



# Scepter

The Students' Voice

Kingsborough Community College

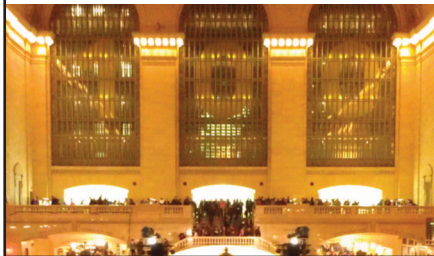
February 2013

The City University of New York

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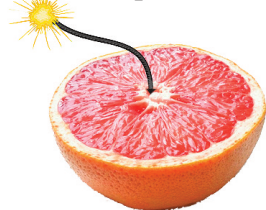
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## Slashing on KCC Bus



**Deprived of a Privilege**

KCC students taking the shuttle bus, now have to walk from the MTA bus stop during these cold mornings of the Winter Module

Photo by DAN SICIGNANO

The new pickup and dropoff stop for the KCC shuttle right next to the MTA bus circle as seen on February 20. The pickup spot was moved off campus following a slashing on the bus earlier this month.

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Write for **Scepter**  
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# Letter from the Editor



Dan Sicignano - Editor-in-Chief

Well, we made it. The six-week crush that was the winter semester is over, we survived the Great Blizzard of 2013 (by the way, it wasn't even a foot of snow that we got here. They got nearly three feet in Boston, so we really can't complain. And what's the deal with naming winter storms now? I refused to call it "Nemo" strictly out of principle), and now we turn our attention to the spring.

Of course it won't start feeling like spring for quite a while, but the spring semester is in fact now under way, and it will be occupying our minds from now until almost mid-June. It sounds overwhelming, but at least you can know that Scepter will be there every step of the way from here on out to give you all of the news you need as a student here at Kingsborough Community College.

This month we will be covering the flu epidemic that has struck the campus, and the region as a whole, along with health news regarding the effects of Red Bull. But we will also be covering entertainment stories, including a recap of the thrilling Super Bowl between the Baltimore Ravens and San Francisco 49ers, an interview with Shari, the daughter of Harry Belafonte, and a story on the 100th anniversary of the famed Grand Central Terminal train station.

This edition will also see the debut of a new travel column intended to help students find interesting and new ideas for vacations during their free time. This month we mention Atlanta as an idea for a relatively cheap and easy spring break destination, and with Scepter travelling to San Francisco for the 29th Annual National College Journalism Convention, we will certainly have stories coming from our time there as well in the coming months.

Finally, obviously the spring semester is going to be a busy time for all students at Kingsborough. It means nonstop studying for the next three plus months, it means a full daily class schedule and not as much free time as we'd like. But with that being said, after a relatively quiet winter, there will be plenty of events taking place on campus. And as such, Scepter needs people to cover those events.

Anyone who wishes to write for Scepter can do so. You don't need any newswriting

experience and we will help you if you are unsure what to do or what to write about. If you wish to have your very own name in this exact paper next month, all you have to do is stop by Student Publications in room M230 and sign up to be a member of Scepter. You can also email me at [danscepter@gmail.com](mailto:danscepter@gmail.com) if you have any questions about what it takes to be a member of Scepter.

Writing for Scepter is extremely easy and will benefit you in a number of ways. If you can prove to be a valued part of our team, you may even get to go on a future trip such as the one to San Francisco we are taking this month (Scepter's next trip will be to New Orleans in the fall, by the way). It will also help you if you have plans for a future in journalism so that you can get the needed press clips to apply for jobs down the line. And overall, it's just really cool to see your name published in black and white.

So to everyone reading, enjoy this issue, good luck, enjoy the spring semester and we hope to see you writing for Scepter in the near future!

*(A special thanks to Sgt. A. Rodriguez and PO I. Szczesny for permitting us to access our computers when the school closed early due to the blizzard. This helped the production of the newspaper in relation to getting it out on time.)*

## Campus Calendar, March 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Broadway Show, Phantom of the Opera	5 Dinner & a Movie, 4pm, Skyfall Commuter Connection 5-7pm, SA Booth	6 KCC Karaoke, 4-6pm	7 Scepter Meeting 3 PM, M230 Welcome Back Party, 6-10pm	8	9
10	11 Period opens to File for June Degree, Returning Student Orient, 1-3pm, CC Lounge	12	13 Club Fair, 2-4pm, U-Cafe	14 Scepter meeting, 3 PM and Journalism Workshop 3:30 PM in M230	15	16
17 KBCC baseball doubleheader vs. Dutchess Community College, 12 PM	18	19	20 Dinner & Dialogue, 4pm	21 Scepter Meeting 3 PM and Journalism Workshop 3:30 PM in M230	22	23
24 Spring Break Starts!  KBCC baseball doubleheader vs. Globe, 12 PM	25 KBCC	26 Spring	27 Break	28 2013!	29 KBCC baseball vs. Borough of Manhattan Community College, 3:30	30 KBCC baseball doubleheader v. Borough Manhattan Com. College, 12 PM

## SCEPTER FACT OF THE MONTH:

Notable alumni of Kingsborough Community College include comedian Andrew Dice Clay, former New York Mets pitcher Pete Falcone and sports radio host Sid Rosenberg.

## Scepter

2001 Oriental Boulevard Room M230  
Brooklyn, NY 11235  
Telephone: 718.368.5603  
Fax: 718.368.4833

Email: [scepter@kingsborough.edu](mailto:scepter@kingsborough.edu)  
[contact@scepternews.com](mailto:contact@scepternews.com)

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Dan Sicignano

**Managing Editor**  
Niaz Mosharraf

**Production Design**  
Dan Sicignano  
Niaz Mosharraf

**Science and Technology Editor**  
Kevin Jiang

**Entertainment Editor**  
Manny Vivas

**Health and Fitness Editor**  
Devin Fagan

**Sports Editor**  
Kamarie Steadman

**Copy Editor**  
Nick Nuzhny

**Chief Photographer Emeritus**  
Abe Ginsberg

**Photographers**  
Jeff Huang  
Niaz Mosharraf

**Staff Writers**  
Chadwick Joanis  
Lydia Chais  
Wilson Zhao  
Asad Dandia

**Illustrator**  
Kenly Dillard

**Adviser**  
Levy Moore

**Production Adviser**  
Rob Wong



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*Scepter* welcomes letters to the editors and opinions from the entire Kingsborough Community.

# You Said It: DO YOU DRINK RED BULL?

Interviews and photographs by Kevin Jiang, Manny Vivas and Akil Fletcher



Giselle Diaz, 19, Broadcasting  
“Yes, I do, but not too often. If I really need it then I’ll drink it, but I won’t drink it every day or like once a week. Maybe once a month. I feel like after I drink Red Bull, I crash. I just feel crappy again after it wears off. I like it because it tastes good, and I drink it because it tastes good, but after the effect’s over, it’s not so good anymore.”



Jacob Basher, 18, Business  
“I do. I’m an occasional drinker just so that I can get an energy boost. If I drink it before playing sports, sometimes I can feel the side effects. But if I drink it regularly, then no, I don’t feel anything. I drink it once a week maybe on occasion. I’m not really a heavy Red Bull drinker.”



Marianne Salatandra, 18, Business Administration  
“Yes, I do. It gives me a perfectly good zing in the morning. I drink it just mainly for school because I wake up in the mornings really drained and I buy a Red Bull and I’m good for the whole day. I drink it maybe three times a week, but I do feel negative side effects after drinking it, such as a system crash and I just end up sleeping for the whole day.”



Coral Amos, 20, Speech Pathology (NO)  
“No, I don’t like the taste at all. I think there’s too much sugar, which causes a crazy amount of hyperness. So I’m not really into that.”



Ali Kils, 19, Liberal Arts (YES)  
“Yeah sometimes. I have one every week, maybe every two weeks. I don’t get any side effects, it just tastes good to me.”



Ashley Ikromova, 19, Liberal Arts (NO)  
“Not really, no. It just looks like piss. It tastes weird. I don’t like the taste. It’s too gassy sometimes. I’ve had one before and it doesn’t make me energetic for some reason. It makes me a little dizzy.”

## Red Bull Gives You ‘Wings’

by Niaz Mosharraf

Red Bull’s popularity amongst teenagers and college students has exponentially increased over the past few years. Many of the consumers of this addictive energy drink continue to buy the product and rave about it, often unaware of the risks and harm to the user’s body. At Kingsborough, the student body has been known for raiding the Red Bull mini fridge in our cafeteria, especially from morning to midday. According to the KBCC cafeteria managers, the mini fridge that holds 32 cans of Red Bull is refilled three to four times a day. This is, however, not counting the number of other variety of energy drinks such as Monster and Arizona that

also sold on campus.

According to the U.S. Department of Agricultural Nutrient Database, doctors say we should not exceed 300mg of caffeine a day, and that we should stick to somewhere between 90g to 120g of sugar a day. A regular cup of coffee with no sugar usually has a bit under 50mg of caffeine, where a Starbucks Grande has 150mg of caffeine and 15g of sugar, and a 340ml Coca-Cola has 35mg of caffeine and 35g of sugar. A 240ml Red Bull can on the other hand contain 80mg of caffeine and a little over 20g of sugar.

Research from various data on RedBull.com, EnergyFiend.com and NutritionData.Self.com, show that the most active ingredients in one 240ml can of Red Bull are taurine, caffeine, glucuronolactone and niacin. In each of these cans there are 1100mg of taurine, which is basically the amino acid found in bull bile and breast milk. This helps regulate levels of water and mineral salts in our blood. As for caffeine, there are 700mg of it in a can, which increases concentration and metabolism, and boosts emotional state. Excessive use of caffeine leads to common irritability, jitters, nausea, headache and fatigue.

In addition to those, there are also roughly 400mg of glucuronolactone, which is a Vietnam War era chemical, once linked to brain tumor-related deaths, but ultimately disproven in terms of any correlation. This chemical is said to

increase physical and mental performance, but amounts found in excessive consumption of energy drinks can obviously be harmful. There is also a little over 100mg of niacin, which is a type of B vitamin that lowers cholesterol levels and provides treatment for osteoarthritis, a degenerative joint disease. The excessive use of this vitamin flushes out the skin and increases liver toxicity.

Red Bull claims to give the consumer “wings.” However, these “wings,” such as the ones of the infamous Icarus, come with slight side effects. Each can of the energy drink has some significant potential effect on the user’s body. Within 10 to 20 minutes after the intake of the drink, the brain has increased energy levels, alertness and flow of dopamine. An excessive amount of sugar flows through the blood stream of which the liver converts the surplus into fat. An hour after the drink, the user will start to experience hypoglycemia, or low blood sugar levels, consequently leading to a number of outcomes such as hunger, dizziness, headache, insomnia, and severe fatigue from withdrawal.

As for one’s digestive and excretory system, a can of Red Bull or other energy drinks of the nature can increase diarrhea or urination, both leading to dehydration. Increased urination also means an increased excretion of calcium and other nutrients from the body and the bones. Internally, the bones in a user’s body lower the body’s calcium levels and decreases bone density

as a result of these “bone robbers.” In addition, the heart experiences irregular heart rhythms, or arrhythmia, and heart palpitations, or tachycardia. Excessive consumption of the energy drinks can also easily lead to high blood pressure.

There are also physical and visible symptoms in the aftermath of the intake of Red Bull. A user may display withdrawal symptoms such as limb tremors, jitteriness, sweats, and heating up of the body. In some cases, they can also experience itchiness, hives and rash on their skin. Bloodshot and often tired or drowsy eyes after the effect has worn off are also not uncommon.

Studies from 2005 to 2013 have shown that energy drink-related emergency room visits in the United States have increased from under 2000 to over 20,000. This was over a thousand percent increase. Severe adverse reactions have risen from a little over 1500 to nearly 15,000 with in that period. Also in those years, reports of vvmisuse and abuse increased from roughly 1500 to over 6,000 in 2013.

Currently, the United States is the largest consumer of these energy drinks in the world. China, Vietnam, Thailand and a few other South East Asian countries follow nect in line. However, the U.S. keeps a soaring lead as 83 percent of the world’s enrgy drinks are consumed by us. The largest consumer group of these deadly energy drinks are high school to college students, seeking the provevrbial “wings.”



Graphics by Richard Hommola



# Slashing on KBCC Bus

by Niaz Mosharraf

A veil of darkness has recently covered Kingsborough's campus after a violent incident took place on the KBCC Yellow Bus route. Two students, who will remain unnamed during the ongoing investigation, were involved in a skirmish on the morning of January 30, 2013 after an argument broke out while waiting for the campus bus on Brighton Beach Avenue.

One of the students involved pulled out a knife during the incident and slashed the other on the neck. The perpetrator quickly ran out of the bus and fled to the boardwalk, while the victim was soon treated by paramedics and cops who were on the site immediately before being taken to Lutheran hospital for evaluation.

This was an incident that occurred quite abruptly and frankly, "happened too fast" said one Kingsborough commuter. After speaking to several other eyewitnesses later that day, more details became clear about what actually happened that morning. Two African American KBCC students, both of relatively well build, started to push each other to get onto the bus along with many other students after a nearly 40-minute wait on the cold January morning.

The shoving and the elbowing continued as they got onto the bus, following down the single aisle as the quarrel slowly started to escalate. Verbal insults and threats were exchanged as many other students asked them to calm down and take separate seats away from each other to avoid the foreseen conflict. However, these attempts to dilute the situation came up empty. Within minutes, the two students were engaged in a fistfight, which not only frightened many others on the bus at first, but also made many feel in danger of their safety.

"I just moved back as far away as possible and tried not to even look back until I saw blood," said a daily passenger.

The smaller built of the two men had pulled out a pocketknife or a similar instrument and cut the other, leaving a laceration on the victim's neck. The students pushed out the perpetrator from the bus as he quickly escaped the scene of the crime. NYPD officers and

EMTs quickly responded to the location following necessary procedures. As no further information has been released from either the NYPD or KBCC Campus Police, more details cannot be provided about either student. However, for now, we have been assured that the victim is currently doing better as the wounds were superficial. There has been no news of the apprehension of the suspect, described as a male in his mid-20s, 5'5", wearing a black jacket and red hoodie, has been confirmed.

After following several leads to uncover a more in-depth story behind this violent act so close to our campus home, sources who wish to remain anonymous shed light on a different matter that may have contributed to such an incident. Several students and employees have shared their experiences with the campus bus service and its drivers. According to several trusted sources, there has been an ongoing feud between two bus drivers for a while now, which the drivers openly share with their passengers as they badmouth the other in an attempt to trash their reputation to the students.

According to passengers, the bus driver by the name of Max, who wishes to omit his last name, is not the most responsible of drivers and is known to take several breaks on his route.

"Max makes the turn on Surf Avenue, which takes two minutes to come back around. But he doesn't come back for 15, 20 minutes. Sometimes more. And we're just waiting and getting late for class," expressed one very annoyed student commuter.

There have been unconfirmed rumors that Max has been once suspended for similar reasons. Many students have complained of Max's perceived incompetence and lack of responsibility towards his job and passengers while he has taken unscheduled "breaks" to get food or relax. This has not only angered the students, but also another bus driver named Scott, who also asked to withhold his last name.

According to the commuting students and daily passengers of the bus, Scott is the "king of efficiency." He is known to always be there on time and he sticks to his schedule. Scott's only fault, according to his passengers, is his feud

with Max and the way he has decided to deal with it. Annoyed at Max's work ethics and work habits, Scott has taken upon himself to "get back at and punish" him. Scott became known for taking a different route on Neptune Avenue and skipping the Brighton Beach stop often, so Max has to do more work and has a full bus on his trip back to school.

This all seemed a bit farfetched until further investigations and more personal accounts of students showed that Scott passed the Brighton Beach Avenue stop and rode into school with a half-empty school bus quite often. As a result, the students who would usually wait 15 to 20 minutes for the school bus were now

Instead, the campus bus now stops near where the MTA B1 and B49 bus stops are located. This not only is an utter inconvenience for every student who takes the bus, but one of the biggest benefits of the campus bus, was that its drop off was actually inside the campus. Anyone who was ever running a bit late to class and could have saved ten minutes thanks to the bus or just simply wanted to avoid the cold in this harsh New York no longer has that privilege.

Ultimately, this whole situation has been deemed by the KBCC student body as a colossal mess. Even the



The B1 bus on its route to Kingsborough

waiting 30 to 40 minutes for the bus. Furthermore, due to one mostly vacant bus passing by, the other is always overcrowded.

Students have been in situations where they have waited over 45 minutes for the bus and then were not able to get onto the overcrowded bus. There have also been instances where a single student was asked to step out of the vehicle and wait for the next one since passengers are no longer allowed to stand in the bus. Students likely would have more easily accepted this safety precaution if it were not for the already existing problems.

No student in any way has of course defended the stabbing incident, though most have rooted the problem to the feud between the bus drivers, the lack of proper management by the bus company and the school, and not necessarily, the students themselves.

"There will always be crazy kids doing dumb things, but it is up to the school to prevent such things as much as possible," said one KBCC student.

The unfortunate victims affected most from all these feuds and fights happen to be the innocent KBCC student body, who depend on the bus to commute to school everyday. Effective as of February 4, Kingsborough established new policies in regards to the campus bus services which have resulted in the fact that the Yellow Bus no longer stops inside the campus, which saved a good five to ten minute walk for the students.

wordings on the notice flyers were not clear as to exactly where the new pickup/drop off location was for the campus bus service. One could often see students playing "musical bus stops" on the cold nights of the winter module. The bus company and the college have now added security on buses, along with ID card checks upon boarding. Although it is not always enforced as well as it could be, this is a start. However, many students have now resorted to taking the city bus and paying instead of dealing with all the complications with the free yellow bus service provided by the school.

Nevertheless, one cannot help but wonder if this event could have been prevented if such security measures were taken beforehand for the sake of the students' safety.

*(Editor's Note: The students interviewed and many of our sources wished to remain anonymous due to the gravity of the incident. The bus drivers have refused to comment when questioned regarding the matter. Kingsborough Deans have been overwhelmed with the recent transition from the Winter Module to the Spring Semester, which led them to canceling interviews with us. So far, campus police have expressed their regret for being unable to provide any further information. However, Scepter's news team is currently following up with the continued investigation and will be meeting with the Deans and the Director of Campus Police in the coming weeks to deliver the full story to the students and staff of Kingsborough.)*



Inside the KBCC yellow bus



## Tibetan sacrifice and freedom: How much longer will we remain silent?

by Asad Dandia

It is usually individual acts of sacrifice and courage that tend to have an effect on us as people. When we see someone do something so crazy that no one else would, for the sake of something greater, it unlocks the more human side of us. It tells us that there is something greater to live for, that we have a purpose; one that we should be prepared to stand up for.

Such moments are those that change the course of history: When Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of the bus because of her skin color, when Gandhi staged peaceful protests and underwent a hunger strike against the oppressive British, and more recently with the Arab Spring when Mohamed Bouazizi lit himself on fire in protest of the economic injustices of the former Tunisian regime.

Today, although many may not know of it, such actions are occurring yet again before our very eyes: Tibetan monks are lighting themselves on fire in protest of Chinese rule, in an act known as “self-immolation,” yet most of the world remains silent.

But this is not an individual act anymore. Thus far, 99 Tibetans have lit themselves on fire in an act of desperation

hoping that the United Nations, or even the people of the world, will catch on to their plight and speak out in their defense. Their cause has become one of noble sacrifice to that of a desperate plea for help. Long have they been oppressed by the Chinese government on grounds of discrimination: they do not even have freedom of speech, let alone the freedom to protest.

It only begs the question: If these acts of sacrifice worked before on many occasions, why has the world turned a blind eye to this one? One Kingsborough student of Chinese descent who preferred to stay anonymous offered a thought.

“It’s not that the world isn’t paying attention to the Tibetan cause, it’s more about whether they see it as important enough for them as an issue worth tackling,” the student said. “The Chinese government has a track record of oppressing several groups and denominations simply because they are the minority or they are somehow different. It’s a Communist regime, what less can you expect?”

This hard-hitting statement is one that we should all ponder over. As Americans, we are supposed to be a beacon for the world; very few nations can say that they offer the same freedoms we do. Political theorist Isaiah Berlin argued that there



Protesters in favor of freedom for Tibet are seen at Duke University.

Photo by ROBIN KIRK

were two types of freedoms: Positive and negative. He felt that positive freedom was the freedom of a person to perform to their truest potential while knowing that they also have the chance to fail; whereas negative freedom was the freedom to only do certain things under limits and constraints.

While the Tibetans have only been given “negative freedom,” since their

freedom is very limited, here we have “positive freedom,” because we have the ability to perform our best. Part of our positive freedom is the option to speak up for those who are oppressed, to offer our hand for assistance, to give a voice to the voiceless, and to be a prime representation of what we as Americans stand for. The Tibetan cause is also our cause: I think it is time for us to say something.

## Winter Storm Nemo hits Northeast

by Leah K. Wirth and Manny Vivas

Winter Storm Nemo took the Northeast United States by surprise on February 8, 2013, with gale force winds up to 75 MPH in parts of New York with 11.4 inches of total snowfall reported in New York City.

According to Weather.com, while most Northeast states had similar snowfall amounts in their more urban areas, Hamden, Connecticut topped out at 40 inches in total. Wind drifts occurring post-snowstorm created hazardous driving conditions and caused many regional airports to cancel flights. The Huffington Post stated that airline waivers issued cancellations for more than 2,700 flights along the Northeast coast in an attempt to avoid the brunt of the storm.

One of the oddest incidents reported was by PawNation.com, when nearly a thousand lobsters, clams and starfish washed up on shore due to gale force winds in Nantasket Beach, Massachusetts. One of the largest incidents to occur due to Winter Storm Nemo was the 19-car pile-up on a major roadway near Portland, Maine. This multi-car pileup on Interstate 295 took roughly four hours to clear, resulting in just one hospitalized driver with only a few minor injuries, according to CNBC.

A total of 18 deaths were reported due

to Winter Storm Nemo. By February 9, 2013, there were approximately 9,959 New Yorkers without electricity - a drop in the bucket when compared to the 800,000 New Yorkers who lost power during Hurricane Sandy. At present, most, if not all, electricity is back on.

Many vehicles were left abandoned or disabled just outside New York City on the Long Island Expressway, while the Long Island Railroad was running on a very strict schedule - only major line trains were running every two hours, according to the Weather Channel.

Meanwhile at Kingsborough, security was at the front gates turning away students on their way to class and notifying them that the school had been closed due to the oncoming weather. The campus was closed at roughly 3 PM, and two hours later, heavy hail fell along with strong winds and followed by vast amounts of snow. However, the storm had not generated as much damage as was expected, and the school was able to reopen on the following Monday.

A sheet of snow covered the campus and greeted students as they returned to finish off their final week of the Winter Semester, and while some may have dreaded the welcome, there were those who took a more optimistic outlook.

A group of Kingsborough students, in

an attempt to put a positive spin on the situation, decided to take advantage of the inclement weather, creating a family of snowmen and turning a winter storm into a winter wonderland.

“Kingsborough is not just about hard work,” says Kevin Patzer, one of the students involved in making the snowmen,

“it is also having fun and having a good time.”

Winter Storm Nemo hit the region hard and inconvenienced many over the course of a few days, but despite that, it is nice to know that there are those who can lift the spirits simply by coming together on a cold winter's day and having a blast.



Kingsborough students stand with their snowmen family they built following Winter Storm Nemo on February 8.

Photo by MANNY VIVAS



# Grand Central Terminal turns 100

by Dan Sicignano

On Friday, February 1, 2013, Grand Central Terminal, one of New York City's most recognizable landmarks, hosted a grand gala to honor the centennial celebration of one of the most picturesque train stations in the entire world.

The day featured speeches, ceremonies, musical performances and parties, along with appearances from esteemed New York celebrities such as Cynthia Nixon of "Sex and the City" fame, former New York Mets' first baseman (and Seinfeld guest star) Keith Hernandez, who used to routinely take the 7 train from Grand Central to Shea Stadium, and Caroline Kennedy, the daughter of President John F. Kennedy and Jacqueline Onassis.

Kennedy's appearance at the event had special meaning since Onassis led a movement in the 1970s to save the building from demolition to make way for a new office tower.

"She understood how great public spaces can help build community," Kennedy said when discussing her mother.

The event began with a performance by the West Point Marching Band and a speech by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who opened by honoring the passing of former New York City Mayor Ed Koch, who died earlier in the day.

"(Koch) really would have wanted us to celebrate his life, and the life of the city he loved," Bloomberg said. "So I think it's only fitting that we're gathered here today to celebrate the life of another New York City icon, Grand Central Terminal."

The rest of the day included giveaways from corporate sponsors such as Target and Starbucks, along with pricing on items to reflect the opening of the terminal on February 1, 1913. Among the deals that were available were five cent cups of coffee, 10 cent shoe shines, \$2 silk scarves, 19 cent slices of cheesecake and six cent loaves of rye bread. However, by late in the afternoon when the standard Friday rush-hour crowd coincided with those gathered for the celebration, many of the deals were long gone.

While partly due to such deals, the majority of those who gathered in Grand Central for this ceremony were there to honor the legendary



The main waiting area of Grand Central Terminal, seen on February 1, for its Centennial celebration

Photo by DAN SICIGNANO

station. Despite the fact that Penn Station is the busiest train station in New York as three different rail systems (Long Island Railroad, NJ Transit and Amtrak) serve it, there is no doubt that the architecturally-flawed basement of Madison Square Garden has always taken a back seat to Grand Central Station in the hearts and minds of New Yorkers and tourists from around the world, as referenced by the words of famous New Yorkers such as Keith Hernandez.

"Welcome to New York's other great playing field," said Hernandez, "I love this building."

In addition to the architecture and history of the station, there are several distinguishing factors about the terminal not known by many daily visitors. For one, there is a six-inch hole in the ceiling that was carved in the 1950's when a NASA display to garner support for the space race did not provide enough room for one of their rockets.

On that same ceiling is also a small, brown

square that represents the dirty color that the main waiting area's ceiling used to be as a result of excess cigarette smoke prior to its renovation in the late 1990s. What was uncovered underneath is what is now visibly seen as the massive map of the constellations (though it was accidentally painted upside down by its artist).

Another interesting secret about Grand Central is that it has a secret, underground train station that was built for president Franklin Delano Roosevelt so that he could arrive in New York without anyone knowing that he was wheelchair-bound.

FDR would arrive in a special train designed for his limousine to fit into before ascending an extra-large elevator into the ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria hotel directly above, ensuring that nobody would know that he had polio. The underground station is still in use whenever a standing president visits New York so that if they need to evacuate the city for an emergency, they can easily and quickly get out via the

underground tracks.

Throughout the year, many different events will be taking place in Grand Central Station so those who were not able to attend the massively-crowded anniversary event can still participate in the celebration. Train shows, social events and art exhibitions, including a much-talked about performance piece by Australian musician/artist Nick Cave from March 25-31, highlight the calendar of what is sure to be a memorable year for a building that has provided a number of memories for many New Yorkers regardless of their social standing.

Grand Central Terminal can be accessed from Kingsborough Community College by taking either the B or Q from Brighton Beach to Barclays Center and then transferring to the 4 or 5 train to 42nd Street, or by taking the F train from West 8th Street to Bleecker Street/Broadway Lafayette and the new uptown 6 train transfer to 42nd Street. The estimated time of travel is about an hour and ten minutes.

## Academic Advisement Center Room M-201

### Mission

The Academic Advisement Center supports and promotes campus-wide advising year round while recognizing the autonomous nature for advising within the academic departments. The center will strive to maintain a supportive environment where academic advising is a holistic process through which students receive assistance and clarification about their academic career and life goals. Academic advisors will serve as facilitators of communication who work with students to encourage them to become more knowledgeable and responsible for planning their academic career. Advisors will also provide accurate and updated information to students regarding general college policies and procedures, referrals to campus services and other departments throughout the year.

### Contact Information

Phone #: (718) 368-5744

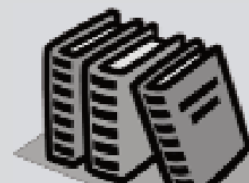
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# Scepter on Site

## Scepter visits The Daily Show

by Manny Vivas and Niaz Mosharraf

On January 16, the Scepter news team visited the Daily Show studio with VIP passes to see a taping of The Daily Show with Jon Stewart. The audience was able to immediately delve into the world of broadcast news and media and the comedian-journalist captivated his audience with mind-blowing investigative news while keeping the crowd roaring with laughter. Anyone with a passion for hard news with a comedic spin was in for a nerdgasm.

Before the show, Stewart took a few minutes to come out and speak to the audience in a question-and-answer session. The overwhelmingly praised Stewart responded to all questions humbly and with a humorous twist. Even when a college professor asked why Stewart thinks his students "Follow every word said by [Jon Stewart] but never pay attention in class and just downloads porn all day," the comedian cleverly responded how that is his preferred demographic - "People who don't go to class and download porn all day."

Once the cameras started rolling, Stewart wasted no time getting into the topic of the day - gun control. Kicking the show off with a commercial created by the NRA which stated that President Barack Obama is skeptical about placing armed

security at schools while his own kids are protected by armed guards at their school. Stewart sarcastically added, "And why does he get to veto bills and command an army when we don't?"

"If I didn't know any better," said Stewart, "And I'm not a big conspiracy guy, after seeing that ad I would think that the NRA is either an elaborate avant-garde Joaquin Phoenix-style joke or a false flag operation run by Michael Moore in an attempt to discredit responsible gun owners."

Stewart soon shifted the topic to the ATF (Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives). "I'd like the ATF's director to explain to us, law abiding citizens, if you are out there 24/7, why is this country ass-deep in illegal guns?" The rhetorical question led the audience to a clip of New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg on December 18, 2012 in which he stated that "We have not had an ATF director for six years."

The ATF does not, in fact, have a permanent director, though they are privileged with an acting director - U.S. Attorney for Minnesota, B. Todd Jones.

"You're telling me that this dude has another full time job," says Stewart, "That regulating alcohol and tobacco and firearms is his side gig?" Wisconsin Senator James Sensenbrenner inserted into the patriot act on February 12, 2006 that the senate must confirm the new ATF director, which it is

clear that they have ceased to do so for quite some time.

"About 10 years ago," says Stewart, "A congressman stuck an amendment into a federal spending bill that severely restricted the ATF's ability to do what the NRA says they want them to do, which is enforce existing gun laws." This amendment was named the "Tiahrt Amendment", after Kansas representative Todd Tiahrt. Astonishingly, the NRA reviewed the law and allowed it to be passed.

So what can the ATF do exactly? Well thanks to the First Amendment, they do have a YouTube channel in which they "Warmly encourage gun dealers to act responsibly". The advertisement/public service announcement even says that it is okay to sell a gun to a drunk or in other way intoxicated person as long as they do not come off as harmful.

Just as any other episode of The Daily Show, Jon Stewart also interviewed a guest in the latter portion of the show. On this particular day, the guest was none other than Zero Dark Thirty star and recent Golden Globe winner Jessica Chastain. After being asked what got her interested in the film, she replied, "I am interested in films that create a question. The film ends with an unanswered question and I think that it asks; now where do you want to go? And by asking that question you are forcing the audience to participate. And for me, if



Jessica Chastain (L) on the set of The Daily Show with Jon Stewart (R)

art does that, then it has done its job."

She also explained why director Kathryn Bigelow and writer Mark Boal decided not to work along-side the government in the making of the film. "If they had [worked with the government], they would have gotten a lot of helicopters and airplanes and everything they needed, but they would have had to have get the script approved," says Chastain, "Which meant for them they couldn't tell the story that they found to be the most accurate."

After his taping of Moment of Zen and his international portion of the show, Stewart ended the night by briefly conversing with the audience. As Jessica Chastain ran off to perform her new Broadway hit, "The Heiress." Stewart ended the night just as humble and hilarious and commented on Chastain's beautiful "Color scheme" of her face, saying "I love what she had done with her face, the red, the blue, you know..."

## Scepter attends the Inauguration - A Visual Recap

By Kevin Jiang and Niaz Mosharraf

On the morning of January 21, 2012, Scepter's Best Damn News Team in the World went to our nation's capital to attend the Inauguration of President Barack Obama. Over 800,000 people from all over the country came to watch as the first African American President of the United States took oath for his second presidential term.

The crowd was upbeat and anxious. It was cold, but a blanket of excitement kept the crowd warm in spirit. People were standing on shoulders and climbing poles to hopefully get a glimpse of the President. Families have made it a tradition to visit the inauguration every four years. Amongst the crowd were many children following their parents around wearing Obama towels and other products being sold on the

streets of D.C.

The Scepter News Team started in the National Mall and traveled with the crowd to Pennsylvania Avenue to attend the Inaugural Parade where the President would be riding down, greeting all the Americans that took their time to come out on such an occasion.

The DC Police, National Guard and Secret Service had the whole city under watch. Snipers were ready to take action at any given notice. Checkpoints equipped with metal detectors were placed at every major intersection leading to Pennsylvania Avenue. All guests, when passing through the checkpoints, were thoroughly searched and scanned for any harmful materials.

All in all, the inaugural parade was a very lively event and many people were thrilled and cheering for the man they would be following for eight consecutive years.







Photo by Niaz Mosharraf

Women and child on Inauguration Day



Photo by Manny Vivas

Protesters roaming the streets of Washington, D.C.



Photo by Niaz Mosharraf

Father holding daughter on his shoulders to see past the large crowd by National Mall. (above)



Photo by Niaz Mosharraf

A protester expresses his displeasure with President Barack Obama (above)  
President Barack Obama's motorcade passes through the crowd during the Inaugural parade (below)



Photo by Kevin Jjang

Presidential candidate Vermin Supreme, second from the left, and members of the Scepter News Team in the Presidential naguration in Washington D.C. (left)

Demonstrators put up banners to protest against war and the current administration's policies (below)



Photo by Niaz Mosharraf

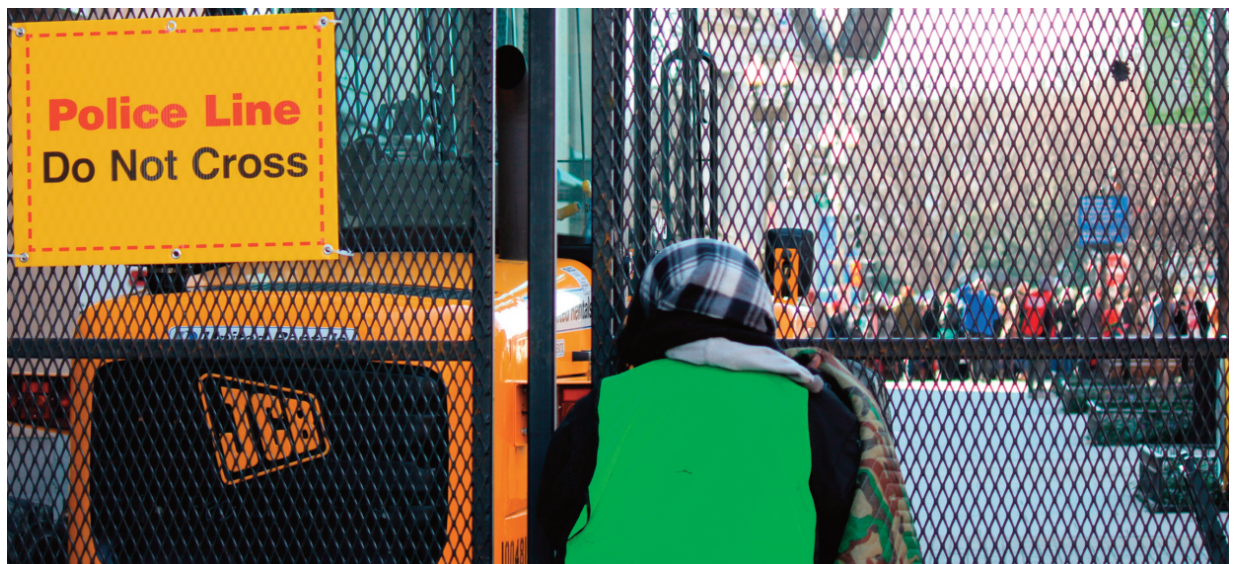


Photo by Manny Vivas



Photo by Niaz Mosharraf

Women being scanned by guards



Police set up barracades throughout certain parts of the city

Photo by Niaz Mosharraf



# Flu hits New York City

by Chadwick Joanis

There is a flu currently going around town that students here at Kingsborough should be aware of. And although the flu is unnamed at the moment, it has made its mark in a number of ways.

Early in January, the Huffington Post reported that widespread flu outbreaks were reported in 41 different states. There were so many people submitted to hospitals in Chicago alone that many had no choice but to turn some people away.

While thinking of ideas for protection during this flu season, there are some symptoms that you should know for awareness. According to Flu2013.com, the symptoms that you should look out for include a body temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or more, respiratory problems that are similar to a cold or coughing, nose that is running or clogged, muscle pains along with migraine, vomiting, diarrhea and chills or fatigue.

Students On Campus also has advice for safety from the flu. The common advice is to keep some hand

sanitizer with you at all times and to always wash your hands thoroughly. Other students also say to dress warm, stay away from other sick people, keeping clean on your own, staying indoors and not touching or sharing with people who may be sick.

In a report from Policymic.com, young and elderly people are most at risk for this year's flu and they are advised to prepare during this time. Policy Mic states that since the arrival of the flu, which was earlier than expected according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the spread of flu vaccines has begun.

Bloomberg News reports that the 2013 flu may be the worst flu during the last six years, including the swine flu that spread across the country in 2009. However, the swine flu was not as big of a threat as the unknown flu that is currently spreading within our community.

For many people who are trying to feel better, a flu shot could be the answer. Director of the CDC Dr. Thomas Frieden admits to the Daily Beast that the flu shot's percentage is effectively 62 percent based on shrinking symptoms of the disease. What Frieden is saying is that for

every 100 people who receive the flu shot, only 38 people will likely end up

with the flu at the end of the day.

According to The New York Times, Federal officials suggest that people who are seeking a flu shot should search for solutions from Flu.gov, and that doctors can visit preventinfluenza.org in order to get in contact with suppliers.

The extent of this flu has had tragic consequences. According to Henry L. Niman, a flu-watcher, nearly 40 pediatric deaths have been reportedly linked to this current flu strain.

Think Progress reported that the CDC advises that workers who have flu-like symptoms "Should stay home and avoid contact with other people except to get medical care." In addition to their statement, the CDC also said that this flu might be the worst one in ten years.

However, even though this flu is spreading out of control, CBS reports that experts say it is much too soon to see this flu as an overly threatening disease. Experts say that the rate for the 2013 flu is at a normal limit. Nevertheless, students all around campus should take the necessary precautions during this dreadful flu season.



## Grapefruit: The Silent Killer?

by Devin Fagan

Grapefruits are considered to be a beneficial fruit in relation to fitness. Studies have proven that grapefruit can prevent arthritis, help in cancer protection, lower cholesterol levels and promote weight loss. But a new study suggests that grapefruit can also increase the potency of certain drugs. These can potentially include everything from certain illegal drugs to over-the-counter drugs, meaning that grapefruit has proven to be an unknown agent.

On December 17, 2012, The New York Times published an article about a 42 year old woman who was rushed to the hospital barely conscious when her husband brought her in. At the moment of crisis, her heart rate was slowing and her blood pressure was dropping. The doctors seemed to be perplexed.

The patient's husband said she suffered from migraines frequently and that she was on a blood pressure pill called Verapamil. To the shock of the doctors, blood tests resulted in proof that she had five times the safety level of the drug in her system. The conclusion; "The culprit was grapefruit juice," said Dr. Unni Pillai.

Grapefruit contains chemicals called furanocoumarins, which effect how the human

body breaks down drugs when they enter a bloodstream. According to ABC News, by preventing this breakdown of drugs, the chemicals in grapefruit can cause a drug overdose. Some side effects can include heart rhythm problems, kidney failure, difficulty with breathing and blood clots. 85 drugs on the market currently react to grapefruit juice.

Grapefruit juice has also been known to prolong the effect of illegal narcotics, such as MDMA, often referred to as "Ecstasy" or "Molly." MDMA, an empathogenic drug that can induce euphoria and intimacy while decreasing

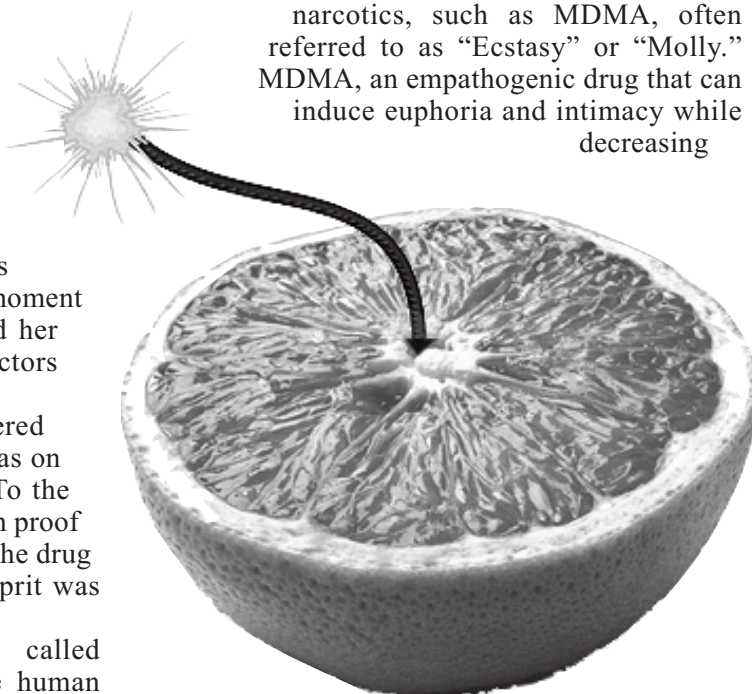
*The conclusion; "The culprit was grapefruit juice," said Dr. Unni Pillai.*

feelings of anxiety, is banned in most of the world partly as a result of the side-effects that result from it, such as disorientation, hallucinations, stroke, loss of consciousness and death. The introduction of grapefruit juice into the bloodstream during a high can cause a prolonged effect. The grapefruit chemicals will inhibit CYP3A4 activity in the human liver, therefore making the drug last longer in the bloodstream.

To avoid these chemical reactions, a person on high blood pressure or heart medication should avoid grapefruit altogether. This is a definite if the person taking the medication is middle-aged or a senior citizen - as little as eight ounces can have a lasting effect for 24 hours.

Chemicals in grapefruit are very potent and cause severe side effects if taken in excess. Other fruits to avoid if you are on medications are Seville oranges and limes.

For consumers, it should be insisted that a person ask their doctor or physician for more information.





# Scepter talks with Shari Belafonte

by Lydia Chais

Shari Belafonte, daughter of world-famous singer, actor and activist Harry Belafonte, has lived quite a full life. She won the hearts of America playing Julie Gillette, reception manager, in ABC's 1983 hit series "Hotel," while becoming a successful cover girl model for such prestigious magazines as Vogue, Mademoiselle, Harper's Bazaar Germany, Italian Taxi, Self, and Essence.

Shari was also known for her appearances in numerous commercials for Calvin Klein Jeans, Bally's, Lawry's, MasterCard and Coca-Cola, and in addition she has also done voiceover work for Boeing, NASA, and Lincoln/Mercury. In 1986, she sang the Canadian National Anthem at the Major League Baseball All-Star Game in Houston's Astrodome and was the voice/over for Ms. Johanssen in "Hey, Arnold" an animated television series created by Craig Bartlett for Nickelodeon.

Known as the spokesperson for Slim-Fast commercials, she lost no points posing for Playboy magazine in the September 2000 issue. She was born in New York and is the second daughter to Marguerite Byrd, a psychologist, and the Calypso singing legend Harry Belafonte. Shari earned her degree at Carnegie-Melon University in Pittsburgh and is married to actor Sam Behrens since December 30, 1989. But where is Ms. Belafonte now and what is she doing? We decided to ask her ourselves.

**Lydia Chais:** "I met your father-in-law and told him I was working on an article for Black History Month and he said to me 'Oh, well, I know Shari Belafonte' and then he offered you."

**Shari Belafonte:** (Laughs) "Well, that's what father-in-laws do."

**LC:** "I understand that you're doing a film project? Could you tell me a little about it?"

**SB:** "Well, I just worked on a film that's in the process of being edited. I play Dr. Hunt, who's a chiropractor, (in) a supernatural film called 'Primrose Lane.' Before that, I just finished a movie called 'Teacher of the Year', where I play one of the teachers, Robin, a Black History

teacher. My husband and I have a project that's in development right now that we're doing some editing on, which is a pilot for cable. Right now it's called the 'Lili Claire Project.' The Lili Claire Foundation is a foundation for children with neurogenetic conditions.

Neurogenetic conditions are like autism, Down syndrome, William syndrome or fetal alcohol syndrome. And Keith Resnick, who is the head of the foundation, is a film producer who I actually worked with on a movie of his years ago. That's how we met. We do big events, like Rolling Stones concerts and big carnivals and stuff to raise funds for the Lili Claire Foundation, and right now we have a foundation with UNLV in Las Vegas. We have another clinic in Mahari College in Nashville, and we are planning to open one in the next few months in Miami, Florida. We fly all of our children in from wherever they're coming (and) all of the services are free of charge. We have

children come in from South America; we have kids come in from China, from Asia. We have kids come in from Africa. We do diagnostics and clinics for these children and their families for free in those colleges."

**LC:** "How is it funded?"

**SB:** "All donations, all foundation funded."

**LC:** "How did you get involved with it?"

**SB:** "I was asked about 12 years ago to come in. My husband and I were asked to come in as celebrities to one of their events, which was Danny Gans in Las Vegas. I actually had worked with Danny years before. We flew in for that, and we also have a niece. Seymour has a granddaughter who is autistic. So that foundation is kind of close to our hearts."

**LC:** "What was it like growing up with a famous actor/father, and out of all of your

siblings, what made you go into acting?"

**SB:** "All of us at some point have done acting and dancing. My sister, Gina, is a producer, my brother, David, was a record producer (and he) also produced a couple of movies years ago and did some acting and modeling. We've all been in it. I got my degree in production. I'm in design and production. I got into acting totally by happenstance. Somebody discovered me and wanted me to play a part."

**LC:** "I wanted to ask you because it's Black History Month, there was a controversial issue that had arisen in a Petula Clark and Harry Belafonte concert. It was in the 'Sing Your Song' film; Petula Clark had held Harry Belafonte's hand, and back then it was a problem. Has Hollywood improved in race relations?"

**SB:** "Well, what do you think? We've come a long way, baby." (Laughter)

**LC:** "What can you tell young people today that perhaps may feel, 'Well, I don't have a famous parent to help me along the way.' What can you tell them so they can stay positive and to keep focused?"

**SB:** "Well, that's a difficult question because I don't know how to quite answer that because my parents divorced when I was two. So I lived with my mom. You just have to believe in your dreams and follow through with them. Parents come and go and parents can be great and you hope you get a good one, and you know, being famous parents doesn't really have anything to do with the support that a parent should give their child."

Shari Belafonte, along with her long-time friend and actress Anne-Marie Johnson, who we might remember in the hit series "In the Heat of the Night," are currently hosting a new transmedia show called The Daily Schmooze. The first episode aired on August 5, 2012.

Ms. Belafonte, a vibrant, energetic and selfless woman, works hard alongside her husband with the Lili Claire Foundation, which is helping thousands of children not only in the U.S. but also all over the world. She has brains, talent, and eternal beauty, but will always be appreciated and loved for this fine work.



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# Entertainment

## KBCC Artist Profile: Eunji Joo

by Manny Vivas

Eunji Joo is a fellow student here at Kingsborough, and she also just so happens to be an international student from South Korea who came to this country in hopes of becoming a famous musician.

Arriving in the United States in July of 2010, Joo's first gig was actually here in this school, playing two years ago in the M-building for a professor's retirement.

Even while living in South Korea, Joo was always interested in American music - specifically R&B, pop soul, funk, and jazz.

"I grew up listening to a lot of different music," says Joo, "You know when you're in middle school or high school and people are crazy about popular music? I wasn't really into that. I was into Marvin Gaye and The Supremes".

Joo has been playing music since the age of 16; she is both a pianist and flutist. While she says that she enjoys playing she wanted to make it clear that she "mostly plays the flute for fun" and that her heart belongs to the piano.

Her family, though still living in South Korea, both supported and encouraged her decision to come to New York. Musical interest is no stranger to her family, in fact, she is not the first of her siblings to pursue

a career in music. "My brother is also a musician," says Joo, "He is into hip-hop (and) he is a DJ and producer".

Joo attended music school for just one of the seven years she has been a musician, and prefers learning by ear rather than reading sheets - though she does possess the know-how. She will soon be leaving Kingsborough after finishing up her last semester this Spring and plans to continue her education in City College, where she can switch her major to music and pursue her dream.

*Joo's first gig was actually here in this school, playing two years ago in the M-building for a professor's retirement.*

Eunji Joo is a terrific person and a talented musician. After the interview we went down to the T8-building where she sat in front of a piano and played a beautiful melody. It was hard not to be immediately impressed. Though she will soon be departing our Kingsborough family, she is moving on to bigger and better things.



Photo by MANNY VIVAS

Eunji Joo, seen here playing the piano on the second floor of the T8 building, is one of Kingsborough's most up and coming artists.

**Age:** 23  
**Major:** Liberal Arts  
**Hometown:** Nowon-gu, Seoul City  
**Current City:** New York

**Talent:** Piano and Flute  
**Genre:** Acid Jazz  
**Inspiration:** Incognito, Jamiroquai, Ronny Jordan

Have any musical talents? Looking for a little recognition amongst your fellow classmates? Well look no further. We here at Scepter are looking for new talents for our next KBCC Artist Profile. Email us at [Scepter.Artists@gmail.com](mailto:Scepter.Artists@gmail.com)

## Stars Shine at 2013 Grammy Awards

by Chadwick Joanis

On the biggest night in music, the 55th annual Grammy Awards were held on February 10, 2013 in Los Angeles.

Among some of the more memorable performances included a creative number from Taylor Swift which included clowns and unidentified creatures. As one of her creatures revealed a man trapped on a spinning circle board, a circus-type of performance was included during the set. At the end, Swift showed her dominance by pushing the man to the smooth floor of the stage.

During his monologue, Grammy host L.L. Cool J had a conversation with the audience about his description of a Grammy moment and he referred to Michael Jackson.

"We dream the same dream." Cool J said. "My grandmother taught me to dream, dream, dream. A Grammy is a dream come true." He also went on to say "This show is ours, all of ours."

The next performance of the night was a duo between 21-year old British singer Ed Sheeran and Elton John, who sang

Sheeran's hit song, "The A Team." Jennifer Lopez and Pitbull then presented the first award for Best Pop Solo performance, which Adele won for her single "Set Fire to the Rain."

After R&B artist Miguel performed "Adorn" with Wiz Khalifa, both men presented the award for best Country solo performance. The award was handed over to Carrie Underwood for her single "Blown Away."

Johnny Depp then introduced Mumford & Sons to the Grammy stage and they performed "I Will Wait." Beyonce and Ellen DeGeneres were up as the next award presenters, and they welcomed back Justin Timberlake to the Grammys. Jay-Z and an orchestra then joined Timberlake as they performed "Suite and Tie."

Kelly Rowland and Nas presented the award for Best Urban Contemporary Album to Frank Ocean. Not long after that, the best rock performance was accepted by The Black Keys for their single "Lonely Boy." Later that night, The Black Keys performed their award winning single live on stage.

Life Achievement Awards were

presented to popular long-time musicians such as Carole King, The Temptations and Patti Page. Soon after, Kelly Clarkson performed Page's single "You Make Me Feel (Like a Natural Woman)" as a tribute to Page. Afterwards, Clarkson presented the award for Best Country Album to Zac Brown Band for their album "Uncaged."

Later, a tribute to Bob Marley was performed by Sting, Bruno Mars, the Marley brothers and Rihanna. Earlier that night, Rihanna took the stage for a beautiful performance for her single "Stay" and a performance of Alicia Keys' "Girl on Fire" along with her and then with Maroon Five for "Daylight."

Other winners of the night included Jay-Z and Kanye West's collaboration with Frank Ocean and the Dream for their single "No Church in the Wild" with Ocean winning his first award for Urban Contemporary Album earlier that night. Fun. won the award for Song of the Year for their single "We are Young."

Among the other memorable performances were Carrie Underwood's performance of "Blown Away", Frank



Photo by YA'AKOV

Ocean's first performance at the Grammys and his performance "Forest Gump," and Cool J ending the show with a performance of his own along with his team. The 2013 Grammys were certainly a night to remember.



# Science and Technology

## Why Measurement Matters

by Kevin Jiang

Every year, billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates releases a letter covering all the actions his Gates Foundation has taken and what he sees as the way forward in the quest to improve education in the United States and the health and lives of people in the developing Third World.

Bill and his wife Melinda Gates are the type of people that like to take charge. They notice the state of the world and are not afraid to do something about it. Each year they strive to use their money for the good of the less fortunate by giving to charities and financing research that can help the human race progress in the journey called "life."

This year, Gates is focusing on the impending deadline for the Millennium Development Goals (eight international development goals that were officially established following the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in 2000, following the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration) and what it will mean if we do not hit them all. Gates is also focusing on the likely end to polio, which is coming very close but will still take a massive amount of effort.

The main question asked in Gates' letter was "Why does measurement matter?" as his 2013 Annual Letter highlighted the power of data and measurement to help lift up the world's most needy from poverty. This year's letter was presented through an interactive experience fit with shareable quotations, embedded films, and info graphics. Gates also included photos of him and his wife Melinda's work around the world, from meeting with high school students in

Denver to visiting agricultural facilities in Ethiopia.

Gates' letter can be summarized in ten key points. He makes sure to address the issues plaguing both the United States and developing countries such as Africa. These issues include the welfare of the people of the world and their education as well as the measures being taken to prevent more problems.

**10. Pick the Right Measures:** Bill Gates believed that efforts fail because people do not focus on the right measures, or they don't invest enough in doing it accurately. An effort has to be clear as to what it is going towards. As long as you stick to your motive firmly and know what you are doing, then you are taking the right measures.

**9. Establish Clear and Concrete Goals:** This point mainly revolves around the Millennium Development Goals. Many people assumed that they would be filed away and forgotten like many other U.N. and government pronouncements. But since the goals were clear and concrete, they brought focus to the highest priority. The same could be said with any other goals set by companies or foundations. Each goal set by the Gates Foundation is clear and concrete, and Bill and Melinda believe very strongly that they will accomplish all their goals within the next year.

**8. Learn from Successful Cases:** According to Bill Gates, "Ethiopia found a successful model for achieving this goal in the Indian state of Kerala, which had lowered its child mortality rate and

improved a host of other health indicators, in part through a vast network of community health care posts. This is one of the benefits of measurement — the ability it gives government leaders to make comparisons across countries, find who's doing well, and then learn from the best."

As the title says, learn from successful cases. Take the accomplishments of others and understand why they succeeded. Then take that knowledge and apply it to your own life.

**7. Maternal Health has improved:** In the country of Ethiopia, it is a long-term custom for parents to wait a while after the birth of their child to name him or her. The reason for this being that the mortality rate for children was very high in Ethiopia due to various diseases and a lack of vaccination. But as time went by, it has gotten slightly lower. In their travels, the Gates' met a young woman named Sebsebila who didn't hesitate to name her child because she was confident in her baby's chances of survival.

**6. Accurate Measurements are Crucial:** Setting targets for immunization and other interventions can motivate government health workers, but it can also encourage over-reporting to avoid problems with supervisors.

**5. Every Case Counts:** In the last two years, the number of global polio cases has been reported at fewer than 1,000. Obviously this is a great outcome as the number of cases has dramatically decreased, but the hardest part is getting rid of the last few cases of polio. That is why Gates is devoting much of his time this year

in funding the research of polio in hopes of finding a permanent cure.

**4. Technology Brings Accountability:** Thanks to today's high tech lightning fast communications network, managers can easily track the routes vaccinators followed and compare it to the routes assigned, and plan future routes to take. This would be helpful to the distribution of vaccinations to those in need such as the diseased locals of Africa and other developing countries.

**3. Feedback Breeds Success:** Bill greatly admires "The Eagle County System." In short, it is a system where teachers are evaluated based on specific areas where they need improvement to build on their strengths. To focus on a single topic helps an industry grow. It lets the people know what they are doing and what they are doing wrong, along with what they should start and stop doing.

**2. We can only Move Forward:** Gates states in his letter, "Once these tools are invented, they are never un-invented - they just improve." There is no point dwelling on the past. Once something is done it cannot be changed, only improved.

**1. Challenges are still Ahead:** Two things worry Bill most; the possibility of not being able to raise the funds necessary for the health and development projects, and not being able to align around clear goals to help the poorest. But although nothing is certain, funding of the projects should not be a major concern to a man of his stature.

## Jack Andraka, the Justin Bieber of Science

by Wilson Zhao

Do you remember the last 15-year-old you were impressed with enough to remember their name? Many will probably recognize the name Justin Bieber, the teen pop star that was only 15 when he made his break into stardom back in 2008. Love him or hate him, his fans would say he changed the world, or at least made a big impression on it. Now it is time for a new 15 year old to change the world, but this time through science and not music.

Meet Jack Andraka, a 15-year-old student from Maryland who won 1st place and \$75,000 at the Intel International Science and Engineering fair in 2012, the world's largest high school research competition. What invention did he win the competition with? A new test for pancreatic cancer that is 28 times cheaper and faster, and almost 100 times more sensitive than

current tests.

Pancreatic cancer is one of the deadliest forms of cancer, the fourth most common cause of cancer-related deaths in the world. One of the reasons why pancreatic cancer is so deadly is that symptoms are not detected until it's too late. Andraka's invention is a dipstick sensor that uses diabetic test paper to detect mesothelin, a protein common in pancreatic cancer, in blood or urine. Now thousands of people can possibly detect pancreatic cancer in time to do something about it.

What inspired Andraka to come up with a new and better test for pancreatic cancer than we ever had before? According to him, a personal matter.

"I became interested in cancer, particularly pancreatic cancer, after my 'uncle', a close family friend, died due to the disease," he said. "After researching about it, I discovered that 100 people die

of pancreatic cancer every day and that although early detection is key to improved survival, there are no inexpensive, rapid and sensitive tests. I figured there had to be a better way."

That's it, a simple story of someone he knew that passed away from pancreatic cancer and inspired him to do something about it.

While we should all be inspired and impressed by Jack Andraka's story and invention, don't count yourself out either. We will not all be geniuses and cure cancer, but in terms of how Jack did his research, it was in a way that literally anyone on earth can do it.

"I did all of my research using Google and Wikipedia," he said. "With the Internet, anything's possible. You don't need to have a master's or multiple degrees to have your ideas valued. Regardless of your age, gender, ethnicity or whatever, it's your ideas that matter."

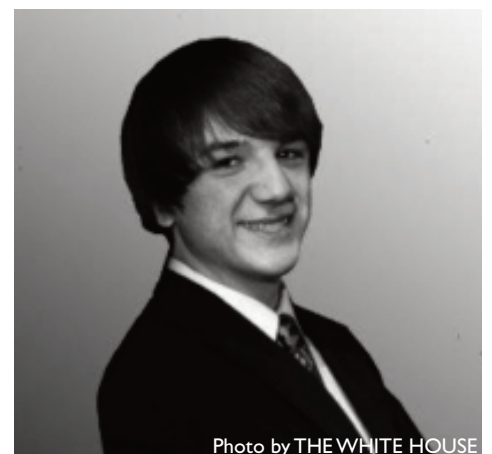


Photo by THE WHITE HOUSE  
Jack Andraka, 15, has made news around the world for his research on new tests for pancreatic cancer.

Maybe next time in your day, use a little less Twitter and Facebook, and a little more Google and Wikipedia, and you might be the one to do the next big thing in cancer research.



# A-T-L for Spring Break is A-OK!

by Dan Sicignano

The Spring Semester may just be starting, but for those students looking to get away for Spring break late in March, the time to start planning a trip is now. Where can you go that will provide you with tons of options for entertainment, education and dining while still maintaining a college student's budget?

Well, how about Atlanta?

Atlanta is a major city with plenty to do for college students, it is close enough to get away for just a few days, and it is also far away enough from New York to let you experience a different type of culture than you do here every day.

The flight from any New York-area airport is a little over two hours, and as any Tourism and Hospitality major will tell you, Delta is the "go-to" airline when flying to Atlanta, as their main hub and global headquarters happen to be located there. However, United, Southwest, and multiple other airlines also fly to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, about 20 minutes south of downtown.

Upon visiting Peachtree Street, the main drag in downtown Atlanta, you will come across a number of restaurants. From chains such as the Hard Rock Café to local establishments such as The Vortex, it's impossible to go hungry on a visit to Atlanta. But the most well known establishment in the city is most likely The Varsity – a drive-in/dine-in known for their hot dogs and featured on The Travel Channel.

Located across the street from the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech), a visit to

The Varsity is a trip back in time with fast-speaking waitresses, extremely low prices and excellent food. A combination meal with two chili dogs, fries and a Coca-Cola will only set you back about eight dollars. And don't forget to try their fried peach pie for dessert. It is Georgia, after all.

If you are hungry for knowledge after dinner, Atlanta offers several educational institutions that are known around the country, including the aforementioned Georgia Tech, Emory University as well as Georgia State University. Or if you feel like taking a road trip, hop on the highway and go east an hour and a half to Athens and visit the University of Georgia to see where names from R.E.M.'s Michael Stipe to Heisman Trophy winner Herschel Walker obtained their education.

And speaking of football, what's a vacation without a sporting event? While the Atlanta Falcons are currently in their offseason, spring in Atlanta means late-season Atlanta Hawks basketball and the start of the Atlanta Braves' baseball season. And tickets for both teams are easily obtainable and significantly cheaper than their basketball and baseball counterparts here in New York.

Atlanta sports fans on a national level get a bit of a bad rap for being fickle, but when their teams are doing well, they will support them every step of the way. When the New York Giants came in to play the Falcons in December and took several thousand of their fans with them, the Falcons and the deafening home crowd in the Georgia Dome sent the Giants home with a 34-0

defeat – a testament to the home-field advantage that Atlanta sports teams often get from their fans.

As for other attractions around the city, the downtown area features many different attractions within walking distance. It is not often that you get to see the site of an Olympic park, but the 1996 Centennial Olympic park in downtown Atlanta still stands proud as a municipal year-round destination.

Across from Centennial Olympic Park are two titans of industry separated by only a few feet – the CNN Center is the headquarters for the 24-hour cable news giant, and for those majoring in Journalism/Print Media, a tour of their headquarters would definitely be of the utmost interest.

Just down the block from CNN is the World of Coca-Cola, a massive complex tied to the world headquarters of the planet's most popular drink. For those interested in marketing and advertising majors, take a tour through the massive complex to get a taste of how Coke became the industry giant that it is today.

Spring can also be an excellent time weather-wise to visit Atlanta, as the chill that often comes with New York in March and early April is significantly milder there, and it is still several months away from the suffocating heat and humidity that begins to grip the south in June.

So if you are looking to get away for Spring break while not shattering the bank or going too far from home, Atlanta is just different enough to



The city skyline of Atlanta is seen from the 59th floor of the Westin hotel.

## Beware of Catfish - TV show, Te'o Scandal in Headlines

by Tramane Harris

The internet is known to be a place where you can find out the latest news, do some online shopping and stay in touch with some old friends while making new ones as well.

Social networking is made possible by Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and the old reliable e-mail sites that help us communicate with others near and far. However, the fun of the World Wide Web should also be approached with caution. Leaking too much information will allow negative users to improve their chances at developing a plan to use you. The web is home to cyber-bullying, money scams, false advertising, hackers and a newly named phenomenon known as "catfishing."

Catfishing is a new term but the occurrence is too familiar. The phrase comes from the 2010 documentary, "Catfish," where a group of young filmmakers record their friend's online relationship with a young woman only to find out she was a helpless mother who lived her life by creating fantasies through Facebook.

These users reel in their victims by remaining incognito, creating an attractive profile and displaying usually stolen or model-like pictures. In time, they start developing a fictitious relationship with



Notre Dame linebacker Manti Te'o, pictured here, was involved in a scandal regarding an online girlfriend of his that did not actually exist.

very trusting individuals. Perhaps the most prominent evidence of this is the recent case of University of Notre Dame linebacker Manti Te'o.

Te'o, a finalist for the Heisman trophy as top player in college football, was involved in a budding friendship online where he had never heard nor seen the

mysterious girl named Lennay Kekua. It was until they had a phone conversation, throwing away any doubt of her existence on his part and encouraging his drive to pursue this online fantasy, making him that more victimized by this scam.

Michael Roth, a pitcher from the University of South Carolina wrote on his blog that in 2010 he had encountered a similar situation. It started with a text from a girl named Hope Porter who said she had attended the University of Texas and had attained his number from a mutual friend. She constantly would create excuses to not meet him in person. Later, Roth had done an online search of her number, which led him to chat rooms where she was confronted by other guys she had "catfished." After being pressured, she admitted that she was doing an experiment to see if anyone was going to fall in love with her.

These scandals usually result in anger and crushed feelings after the person realizes that they were engaged in an affair with a fake persona. It is hard to state the main motive of these scam artists; it may range from retribution, monetary gain or boredom.

With the dangers of the Internet, it is safe to say that we should use the web, but that we should not allow the web to use us.



# Disappointment for KCC Wave Men's Hoops

by Kamarie Steadman

This year has been nothing short of an extremely disappointing season for the KBCC Wave men's basketball team. They finished the season with a 2-23 record, losing their last seven games. Changes and adjustments will have to be made going into the offseason in order for them to be a better team going into the 2013-2014 season.

The team's statistics were disappointing to say the least, and the numbers can speak for themselves - as a team they shoot only 40.9 percent from the field, and they also averaged 57.1 points per game while their opponents shot 50.4 percent from the field, with their defense allowing teams to score 85 points per game. By comparison, the Abraham Lincoln high school basketball team has a better offensive and defensive production than this group.

Kingsborough also struggled immensely down the stretch in losing their final three games by scores of 100-59 to Hostos, 115-65 to Suffolk County Community College and 102-44 to Sullivan County Community College.

Despite how bad the season has been, two players stood out for their production

throughout the 2012-2013 season. One of those players was freshman guard Cashawn McFadden, the team's leading scorer. McFadden averaged 25.8 points a game and shot 44.4 percent from the field. Terrance Hardwick was the second leading

scorer averaging 19.6 points a game shooting 40.8 percent from the field.

McFadden was named the CUNYAC/Applebee's Men's Basketball Rookie for the week of January 21-27. This marks the second time that the freshman, who helped KBCC close out a tight win over Borough of Manhattan Community College on January 22, has been named with the honor this season. That night, with 1.2 seconds remaining in regulation time, McFadden netted a crucial three pointer that gave the Wave the victory. In the 74-73 win, the guard garnered a game high of 30 points. The Brooklyn native also delivered a season high of 39 points in the Wave's loss to the Ulster Senators on January 26 as he shot an outstanding 5-7 from three-point range, and compiled eight rebounds.

With the performance that McFadden had this season, it could only mean that next season will be better and that the team will be more competitive. Fans can take solace in the fact that despite the number of losses, the Wave gave a good effort and lost several games by close margins this season.

Unfortunately, overall the season was a huge disappointment, and the biggest positive about this season is that it is finally over.



Kingsborough men's leading scorer Cashawn McFadden drives to the basket earlier this season against Hostos



The 2012-23 Kingsborough Community College men's basketball team photo



# Sports

## Ravens Become Two-time Super Bowl Champs

by: Chadwick Joanis

Super Bowl XLVII was an eventful evening even before the Baltimore Ravens were crowned world champions for the second time in their history, following a 34-31 win over the San Francisco 49ers in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome in New Orleans on February 3, 2013.

Before the game started, Grammy Award winner Jennifer Hudson performed "America the Beautiful" with the children of Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. It was a moment of strength for the children of Sandy Hook, and it was a sign that you should never give up, especially during tough times.

Following Alicia Keys' performance of the national anthem, the game started with both brothers – John Harbaugh of the Ravens and Jim Harbaugh of the 49ers' - teams showing intensity early on. In the first quarter, the Ravens and 49ers traded big tackles to try and show which team deserved the title as Super Bowl champion. The Ravens dealt the first blow as quarterback Joe Flacco threw a deep pass

into the end zone as receiver Anquan Boldin pulled it in for the 13-yard touchdown.

Intensity continued to build between both teams as skirmishes between the teams took place after a hard San Francisco tackle. Baltimore's performance was a strong one, but that did not stop San Francisco from playing their best as they got to within a field goal later in the quarter to make the score 7-3, which would be the score after the first quarter.

With the 49ers attempting to make it closer in the second, Baltimore made it 14-3 on a Flacco touchdown pass to Dennis Pitta as two Ravens teammates gave each other a bear hug. Flacco then threw a 56-yard touchdown pass to Jacoby Jones to make it 21-3 as Jones responded with a dance.

Baltimore led 21-6 at halftime, which was highlighted by a spectacular performance from R&B singer Beyonce. Not only did she prove that she does not need to lip sync, a controversy from President Obama's inauguration where she performed two weeks earlier, but she also delivered a strong performance by

performing some of her hits such as "Countdown" and classics like "Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)." She also performed with Destiny's Child members Kelly Rowland and Michelle Williams for the first time in about a decade. There were also pyrotechnics and fireworks throughout the stadium as the show came to a conclusion.

The second half started off great for the Ravens as Jones opened play with a 108-yard kickoff return for a touchdown that made the score 28-6 and seemingly ended any 49ers chance of a victory. The play was one yard short of the longest touchdown in NFL history.

A few minutes later, there was loss of power at the Superdome due to a fuse blowout. Everything went back to normal after about 34 minutes, but the unprecedented turn of events seemed to change the tide of momentum into the favor of the 49ers.

As the third quarter continued, San Francisco's Colin Kaepernick connected with Michael Crabtree for a 31-yard touchdown that made it 28-13. Frank Gore

then scored a six-yard touchdown before the teams traded field goals to make it 31-23 Ravens. Kaepernick then took off on a 15-yard touchdown run to make it a two-point game.

Ravens' kicker Jason Tucker kicked a 38-yard field goal to make it a five-point game late before Baltimore punter Sam Koch intentionally took a safety late to give the Niners the ball in worse scoring position than they would have normally got.

That ended the game, Ravens victorious. It was a very close game between both teams but at the end of the day, one team showed true heart of a champion. Baltimore became the Super Bowl champions for the second time since Super Bowl XXXV in 2001 when they beat the New York Giants 31-7.

Coach John Harbaugh said that his team "fought very hard." John also spoke about his brother Jim, saying that he "loved him." Super Bowl MVP Joe Flacco said their win is "unbelievable." Ray Lewis, playing in the final game of his storied career, summed it up best by stating "when God is with you, who can be against you?"



Photo by AU KIRK

Baltimore Ravens' safety Ed Reed celebrates following Super Bowl XLVII as the Ravens beat the San Francisco 49ers 34-31 to win their second championship in franchise history.