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QCC Steps up Support of Title IX



By Kezia West

In wake of the growing nationwide concerns, the New York City Council Committee on Higher Education is to hold a hearing over how private and public colleges handle cases of sexual assaults. The Title IX section in the education amendment has been revised to protect victims of sexual assault and to better address the concept of consent.

As of July 2014, Queensborough

Community College is among the few CUNY schools that have appointed a full-time Title IX Coordinator, Mary Jane Shaw, who has a law degree., and a Masters in Anthropology from SUNY Buffalo. Prior to her appointment as Coordinator, all discrimination complaints were investigated "promptly and thoroughly by our Chief Diversity Officer, Mavis Hall, in the Office of

Affirmative Action, Pluralism & Diversity/Compliance," Shaw explained.

Title IX is a portion of the United States Education Amendments placed to ensure that no one in this country is subject to discrimination under any education program or activity based on their gender. It has been revised in mid-October to also protect students from sexual harassment, sexual assault and domestic violence.

Sexual harassment is generally defined as unwanted sexual advances or obscene remarks, and sexual assault as a sexual act in which a person is threatened, coerced, or forced to engage against their will.

According to Center of Family Justice, 60% of rapes and sexual assaults are not reported to the police.

This is an issue many feel uncomfortable speaking openly about. Victims are sometimes discouraged from coming forward because of the possible negative outcomes of the criminal justice system and the lengthy process of reporting and investigation, as Eliza L. Gray reported in the Time magazine story, "Why Don't Campus Rape Victims Go to the Police?"

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Smile for the Camera: Reducing the Speed Limit to 25



By Ron Gross

Lead-footed drivers beware. The New York City council passed a bill on Oct. 7 to lower the New York City speed limit by a 45-4 vote. Set to go into effect on Nov. 7, the change will reduce the limit from 30 miles per hour to a supposedly safer 25.

So why decide to change the speed limit for the first time in 50 years?

There are several reasons. Based on the New York Police Department's data on motor vehicle crashes, 178 people were killed in the year 2013, and as of now there have already been 210 deaths since 2014 began.

According to USA Today News, a pedestrian being struck by a vehicle moving at 30 miles per hour has a 20 percent chance of being killed, whereas the chances of a pedestrian being killed by a vehicle moving at 25 miles per hour is only half of that. On average, every two hours, someone in the city is either killed or injured in a traffic accident. The death toll on traffic related deaths is rising annually and Mayor Bill de Blasio intends to put an end to it. Completely.

Mayor de Blasio's Vision Zero Project intends to eliminate all traffic related deaths in the city by the year 2024. In support of his Vision Zero Project, de Blasio has put

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How Do You Feel About Minimum Wage?

By Pimsiri Kanchanasakul

Feeling kind of broke? You are not alone if you are one of the millions of Americans who hold a minimum wage job. Rising gas prices, college tuition costs, money for groceries, a

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, minimum wage workers account for 4.7% of hourly paid workers. Among teenagers paid by the hour, about 21% the minimum or less. Currently

Campus News

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In response to sexual assault cases that haven't been investigated, mostly at private colleges, Governor Cuomo said this is an "epidemic of sexual violence in this country that is truly disturbing and inarguable."

On her way from the Robert F. Kennedy Gymnasium to her next class, one Queensborough student, Emily Adames, reflected on this trend. "A lot of people struggle with things they can't share with people because they don't experience the same things," she explained.

Another Queensborough student affirmed that he understood what constitutes consent. Yet when asked what he would do in a hypothetical situation where he took

classmate on a date to the movies and then wanted to engage with her physically, he replied, "I don't need to ask. That's what's expected if I paid for the movies and everything else."

Kyle Chin-How, Queensborough Student Government Executive Secretary believes that the underlying problem is the lack of respect: "We don't hold men accountable from youth to truly show respect towards the opposite sex...The majority [of men] abides by these beliefs."

Chin-How alluded to the concept that his peers are not actively seeking consent because they feel it's optional; there is an undertone of entitlement when it comes

to engaging with romantically the person they're seeing.

"President Call's decision to appoint a full-time Title IX Coordinator is a reflection of her and of the College's commitment to shine a light on the importance of these issues," Shaw explained. The City University of New York was established in 1847 and Queensborough Community College in 1958. Only as recently as 2014 have there been a couple of newly hired full-time Coordinators at CUNY schools.

When I asked our Title IX coordinator what she'd want students to know, she replied, "If you have been a victim of sexual harassment, sexual assault or domestic

violence, you are not alone."

CUNY's policies strictly prohibit sexual harassment and sexual assault of any kind. If you need to file a report, you can contact Shaw at (718) 281-5755, to our Public Safety Director, Edward Locke (718) 631-6320, or to our Chief Student Affairs Officer, Vice President Michel A. Hodge (718) 631-6351. They can help and they can investigate the incident. And if the student is not ready to file a report that might trigger an investigation, they can speak confidentially to one of the counselors in the Counseling Department (718) 631-6370.

How Do You Feel About Minimum Wage?

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minimum wage is not enough. One Queensborough student, Stanley Phan, is frustrated with the current minimum wage. "I feel like they should raise the minimum wage because the MTA is hiking their fare next year, tuition costs keep rising, and just the cost of living in general [goes up]," he

says.

Bianca Monroe, a fellow student agrees. "I hardly have any money to shop or buy things I want, because I make so little at my job. I make a dollar more than the minimum, but after paying for the transportation to work and school every month, and paying for my phone bill it is not enough. It's not like I can even work that many days since I'm a full-time student."

Yet not everyone feels this way.

Isaias Flores, a second year student at Queensborough believes that "the minimum wage shouldn't be raised because that just means they would raise the standard of living. Things like housing or items in stores will just ultimately end up being raised to meet the equilibrium of minimum wage. So raising it will not do anything for the economy."

There are also more direct ways a raise might negatively



next year, he will have to be stricter on his employees to make sure they can handle

of Seattle, they passed the local ordinance to increase it to \$15.00. The nationwide

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