesday, March 16th at 10:30am, and 2:30pm.

-Dr. Adam L. Rockman
Vice President for Student Affairs

MISSION STATEMENT:

"We aim to serve the Queens College community through a tireless pursuit for truths that may be hidden, obstructed or otherwise unknown, to empower our readers with the information they need to inspire change."

Editor-in-Chief: **Brandon Jordan**

Executive Editor: **Christina Cardona**

Managing Editor: **Candice Samuels**

Managing Editor: **Phil Vallone**

Photo Editor: **Amanda Goldstein**

Social Media Editor: **Yarah Shabana**

Sports Editor: **Albert Roman**

Reporters

Sergio Albarracin

Jake Cohen

Oyin Falana

Aryeh Gelfand

Bianca He

Cheyne Mulligan

Christopher Perez

David Rafailovich

Sara Scheidlinger

Jordi Sevilla

Hans Themistode

Layout/Graphic Design

Devin Lee

Bobby Soohoo

Melisa Tekin

Advisers

Gerald Solomon

Sheryl McCarthy

Gavin McCormick

Phone: 347-450-6054

info@theknightnews.com

Logo by: **Melisa Tekin**

Corrections: In Issue 9, our film review 's headline spelled "Hail, Caesar!" as "Hail Cesar." We regret the errors.

Nick Cannon presents a wild night at QC

YARAH SHABANA

News Reporter

Queens College students and guests joined the cast of MTV's comedy series Wild N' Out at the Kupferberg Center Theater on Sunday, March 13.

Wild N' Out first aired on MTV in 2005. The hip-hop-themed comedy show features various celebrity guest stars including rappers and comedians, who participate in improv games and rap battles.

Rapper and record producer Nick Cannon along with DJ D-Wrek, a regular on the show since season one, were hosts of the sold out show. Various comedians performed stand up routines including Chico Bean, Karlous Miller, Matt Rife, Rip Micheals and DC Young Fly.

This was one of the most successful events of the semester.

"The outcome was spectacular," Ziv Cohen said, treasurer of the Student Association. "We didn't expect to sell more than 1,500 to 1,600 seats [and] ended up selling out!"

The event was a collaboration between QC Student Life and the Kupferberg Center for the Arts. New York Community Bank sponsored the event.

Cohen thanked Student Life, the Kupferberg directors and



PHOTO BY ALBERT ROMAN

Nick Cannon was the host of the sold out Wild 'N Out event at Colden Auditorium on March 13.

the Student Association for their hard work and team efforts.

"We have a pretty diverse student body and we had a great audience. QC is coming in strong, we're being put on the map," junior Nigel Baker, who attended the event, said.

Nick Cannon first took the stage, and made the crowd laugh with his humor. All the comedians heavily incorporated their love for

hip-hop in the sketches.

"The show was amazing. Everything was natural, unique and real hip hop," Anthony Williams, a BMCC student, said.

Wild N' Out's high attendance at QC was one of many events students believed would draw more attention to the college. Kayleen Estevez, a freshman, even had a chance to be on stage with the cast during the

final sketch.

"QC does a good job involving the students in the fun. We're not just sitting there; we're getting on the stage. It was cool to interact with people you thought would be too famous to let you next to them," Estevez said.

The diverse crowd consisted of CUNY and non-CUNY students in addition to QC faculty and staff. Among the audience

were President Felix Matos Rodriguez, Director of Student Life John Andrejack and Associate Director of Student Life Judy Krintz.

"I thought that the audience absolutely loved the event," Andrejack said. "The performers worked very hard to put on a really good show and Jeffrey Rosenstock, executive director of the Kupferberg Center for the Arts, did a great job encouraging students to work with the theater."

The future for upcoming events is looking bright for Queens College.

"Sunday night opened the door for only bigger and better things. From Omarion [at] the beginning of the year to Wild N' Out. QC social life has been nothing short of sensational," Cohen said.

The Wild N' Out cast ended their visit taking pictures with the hardworking members of student association then spending the rest of the night in Astoria, Queens.

yarah@theknightnews.com

QC provides support for veterans and their families

PHIL VALLONE

News Reporter

For veterans and their families at Queens College, the staff at Veteran Student Services wants them to know "we've got your six."

"Got your six," a phrase in the military, means "got your back." It originated during World War I, when fighter pilots would refer to the rear of an airplane. The plane was like a clock and the rear was six o'clock.

Veteran Student Services will unveil their new space at Student Union 320 on March 16. The room previously held the Office of Student Life.

Dennis Torres, veteran outreach specialist at QC and a Marine Corps veteran, said the new office space is symbolic of the commitment between QC and the veteran community.

"QC has shown its unrelenting determination and commitment to all military-related students. Our space gives veterans, military personnel and dependents access for much needed services," Torres said. "Our new office

space symbolizes more than just an individual commitment, it symbolizes a group effort."

The college also received a designation from Victory Media as a military-friendly college. Victory Media is an organization that provides information for service members on civilian careers and education opportunities.

QC works with other military-friendly organizations like the Wounded Warrior Project and Workforce One. These relations are fostered and expanded by Torres and the staff at the Veteran Student Services.

In addition, the college provides benefits for veterans attending QC like priority registration for classes.

Many veterans rely on the Montgomery or post-9/11 G.I. Bill for tuition and cost-of-living allowances. But their dependents might pay for tuition themselves. For these situations, QC allows a bill deferment that allows for service members and their dependent to defer their tuition payment to the end of the semester.

"I encourage all veterans

and their family members to speak with me prior to registering for their upcoming semesters coursework," Noelle Crumlish, veteran academic adviser at QC, said. "If a veteran registers for a class that is not required by their department and is audited, the Veterans Administration may require the course be paid for out of pocket."

Torres provides additional career service support for veterans. He posts job listings at military-friendly companies on the QC Veterans Facebook group and reviews resumes from veterans.

Crumlish praised Torres' ability to help veterans on campus with any problems that come up.

"Dennis has worked with QC administrators and his own personal contacts to provide assistance in job placement, apartment hunting and homeless services," Crumlish said.

She also explained that Torres convinced QC's administration to add more benefits for veterans when coming from the military.

"Dennis was instrumental in the [QC] administration's

recognition of the joint military transcript for veterans which allows their military experience and training to be transferred over to college credit," Crumlish said.

Moreover, the Veterans Support Service worked with the Veterans Club to bring retired Army Colonel Gregory Gadson on campus last semester. The event raised awareness on sacrifices made by armed services as well as overcoming obstacles.

This semester, both groups seek to work with Mission Continues, a non-profit organization helping veterans transition to a life at home by working in their community.

Torres highlighted how the Veterans Support Service would continue to offer more not only for veterans, but also for the community.

"The Veterans Support Service believes in fostering a sense of communication and community amongst its students. We work with various local veterans service organizations in order to build a bridge between service members and their



Rally calls for investment in CUNY

BRANDON JORDAN

News Reporter

Students, professors, activists, religious organizations and labor groups rallied in front of Governor Andrew Cuomo's New York City office March 10 to demand funding for CUNY.

The rally featured the CUNY Rising Alliance that included over 20 organizations, including the Professional Staff Congress, which represents all professors and staff, and New York Public Interest Research Group, the largest student-activist group in the state.

"We're in a state of emergency," Zakiyah Ansari, advocacy director of the Alliance for Quality Education, said.

Earlier this year, Cuomo announced his Executive Budget that cut \$485 million in funding for CUNY and passed it to the city. Many—including CUNY administrators—are concerned about these cuts affecting the university system.

Speakers called on the Democratic governor to restore funding for CUNY ahead of the finalized budget deal on April 1. If not, they warned it would cause significant problems for New York City's future.

Alexandros Hatzakis, chief of administration and executive affairs of The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, said CUNY helped people like him. As an alum of Baruch College, he urged the state to invest more in the institution.

"It's clear that there is a strong voice to be heard. A voice that carries the message that CUNY in our city is important. That it's critical; it's vital for the lifeblood of our city," Hatzakis



PHOTO BY BRANDON JORDAN

The CUNY Rising Alliance included many organizations like the New York Public Interest Group, District Council 37 and Professional Staff Congress.

said.

Sheldon Edwards, a 12th-grade student from Brooklyn High School for Leadership and Community Service, said he was arrested twice and felt his "life was over" after going to Rikers Island.

But Edwards decided to go school with a support system that included a foster home and teachers interested in helping him. He explained that this made him want an education system requiring support for people like him.

"If Governor Cuomo supports an increase in CUNY, it will reflect in the success of New York City's youth," Edwards said. "But if Governor Cuomo does not invest in CUNY, it will be a slap in the face of the under-privileged college students."

Tiffany Brown, a higher education project coordinator with the NYPIRG, highlighted that CUNY required more funding to continue educating youths.

"I think the CUNY system needs to be protected, and we need to preserve its integrity," she said.

Brown felt disappointed with Cuomo's cut for CUNY in the Executive Budget.

"It's disheartening to see him undermining CUNY," Brown said.

Leandro Seligmann, a junior at Queens College, marched alongside others at the rally. He carried a sign advocating for a \$15 minimum wage, an issue some speakers at the rally brought up too.

"We also got to address

income inequality and minimum wage [here at the rally]," he said. Seligmann found it strange the state—despite a surplus in the state budget of \$1 billion—would not help provide more funds for CUNY.

"What really bothers me is that the state's budget has a surplus, and it collected more tax money than last year. Still, it wants to defund CUNY [even though] it has collected more money," Seligmann said.

After the rally, groups mobilized at the Community Church of New York where other speakers continued discussion on funding for CUNY.

Barbara Bowen, president of the PSC, said more actions will happen if cuts are still on the table. She highlighted Occupy Wall

Street and Black Lives Matter as examples of where activists challenged officials to act on major issues.

"We're in a moment when movements are starting to be built," she said.

Bowen elaborated that, if funding is not restored for CUNY, then the PSC will demonstrate in front of the Governor's office on March 24. She said the union was prepared for arrests.

"We have to send a message. It will be a non-violent message, but it will be a militant and strong message," Bowen said.

brandon@theknightnews.com

A reverse transfer system set for CUNY

SERGIO ALBARRACIN

News Reporter

Chancellor James Milliken announced last month a new program allowing transfer students to finish their associate's degree as they work toward a bachelor's degree at a senior college.

The program encourages transfer students to senior colleges at CUNY, while helping students remain academically competitive. This is a reverse transfer as, once the required credits are reached, students receive an associate's degree from their previous community college.

"We know that many students transfer to senior colleges before earning associate degrees,

and we want to do everything we can to give our students every credential they've earned and give them an advantage in the marketplace," Milliken said. "The associate's degree can also advance their careers, studies and earning power."

In 2014, the Department of Education published a study finding people with an associate's degree make nearly \$10,000 more than those with a high school diploma. This makes the degree valuable for students, especially for those in the CUNY system.

Ivelisse Rosario-Natal, a transfer adviser at Queens College, sympathized with students looking to get their degrees to secure jobs

in the future.

Rosario-Natal said reverse transfers could help thousands of students, even some she knows. "You just started here, and you're already thinking about your job," Rosario-Natal said. "The fact that you have an associate's, while working on a bachelor's makes you more marketable in the work environment,"

Chumwo Lin, 27, is a sophomore at QC that transferred from LaGuardia Community College last year. Today he is a full-time student majoring in East Asian studies, and enjoys the education he receives.

"The lectures are higher quality here," Lin said.

Lin transferred after his daily commute to class interfered with his job. It became necessary for him to do so—he pays for tuition without any financial aid.

Lin believed the new program would create a safeguard for transfer students in case anything happens to them.

"The program will allow you to stay enrolled in case you have to drop classes and start working," Lin said.

No timeline for the program exists, and specifics regarding its implementation are still pending. But Milliken views the initiative as beneficial for thousands of students in the CUNY system.

"Because CUNY is an

integrated university, we can support students who choose to pursue baccalaureate studies, while assuring they get the valuable associate's degree that first attracted them to the university," Milliken said.

sergio@theknightnews.com

Students talk about their study abroad experiences

BIANCA HE

News Reporter

Queens College students have the opportunity to take part of the college's study abroad program, where anyone can travel and study in different parts of the world.

The Education Abroad Office offers a wide range of choices. Students can join programs that last a month, a semester or an entire academic year.

The college signed agreements with universities across the world—like in Europe and the Middle East—to encourage students to experience different cultures.

Three QC students shared their study abroad experiences. All expressed satisfaction, but not without times of difficulties.

Carlsky Belizaire is a QC alum that graduated last year. He now teaches English in Taiwan as part of the U.S. government's Fulbright Scholar Program.

Before that, in his senior year, he decided to study in Peru for three weeks. Apart from making new friends and gaining valuable memories, Belizaire recognized the trip's importance in shaping his opinion about the world.

"People around the world have different traditions, values and ways of doing things," Belizaire said. "It is always thrilling to learn from these people, and I think doing so has expanded my



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARLSKY BELIZAIRE
Carlsky Belizaire, a QC alum, went to Peru as part of Queens College's study abroad program. Other places students can go include Japan, Italy and France.

worldview."

Belizaire traveled to Japan and China before going to Peru. But he wanted to explore the world even more.

"The memories you make abroad are priceless," Belizaire said.

Excitement from traveling to a foreign land is only part of the story. Some students use the trip to plan their future. The experience abroad makes many students view their capabilities from a new perspective.

Virginia Lee, a junior

majoring in textiles and apparel, is now studying at the Florence University of the Arts in Italy. This is the first time she is living away from her parents in New York.

"The most difficult thing for me was making friends," Lee said. "FUA doesn't have a campus. I just didn't expect it to be so difficult to meet people."

There are expenses when studying abroad, and it is sometimes a problem for anyone interested in traveling. But the Education Abroad Office offers scholarships and grants to cover

travel and tuition fees. Lee received a scholarship for her trip to Italy.

Cindy Yam, a senior majoring in nutrition and dietetics, talked about how her six-week program in South Korea helped her reshape her choice of career. Instead of continuing her program in nutrition and dietetics, she is now exploring the opportunity of being an English teacher in a foreign country.

But there are times where students face hardships that they would not experience at home.

For Yam, besides being at

a different comfort level when getting to know new people and culture, she felt the language barrier while in South Korea.

"It was difficult when they asked you questions and you didn't understand. They looked at me and spoke Korean. It was very stressful because I didn't know what to say," Yam said.

Yam saved money for her study abroad trip, but said the trip was worth it.

"It's not really about the expense," Yam said. "Yes, money does play a factor, but, when you work overtime, you save money and you are able to go."

bianca@theknightnews.com

Undocumented, unapologetic and unafraid

CHRISTOPHER PEREZ

News Reporter

Queens College's DREAM Team held their fourth annual UndocuMic on March 9 where undocumented students used performance art to talk about their hardships.

There were 11 performances, and they ranged from poetry to dance. Yet all who performed wanted to talk about the experience of being an undocumented immigrant in the United States.

A report released in January by the Center for Migration Studies found there are nearly 11 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S.

The DREAM Team, a club of undocumented students and supporters, holds the event every year at the Agora Cafe in the Student Union. Kevin Guzman, a senior and co-founder of the DREAM Team, said the event offered a valuable opportunity for undocumented students to talk

about their status.

"It's a platform to get everybody's emotions and voice out and heard by the community," Guzman said.

Priscilla Lee, a senior majoring in urban studies, was one performer. She talked about coming out as undocumented.

"I actually came out two years ago, and it was because of the DREAM Team," Lee said. "It was amazing."

Lee stressed it is important to find a purpose in life and being undocumented helped her find that.

"Being undocumented taught me there is a reason for everything and there's a reason why you're here," Lee said.

Giovanna Quilapanta, a senior, showed her life story through a slideshow. She told the audience that, despite the challenges she faced as undocumented, she is still

a person.

"I am more than a word. I am a human being," Quilapanta said.

Quilapanta also highlighted different issues and people. She compared New York and South Carolina's diversity. She talked about President Barack Obama and her work ethic. She explained changes made to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, which provides a work permit and deportation exemption for undocumented students if they arrived to U.S. before turning 16.

Once her presentation was over, Quilapanta received applause not only from the audience, but also from fellow performers.

"One thing that will stick in my mind and, that I was very shocked by, was Giovanna's performance. She pulled out her presentation, and she explained our T-shirt—'Coming Out of the

Shadows'—word for word," Lee said. "That was amazing."

Another performer, Dulce Hernandez, a junior majoring in graphic design major, read a poem about her family, struggle and the definition of undocumented.

"It is necessary to promote awareness to other people who don't have any knowledge about what being an immigrant means, or the struggle people are going through," Hernandez said.

Lee said there still existed a lot of problems for undocumented people in communities, but felt glad an event like UndocuMic existed to connect the two.

"There are a lot of issues that impact our community and one of them is undocumented immigrants. People have stereotypes about immigrants and they don't know who they are, or what their story is. UndocuMic is a way to break the vices. So people

see who these immigrants, that they think are bad, really are," Lee said.

christopher@theknightnews.com



Louis Armstrong's wonderful world in Queens

CHEYNA MULLIGAN

News Reporter

The Louis Armstrong House Museum welcomes everyone in for a personal tour of his life and accomplishments at the house he shared with his wife, Lucille, in Corona.

Personal written letters, videos and other trinkets are found throughout the museum. The main entrance consists of souvenirs of mugs, postcards, T-shirts and albums.

The jazz icon made a tremendous impact on the world, especially in Queens. Armstrong took care of local residences' mortgages, the neighborhood's college and gave money to those who needed it most.

In Lucille Armstrong's will, she requested that their home would turn into a museum so everyone could gain access and intimacy to how they lived. She considered this as a way to carry his legacy. No other family lived in the household after them and nothing changed.

In 1988, the Armstrong house was declared a New York City historical landmark. Queens College pushed for the house as a landmark and helped open it to the community by providing additional funding. In fact, there are archives by Louis Armstrong at Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library.

Certain streets and schools are named after Louis Armstrong. Tour guides provide evidence like personal photos and autobiographies written by Armstrong himself.

Before the commencement of the tour, a short video is presented. It contains a mini-biography and preview of the tour for visitors.

Tour groups are preferably small, because of the valuables in the house. Hyland Harris, an assistant at the museum, said many people come to admire Armstrong's legacy.

"A lot of foreigners come here just for the museum. [They come from] places like Europe, Africa, South America and Australia. A tour group from Japan is coming later. I think the trip is worth it," Harris said.

Harris is a fan of Armstrong's work and loves sharing his passion for the jazz artist.

"Personally, I was always a fan of Armstrong before I worked here. Not only for his incredible talent, but also for his down-to-Earth personality. I love being able to share his story with people, especially those who travel just to see what I see in him," Harris said.

Rooms like the kitchen and



PHOTO COURTESY OF LOUIS ARMSTRONG HOUSE MUSEUM
Louis Armstrong, a legendary jazz musician, poses next to a painting of him.



PHOTO BY CHEYNA MULLIGAN
At Louis Armstrong House Museum, visitors can find valuable treasures like Armstrong's trumpet.

bathrooms are customized for the Armstrongs. The most expensive room of the house, the bathroom, is made out of solid gold.

Along with a walk through

the basement, first and second floors of the house, visitors are permitted to enter the garden.

Every year on Louis Armstrong's birthday, Aug. 4, a party is held

there in his honor, and the whole neighborhood celebrates his legacy.

Marcela Cardona, a sophomore at Borough of

Manhattan Community College, encouraged not only museumgoers, but also everyone to pay a visit.

"As a regular museumgoer, I haven't experienced a trip like this before. I felt as if I got more than what I paid for. I didn't know much about Louis Armstrong, but I'm glad I do now. I'm from Corona as well, and I'm proud to be so close to an individual who has done so much for humanity," Cardona said.

The museum will provide free admission for all CUNY students that provide a valid ID. Each ID provides entry for up to two guests. It is in honor of Jazz Appreciation Month in April.

cheyna@theknightnews.com

Play highlights failed relationships and absence of God

CHRISTINA CARDONA

News Reporter

The Queens College Department of Drama, Theatre & Dance performed Stephen Adly Guirgis' "Our Lady of 121st Street" on Feb. 18 at The Performance Space, M11, in Rathaus Hall.

Directed by theater professor Claudia Feldstein, the dark comedy, set on 121st Street in Manhattan, focused on the death of nun and community activist Sister Rose and how it affected the people who loved her.

"Almost all of the characters made huge mistakes and struggle to move forward. They are all looking to connect with someone or to be at peace with themselves," Feldstein said.

The set was divided into three sections. The section on the left showed an open casket in the Ortiz Funeral Room, where Sister Rose's funeral took place. The middle section was inside a church, focused on a confessional. The right side was a bar.

The absence of God is a major theme of the play, especially when something horrible can happen to someone so loved. In this case, it is Sister Rose.

But Sister Rose's body is stolen, and a detective named Balthazar, played by senior and drama major Liam Brennan, tries to find the missing body.

Moreover, failed relationships are a theme in the play too. Not only romantic relationships, but also sibling relationships.

Edwin and Pinky, brothers, struggle with issues, like the death



PHOTO BY CHRISTINA CARDONA

"Our Lady of 121st Street" portrays scared, troubled characters of a Manhattan community, who come together for the wake of the beloved nun, Sister Rose.

of their parents. Pinky is mental disabled, while Edwin struggles to take care of Pinky.

Pinky, played by senior Marlon Moncrieffe, a drama major, felt a special connection with Sister Rose, whom helped him study and avoid special education school.

Moncrieffe stressed he did not want to make a stereotype of mentally disabled people; he just wanted to bring out the human being in Pinky.

Rina Dutta, assistant director and also a senior majoring in drama, said her favorite part of the

play involved Inez and Rooftop, a married couple. Rooftop slept with Norca, Inez's friend, and this made Inez mad as her heart turned into a "motherf---ing burnt-out graveyard."

"It was so raw, natural and beautiful, but spoken with curse words. In that section of the play, cursing didn't seem like another way to express anger, it brought up the deepest emotions all of these characters are experiencing," Dutta said.

Marcia, Sister Rose's niece, played by junior Eleni Rosenboom, an Art Education

major, is a neurotic woman in her 30s. She was closely tied to the nun, but does not see her—and Marcia's mother—in the same light as everyone else as they were alcoholics.

"[Marcia is] very high strung, but is also looking for someone to save her," Rosenboom said. "It was hard to make her a well-rounded, real human. So that just took a lot of dissecting the text and letting the text do the job for me."

Guirgis saw the show, along with three original actors from the New York City production.

Leeanna Zayas, who played Norca, is the daughter of David and Liza Zayas, two of the original cast mates. Leeanna Zayas invited all four to attend.

Feldstein felt nervous about Guirgis' reaction to the play, but she was glad when he enjoyed it as he found new things after seeing the play.

"It was cool because he actually told me that Marcia was influenced by his sister, and he said that, when he saw me up there, he saw his sister," Rosenboom said. Feldstein thought the cast and crew were dedicated and talented, and every character got a chance to reveal what's in their heart.

"All of these characters with unresolved issues come together and at the fingertips can be healed by each other and by different forces, but the play ends unresolved, the way life would," Rosenboom said. "A lot of times relationships don't get fixed and people don't run off together and have a happy ending. The body is never found, half it is found, and this just leaves that emptiness. It's a good depiction of life, real life."

christina@theknightnews.com



The Knight News x **Dark Horse**

presents

**WRITE POLITICAL MESSAGES,
WIN CASH MONEY**



- 4 entries limit per QC student
- short, up to 5 words count per entry, funnier the better
- contest open from 3/15/2016 - 3/29/2016
- best liberal and best conservative messages each wins \$100
- winning messages will be posted on www.darkhorsegame.com

use your QC email and submit entries to
darkhorsegame16@gmail.com

LEADERSHIP IS FOR EVERYONE

JOSE ANTONIO VARGAS

Director of "Documented," a documentary about being undocumented in America and MTV's "White People"

THE HARSH REALTY OF BEING

UNDOCUMENTED

IN AMERICA

"Illegals are an economic calamity for low-wage Americans." - Ted Cruz

"Half of the undocumented residents in America are criminals." - Donald Trump

"Do I look illegal?" - Jose Antonio Vargas

DETAILS

Wed | 04.13.16

During Free Hour

QC Library Rosenthal 230

RSVP

Claim your QC Google account at gdrive.qc.cuny.edu
then RSVP at <http://goo.gl/forms/0xDM5belZx>



REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED BY



CUNY recognized for military friendliness

JORDI SEVILLA

News Reporter

On Feb. 23 Victory Media announced that CUNY is the first public university system of undergraduate colleges to be designated as "military friendly."

Victory Media is a major player in connecting the military and civilian worlds. Its military friendly designation provides military members and their families with data driven ratings about post-military education and career opportunities.

17 CUNY Schools, including Queens College, were awarded the 2016 military friendly School title for their efforts in aiding Veterans during their time in school and post-graduation. The Veterans Support Services at QC helps veterans seeking an education.

"I'm very pleased that the number of military friendly campuses has expanded from seven last year to seventeen this year,"

Chancellor James B. Milliken said. "CUNY colleges are providing these deserving men and women with the education and skills they need to pursue careers."

Located in the Student Union, the office of Veterans Support Services offers assistance to veterans in terms of class selection, receiving military benefits and preparing for a career after college.

"I think it's difficult for them in a sense that they're transitioning from the military to a totally different environment," Veterans Affairs Certifying official Lorraine Rosenfeld said.

For 12 years, Rosenfeld communicates the VA benefits and certify the veterans' enrollment to the VA so they can receive their benefits.

"For me, military friendly means that the administration leadership all have a commitment to the veterans on this campus.

They all think of the veterans when it comes to certain policies, certain spaces, providing a lot of incentives and making us a priority on campus" Dennis Torres, Marine Corps veteran and Veteran Outreach Specialist, said.

Torres has been a Veterans Outreach Specialist with Veterans Support Services eight months and helps veterans to prepare resumes and reconnect to the civilian world.

"You welcome veterans; you provide certain services for them. It means to be as helpful as possible," Rosenfeld said

An important goal for the Veterans support services is to help veterans realize what skills they possess after leaving their careers in the military.

A veteran infantryman has transferable skills such as leadership, time management and conflict resolution. Veterans who have been deployed to Iraq and

Afghanistan are sources of cultural comprehension.

"They're coming from a very structured environment in the military where they are told what to do every single minute of the day," Rosenfeld said. "They've experienced things that the rest of student body hasn't and can't even imagine experiencing."

Another issue veterans face is stereotyping. Worried about the risk of violent attacks caused by PTSD, some employers are discouraged from hiring veterans. "Those are the barriers we're trying to break down," Torres said.

Torres hopes to see QC and CUNY increase veteran enrollment, become more inclusive of the veteran community and provide whatever services necessary to ensure barriers to success are minimal.

"Overall, the number is increasing, that's one of our strategic goals for QC, increasing

the veteran diversity on campus, and helping out with the graduation rates. If you come here for school, you've got to leave here with a diploma," Torres says.

jordi@theknightnews.com

THE QUEENS COLLEGE WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES PROGRAM

presents

THE VIRGINIA FRESE PALMER CONFERENCE
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2016

Women, Gender & Politics

MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2016 • 9 AM-2:30 PM
QUEENS COLLEGE STUDENT UNION, 4th FLOOR

9 AM-12:30 PM PANEL DISCUSSION

Introduction by Borough President Melinda Katz



KIRA SANBONMATSU is Professor of Political Science and Senior Scholar at the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) at the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University. Her books include *More Women Can Run: Gender and Pathways to the State Legislatures* and *Democrats, Republicans, and the Politics of Women's Place*.



REBECCA SYMES is currently General Counsel for Dixon Advisory USA. Previously she was Counsel & Director of Constituent Affairs for Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, managing services for municipalities, businesses, and households across the state. She also has worked as an attorney with Housing Conservation Coordinators, a community-based nonprofit.



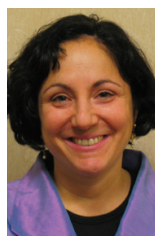
INEZ BARRON was elected to the NYC Council in 2013, after five years in the New York State Assembly. Councilwoman Barron has worked actively against civil and human injustices and has promoted issues ranging from public health to affordable rents. She also has had a long career in education, both in the classroom and in administration.



ZAHRA' LANGHI is Co-founder and Director of the Libyan Women's Platform for Peace. She was described by *The Guardian* as one of "seven women to watch in global politics." In conjunction with the U.N. Women, she coordinated the Libyan Women's Political Empowerment (LWPE) program, aimed at empowering women to become active participants and leaders of political, economic, and social reforms.



NICHOLA GUTGOLD is a Professor of Communication Arts and Sciences at Penn State. Her books include *The Rhetoric of Supreme Court Women: From Obstacles to Options*, *Almost Madam President: Why Hillary Clinton "Won" in 2008*, *Paving the Way for Madam President*, and *Gender and the American Presidency*.



LENORA LAPIDUS is Director of the Women's Rights Project at the American Civil Liberties Union. She litigates gender discrimination cases in federal and state courts, engages in public policy advocacy, and participates in international human rights mechanisms. Her work focuses on economic justice, educational equity, and ending violence against women.



CAROLYN MALONEY was elected to Congress in 1992. She is the first woman to represent New York's 12th Congressional District. A champion of women's issues, Representative Maloney helped pass legislation that targets the "demand" side of sex trafficking; provides annual mammograms for women on Medicare; and provides funding to process DNA rape kits, termed "the most important anti-rape legislation in history."

Also featuring Queens College students:

Viktoria Isakova

Fawzia Samadi

Shanie Reichman

Kehinde Akande

12:30-2:30 PM COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH

For lunch, RSVP to joyce.warren@qc.cuny.edu or 718-997-3098



REVIEWS

Kosher sushi a hit at Sushi Tokyo

JAKE COHEN

News Reporter

A great sushi meal can provide a lesson on how to approach life and cuisine. Such simple ingredients, done with care, provide the highest level of excellence.

Sushi Tokyo, located near Queens College at 67-25 Main Street, is an authentic sushi experience—including its kosher items.

Other sushi restaurants feature electronic music that ruins the experience, but not Sushi Tokyo. Moreover, aside from shellfish, all the important parts to a great sushi meal make up what is kosher.

Emanuel Israel is a server at Sushi Tokyo, and enjoys working there. What's his recommended dish for customers? The black pepper tuna.

"Customers leave saying that was the best sushi," Israel said.

Israel explained it was difficult to notice a difference in kosher sushi versus non-kosher sushi.

"Aside from no shellfish, it tastes the same," Israel said.

Sushi Tokyo offers fish-served nigiri style, which is individual slices of fish molded onto an oval of cooked vinegar rice.

Eating a few assorted pieces nigiri style gives anyone a good indication of the quality of a sushi restaurant. It includes the two



PHOTO BY JAKE COHEN

For Queens College students interested in sushi, Sushi Tokyo is a convenient choice. It's located at 67-25 Main Street.

most important staples on the menu—the rice and the fish.

The rice was fresh and the fish was not cold. The surprise of the meal was the smoked tuna with its rich, smoky flavor and oily like lox, a kind of salmon usually mixed with cream cheese on a bagel.

The sushi portion of the meal was reasonably priced at

\$11.95, not including the 15 percent discount CUNY students receive during lunch hours.

The sushi was fantastic. But not so much for the dessert. While not awful, mediocrity never won anyone a medal.

The fried ice cream with its decent tempura batter crust was not as bad as its \$8.95 price tag.

Aside from that, the salmon,

tuna, striped bass, smoked tuna and yellow tail are among the choices of fish at Sushi Tokyo. This gives anyone an incentive to come back and try other types of fish.

Jonathan Ross, a Flushing native and sushi enthusiast, swears by the Coney roll that is spicy salmon, avocado and spicy kani or crab meat. He lists Sushi Tokyo among his regular spots in his

takeout rotation.

Ross did not eat sushi for months because his wife was pregnant and could not eat any. Now, he is celebrating both his child and ability to eat sushi again.

"I'm happy to have a newborn baby," Ross said. "And eating sushi again."

When opening up the menu at Sushi Tokyo, the restaurant vows to bring "unsurpassed" sushi to the kosher market. Based on the reaction of customers and its delicious sushi, the restaurant is doing well in that mission.

Kosher and non-kosher sushi fans alike will enjoy Sushi Tokyo. Just don't ask for any soft shell crab or sea urchin.

jake@theknightnews.com

Fashion show focuses on body positivity and anorexia

OYIN FALANA

News Reporter

Eighteen models prepared to walk down a runway at Student Union ballroom for Delta Phi Epsilon's fifth annual "Comfortable in Your Genes Fashion Show" for eating disorder awareness on March 8.

It was also a fundraiser for the National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders. ANAD is a non-profit group that spreads awareness of anorexia and supports those struggling with eating disorders.

Nearly 30 million people in the United States suffer from an eating disorder, according to ANAD.

Delta Phi Epsilon also created a video that included all sorority members saying what they

loved about themselves.

Maclynn Kornreich, president of Delta Phi Epsilon, explained there were misconceptions about anorexia. For one, the illness affects everyone.

"It affects not only females, but also males as well," Kornreich said.

Lizz Iannarelli, a member of the sorority, also said eating disorders were not well understood in society.

"People often think it's just people that are being down on their bodies and being negative, but it is a mental illness," she said.

Iannarelli helped organize the event, and enjoyed others assisting her in creating the show.

"I've been planning this for like two months. It's definitely

a process setting up for an event like this because it's big and a lot of people know us for this, alum too," Iannarelli said. "It was fun to plan. It's cool when you hold an event and people actually care about the cause."

Alessandra Gluf, one model involved with the show, said the entire event highlighted an important issue.

"It's for a good cause, I know a few people that have anorexia, so I did it for them." Gluf said.

Kornreich felt proud with not only the students in attendance, but also organizations that were present like Phi Sigma Sigma and Gamma Omega Delta. Students from Queens College came out in large numbers to support the sisters of Delta Phi Epsilon.

"What made today more different is that we had more organizations found on campus come, contribute and support us," Kornreich said.

Tiff Catalano, a senior, said there was a good turnout of people at the fashion show.

"I came to show my support for Delta Phi Epsilon, and also to help bring awareness to eating disorders," Catalano said. "Delta Phi Epsilon did a fantastic job hosting this event and I cannot wait to see what is in store next year."

Kornreich wants the following year's fashion show "bigger and better." But for now, she is glad the event raised money for ANAD.

"Our goal every semester is to fundraise \$1,000 for the charity

minimum, and I definitely think we did," Kornreich said.

oyinkansola@theknightnews.com

REVIEWS

“The Witch” casts audiences under a spell

DAVID RAFILOVICH

News Reporter

“The Witch” is a new, original horror film sure to get under the skin of audiences and scare them too.

Despite containing many common tropes of sub-par witchcraft horror movies, the film separates itself as a heart-wrenching family drama only heightened by the supernatural.

The film also features an incredible amount of intricate design in both the set and historical information put in the story. The care is clearly shown through the dedication of director Robert Eggers, who researched Puritan folk mythology for four years before making the film.

The movie even uses real dialogue taken from journals and accounts of exorcisms from the 16th and 17th century. The research and design gives viewers the sense of being present in a world in which the beliefs and superstitions of the characters are real.

“The Witch” begins when a Puritan family is exiled from their community for their patriarch’s sin of “prideful conceit” or arrogance. William, played by Ralph Ineson, is a strong-willed and good-hearted father with a booming voice and a passing resemblance to the popular depictions of Jesus. The mother, Katherine, played by Kate Dickie, is a plain-faced woman.

After banished from their town, they, along with their five



PHOTO COURTESY OF A24

Robert Eggers’ “The Witch” is a supernatural horror film set in colonial times that shows the evil depiction of human nature.

children, start a new life in the forest.

Not long after their arrival, the eldest daughter, a fair-haired teenage girl named Thomasin, played by Anya Taylor-Joy, plays peek-a-boo with her baby brother, Samson, until a sinister power comes into play.

When Thomasin opens her hands once, she sees the giggling child. But, by the third time she uncovers her eyes, the cheerful infant is gone. Though only known to the audience, a witch

kidnaps and kills the child.

To add to the despair of losing a child, the family risks starvation as their crops fail and winter nears. The central drama comes from how the family deals with the tragedy of Samson.

The effective part of this film comes from its realistic portrayal of family life in both quieter, happier moments and unsparing depictions of grief. The family in the film is timeless. The siblings fight just like children do today, using old-English versions of “I’m

going to tell mom” and teasing the younger ones.

Another element that separates this film from other horror films is the thoughtful shot composition, cinematography and directing. The film uses traditional scare tactics, like close up shots when something jumps out from beyond the frame.

Yet these standard tricks do not detract from the quality of the film. The directing technique that elevates this film transforms shocking moments from sudden,

intense and engrossing action into a stunningly composed scene of gore.

The camera pulls back, revealing the aftermath of the horror in a way that few films bother to do, heightening the perception of terror by its results. The conscious choice to see the scene from an objective angle after being so enthralled may remove the initial intensity, but allows dread to sink in.

“The Witch” is so terrifying, not because of its depiction of evil witches, but its evil depiction of human nature.

david@theknightnews.com

Have an opinion on a story we write?

Want to send us a story tip?

Want to send an op-ed?

Email us at info@theknightnews.com



One donation can save a life

SARA SCHEIDLINGER

News Reporter

Sami, a seven-year-old girl, lives with Fanconi Anemia, a blood disorder that affects one out of 350,000 people.

If left untreated, it may cause bone marrow failure and some forms of cancer.

Sami needs a bone marrow transplant from someone, but cannot find a donor.

However, the Gift of Life Bone Marrow Foundation, along with MedLife at Queens College, organized a bone marrow drive at Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library on Feb. 24. The goal was to collect as many cheek swabs as possible from students and professors to find a match for Sami and many others in need of a transplant.

Akiva Raskind and Tami Liebman, two campus ambassadors for Gift of Life at QC, are in charge of organizing bone marrow drives not only at QC, but also throughout Queens.

"How many opportunities in your lifetime do you have to save someone's life? The campus ambassador program is an opportunity of many lifetimes," Raskind said.

The two explained that, to join the Gift of Life's registry, people can fill out a registration form. Afterward, they receive four large Q-tips to swab saliva from their mouth. Finally, the Q-tips are stored in an envelope for testing and additional medical questions are asked.

"Anybody can join the registry, it's so easy," Liebman

said. "If you end up donating in the future, then that's the greatest miracle. So why not [donate]?"

When a match is found, a representative from Gift of Life contacts the person to donate their bone marrow. If the person agrees, then the organization pays for expenses for the bone marrow transplant, including the hospital bills. Recovering from a bone marrow transplant takes a few weeks.

But Raskind explained this is not the only way to help. He said there were other opportunities too, like volunteering.

"Informing others of the truth is just as valuable as donating" said Raskind.

At the past bone marrow drive, Raskind and Liebman processed 149 people who will

remain in the registry until turning 60. The organization does not accept donations from people older than 60.

As one example of the donation drive's potential, the Gift of Life informed Raskind and Liebman that a person who swabbed at an event in November was a match for a 67-year-old woman battling Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, a form of cancer.

The news excited the two. Raskind and Liebman said they feel blessed to be in the Gift of Life community.

"They want you there, not even for the extra help, they really just want you there," Liebman said. "Once you are a part of the Gift of Life family, you are always a part of the family, for life."

There is still no donor for

Sami, but Raskind and Liebman are committed to finding one through more events in Queens. For example, they have an upcoming drive in March called Match Madness where they will reach out to as many students as possible to find a donor.

sara@theknightnews.com

Meet Uche Nduka, a professor connecting art and life

ARYEH GELFAND

News Reporter

From the time Uche Nduka grew up in Nigeria, he always felt imaginative. This, along with an appetite for literature, led him toward a career in writing.

Now he is an English professor at Queens College and believes an artist's life should reflect his work.

"From the moment I wake up in the morning, I leave myself open for inspirational things to come to me," Nduka said.

Nduka draws inspiration from everything. His thoughts, dreams and conversations are eventually written down.

"You, as an artist, are a vessel through which things come. It's not all the time you decide what to write about. People think you have to write about politics, about dictators, about religious fundamentalist [and] about crises," Nduka said. "I feel as a human being, I am open to the heritage of humanity, and that means I can also write about pleasure, joy and beauty."

Nduka wrote poetry books like *Flower Child*, released in 1988, and *Ijele*, released in 2012. He also won awards like the Association of Nigerian Authors Poetry Prize in 1997.

During his career, communities of artists have always supported him. He is friends with playwrights, songwriters, musicians, poets and filmmakers.

In Nigerian literature, writers like Chinua Achebe wrote to protest a corrupt and oppressive military government. But Nduka refused to write about them. He does not believe art should preach.



PHOTO BY THE POETRY FOUNDATION

English Professor Uche Nduka connects everyday experiences to art and his creative process.

Rather, it should share discoveries with other people.

In 1994, Nduka left Nigeria and traveled to Germany for a fellowship at the Goethe Institute. In 1997, he moved to New York and found a new outlet for his creativity.

Nduka's experience in New York was different than in Germany. In Germany, the art was quiet, reflective and brief. In New York, it was lengthy, brash and colorful.

"As soon as I arrived, I was

kicked awake by New York. I find New York wildly inspirational. There is a high level of artistic energy here. Artists here feel that the environment gives them the ability to reinvent yourself," Nduka said.

Teaching also helps with his creativity.

"I believe that when you are teaching you are learning from those that you are sharing that space with. When you are standing in front of students, ideas tumble out that you didn't even know you

had," he said.

Joshua Lichtman, a senior majoring in international business, took Nduka for a class and felt the professor's ideas on art were connected to his teaching style.

"Professor Nduka takes the creation of art really seriously. I feel creatively challenged, and this has helped me do things I didn't think I could," Lichtman said.

Nduka recommended new artists to think about their work before creating it.

"I would like young people

to focus on the work involved in creating and who they are as individuals. Don't be distracted by the celebrity culture and the materialistic culture of America that wants you to be a saleable product and not someone who speaks from the soul," Nduka said.

aryeh@theknightnews.com

**The undergraduate literary journal of
Queens College**

UTOPIA PARKWAY

Accepting applications 'till April '16

**Share your art, poetry, works of fiction,
non-fiction, drama and academic essays**



**Email Daria@TheKnightNews.com
with submissions**

**UTOPIAPARKWAY
JOURNAL.COM**

OP-EDS

Five Incredible Mindsets To Guide Your Presidential Vote

BY LOUIS TSAI

I'm sitting on a wooden bench in a playground, where kids climb freely on monkey bars, race down metal slides and dance around the swings. It's fascinating to see them play without barriers - they just show up and have fun. These days, adults aren't interested in each other's opinions because they only want to hear what reinforces their views.

In our democracy, elected officials mirror the true nature of people. If we are close-minded, they have a hard time adopting new thinking and handling unfamiliar problems. If we are biased, so is our legislation. If we have a narrow point of view, our leaders see the same way. If we can't empathize, they become self-centered.

To fix our government, we need to open our minds. Here are five ways we can make fundamental changes in the way we think.

1. Upgrade Your Mind

Imagine your mind as a box. If it's dirty, new knowledge is tainted as soon as it enters. In an upside down box, new knowledge can't enter. If the box has holes, new knowledge enters and leaves freely.

Reworking my mind to resist bias, stay focused and welcome new thinking is an ongoing process. It isn't easy, but I believe the key is to listen intently to others, especially when opinions are disagreeable. This creates a culture of respect and helps our leaders in Washington work together to solve problems.

2. Connect More Dots

"A lot of people in our industry haven't had very diverse experiences. So they don't have enough dots to connect, and they end up with very linear solutions without a broad perspective on the problem. The broader one's understanding of the human experience, the better design we will have," Steve Jobs once said to Wired Magazine.

Steve was talking about creativity and design, but his approach to seeing, thinking and connecting the dots is the also the key to gaining new perspectives. We're a long way from sending politicians to the moon, but in the meantime let's discover more unfamiliar experiences and understand each other with greater clarity.

3. Embrace Negative Feedback

"It's very important to actively seek out and listen very carefully to negative feedback. This is something that people tend to avoid because it's painful, but I think this is a very common mistake," Elon Musk said to Foundation Podcast.

If you believe politicians are stuck in their ways, the American public is no different. The only way to evolve is to learn from our mistakes. By inviting criticism and taking it seriously, we can recognize what we can do better and act productively.

4. But Think Positively

In *Thinking, Fast and Slow*, psychologists Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky demonstrate that the choices we make are based often based on the easiest and least painful solutions. We may see ourselves as rational creatures, but reason is actually weak and easily overpowered. Not so great for building an open mind.

Instead, let's make these vulnerabilities work for us. For example, most of us find conflict unpleasant. If the goal is to avoid distress, we can start from a mindset of collaboration to solve problems. When two sides take this position, they tend to feel better and get more things done.

5. Practice Empathy

When you see a homeless person on the streets, we usually don't think about the story behind the circumstance. Likewise, there is a reason behind what people

think and what they do. It's hard to put things into context unless we make a move to empathize.

During your next heated debate, ask yourself a few questions. How did this person arrive at this conclusion? Why do they feel the way they do? Where does my opinion stand with them? Do everything to place yourself in the other person's shoes.

If we change the way we think using these principles, I believe we can create a world where politicians can make arguments without getting nasty, people can accept opposing views and media doesn't sensationalize the truth to create a story. It's hard to imagine and will take a lot of work, but there's no reason we can't make it happen.

Louis Tsai, a product designer, is the creator of Dark Horse, a mobile game designed to foster open mindedness. www.darkhorsegame.com.

On Students for Justice in Palestine

BY SHARON JACKSON

It was the summer of 2014, and I was on Facebook. My news feed looked like a war zone, as I scrolled past image after bloody, depressing image, sickening me, saddening me. Why, during the war in Gaza, did I even bother going on Facebook? Force of habit, I guess. As I am friends with both Jews and Muslims, I could see what others could not see: both sides screaming out in pain, in anger, in helplessness - but neither of them could hear the other. I am in the middle. I always have been, and this is both a blessing and a curse.

The curse is that either side can easily call me a traitor, if I give voice to the Palestinian narrative to someone pro-Israel, or the Israeli narrative to someone pro-Palestinian. But the blessing

is, I can also potentially serve as a bridge. But it is not me who determines whether I am a traitor or a bridge.

It is you. I am Jewish, and I need to confess something: I am scared. I know that pro-Palestinian activism can sometimes cross the line into anti-Semitism. I know that on other campuses with this kind of activism, Jewish students have been threatened.

That day I was on Facebook a year and a half ago, I came across a pro-Palestinian post by one of my friends. I can't remember what she'd written, but it was something to the effect of, "How could anyone possibly side with Israel?" In my comment, I showed empathy for her point of view, and tried to describe what it was

like to grow up in some Jewish communities, reading Jewish newspapers that show Israel as a country whose soldiers go out of their way to avoid killing, who prosecute any Jewish citizens who attack Arab citizens, who allow Arabs in the Israeli Parliament, and so on. I told her, this is one side of the story, but this is the story they know. This is what they've grown up with.

Her reaction was to tell me that I was just making excuses for them, that there is no way you can justify not siding with the Palestinians, that you'd have to be cold-blooded, heartless, inhuman.

A monster. Queens College, for a long time, has been relatively peaceful compared to other campuses when it comes to the Israeli-Palestinian

conflict. But I think it may have been somewhat of a false peace, one of fear of rocking the boat. If students want a chapter of the SJP, but are barred from creating one, then the silence on campus is not healthy.

But if the silence on campus is to be broken, we cannot break it by raising our voices while shutting our ears. If we are unwilling to see the other as human, not monster, if we refuse to listen to the narrative of the other side (and we don't have to agree with it), we will be recreating the war right on our campus.

Yet, as trepidatious as I am, I know that if there is any campus in the world that can host an SJP while still allowing its pro-Israel students to feel safe, it's this one. This one, with its Hillel and MSA

right across the hall from each other. This one, with the Center for Ethnic, Racial & Religious Understanding. This one, with all the interfaith friendships that begin here.

I have faith that the students on this campus can voice their truth without labeling one another. Please, Queens College community - let's do this right.

Sharon Jackson is a writing tutor at the QC Writing Center, as well as a research assistant and intern at the QC Center for Ethnic, Racial & Religious Understanding. She can be reached at sharonjfleischer@gmail.com.

All op-eds are unedited

Send yours to info@theknightnews.com

SPORTS

QC players force head coach removal

HANS THEMISTODE

Sports Reporter

Darryl Jacobs joined Queens College's men's basketball team as head coach in 2013 and no longer led the program Feb. 25.

It was the players on the team that led for his ouster as they vowed to boycott the season's final two games against Roberts Wesleyan and Daemen. Players even refused to practice.

Many players, preferring to remain anonymous, said Jacobs crossed the line several times.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association, the non-profit association in charging of all collegiate athletes program, provides rules for coaches to follow. One rule is that players cannot practice more than 20 hours per week. But Jacobs violated this rule, said the players.

"He [was] always violating the NCAA rules, by going over the practice hours and hadn't given us a day off in 10 days," one player said.

Other violations included placing players at physical harm.

"He held multiple practices when no athletic trainer [was] on duty, so we couldn't get treatment after practice. If someone were to get injured, there is no one on duty to help them, which is an NCAA violation," another player said.

Players also cited that the coaching staff changed every year since Jacobs became head coach.

"He has had a new coaching staff every year, and none of them got along with him. During this season alone, three players quit

the team and, earlier in the season, one of the assistant coaches quit the team as well," one anonymous player said.

"One of our assistant coaches quit because he got into an argument with Jacobs over leadership. He accused Jacobs of not being a good leader and also being lazy," another player said.

Players organized meetings with Jacobs to resolve disputes, but the head coach threatened them.

"If anyone questioned him or said something he didn't like, he threatened that he would 'take away your scholarship,'" a player said.

Players became frustrated with Jacobs' refusal to change. They came together to end it by talking to administrators. Several

players said they brought their concerns to China Jude, assistant vice president of athletics, but were told to keep their mouths shut.

One player voiced his concerns to President Felix Matos Rodriguez.

However, The New York Daily News reported on the incident after players sent their concerns there.

According to the Daily News, Adam Rockman, vice president for Student Affairs, told the team that Jacobs would no longer lead the basketball team. As a result, the players did not forfeit their last two games.

The hardest part for the players was losing their love for basketball, a game they grew up loving.

"The worst part is that a lot

of us started to lose passion for the game and made us not want to play anymore," one of the players said.

Assistant coach David Vandiver took over as interim head coach. The Knights won in their last two games, ending their season with an 11-14 record.

Players felt relieved the conflicts with Jacobs were over. Now they look forward to the next season.

"It's great. I actually feel motivated to play basketball again," a player said.

hans@theknightnews.com

Knights close out historical season

ALBERT ROMAN

Sports Reporter

The women's basketball team made history with a 76-64 victory over Holy Family in the first round of the 2016 NCAA Division II East Regional on March 13 at Bentley University.

It was the team's third appearance and first victory in the NCAA tournament. Junior Madison Rowland scored 31 points, including 20 in the first two quarters, six rebounds, four steals and three blocks.

Head coach Elizabeth Naumovski won 20 games for the third consecutive season.

She felt proud of her team's performance.

"We knew we could do it, but knowing you can do something and actually doing it are two different things. It's easy to get overwhelmed in that moment of being in the NCAA tournament. You're in a position every college and athlete wants to be in," Naumovski said.

Five days before the tournament, the team clinched their second consecutive East Coast Conference Championship after defeating Roberts Wesleyan 60-54.

Madison, along with her sisters Mackenzie and Merrick Rowland, led the Knights to victory. MacKenzie Rowland, a senior, scored 16 points and 19 rebounds. Merrick Rowland, a sophomore, scored 13 points.

"I think being in that game last year where we had to comeback from a 15-18 point



PHOTO COURTESY OF EAST COAST CONFERENCE

The Knights celebrated their second consecutive ECC championship on March 6.

deficit to win the championship helped the confidence. Part of the reason we were able to grind out the win was because we were able to defend. We feel as long as we can defend and rebound, that we have a good chance of winning the game," Naumovski said.

The Knights season lost 77-67 against Bentley in the semifinals of the NCAA Division II East Regional Tournament. The team completed the 2015-16 campaign with a 21-9 record.

For seniors MacKenzie Rowland, Kristen Korzevinski, Elisabeth Gully, Joya McFarlane and Amber Harrison, this was their final game as a Knight. Naumovski said it was a bittersweet moment.

"They have been a key to the growth of the program and the

level of success we've had. After that game it was an emotional goodbye, but they are players I know I'm going to stay in touch with because that is my coaching style," Naumovski said.

Despite the loss, what stood out to the coach was the way they handled their final game.

"Although we were disappointed, they were more proud of their careers and how far they have brought this program. That's exactly what I want them to feel. They don't have any regrets, they've put it all on the floor for four years and more than anything they feel accomplished. So they're leaving on a high note," she said.

Gully felt sad that her career ended, but was also proud of what she accomplished with the team.

"I was very proud to put on my Queens Uniform for one last time. It really has been an honor to be able to represent Queens for the last four years and the fact that I was able to represent QC as a senior in the NCAA tournament is one of my proudest moments," Gully said.

Her favorite part of playing for the team wasn't scoring points or playing in the Madison Square Garden, but the unity of the team. "Definitely the bond I've made with my team. We've become family, and I really don't know what I'd do without them," she said.

Madison Rowland continued her impressive career by completing a strong season leading the ECC by scoring 20.2 points

per game. She led the ECC and the nation in steals with 4.52 per game and almost averaged a near double-double with 9.6 rebounds per game.

Naumovski was impressed by Madison Rowland's accomplishments.

"I do think she's the best player in the conference. She's a great athlete and player, but the thing that makes her special is her ability to lock in and focus in a game and understand what needs to get done. [Madison] just wants to win more than anything," Naumovski said.

Naumovski is optimistic about next season and looks forward to taking the team back into the NCAA.

"I don't think that next year is a rebuilding year, it's a transition year. Madison is back and she is a key part of the team and has the ability to make the [players] around her better. A transition year is more about building chemistry with the new a group a people," she said.

albert@theknightnews.com



KNIGHT NEWS SPORTS

HISTORICAL MARCH TO MADNESS: THE KNIGHTS STRIKE BACK



Junior Madison Rowland (above) leads the Knights to their first NCAA tournament win

SEE PAGE 15

Photo courtesy of John Higgins

Abrupt changes for men's basketball
PAGE 15