Over one billion people live on less than one dollar a day. In this age of vast wealth and technological advancements, we live in an inequitable world where the top 5% of the world consumes 30% of the world’s resources. We must ask these pertinent questions, on how it pertains to our own lives, our future, and whether or not we are willing to act.

Today I’m here with you to discuss the economic effects of piracy on the maritime industry. What is piracy? Piracy is defined as the practice of criminal violence or robbery at sea. Piracy has existed for as long as there have been ships and plied for commerce. Throughout history there have been many pirates, from the Vikings to the pirates of the Barbary Coast which operated from the shores of Tripoli, Tunis, and Algiers primarily raided the Mediterranean Sea. The Barbary pirates seized American vessels on the shores of North Africa. After American independence from Great Britain they were operated under the alliance treaty. The United States had to pay tribute and ransom costs which accounted for about 20% of annual government expenditures. This led to the creation of the U.S. Navy and the U.S. declared war on the Barbary States in order to protect U.S. shipping interests and to not pay tribute or ransom which was campaigned by President Thomas Jefferson. The U.S. won the Barbary wars which ended up in favorable terms for U.S. shipping because they no longer had to pay tribute.

Piracy has persisted to the present day. In order to understand the cost and must understand the history of Somalia, which led it to become a failed state. In the scramble for Africa Somalia, like most of the rest of the continent, was colonized. The vast wealth of resources that was transferred out of Africa was essential to the rapid development of Europe. Somalia was colonized by and divided amongst the British, the French, and the Italians. British Somaliland was northern Somalia bordered by French Somaliland. French Somaliland is present day Djibouti. The southern part of Somalia was Italian Somaliland and was the most productive part and where the port of Kismayo were. The eastern part of Somalia – the Ogden region – was awarded to Haile Selassie of Ethiopia. Somalia gained independence in 1960. During the Cold War Somalia was supported by the U.S.S.R. and later the United States for its geostrategic importance in the region. Somalia is the midway point between Europe and Asia; the Suez Canal links the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean. The Gulf of Aden forms the northern coast of the Somali coastal line, one of the most important in the world.

There are many factors that led to the rise of Somali piracy such as lack of effective central government, economic desperation, poverty, and the marine ecosystem that has been destroyed by human activity. The affects of piracy have had huge costs to the maritime industry. This form of economic terrorism has led to the collapse of the Somali coastline. There is a network of firms setup in developing countries to dispose of nuclear and toxic waste. This is systematically poisoning the ocean robbing the Somali fishermen of their livelihoods and destroying the marine ecosystem further fueling the instability and giving rise to piracy. These are the consequences of Somali piracy. The piracy in the Gulf of Aden has had huge costs to the maritime industry. This form of economic terrorism has led to the collapse of the Somali coastline. Piracy is the act of seizing or attacking vessels on the high seas or in other waters.

The shortfalls of the international community on putting emphasis on this issue gives impetus to piracy. The United Nations should include the enforcement of Somali maritime law to the international community. This is a practical proposed solution to the piracy problem. The Somali government and the international community have gone unnoticed. In order for the international community to have a long-term effective plan in dealing with piracy resolutions a law should be passed to condemn the illegal fishing at sea. The United Nations should create a coalition of the warring on the part of the international community in order to come up with realistic and viable solutions to curb piracy. The detrimental effect of overfishing and toxic dumping by foreign shipping vessels has led to the increased number of the Somali pirates. The continual foreign involvement stifies measures to establish a transparent and democratic government that is representative of the will of the Somali people. The long-term solution to end piracy needs to be shifting incentives. The inherent problem within Somalia and the market failures led piracy to fill that void. There needs to be an economic structure to create a system that is more efficient and effective government that can provide security and stability. The benefits of the changes that will transpire if these measures were changed would have an overall positive effect on Somalia and in the Horn of Africa. The change would promote peace and stability in the region that has been unstable for many years. There would be reduction of economic and human costs. It will also help alleviate poverty in Somalia. The significant costs of naval fleets and security in order to secure their ships would be greatly reduced as piracy would cease and Somalia would have a stable government.

The human costs of piracy are the casualties on both sides the Somali pirates and the merchant ship crews who are held hostage. The benefits will help alleviate the burden of economic costs on security and reduce the naval deployment from the international community. This in turn will help cease piracy by creating economic and government stability. The ensuing economic benefits and toxic dumping by foreign vessels from the international community has gone widely unnoticed and underreported. The connection between these two issues are critical and of utmost importance in understanding the underlying issue of the piracy issue. The stability of the region is dependent upon Somali state this will reverberate around the horn of Africa, reducing terrorism and piracy. Therefore, the intrinsic values between these two can’t be separated because the duality of these two forces are inherently connected and this significance shouldn’t be overlooked because of external geopolitical interests of regional and external players, but we must have a moral imperative to resolve the actions of a country that has been ravaged and devastated by war as a consequence of foreign intervention due to its geographic location.

As St. Augustine of Hippo observed, Alexander the Great captured a pirate and asked, “How dare [he] molest the sea?” The pirate replied, “How dare you molest the seas of the world; but because I do it with a petty ship I’m called a thief; you do it with a great navy you are respected.”

Note: This article is an adaptation of a speech given by Mr. Ughtit at SUNY Maritime College as part of their Groundhog Day program. The presentation was streamed as live video between SUNY Maritime College and an audience at BCC.

**BCC Students’ First Stop to Films**

It is every budding filmmaker’s dream to build something beautiful and unique; to see a project that you have slaved and lost sleep over come to fruition by playing on a giant movie screen. Come June, with the arrival of BCC’s 19th Annual Film Festival, dreams may come true for twelve very lucky Media Tech & Film students. Before this could happen, though, the students had to pitch their student film ideas to three special guest speakers representing the entertainment industry.

Our first guest was Mr. Stew Smiley. Among many accomplishments, Mr. Smiley is founder of the U.S. Comedy Arts Festival and executive producer of Everybody Loves Raymond and the TV Series of the Conchords. The students listened attentively as Mr. Smiley spoke about his “break” into the business. He also gave them some advice about the changing entertainment market and how most people are looking towards the internet, not their television sets, for movies and as students. As the students came up one by one to pitch their film ideas, Mr. Smiley was kind enough to share his concerns and questions. Also, as like our other special guests, he was also open to share his film comparisons so that the students could research their ideas fully. It was a great sit-down with an award winning producer who was behind one of the most popular shows of our past decade.

Marco Greco is a Bronx born actor who came to speak to the class the following week. Not only did Mr. Greco impart some very candid and moving stories from his life, he also left a very lasting impression on some of the students. He spoke about taking care of ourselves as artists because as actors, directors, creatives: “you are your own product.” He recommended readings such as the “Four Agreements” by the shamanic teacher Don Miguel Ruiz and he highlighted the creative temperament we should show when dealing with others. Mr. Greco’s talk was very informative and was definitely an empowering stop on the student’s tough schedule ahead. Pedro Suarez was especially grateful when he thanked Mr. Greco for volunteering his time and his homestory.

Our final two guests were Dan Fried and Melanie Jones. Mr. Fried was the director of the movie 0 which “won the Golden Needle for Best Director at the 2001 Seattle Film Festival and became Lion’s Gate’s then second largest grossing theatrical release and then largest home video title.” Ms. Jones manages the sale of Kodak Motion Continued on page 3
The Communicator urges students to submit articles and editorials to the newspaper. We also encourage students to respond to the articles and editorials found in this newspaper. The views expressed in by-lined articles and in published letters are solely those of the writer, and they do not necessarily represent the view of The Communicator.

We reserve the right to edit any article or letter submitted due to space considerations. We reserve the right to refuse publication to any article or letter due to space considerations as well as those articles or letters deemed inappropriate because of profane language, non-verification problems, or slander.

No article or letter will be published unless the author submits his or her name, email address, and telephone number. Please submit all articles and letters to the following email address: communipaper@gmail.com

Notes:
No Word submissions will be accepted that are saved in Word 2007. Please save and submit in an earlier version.
JPEGs must be submitted as email attachments and should not be embedded in the Word copy.

The Communicator
Spring 2012Insertion Dates
May Issue: April 18

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Campus News

Continued from page 1

Picture Film to Television, Commercial, Documentary and Narrative Feature Film productions. Both gave incredibly valuable feedback and important critiques to every student that they listened to. Mr. Fried personally stood out to me because we spoke about the importance of images within the narrative of a film. Ms. Jones took a liking to Natalie, last year’s film festival winner, and her newest film idea.

With this trial finally complete and the motivational talks of this past month serving as templates for the long journeys ahead, the students are now on their way to that dream. And in June, in a theater packed with loved ones and film aficionados, the dreams of twelve BCC students will be realized as the lights go down for the first time.

Daniel Fried and Melanie Jones standing with students and Professor Jeffery Wisotsky of the Media Tech & Film Society. Mr. Daniel Fried became a film producer in 1997 and set up projects American Knight at Universal Pictures, Rumble in the Jungle at Showtime, and then in 1998 he produced the film O. Melanie Jones has managed Kodak’s sponsorship of numerous film festivals and she has been an active member of many industry organizations. She has served on the Board of New York Women in Film and Television and CINE. She also serves on the Board of the Association of Independent Commercial Producers as well as the Advisory Board of D.C. Women in Film and Video.

Joshua Bisono gaining some advice from Marco Greco. Marco Greco is an artist born in the Bronx. He was the co-founder and executive director of the Belmont Italian American Playhouse from 1991-1996, where he participated in over 30 productions as an actor, director, writer and co-producer. He was the co-founder and executive director of the Belmont Italian American Playhouse from 1991-1996, where he participated in over 30 productions as an actor, director, writer and co-producer.

Media Technology Students students, Carl Zumatto and Juan Rodriguez, were selected as finalists in this year’s 24th Annual United States Super 8mm Film + Digital Video Festival. The thirteen finalist works were selected from over 123 entries submitted by film and videomakers from around the world. The two five-minute short films were produced in Prof. Jeffrey Wisotsky’s CMS 62, Beginning Film & Video Production, class, and they were premiered at the 18th Annual BCC Film and Video Festival held at Clearview Cinema in June 2011. The 24th annual United States Super 8mm Film + Digital Video Festival was held on February 17-19, 2012 at Voorhees Hall on the College Avenue Campus of Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey. The Festival included a different program each evening.

For two Bronx Community College Media Technology students the Academy Awards or the Cannes Film Festival are always a dream.

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20 Questions with Dr. H. Elizabeth Smith

By Alcy Levy

1. What is your favorite building on campus? The first one that came to mind is Gould (Memorial Library). Even though that’s probably everyone’s favorite. But, maybe, my new favorite building will be the library because I’ve watched that grow from a parking lot. I think it’s such a beautiful building and such an integrated part of the campus structure. And can I tell you what my least favorite building on campus is?

Sure. Meister. I can’t stand that place. I think it’s very ugly.

2. How long have you been teaching? In my life. Twenty years.

3. Is there a lot of people who agree? Yes. I’ll even put both because I like how it dawned on Marilyn Monroe. That would be funny.

4. What was the last song you danced to? I don’t know if I can answer that question because I dance a lot to my daughter’s music even though I don’t know it. The popular music. So I’ll just say “Fly Ride.” Whenever that comes on the radio, I mean that’s a big hit.


6. Steven Spielberg is shooting a movie on your life. Shotguns? For sure.


Really? And how does that happen? It’s very easy. You put a bunch of brussel sprouts in the oven, a little olive oil, a little salt and pepper, roasted. My mother just taught me that recipe.

8. Great. A train leaves Chicago going south at 20 mph. A similar train leaves Istanbul with rare elephants as cargo on its way west. What is your favorite contemporary TV show? I don’t watch TV. You can write that down. Ever, if I can help it.

9. Your favorite non-English word? Insha’Allah which is Arabic for ‘god-willing.’ I’m always saying that.


Wow. That’s good, right?

That is rich. I would pick that up… to peruse. I would probably put it back down, but I would definitely look through it once.

(*Laughs*) (Note: For anyone who has ever heard Dr. Smith’s laugh, you can already imagine how infectious it is. And if you haven’t heard it yet, you’re missing out.)


Yes. I’ll even put both because I like how it dawned on you. “Oh. There’s something worse than (fencing).” Yes.

13. Team Jacob or Team Edward? (*Confused*) No clue.


16. And since your mother was already introduced to us, what song do you associate with your mother? The song I was thinking of regarding my mother is “I Will Survive” – more for the rhythm and that wonderful mental image of her dancing and cooking to this in the kitchen with my 13 year old daughter than the lyrics, but whatever. I also wanted to tell you that when you asked about the song I associated with my mother – I thought for a moment there sense of “a disgusting insect” in peace–Bach’s Brandenburg Concertos on Sunday mornings—I would be so happy if you could include this too. It’s a fun contrast!

17. Motto you live by? That’s a really nice question. I would probably have to say the ‘Golden Rule’ which is “Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.” I would have to say that was engrained in me at a very early age.

18. In Kafka’s Metamorphoses, the main character, Gregor, turns into a…? Cockroach?

I really love this question because it’s almost relative. I went to Denver and spoke to some people there and they immediately said “hard-shelled beetle.” It’s almost like people project there sense of a “disgusting” insect. For us, we go with cockroach. For people from Denver, beetles are pretty gross and repulsive.

That’s interesting.

19. Two more questions to go. Three feet of snow or 110 degree weather? 110 weather. I hate the snow. Give me a 110.

20. Last question. How did you find these questions? Fun. Except for the fact that I realize that I’m losing my memory.

Thank you. That’s actually the right answer.

The Rainbow Alliance Club on BCC’s Campus

By Keyunna Singleton

The Rainbow Alliance Club would like to formally greet the students, faculty and staff of BCC. The club has been on campus for a little under two years and since most of the students that founded and joined the club when it first emerged at BCC are graduating, we’d like to send a message that the club isn’t going anywhere. The Rainbow Alliance Club is Bronx Community College’s very own chapter of LGBTQ representation through the Campus Pride organization. Almost every school in CUNY has a LGBTQ club to support, protect, encourage, and educate the masses about their LGBTQ community. Some schools even have two or more.

This is the goal of the Rainbow Alliance Club here at BCC. Overall, the club wants to stand as a safe haven for all members and supporters of the LGBTQ community. The club encourages all students who are or know members of the community to join our club or visit us during club meeting hours to sit in on discussions or ask questions they feel need to be answered. The Rainbow Alliance protects all students and staff on campus that are open about their relational attraction to the same sex. The club also supports the members of the LGBTQ that have decided that they are not ready to come out. The club understands that everyone affiliated the LGBTQ community comes from a different background and has a different outcome to “coming out.”

The biggest goal of the Rainbow Alliance Club is to educate the people that aren’t a part of the LGBTQ community. The purpose of education is to prevent or eliminate prejudice on and off campus. The club also looks to educate the members of the community on how to approach as how to properly handle what they see much more. The club meets every Thursday from 12 pm – 2 pm in Colston Hall, room 723. Our members are very supportive individuals who make time to assist the needs other members of the LGBTQ community.

We would like to extend a special thanks to the advisor Edwin Roman, who has been an advocate for the equality of the LGBTQ for many years, and also to Sharon Chin, who is one of the founders of the club and a major supporter and advocate for the LGBTQ community.

An additional thank you must go to the SGA and the Office of Student Life for supporting the needs of the club and to the officers that are holding positions, have held positions and will hold positions in the future. Lastly, thank you to the members of the club and the LGBTQ community. These are the people that give the Rainbow Alliance Club reason and purpose. The club is looking forward to seeing many new faces over the years and is inviting everyone regardless of sexual preference to join or visit the club.

The Communicator – March 20, 2012

Oxfam is looking for CHANGE-makers!

Oxfam America is accepting applications for the CHANGE Initiative. Oxfam’s national student leadership and organizing program. They are seeking your support to spread awareness among student leaders at BCC about this opportunity. CHANGE offers college students, at US based campuses, entering their sophomore or junior year the opportunity to become effective agents for social change.

CHANGE Leaders:
• Have access to expert skills based training, resources, materials and year-round support from Oxfam staff;
• Establish connections and share knowledge with college students from the US and beyond;
• Develop confidence and lifelong skills to create positive, lasting social change, and
• Are part of an active and growing, global network of peers and alumni working on justice issues.

Applications are due on April 2, 2012. Selected students participate in a week-long training in Boston, July 21-27, 2012, which is organized and paid for by Oxfam. Students must agree to join or form an Oxfam Club and implement an Oxfam campaign on campus during the 2012-13 academic year, as well as communicate regularly with Oxfam staff about their work.

Watch Oxfam's CHANGE video at: http://www.oxfamamerica.org/ change. If you have any questions please call 1-800-77-OXFAM ext. 9415 or email CHANGE@oxfamamerica.org/mailto:CHANGE@oxfamamerica.org>
GABRIEL FREIRE / VISUAL ARTIST

“I chose the arts because it’s the most fulfilling”

The man on campus that everyone loves to look at. I first met Gabriel Freire in my first semester here at BCC. We were both in an English class and we both liked to speak passionately about the array of topics touched in that class. Those were funny times, actually. I was happy to find that he was actually as intelligent as he looked. Soon I got to his artwork. Watching him paint and draw was so intense that I ended up writing some of my best works with him serving as my muse.

Though Gabriel seems laidback his mind is a paradox of things only he can understand. He is highly productive and kind. So his artistic coming out story is a bit more... abstract. “I had a dream after watching The Terminator, I was really young, and I also had this thing with wolves. So in the dream it was this picture of a half Terminator and a half wolf, you know, with the red eyes”

He decided to draw it but he did not have the anticipated end result. “I was so mad my style wasn’t up to par. So I decided that one day I will be capable enough to draw out my dreams.”

I asked him about what inspires him and he responded with something I am sure most artists of any genre can relate to: “I’m crazy, I have a world in my head... I work with that”

“The better the mind, the better the art”

Gabriel plans on getting into the conceptual art industry for anime and video games. He has applied to Pratt Institute amongst other schools renowned for their art programs. I’m still waiting for some of his artwork that I can turn out for a fortune in a few years. For sure he will create a niche for himself in the artistic movement of our time.

JAMAL FELIX-SPANN ‘TENTH’ / SPOKEN WORD ARTIST

“We have to be the Historical Voice”

I did not know what to expect when entering last semester’s Poetry Lounge. I sat down and hear some amazing poetry but then Jamal Felix-Spann ‘Tenth’ came up and reminded me about the importance of the spoken word. Each of his words resonated with tradition, with heavenly call and with wrath—the succulent wrath of the Poet. This was just in the pitch of his voice. With his words came monstrous heat. Hearing truths make people hot. I found myself taking off layers of clothes so I could allow his truths to penetrate and so that I would no longer be afraid. In short – Jamal ‘Tenth’ – Hell Yea! He is an amazing spoken word artist.

When interviewing him I expected a great story about his artistic breakthrough and he did not disappoint. It began with the music his grandmother played in the living room. He found himself getting lost in it. So, at the age of eight he began to write. He wanted to somehow express the emotions the music evoked in him. His grandmother hosted Black Panther parties in which he was asked to perform at such a young age. Jamal’s biggest inspiration is Doom.

“We have to tell people what is going on”

With his daughter and biggest critic in mind, he reflects, listens to speeches and music from this he reigns in truths and writes. He is also deeply helped by his martial art practices.

Jamal is working on becoming an environmental lawyer and has been volunteering in the community to help with the education of those who couldn’t otherwise get good education like those in the prison systems.

AARON WARING / DIGITAL FILM DIRECTOR-WRITER

“I’m a bundle.”

The BCC film master with a killer smile. I met him in one of the Creative Writing Club’s (CWC) writer’s circles. He was and still is always cool, collected and kind. I understood he was a writer and a good one. He did not mention in his immediate introduction was that he was also a cinematographer, a photographer, and a director and he was pretty good at it. Then I watched his Pepsi commercial and now I am convinced of his talent.

Aaron started out as a writer and realized that he wanted to see the images floating in his head, so he transitioned into film. When I asked him about his inspirations he had a lot to say and ended with: “I am so diverse. I want to shoot a collage of different artistry.”

“I want to be timeless.”

Aaron is working on building a media house-corporation. He is also has a reality web series called “The Barber’s Hustle.” He is currently majoring in media tech and will be applying to NYU, Brooklyn College, and City College.
NYPIRG's Ongoing Hunger and Homelessness Campaign to Combat and Raise Awareness of Hunger and Homelessness throughout Spring 2012 Semester

Volunteers needed for event, campaign, and other NYPIRG campaigns.

On March 22, 2012, NYPIRG will be hosting a "Hunger Banquet" on the BCC campus, exact location TBA. The Hunger Banquet is an educational/awareness event where participants are randomly assigned a level of poverty or wealth as they enter. That assignment dictates the participant’s seat assignments, access to food and more. The event highlights the widespread nature of hunger and the fact that access to basic goods can easily depend on chance. Volunteers to prep/facilitate event needed.

The Hunger Banquet will be the second event of the Spring 2012 Hunger and Homelessness campaign. The first event is the "Homeless Care-Package Supply Drive" taking place on campus between 2/14 and 2/24. This drive entails NYPIRG members and interns collecting toiletries, food, and clothing articles which will be donated through direct outreach to the homeless of the Bronx. Items to be collected include: toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap/hand sanitizer, toilet paper, socks, underwear, stacks, wet wipes, etc. Direct outreach distribution of items collected will occur late March-early April. Volunteers for distribution needed.

NYPIRG’s current campaigns include Hunger and Homelessness, Higher Education Affordability, Straphanger’s (Public Transportation Advocacy), Consumer Rights, Environmental Protection, Sustainable Energy, and Voter Rights/Registration. Students who are interested in getting involved with NYPIRG campaigns by volunteering and/or becoming a member/intern, are welcome at NYPIRG’s weekly meetings during club hours in Meister Room 226 or can get more information at the NYPIRG office Meister 214 Mon-Fri 10AM-5PM. Membership/internship/volunteering with NYPIRG provides students with invaluable skills and experiences for advocacy and community service. These skills and experiences contribute to a complete collegiate experience and thus a well-rounded student regardless of his/her major or career path. NYPIRG Intern Josue Lopez points out, "All too often we submit to the existence of inequality with convenient stance of ‘that’s just how the world is.’ We must realize that we do not live in the reality that has been created; rather we create the reality in which we live. NYPIRG offers students the tools with which to tackle the issues they care about.”

For event information and to RSVP visit scps.nyu.edu/mcghee-events2f

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New Yorkers have short-term memories. No matter how good a particular week is shaping up to be, it only takes one painful minute for us to throw up our hands and declare the end of the world on the horizon. This can be especially said of our fanatical obsession with sports. In a way, New York sports are the glue that holds this whole society together and keeps civil strife away from our street corners and all two hundred Starbucks locations. The Giants’ Super Bowl win over the New England Patriots alone proves that this city runs on the adrenaline of its sports teams.

But the Big Blue victory carries with it even more significance than just bragging rights. Sports bars and restaurants were sold-out on reservations for the big game. Brother Jimmy’s on 14th Street alone was already booked almost an hour after the division championship game. The boost in our city’s economy aside, this was a time for New York to do what it does best: declare itself infinitely better than everyone else on the planet. And what better way to do it than standing beside that person who hovered too close to you on the N train on the way over?

New York is the city most people, especially sports fanatics, love to hate. There is a reason why the Yankees are known around baseball as the Evil Empire. Sports culture loves its villains. It is almost a necessary requirement. The Knicks of yesteryear – Sprewell, Ewing, Starks, Davis, Oakley – were considered the bullies of the NBA. The more physical they played, the more the non-Knick fans rolled their eyes and ground their teeth. Not only were they staples of every Eastern Playoff run, but they sported some of the most memorable NBA moments of that era. I still have nightmares of then-coach Jeff Van Gundy holding onto a man’s leg as he was dragged around the court like a ragdoll during a bench-clearing brawl. I still hear the rousing chorus of Reggie Miller lit up the Knicks with one three-pointer after another or when Jordan dropped fifty-five points in Madison Square Garden like he paid to keep the lights on. These were teams people needed. These were teams sports needed.

The Yankees of the last ten years are no strangers to poison-drenched looks of almost everyone in the other forty-nine states. Heck, we have some right here on our own turf. Step one foot into Queens and start talking about Derek Jeter’s legacy and a Mets fan will probably do nothing short of burn the man in effigy. If you have not seen the video of Pedro Martinez drop Don Zimmer to the ground during a volatile Red Sox/Yankee game, pull it up on the Internet and read the comments. Martinez was one of the most disliked pitchers in the game at the time. He threw at batters, he threw at umpires, he threw at fans most of the time. And when he could not sink any lower, he tossed a seventy-two year old man to the ground in front of millions and the world … laughs? It was disgusting, sure, but all of a sudden, Martinez became a hero for standing up to the Empire.

The Giants’ Super Bowl win has a chance to change all of that. Before, the New York City sports team was one that people hated just because we were easy to hate. With all of their “bullying,” the Knicks have not won a championship since 1973. And even though the last Yankee parade was in 2009, they are still hated and reviled by anyone not in pinstripes. The Giants have a chance to make a team hated, not for their physical play or money flaunting, but because – very plainly – they are the team to beat.

The Giants did not roll into the Super Bowl as arrogant kings riding blazing steeds of burning awesome. The Giants did not roll into the Super Bowl as arrogant kings riding blazing steeds of burning awesome. The Giants did not roll into the Super Bowl as arrogant kings riding blazing steeds of burning awesome. The Giants did not roll into the Super Bowl as arrogant kings riding blazing steeds of burning awesome. They actually entered the game against the Patriots as 3-point underdogs with the over-under set at 53 1/2 points. Eli Manning was interviewed before the game and he spoke about the hard-nosed, pure-guts play style that got them to the big dance. He also revered Head Coach Tom Coughlin’s strict and rigorous work and practice ethic as playing a vital role for their Super Bowl berth. And it was with this never-say-die attitude that Manning led the Giants to their second win over the Pats, a team that went 13-3 in the regular season led by the future hall-of-fame quarterback, Tom Brady. This does not exactly sound like a bunch of guys you hate because of their character. The Giants outplayed every team they met in the playoffs, right into the fourth quarter when Manning and the defense took over.

The world needs New York City. We house the financial backbone of the country and more overpriced hotdog vendors than most states have in their entire history. But the world also needs our sports teams to step up, just like the Giants have. It is far easier to be hated when you have the rings to back it up. So, I say, support Linsanity while it’s still here and hope that our offseason trades will net another Yankee championship. It’s time we let our team accomplishments speak for themselves.
I applied for STOCS and received a grant for $1,300. Receiving this grant helped me to cover some of the expenses of the trip. Usually most of the students might think that the process to go and study abroad is really hard, but the reality is that it is not. Getting in contact with another culture really different from ours is something priceless. It helps you in many different aspects of your life as well as it gives you the chance of getting better job opportunities after college as well as supporting your transferability to other fourth-year college. In my case, I just got accepted to Baruch College and they already started talking to me if I would be interested working in their study abroad office as well as enroll in some international programs for the coming fall semester.

Having had the opportunity to go to Japan has been for me a very important change in my life. Being able to appreciate a culture that has been able to progress year after year despite its moments of crisis has been interesting for me. It is incredible to see how Japanese culture has been climbing year after year despite the crisis that today affects the entire world allocating them in the list of the countries with one of the strongest economies around the world. Being able to see how people are really respectful to each other have help me to understand how important education is and how by being educated we can change many things around us. Having been in Japan has not only made me make new friends, but has also given me the opportunity to go to many interesting places. The power of being in contact with another culture has made me grow in an impressive manner. This experience has definitely helped enhance my personal growth and development, which I think are some of the key reasons why we are in college.

This great experience has given me the opportunity to show how culturally rich our planet is and what a variety of things it offers us. So far, it has definitely been the most rewarding experience that I have had in my life. Japan has marked a before and after in my life and it is greatly recommended to all students to have the opportunity to study abroad. There are many destinations to which you can go and make your live more interesting and what a better way to learn of a new culture by living, learning and getting accustomed to a new place with different traditions, religions, languages, and food. Do it and see how great it is. Japan, Russia, Australia, Spain, Argentina, Brazil, England, Egypt, South Africa, and many more are waiting for you! What are you waiting for?

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The Communicator –March 20, 2012
**Memorializing Whitney**

By William Murray

(I wrote this poem Tuesday, September 15, 2009 after Whitney Houston was on The Oprah Show.)

I knew Cassy would not lose Whitney to Satan
I was memorializing Whitney, and praying she’d get her life straightened
To hear that superhuman voice again, so sanctified and sacred

I knew God was going to ease her soul, depose disease
And for sure, He’s going to restore her whole by divine degrees
And I knew Cassy would not lose Whitney to Satan

Our spirits are God’s for the taking and with them God does remake and refresh.
She especially made in His glorious image
Made me trust God would see her sins remitted

Maven Whitney whose songs are our haven; who sings like a raven
We prayed, memorializing what was created
So it wouldn’t be lost all because Satan

I knew God was going to ease her soul though, and depose disease
And for sure, He’s going to restore her whole by divine degrees
To hear that superhuman voice again, so sanctified and sacred, lifted up to his praise

It was November 1992 and I had just turned ten years old, merely two years before my father died. I remember going to his apartment building – 2929 Bainbridge Avenue, in the Bronx – to have sleepovers with my relatives Liz and Lisa. My father had major obsessive-compulsive disorder, so we would have to top off into his spooky kitchen during the wee hours if we wanted to listen to the radio past bedtime. For me, it was a real life Hasbro’s game of “Don’t Wake Daddy.” If he awakened, it was rather like waking a sleeping giant. But we were given to the adventure, especially since The Preacher’s Wife soundtrack (and just one year later, the Waiting to Exhale soundtrack) and purge. I found I could eliminate destructive guilt through the appreciation of a song. It was hearing Whitney Houston that became my most healing experience. Then in 1996, The Preacher’s Wife came out in theatres when I was eleven. That was the same year I began coming out of the closet to my relatives and friends. I begged my first boyfriend James to take me to see the movie and he refused. Always the melodramatist, I had half a mind to break up with him right then.

Unsurprisingly, James and I later turned out to be another case of apples to oranges. Often when I was much, much younger, I somehow found out that Judy Garland died of an accidental overdose. My little heart, in trying to cope with the idea of the world losing people that were worth looking up to, lamented. That night I cried myself to sleep and involuntarily wet the bed. Tonight, all I can do is deplore this knotted stomach and lump brought to my throat. I felt like Houston was finally in competent care of herself and in the safe hands of people like Pastor Kim Burrell. I thought a rare ordinance was coming her way, and I prayed that God would please let there be a double portion of His spirit on her. I prayed and prayed that Houston would have a second anointing.

What I am left with are several fond memories. I remember once being told by a family friend who worked at St. Vincent’s Hospital that she had the chance to serve as paramedic on the set of The Preacher’s Wife. She was able to witness Houston singing at church for hours of uninterrupted rehearsal. She was in full form on that soundtrack, and I felt as if I’d savored a bit of Houston, secondhand. On Christmas in December of 2008 my friend Adam reserved two tickets for me and (my relative) Lisa to see Joshua Nelson and Cissy Houston at the Museum of Jewish Heritage. Exactly one year later we returned to see Nelson perform again. When I talked to him after the show I mentioned Burrell and he told me that she was one of Houston’s favorite singers.

One month later in early January 2010, the BET Honors were held and Burrell shocked Houston, an honoree, with a tribute performance of “I Believe in You and Me,” from The Preacher’s Wife soundtrack. Last but not least, two days after my most recent birthday, on November 11, 2011, Burrell and I discussed she and Houston performing a duet. I now feel that a return to popularity and/or success was not a means to her benefit. That’s why I pray that Houston’s passing is what finally outweighs her burdens.

I will always love you