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The Knicks Have Game?

Knicks fans, rejoice! Sounds a bit funny, but it seems basketball is back in New York.

JUSTIN SARACHIK

Knicks fans, rejoice! Sounds a bit funny, but it seems basketball is back in New York. After years of endless torment from losing at the hands of what seemed like everyone and their mother, the Knicks are finally relevant not just in their city, but in basketball.

The big buzz this off-season was of course all about LeBron James and what team he would play for. Many thought that decision would be New York, pairing him up with perennial all-star center, Amar'e Stoudemire. Even Amar'e was stunned to learn of what conspired with the big three part two consisting of James, Bosh, and Wade. Knicks fans were in shock as they have waited almost a decade to see a team they could be proud of. The organization did everything right: they cleared cap space, made smart choices, and courted LeBron in every way imaginable. Still this was not enough. Many thought this season would fade on wasted hope just like the rest.

However, no one could predict just how good Stoudemire and new point guard Raymond Felton are. Both of these players are new to the team yet were named co-captains. This in itself speaks volumes of their integrity, work ethic, and character. The impact they've had has been immediate, calling out each other after tough losses, and being accountable for poor play. Key word there being "accountability." There are no excuses with this Knicks team. What you see is what you get.

No one could also predict how good Wilson Chandler was going to be thus far. He has excelled whether coming off the bench or starting. He is making big shots and blocks late in games.

Another unforeseen surprise this year has been the play of rookie, Landry Fields. He is a good rebounder and possesses good basketball IQ and a decent jumper. He has transitioned well into an NBA starter and looks to have a bright future in this league.

Although the Knicks are at a high for the moment, keep in mind the remaining three or four months of basketball left. Earlier this season the Knicks lost six consecutive games, but at the moment they have won 13 of 14, and Stoudemire has scored at least 30 in eight straight. Many attribute this to the Knicks not playing any tough games, but on

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CPE Says Sayonara, Stressed Out Students Rejoice

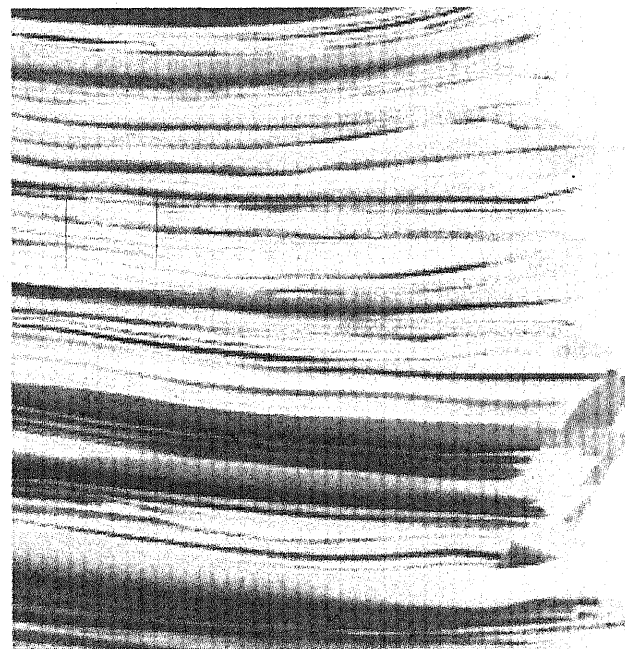


Photo From google.com

Former Assessment Exam Scrapped As Degree Requirement

LEEOR BRONIS AND SABINA MAMEDOVA

The CUNY Board of Trustees decided on November 22nd, to eliminate the CUNY Proficiency Exam due to the expense of production and its irrelevance, according to CSI's Director of College Testing.

The decision coincided with the Board's request of a \$2.8 billion budget increase to State and City officials. Moreover, there has been a 5% increase in tuition rates. "These tuition increases are unfortunate, but necessary for the University to continue to provide high quality educational opportunity our students deserve," said Chancellor Matthew Goldstein

in an official statement made public on CUNY's website.

The CPE, originally implemented in 2000, was created to assess student's capabilities, to demonstrate that the college is educating students properly and added a degree of extra value to the student's diplomas for continuing education, according to Alan Hoffner CSI's Director of College Testing.

The Board now believes that the exam has "outlived its usefulness" and has been canceled as a degree requirement. "We had to weigh in on the merits of the exam: is it adding value to the student's diploma?" said

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Tournament To Host Out Of State Teams

J.C. ALBANO

The CSI men's basketball season is officially back and will host its 9th Annual Tournament of Heroes in the Sports and Recreation Center building this winter. The two day tournaments will take place on December 28th and 29th. The first game will tip-off at 5:30pm and will feature Anderson University from Anderson, Indiana, versus Richard Stockton College in Pomona, New Jersey. Following the contest, CSI will play the University of Dallas, Texas at 7:30pm. The winners meet in the championship game at 7:30pm which will be preceded by the consolation game starting at 5:30pm.

The University of Dallas makes their northern trip to Staten Island hoping to steal a win away from the Dolphins but Coach Tony Petosa feels his squad has the advantage. In an email, Coach Petosa wrote, "We don't know much about the University of Dallas because we've never played them. But we have a great core of veterans and I believe in my guys and expect us to be able to compete with any team in the country." CSI will look to retake the thrown after finishing third in last year's Tournament of Heroes.

The Tournament of Heroes was organized to remember three, former CSI men's basketball players who lost their lives in the

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More Class Time Equals More Free Time

Students and Professors get what they want for Christmas this year

EDUARDO HERNANDEZ

Christmas will come early for CSI Communication Majors for the upcoming semester and the professors are also excited for the new flexibility in scheduling. The Media Department which includes the Communication department has released their new scheduling format for the spring semester.

So when communications students register for their classes for the semester that starts on

January 28, 2011, they will realize that there are more classes available that are of the three hour variety. The reason this is very important is it shows students the department has been listening to the students concerns and arguments about the conflicts of schedules of their workplace and school they have had in the past.

"I am happy that they seem to be listening to the students of this department" said

Jennifer Rammairone, a student of the journalism sector of the communications department. She also went on to say that "most of the students in CSI have to pay for their tuition out of their own pocket, and this is an issue for any student at CSI and school usually conflicted with the work schedule of many students by taking up too many days of the week to meet up for one class."

The course selection for the next semester is for the most part for the communications

classes that will be the three to four hour classes. This will allow the professor to meet up and have more flexibility to be with any student that needs their attention, and since most professors in this department have other responsibilities, this was also a victory and a present from the department towards the professors. "Professors like being available to their students the whole day and with this new format of classes that will take place for the upcoming semester it will allow us to aide students since most of the students will be on campus on the same day as their professors," said Professor Edward Miller.

As stated earlier most classes will be the longer ones that have a once a week meeting. The only classes that are being offered in

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The Relevant Opinion

MICHAEL JAMALEDDINE

It's a sad day when you log onto CNN.com and part of the "Don't Miss" news is Mike Tyson on pigeons racing, but at least I know what I'm getting into when I click an article like that.

I often find myself browsing through the latest headlines trying to find something that is relevant to helping a crashing economy, a nation where nine percent of the labor force is unemployed. This is a country where a recent National Health Interview Survey shows that about 46.3 million Americans are without health insurance and a country that is deploying up to 3,500 troops a day to Afghanistan while we're also in the process of pulling out.

Perhaps, the millions of Americans that take Prozac could lower their dosage if they could somehow keep themselves out of the story too. But unfortunately for us, America is the story and right now it looks like the Titanic movie minus the cheesy music.

I guess that's a part of my problem though, I'm looking for solutions in the news. It's the job of the average journalist to report the news and keep themselves out of the story. Perhaps, the millions of Americans that take Prozac could lower their dosage if they could somehow keep themselves out of the story too. But unfortunately for us, America is the story and right now it looks

like it will end sort of like the Titanic movie minus the cheesy music.

We can still keep this ship known as the United States afloat, though if only more Americans were aware of how they can be a part of the solution rather than the problem. In saying this, let's return back to Tyson and his beloved pigeons. PETA is trying to stop the making of the new Animal Planet series "Taking on Tyson" where Tyson will let the world in on the intensely competitive and bizarrely fascinating world of pigeon racing.

Rather than just read about the doom and gloom in the news, people could read these opinionated pieces and perhaps figure out a way to get this country back on track in the right direction rather than just swerve it off the road.

PETA views this as "inherently cruel" to the pigeons and are taking legal action to get the show cancelled. Come on PETA, Mike Vick just revitalized his football career; don't you have better things to do?

Anyway, I really have no comment on Tyson's pigeon fascination because I really can't picture pigeon racing being that much more bizarre than Tyson himself. And I know I'm taking a bizarre route here, but articles like this are the root of the solution. How could an event as wacky as this not get some kind of reaction out of someone? Whether it pleases you or outrages you, it will gauge some kind of reaction out of you and then comes your opinion on the matter. And with



Let's keep the news relevant to the people

people's opinions comes the solution, well certain people's opinions - like a six hundred word Celebrity Gossip article analyzing what Lady Gaga wore last night. Do I personally care at all? No, but these people who are fashion experts offer their informed opinion on what Lady Gaga could do or not look like an

And I know I'm taking a bizarre route here, but articles like this are the root of the solution. How could an event as wacky as this not get some kind of reaction out of someone?

alien out of Star Wars.

It would be nice to get an informed opinion on a possible solution from a financial expert on the budget crisis in the United States. It doesn't necessarily have to be correct, but

maybe it could get the average American to think a little bit. Rather than just read about the doom and gloom in the news, people could read these opinionated pieces and perhaps figure out a way to get this country back on track in the right direction rather than just swerve it off the road.

Let's keep the news relevant to the people. Not only to explain to Americans how a certain piece of news affects them (if they couldn't figure it out already), but also to explain to them what they can do to make a difference (pardon the cliché). Journalism is still very effective in its modern form and I'm not saying change it, but maybe add to it. Implement some of those OP-ED pieces to the front-page that are relevant to the latest headlines. People like to read celebrity Gossip and what people have to say about it, perhaps it's time for more people to want to read hard news and what other people have to say about that too.

Political Action Committee at the College of Staten Island Mobilizes

KEVIN STORBERG

Being a college student is one of the most expensive occupations around. It is also one of the most time consuming. This makes the successful production of college educated generations a difficult task for any government. Coincidentally, college students are also a necessary commodity, affecting the success of future generations worldwide. Yet, the consistency in which we are dismissed and neglected is seemingly endless. This year the legislature is once again looking to raise our tuition and cut funding. It is lucky for us that the Student Government Political Action Committee will not be sitting down without a fight.

The Political Action Committee has existed within the Student Government at CSI for many years. Yet, not many members

of the student body and faculty have actually heard of it. The committee stands under the careful watch of its four official members; Kevin J. Storberg - the head chair, Jesse Rodriguez - the vice chair, Nicholas DiBari - the communications officer, and Thomas Brigandi - the committee's publication liaison.

The committee also has a small army of volunteers to help fight its upcoming battles. This is good news because these battles will prove to be quite taxing. The four members have difficult tasks to accomplish, and without the aid of the student majority these tasks will ultimately become impossible.

In 1991, college students around New York worked together to beat a tuition assistance hike. Our culture has moved in a direction away from this kind of activism but it cannot continue that trend. It is necessary for

C.S.I. to stand up and make our demands heard for the first time in two decades.

Albany and City Hall intend to raise our tuition by over five percent. This is compounding the last tuition hike that took place just two years ago, and will be hundreds of dollars a year disappearing out of the pockets of already struggling students. This isn't a new happening. Since 1990 CUNY tuition has been raised by two hundred and seventy six percent. At what point will our representatives stop walking all over us? The answer is when we stop being door mats.

At this point you may be asking yourself "What's the plan?" The committee will be taking a three tiered approach to the problem. First, Student participation in the democratic process must rise. In the words of the committee chair Kevin J. Storberg, unless we increase Student participation in voting "we are bark without bite." So we have to increase student participation through: voter registration drives candidates' forums as well as forums for other relevant speakers, and literature distribution. Second, we must mobilize the community through marches, protests, rallies, publicity stunts and a variety of news

mediums.

Finally, we must make sure our voices are heard, that the message is delivered clearly and rationally. The committee intends to research possible alternatives and to lobby for the student body, in Albany, at City Hall, and even on campus. Lobbying not only to fight tuition hikes and budget cuts, but also to make sure students have off on Election Day. The committee will lobby for or against any important piece of legislation that will affect generations of CSI students.

The Political Action Committee is going to hold the politicians feet to the fire and fight for what is right. It is more important than ever that everyone work together to make sure we are not dismissed. Get involved in your future today. Send an E-Mail to Politicalaction21@gmail.com or simply visit the Student Government office in 1C 207 and leave your information in the mail box of Kevin J. Storberg. "We always hear about the rights of democracy, but the major responsibility of it is participation" (Wynton Marsalis). Stand up for your rights, and together we can make history by paving the road to a better future.

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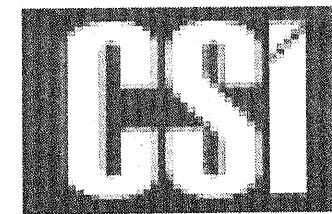
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: "The Romantics and The Schmucks"

Leeor keeps surprising me with her amazing stories that I can one way or another relate to. She is a good writer and captivates my attention as I read her column. Before reading her columns I rarely used to pick up the Banner. Now I do not only for her columns but because I realized how interesting many of the stories are. I have to be honest though, the editing has to be double checked because sometimes periods or commas are missing.

Anonymous

Re: "Tibbs Time"

Love the Mens basketball preview. I've been hearing a lot of great things about the team while we (baseball) practices. You definitely nailed all the key points about the team from losing last year seniors, to the focus on TJ Tibbs. His personality is spreading quickly throughout the uilding. I'm definitely looking forward to catching some of the games this year.

James Mardikos

Re: "A Call To Stop The Ignorance Towards Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, and Transgenders"

This article was very informative, I had no idea how big of an impact the Spanish culture has on LGBT activism. I was not even aware that gay marriage was approved in Mexico in 2009 and I think it's a step in the right direction to allow gay people equal rights and lifestyles.

Margaret Sexton

Re: "Going Green"

This was a very interesting article. It makes students aware of how they could save a "chunk" of money while helping the environment. Although not everyone cares it's good to know that you do. Also many students don't realize how much they are spending on water bottles alone. Overall, this was a good article and issue of The Banner. There has been many improvements since the first issue was released. The one problem that bothers me is that the editing should be better. Good Luck with the next issue.

Mona Michi

Re: "The Walking Dead Rise To The Top"

I have to say I never really watch TV unless it's some kind of sport. But after reading this article I'm really persuaded to watch "The Walking Dead." It's a combination of my soft spot for zombie movies and mission to find a series that doesn't annoy the crap out of me. It seems television producers just rehash older television shows with new titles. So I

definitely think a series following survivors of a zombie apocalypse would be interesting to watch to say the least. The zombie theme seems to sell video games and sell out movie theaters so good idea throwing it on TV.

Michael Jamaledine

Re: "The Romantics and The Schmucks"

I found this article to be very interesting because I find this type of story to be ture for many women in relationships. The story is open and honest so it kept my attention. The issue of cheating is a constant struggle for many relationships and I feel its good that this article shines a light on the issue.

Amanda Boyle

Re: "Learning to Love The Jewish Way"

Frankly, I believe that religion and relationships do not have anything to do with each other. The message that was being articulated made a great deal of sense. However I don't understand why these lessons should be hidden under the umbrella of Judaism. Sometimes this can scare people away. One interesting point brought up in the article was quite fascinating was the low divorce rate of Jewish marriages in relation to "other" folk.

Mamaie Charyoe

Re: "MTA Fare Hikes Enrage Staten Islanders"

This is true how can the MTA keep raising their fares yet service is getting trimmed, while the MTA still cries that they have a budget debt. How is that possible with all the commuters that use the MTA services how can this be, especially the way they keep hiking up the fares. The MTA should be investigated and their fat cat bosses as well.

Eduardo Hernandez

Re: "Tibbs Time"

I really enjoyed this article. It is a great story of a college student going from coaching high school basketball to not only playing on the team, but starting. The quotes were phenomenal and especially impressive getting quotes from the head basketball coach. Good work and I look forward to reading more of these sports articles.

Christian Ferri

Re: "Gridlock Around CSI: Catch 22"

This article was great! It is very funny and almost all students whether they drive or take the loop bus can relate to this article. As I kept reading more into the article I found myself saying "that's so true." We need more writers in the Banner who write stories

that are relatable as well as comical.

Dana Kenefick

Re: "The Romantics and The Schmucks"

After reading this article, I was reminded of the close friends of mine who were given everything by their boyfriends to prove how much they "Love" their girlfriends, but in all reality their boyfriends were cheating on them all along. These gifts are "I'm sorry" gifts to show that the guy is sorry for their actions, and spending money seems to make the problem go away, for the time being. My only problem is that the girls are even bigger schmucks for getting back with their boyfriends and believing that a juicy suit, Fossil watch, and Michael Kors glasses are a sign of love.

Sam Hathaway

Re: "NHL Hockey Local Teams Overview"

The article about the three local teams in the NHL was very accurate and to the point. However, the author forgets about the Buffalo Sabres who are considered a local team. Also, before publishing star players names such as Henrik Lundquist and John Tavares we need to make sure to spell their names right.

Michael DiDonna

Re: "Gridlock Around CSI: Catch 22"

I really enjoyed the "Gridlock Around CSI: Catch 22" article. It was funny, and true, there are just too many people in this school and on this island. I especially liked finding out about the "secret exit" between 2R and the gravel lot. The article was well written and very entertaining

Jennifer Wilson

Re: "A Call To Stop The Ignorance Towards Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, and Transgenders"

The writer of the article, Erika Valdez wrote this article very well. She emphasized the main point of Professor De La Dehesa's book which was that being LGBT isn't something that should be seen in a negative way but something to be accepted. I did not know that in Mexico that cops and authorities were actually able to beat a person for just being gay. It saddened me that it is unacceptable and such a crime to be gay in Mexico. I feel that the writer should've gotten a source from a LGBT student at CSI so that their views could be heard. In all, I really liked the article because it is a popular topic that needs to be addressed.

Stephanie3

"The Knicks Have Game"
Continued from the front page

this streak they have played so well it is hard to feel that way. Even in losses they have generally been competitive. So lets see what happens over the next few months. Will this article be a laugher by April, or will the sports world look back and say, "Thank God there's basketball in New York."

"Tournament To Host Out Of State Teams"
Continued from the front page

attacks. Terrance Aiken, Tom Hannafin, and Scott Davidson played for CSI at different times, but left a lot of memories that will never be forgotten. The athletic program pays these three men and their families the highest honor and tribute by hosting a basketball tournament in their memory. In addition to the tournament, CSI's athletic program has retired each of their basketball jersey numbers. 11, 13, and 25 will never be worn by another CSI men's basketball player.

CSI's Tournament of Heroes is one of symbolism, remembrance, and honor. For the men's team, it's the most hyped up and well attended events of the year. "It's our biggest game of the season," said CUNYAC all star and starting forward Jordan Young. Young, will also be seeking a spot on the All-Tournament team after his stellar performance in last year's Tournament of Heroes. Fan support is highly recommended as this is CSI's tournament and every part of home-court advantage is necessary.

Basketball was a door that these men used to become successful after CSI and the attendance in past years have proven that their friends, families, and teammates miss them dearly by filling the stands in the Sports and Recreation Center. Whether you knew the men or just a fan of the sport, the Tournament of Heroes always brings out the Staten Island community.

Not only are the players and coaches looking forward to the tournament but the families of Terrance Aiken, Tom Hannafin, and Scott Davidson are as well. Chris Albano, a teammate of Terrance Aiken, said, "I hardly have the chance to come to a game but I make it a point to be there for the Tournament of Heroes in honor of Terry, Scott, and Tom. It is really a great thing they did this for them. Keeps the CSI family closer." Hosting the event allows them to remember their loved ones and their contribution to CSI basketball and gives them a chance to recall fond memories with friends. In the eight years of the Tournament of Heroes' existence, CSI has come out on top three times. Last year's Tournament of Heroes winner was Piedmont College. Although it is sad that Terrance, Tom, and Scott are no longer around it is a great tribute to what they did while playing for CSI.

Coach Petosa keeps a positive attitude as he said, "It's not a melancholy night."

"CPE Says Sayonara, Stressed Out Students Rejoice"
Continued from the front page

William Fritz Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. "It was pretty unanimous that the exam had run its course." The CPE itself cost the University \$5 million to produce in 2010, and this estimation would only have risen each year, stated in a report published by the Board of Trustees. According to an official release on the CUNY Newswire "the Board's actions [to cancel the CPE] will help offset \$205 million in budget cuts, sustained by CUNY's senior colleges since 2009 and over \$31 million in cuts to the community colleges in this fiscal year." Moreover, the exam was strictly a CUNY institution and self-created, thus it did not allow for external benchmarking with other Universities. Indeed, the real problem with the CPE, posited Fritz, is that "it wasn't really providing value."

"There are 3rd party exams that [do the job of the CPE]," said President Morales in his office. "The Nursing exams, teacher certification, accounting students have the CPA, thesis and capstone projects...to determine that students have met the requirements of a particular department."

The CPE will no longer be implemented as an assessment nor a degree requirement for any future or presently enrolled students. The Board has been seeking alternative means of determining certain student's progress throughout their collegiate years.

"I've gotten lots of feedback from students," said Marybeth Riley, the Enrollment Manager at CSI. "And they are thrilled."

"More Class Time Equals More Free Time"
Continued from the front page

entering the communication courses to obtain a degree in Media/Communications. Students usually feel more comfortable in the long block classes even though it is only a once a week class. They are usually paired in groups in their respective classes which in turn helps them build better relationships with their classmates. If that doesn't help ease the minds of the students then at least they only have to deal with either their classmates or professors once a week, and considering some professors let students out early, sometimes they get less time with each other. Furthermore this new scheduling the department will issue next semester allows the students the flexibility to attend classes and not miss work or any other responsibility they may have. Now students can plan all of their classes for maybe two days or even better one and still keep or speed up their graduation date. The students will get what most people consider the most precious commodity there is, time.

"After being left out of classes in the past semesters due to conflicting schedules with work and school it will be nice for a change to have one day of just focusing on school and not having to change your schedule to meet up with professors because of different schedules or classmates for group projects and this can all take place in one day even two days is fine compared to before," said Jessica Tisi a senior here at CSI who is majoring in Journalism.

Internship Opportunities @ The Banner

The Banner is now offering internships to CSI students. Internships take place for one semester and offer opportunities to learn about Journalism and New Media. Interns will assist in blogging, correspondence, editing, fact-checking, graphic design, layout & production, photography, reporting, web design, etc. Through these internships students will become involved in the operation and production of The Banner. Interns will work a minimum of 12 hours per week.

For more information visit us in 1C-228 or contact us:
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How The Chilean Miners Plan to Cash Out

MARISSA PESSOLANO

One billion people tuned in, transfixed to their televisions to watch the rescue of the 33 Chilean Miners that had been living underground for 69 days due to a tragic collapse. Since their return to the surface, the miners have been experiencing trouble readjusting to life above ground, suffering emotional trauma and disorientation. The media has been relentless in trying to get details about the miner's experiences, however, the men are keeping their lips sealed as they have plans to cash out.

The writing of a book has been long underway as the men hired an accountant while underground to track and share proceeds. Offers for book rights and a motion picture are quite substantial, offering the survivors a large sum of money. In addition, some of the men have been trying to sell their own personal stories, which again, lack detail in order to preserve the value of the upcoming book. It can be expected, in the near future that these books, movies, and documentaries will flood the market as these men have been planning out their course of action since they were beneath the surface. They are looking to get the best deals and get these materials out as soon as possible while the incident is still fresh in everybody's mind.

Along with the proceeds that the men will receive from their stories, each miner was given about \$12,000 in donations along with the promise that the Chilean government will take care of them. Although it may seem like these men are becoming celebrities due to the attention and benefits that they will be reaping, these men are still struggling mentally and physically. Each miner is dealing with health problems, mainly emotional trauma and post-traumatic stress syndrome.

One miner was also reported to be suffering from pneumonia that was complicated by silicosis, in addition to severe dental problems. Others meanwhile, are struggling with disorientation, as they adjust back to their previous lives. The biggest problem that could affect them in the long run however, are respiratory infections. This is due to the poor air quality and the cigarettes that many of the men were smoking in that confined area. Health Minister, Jaime Manalich, refers to their condition as still being on

"emotional roller coasters."

Now, questions have been raised that perhaps this could have all been avoided. Minister of Labor, Camila Merino, claimed, "We have evidence that there were security problems and we should have taken steps in advance." She then however, clarified the statement by later including, "It was impossible that the Government had any evidence of what happened hours before the mine collapsed." Nevertheless, these allegations were further investigated and union leader Javier Castillo, as well as other officials, agreed that the government knew of the risks in the San José mine. Others however, still deny that this holds any truth.

At the moment, the miners are not concerning themselves with new developments and the media. Happy to be home, the miners are enjoying time with their families and loved ones, recently celebrating Thanksgiving. The experience in the mine however, has become a big part of their lives, as not too long after rescue, many of the men took a trip back to take part in a private ceremony. Along with their family and friends, the miners attended the service at a location known as "Camp Hope." This is the "tent city" where family members gathered in prayer, awaiting news updates on their loved ones.

The men are each trying to move past this difficult time in their lives in different ways. One of the most notable stories recently, is that of Edison Pena, who accomplished his goal of running in the NYC Marathon. Still training while underground by jogging 2,300 feet each day in the stifling heat in the mine, Pena finished the race in 5 hours

40 minutes and 51 seconds. Before the race began Pena stated, "First, I want to run this marathon, but secondly, I'd like to motivate those people who aren't running the marathon to do so in the future."

Pena, as well as the rest of the miners, look to harness their newfound courage and conquer new challenges. Although some of the men continue to struggle in their recovery, it is expected that they will return to a healthy state. As for now, these 33 miners are being regarded as heroes, and world is currently anticipating an in-depth story of the miners 69 days, when they are ready to share.

The Celtic Tiger gets a Bailout

THOMAS BRIGANDI

Ireland has become the latest casualty to succumb to the sovereign debt crisis currently raging across the European continent. The European Union and International Monetary Fund have recently agreed to provide assistance to Ireland to prevent the failure of its banking system by giving its banks access to cheaper funding in an effort to keep them afloat during these tough economic times.

Ireland's economy, which has been referred to as the "Celtic Tiger" as a result of its rapid jump from an agrarian-based economy directly into a high tech service-based economy without undergoing significant industrialization, has been hit hard as a result of the global economic downturn.

According to the article "The euro crisis: A contagious Irish disease?" from The Economist Online, "On November 21st the Irish government at last gave in. It yielded to pressure from its European Union counterparts to seek an emergency bail-out from the EU and the IMF that may amount to as much as \$5 billion (\$115 billion)."

Unlike the Greek bailout that took place over the summer, the joint EU/IMF Irish bailout will not directly use funds to prop up the Irish government's fiscal situation directly. The funds will be used primarily to

strengthen Irish banks, whose weaknesses are the chief reason for this bailout. In fact, Ireland will use this bailout money to take majority stakes in the largest Irish banks including the top Irish lender, Bank of Ireland, all in an effort to ensure the survival of the Irish financial system.

However, this bailout of the Irish banking sector does not come without a cost to the Irish people. According to the same article from The Economist Online, "What makes the budget harder to swallow is that it is a fiercely austere measure, including for 2011 6 billion in spending cuts and tax rises, savage welfare and public-sector pay cuts and a reduction in the minimum wage. This front-loads a four-year plan to make total savings of 15 billion and bring the budget deficit below 3% of GDP by 2014."

Austerity measures like these are being implemented across Europe. Voters in France, Greece, and a number of other European nations have shown opposition to these measures which not only cut back public services, but also result in major policy changes. One well-known European austerity measure has been French policymakers' recent decision to increase their retirement age from 60 to 62, which caused wide spread rioting across France.

The recent fears over Ireland's fiscal and banking situation have reignited fears



Ireland- With no other options left, Ireland is taking over the Bank of Ireland as a last move of desperation.

over Portugal and Spain's fiscal situations and their ability to survive the sovereign debt crisis. According to the same article from The Economist Online, "After Greece in May and Ireland this month, Portugal is clearly next in line. This week a general strike was called against budget austerity. Portugal's banks may be healthier than Ireland's, but the country is mired in slow growth and a large budget deficit. In the markets' current mood, a bail-out similar to Ireland's seems almost inevitable."

Consequently, it is evident that the European sovereign debt crisis has dealt a

large blow to the once mighty European economies. The large budget deficits and debts incurred by many nations to prevent a global depression in 2008 have had many debilitating economic ripple effects. It is likely that these effects will continue to be felt in Europe for some time going forward.

Thomas Brigandi is a Macaulay Honors student. Additionally, he is a frequent contributor to the investing website SeekingAlpha. He also is a Registered Securities Representative. He currently holds the Series 7 and Series 63 Securities Licenses.

Going Green 2

ANDREW OPPENHEIMER

Cars pass me on my left as I pedal up the service road to the school. I've already biked three miles to get to this point in my trip, and braved the hill at Bement Ave. I have another mile or two before I turn onto Richmond Ave. and then onto the service road that will lead me to CSI. So far my trip's cost me a half hour, it will total at 55 minutes. If I were to use the bus it would take me about the same amount of time - I've timed both, including a transfer to the shuttle bus. This travel time doesn't include waiting for the buses to arrive.

The decision to start cycling was a long time coming, but the reason for it was very simple: I detest the recent service cuts and fare hike that the MTA has instated. With the hike to \$2.50 a trip eminent, it costs the average student \$25 a week to get to campus and back, assuming they make no trips elsewhere and only need one transfer. Students in other boroughs frequently spend more than this, as they need more than one transfer if they expect to get to campus with a commute under two hours in length. However, assuming that the student spends roughly \$22 a week (there is a minor bonus, but it isn't substantial anymore), they would spend \$1,144 annually on transportation alone.

Most of the students on campus don't seem to use public transportation though, most seem to drive themselves here. Even a Prius, with nearly the lowest emissions available in a vehicle today, still produces three and a half tons of waste every year. When compared to a H3's whopping 11 tons annually, it may not seem like very much. However, it could be reduced even further with the use of carpooling. If four students rode to school in one Prius, and assuming that the other three students owned SUVs, then they'd be reducing their emissions by roughly 24 tons. To understand how grotesquely huge this number is, imagine a brick that weighs one pound. Now imagine 48,000 of them.

Another option that some choose is old fashioned foot power. This is sometimes an option, but mostly a silly ideal that is not viable to most students. If a student were to walk from the ferry it would take three hours, counting hills. If they lived in Bronx, then this option would require walking on water. However, if someone were to live under a mile from the school in any direction, this is a viable and quite inexpensive option that should be considered whenever not carrying large parcels for presentations.

There are many common reservations people have towards biking, but most of them are universal. Most of the non-motorized options above are not viable in the winter, or in the rain. It's easy to lose traction on a bicycle when the ground is soaked. It's

difficult to find any when snow's involved. Staten Island is mostly not friendly to cyclists, even on roads with dedicated bicycle lanes. Many drivers still insist on cyclists driving on the sidewalk, despite the illegality and danger to pedestrians. Bicycles still get stolen from time to time when they aren't chained to a rack. These are all things that must be considered when using a bicycle as a mode of transportation... but one would need to lock their car when they aren't in it, and it's still a bad idea to drive in certain weather conditions. It's difficult to get around on the highway during rush hour, and many side streets are poorly paved. Many people stop being people when they're behind the wheel of a car and instead turn into monsters that froth at the sight of being cut off.

There are bike racks outside of every building on campus, and outside of many buildings in the rest of the city. Trees, telephone poles, and certain other standing objects are just as useful if one brings a heavy chain with a lock. If one wears a helmet and follows the laws regarding cyclists, then they're far less likely to get hurt or incur road rage. They're also a thousand dollars richer than they would've been using the bus and many thousand dollars richer than if they drove.

Join The Banner!

The Banner is looking for writers, editors, photographers, designers and cartoonists for this, and future semesters. Newspaper and writing experience are not necessary.

If you are interested in writing about sports, hard news, the arts, movies, politics, music, sex, comedy, or just about anything else, join the Banner team!

Submit your articles to 1C-228, or email them to: The.BANNER.CSI@gmail.com

BANNER LIFESTYLES

Freezing and Fabulous

LEEOR BRONIS

As the fall semester comes to a close and the holiday season approaches, so does the below zero temperatures. However, being freezing cold does not mean you have to sacrifice your personal style. Whether you are walking the streets of Paris, sipping hot chocolate at a ski lodge upstate or just hanging around with friends, there are ways to look fabulous this holiday season without getting frostbite. Here are five easy ways to looking stylish and chic this winter break.

Here Are Five Easy Tricks To Looking Your Best This Winter.

#1. Toggle Coats:

Taylor swift displays This Toggle coat with hook-eye fasteners that have quickly become the most sought after coat to wear this winter season. This lightweight, yet incredibly warm coat is a great way to stay heated without looking too bulky.



Topshop duffel coat:

(Right) \$170 at topshop.com. Also available at delias.com, for \$90.

#2. Embellished Blazers:

Channel your inner diva with these sequin cropped open blazers. Pair it with a sweater dress, tights and killer heels and you will be sure to win best dressed at every holiday party.



Forever 21 Sequin Cropped Blazer, \$24.80, forever21.com



Silvie Sequin Striped Jacket \$315, wren-clothing.com

#3. The Cozy Little Black Dress:

Looking for the perfect New Years Eve dress? These long sleeved LBD's dresses from BCBG show how you can keep warm while still looking fun and sexy.



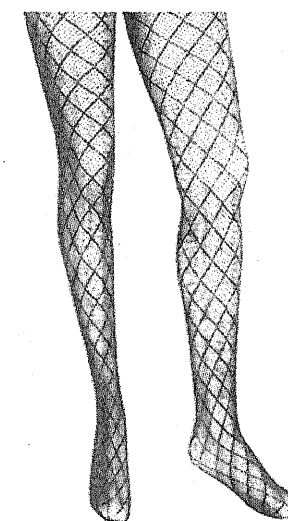
(Left) - BCBG Contrast Bustier Dress, \$238, bcbg.com.

(Right) - BCBG Asymmetrical -Mesh Long-Sleeve Dress, \$218, bcbg.com.



#4. Patterned Tights:

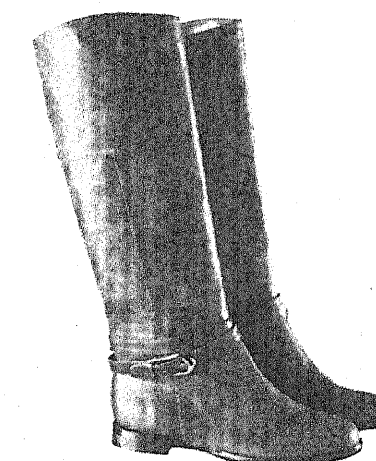
Leighton Meester displays how a racy pair of patterned tights can be daytime friendly when paired with a contrasting pattern. They may not keep you very warm, but it is a small price to pay when you're trying to keep up with Blair Waldorf.



(Left) - Nordstrom "Pistola" tights, \$8, nordstrom.com.
(Right) - Herringbone Knit Tights, \$4.50, forever21.com.

#5. Riding Boots:

Leave it to England's princess in waiting, Kate Middleton, to show how classic riding boots are both cold weather conscience as well as fashion forward. Burn your Ugg Boots ladies, because comfort does not always require looking like an Eskimo.



H&M Imitation Leather Boots \$40, shop.hm.com.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

From: The Banner

BANNER ARTS

Double Threat

SUNDAS NAZIR

"The pattern of lyrics weaves through the sound of guitars and drums, just like stitching through a quilt," said Justin Sarachik, rapper and singer of the band, Process of Fusion. The obsession for music began at age nine when Sarachik started making cassette tapes of songs. As the years progressed, the enthusiasm sharpened itself. It was in 8th grade, when Justin and his friend wanted to start a band. "I started writing two or three songs a night, and I loved it," said Justin. "We were a punk band, called 'For Lack of a Batter Word' and Steve and I did the vocals and wrote all the music." This imagination led to the making of a demo album.

In addition, Sarachik played drums for almost nine years but stopped about two years ago. His next desire is to learn the keyboard, which he has been working on for the last year. "I am a writer at heart, and being stuck behind the drums doesn't allow me to express myself." Ordinary people wonder: what kind of paintings do painters hang in their living rooms, what kind of photographs are on photographers' cell phones, what kind of books rest on writers' bookshelf and what kind of music do musicians listen to? Sarachik said his

music play list changes weekly. "One week I'm really into old school hip-hop while the next week I'm into screamo and metal."

"The first time I played the Cup, my band's CD release party at the Cup, the Cup's last show where we played in front of over 200 people and I crowd surfed, winning battle of the bands at Edgewater Hall, rapping acapella at the Apollo, and my first show ever of course" were Sarachik's fondest memories of music.

Furthermore, Sarachik's inspiration as a drummer is Yuri Ruley of MxPx. "He's one of the fastest drummers ever, and I'm fast too." Process of Fusion his current band has been playing since summer 2008. They do an average of about 5 shows a month and have played at several famous places such as Roseland Ballroom, Kenny's Castaways, the Mercury Lounge, and Crash Mansion. They strive to make their concerts a matchless experience every time. "We play our hearts out, and want our fans to expect a great show. I always say, the first thing we are all going to do is get sweaty. If we aren't sweaty, then the show wasn't good," said Justin. The band has been adding some theatrical element by having interludes between songs that aren't on the album, and using spoken word. "POF fans are loud and obnoxious, and the best fans any one can ask for." On November 5th, the band had their most ambitious show to date. "We have lights coordinating with our music and smoke and fog machines along with a pro-

jector flashing images throughout the songs."

Pioneer in rap rock and also Christian music, Toby McKeenan aka Toby Mac, has been Sarachik's biggest motivation and as a rapper, Eminem has inspired him. "Being a musician, the fun times and late nights in recording our album in Brooklyn, being on the radio at WSIA, and late night jam sessions trying to finish songs the night before a show, which is never a good idea," are Sarachik's most thrilling moments with music.

Dc Talk, Chronic Future, Linkin Park, UnderOath, Dead Poetic, Brand New, and Taking Back Sunday are some of his favorite groups and Eminem, Mac Lethal, Drake, Atmosphere, Brother Ali, and the WU Tang Clan are his favorite rappers. The diverse list continues as Justin Sarachik and his band, Process of Fusion, strive to make distinctive music each time.

Currently, Sarachik is the managing editor of College of Staten Island's Banner and Staten Island based Broken Records Magazine as well as an intern at the Staten Island Advance, and the creator of his music blog at- thesibandguy.blogspot.com He is also part of a new record label called EMC. Managing passion, hobbies and career along with school is quite a challenge. "I feel like I'm working 7 days a week," admitted Sarachik. "Networking is the key, and maybe I can figure out some super media empire by the end of my life."

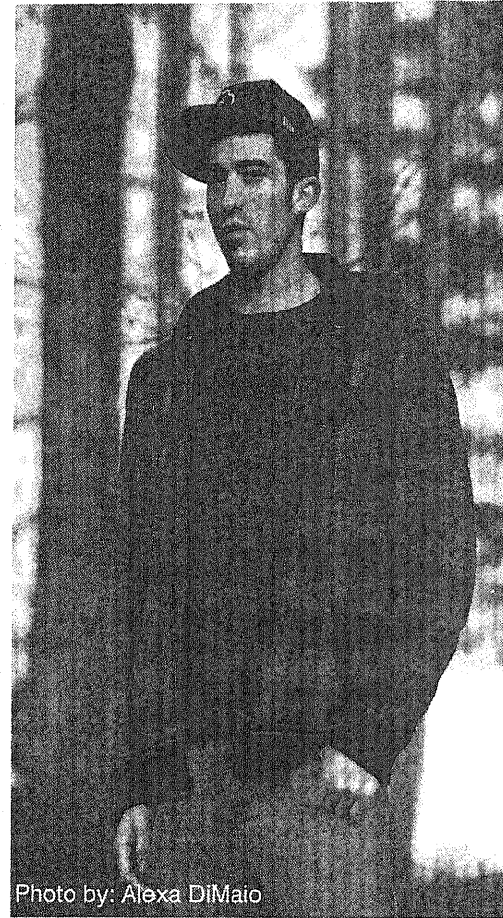


Photo by: Alexa DiMaio

Justin Sarachik, is looking for a way to capitalize on both his writing career and music at the same time.

What the Music Industry Has Become

MARISSA PESSOLANO

In today's society, there are an overwhelming amount of award shows dedicated to the hardworking and talented artists in the music industry. One can't help but notice, it is the same group of artists that are nominated for every category and some of the most popular of these artists, win multiple awards. Although these artists are talented and deserve the honors they receive, there are many artists out there that are just as talented, if not more so, that get passed over and excluded. Why aren't they receiving the attention they deserve? Is the media to blame for overexposing some stars, but not others?

A countless number of new songs come out each year, but very few of these actually become widely heard. The genre of pop music is arguably the most prominent today, and is being given the most air-

time on the radio. Deriving from the word popular, one definition of "pop music" that appears most often is: "...understood to be commercially recorded music, often oriented towards a youth market, usually consisting of relatively short, simple love songs utilizing technological innovations to produce new variations on existing themes." One can't help but wonder, are these songs and artists popular because the public chooses to listen to them? Or were these choices already chosen for us?

The majority of the public gravitates towards what they see and hear in the media. If a particular artist is not out there and widely sensationalized, then many become unaware of their existence. There are exceptions however, as a good amount of the public enjoy listening to what is sometimes referred to as "underground music." This is music that does not appear on the most popular radio stations or on the

top 100 charts, but is worthy of doing so. Many of these artists and bands have a large following, but apparently, that is just not good enough. Fans of this music however, largely agree that they prefer that it is not "popular." They cringe at the thought of their favorite pre-discovered song to be overlaid on the radio. They do not want their favorite bands plastered all over the media becoming everyone's new "favorite." Maybe this is partly because these fans had the system figured out all along.

The majority of the public will not like a song because it is good and meaningful, but because it is out there and "popular." However, there are exceptions, as some people do genuinely like these "popular" songs. There is nothing wrong with that, but for a majority of people, it is just another "fad." If one truly liked an artist's music than they would stick by their choices.

This notion does not seem true for the masses as their favorite artists change constantly and will often end up being referred to as someone they "used to like." For this

reason, it is difficult to stay on top for long. The media pushes in new artists constantly and the public follows suit, often forgetting about the "old."

In the United States today, we do not have bands like The Beatles or artists like Madonna. Older generations had their favorites, stuck with them, and passed down their knowledge to their children, thus keeping these performers successful for so long. There hasn't been proof yet of consistent success of one particular performer that could live on to future generations. Twenty years from now could Lady GaGa, Justin Bieber, and Taylor Swift still sell out numerous large arena shows, like Paul McCartney or Bon Jovi could still do? Will kids twenty years from now even know who they are? Sure they might still be around putting out music, but will the public be as enthusiastic?

For now, only assumptions could be made, but further down the road, we will all see if any musical performers of today are still "popular" amongst the masses.

Ozzy Osbourne "Scream Tour"

JAMES KINGSLEY

Ozzy Osbourne, the legendary "Prince of Darkness," began a world tour in June after the release of his newest album *Scream*. After playing overseas, Ozzy brought his tour to the United States. Some of these stops include Baltimore, Ottawa, Montreal and the Izod Center in Jersey, but the heavy metal legend's most notable stop was in New York's marquee arena-Madison Square Garden.

Before the "Prince of Darkness" took the stage, the band Halford opened up the night. The venues first singer of heavy metal lineage opened for perhaps one of the greatest of all time. Halford's opening appearance was met by hundreds of screaming fans, and he performed incredibly. He performed songs from their album *Resurrection* with songs such as; "Resurrection", "Made in Hell" and "Locked and Loaded." They also played songs from their newest album, *Halford IV: Made of Metal*, with songs such as; "Like There's no Tomorrow", "Thunder and Lightning, Fire and Ice" and "Made of Metal" and even covered the song "Jawbreaker" from his days with Judas Priest that brought the already frenzied crowd to its feet. After his last song, he left to a large standing ovation, making the entrance of the "Prince of Darkness" a highly anticipated one.

Ozzy's introduction to the stage included videos of spoofs placing him in the *Jersey Shore*, Lady Gaga's music video, "Telephone", *Twilight*, and the film *Iron Man 2*. When Ozzy appeared, he came out to a louder more crazy ovation than Halford had come out to. Before he began to sing, Ozzy wanted the crowd to get crazy, which they happily obliged to the



Photo from: google.com

Ozzy Osbourne apparently has some rock & roll left in him after all these years. He tore it up at the Garden to the delight of thousands once more.

rock legend. It was also announced at MSG that Ozzy's birthday was coming up, so the fans sang Happy Birthday to him.

The setlists of songs to be sung were slightly different at each venue yet kept the same songs to the joy of the masses. At MSG, the Izod Center, and many of the other venues Ozzy played at, most of the songs were from his days in Black Sabbath. Some of his biggest Black Sabbath hits that he sang include; "Iron Man", "War Pigs", "N.I.B." and "Paranoid". He also sang some of his own hits such as: "Bark at the Moon", "Suicide Solution", "No More Tears", "Mr. Crowley" and always a fan favorite "Crazy Train". He did sing however, only one song from his new album *Scream*, which was "Let Me Hear You Scream". This disappointed some, but others were happy with the earlier hits.

During the show, Ozzy introduced his

band. Guitar- Gus G., Bas-s Rob Nicholson Keyboards and back-up guitar- Adam Wakeman Drums- Tommy Clufetos. With them behind him, Ozzy revved up the crowd and even sprayed the first few rows with water.

Ozzy played for an hour and fifty minutes, not including a 20 minute break he took in between his set, where his band showed off their skills. At the end of the night Fans all over the arena kept chanting "One More Song" over and over, while also chanting "OZZY OZZY OZZY".

Ozzy sang two more songs before ending the show. The crowd stood amazed, excited and insane from the moment of his appearance to the moment of his departure. The concert was an incredible experience for Ozzy fans of all ages.

Why is Twitter important?

JUSTIN SARACHIK

This is a question I used to struggle with. Twitter is so boring and dull, why does everyone need one? Why do people care what I am doing? Two answer both those questions: 1. Not everyone needs one. For example the people who Tweet their lives. "Just woke up... went to bathroom..." No one cares. 2. People don't care what I'm doing... sometimes.

To further explain, Twitter is essential for anybody trying to be a somebody. Look at celebrity Twitters, they have millions of followers. Why? Because people care about famous people. Everyone wants to be involved in someone else's business, and we all put it out there anyway.

So who needs a Twitter? If you are a journalist, writer, musician, painter, w.e.- Twitter can be something that jump starts your career. If you start to build a following, and people start spreading your Twitter, you may have caught fire. It is the perfect quick and easy way to plug your work whether it be article or new song. Just post a link, and say "check it out".

I thought Twitter was something to annoy me throughout the day seeing all these crazy good-for-nothing statuses, but now I see it as something better. I Tweet every article and Blog I write. I Tweet my band, and follow other people from Staten Island. My hope is that they check out the page, like what they see and follow back. Ultimately that is a quick and easy way to network. It's a link to your catalog of works, or links to something you have in common with your followers. It's a powerful tool if you use it wisely. Give it a shot.

Follow my band -
http://twitter.com/POF_Band

Justin Sarachik has reported with the Staten Island Advance, and is currently Editor-in-Chief/writer for Broken Records Magazine. For more of his writing go to-
www.thesibandguy.blogspot.com

Two Times the Fun: Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

DALE FJORBOTTEN

Harry Potter returns! Though not to his 7th and final year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. In this film, Harry (Daniel Radcliff) is cast into the outside world along with his best friends Ron (Rupert Grint) and Hermione (Emma Watson), away from the comfort of his school and classmates. Now, he finds himself on the run from Voldemort and his Death Eaters, while at the same time trying to find the remaining pieces of Voldemort's soul. Destroying them would destroy the Dark Lord, and bring peace back to the Wizarding world.

The film opens with a dramatic speech by the current Minister of Magic, alerting everyone to the terrible situation that has been unfolding throughout the past three movies. This of course is the return of the evil Voldemort, played flawlessly by notorious villain Ralph Fiennes. Each day his power and followers grow stronger, and only Harry Potter stands in his way. In order to defeat Harry, Voldemort must seek out a new wand. He sets his sights on a "master

wand," known as the most powerful wand ever created.

The first hour was intense, heart-pounding and more violent than its predecessors. Sprinkle in a very risqué make-out scene, one can find that the PG-13 rating could've very well been borderline R. The film then mellows out as Harry, Ron and Hermione find themselves in the middle of nowhere, hiding from Voldemort's supporters. The time they spend in the forest accumulates quickly, making me yearn for the action of the first hour. This midsection of the movie hemorrhages, making it feel like director David Yates is trying to stretch out what little content they have left. In past movies such as "Goblet of Fire," they took the book and chose the necessary scenes, narrowed down the script, and made a solid movie with a length of about 2 hours 30 mins and change. With the already shorter (page-wise) "Deathly Hallows," they basically chop the book in half and try to fill what voids they can. But who can blame Warner Bros. for wanting to make double the money.

Overall, this movie will please the Potter-faithful and entertain non-Potter fans

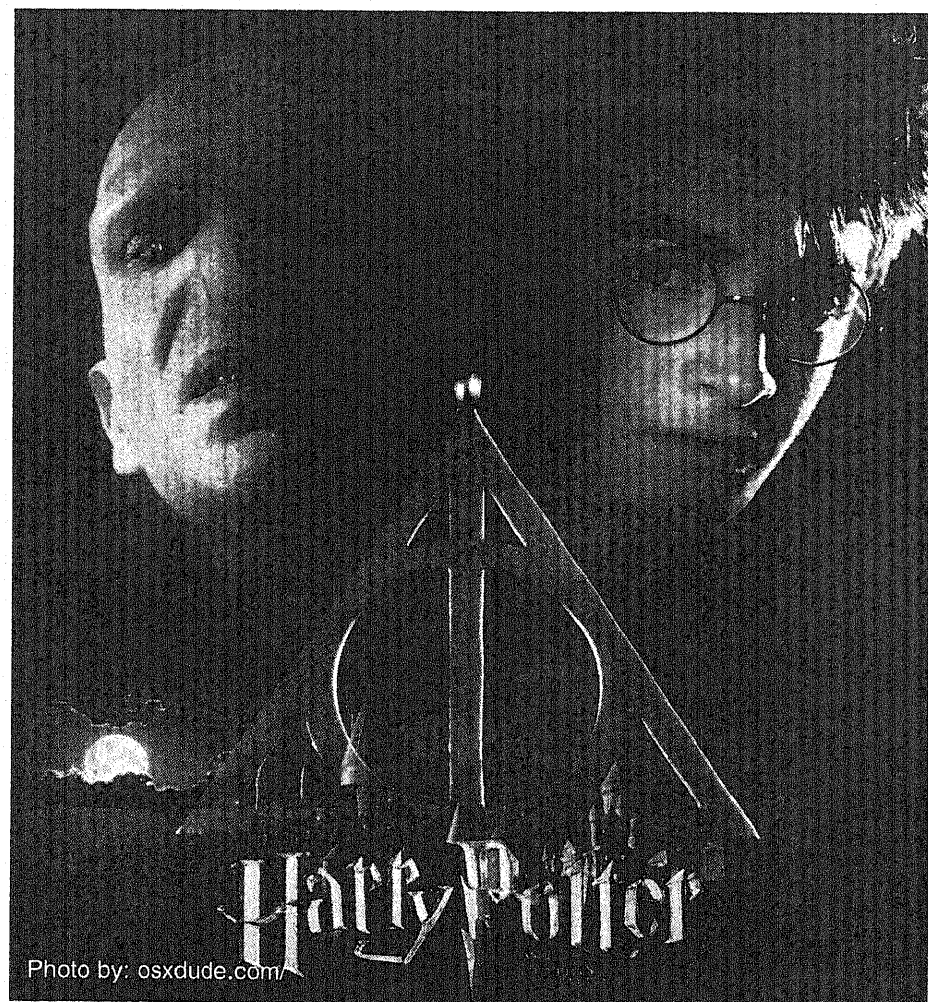


Photo by: osxdude.com

Deathly Hallows is the first installment of what is to be the final Harry Potter movie.

alike. The appearance and quality of the film is second to none, the CGI is the best I've seen to date, and even the opening WB logo was breathtaking to look at. Although this very much felt like the first half of a

two-part movie (I couldn't help but think of "The Matrix: Reloaded,") they made it on-par with the others, leading up to what will surely be a fight to remember.

SEX AND THE ISLAND

Sex and Another College

Should we compromise our integrity for the thrill of a one night stand?

LEEOR BRONIS

Bad things can happen to city girls when they come back from visiting their friend's upstate at a SUNY college. First, on the car ride back one feels the yearning for those crazy frat parties, never ending beer supply and insanely hot Lacrosse players. Then reality starts to set in. I'm on a 48 hour hangover, my clothes smell of weed and stale corn chips, and I did the thing I swore I would never do with a guy I only knew for seven hours, again.

My friend Claire had been begging me for months to come and visit her at her college upstate in SUNY New Paltz. Seeing as how my life had recently proved itself to be completely devoid of spontaneity, I decided to give myself one last hoorah before finals started and my life as I knew it would, for lack of a better word, suck.

As I walked into the pitch black dorm room I suddenly felt a cold rush running down my spine. It was Peter's hand. He pushed my hair to the left side, as his lips make a trail across my right shoulder and stopped at the nape of my neck.

When I arrived at Claire's dorm that Saturday morning, I listened closely as her friends filled me in on all of the gossip that I had missed the night before. Emma broke her nail trying to pry open a can of Keystone Light, Taylor had sex with the vice president of Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, Diana had overreacted yet again and was sure that her relationship with her boyfriend was over and Claire was found passed out on some random bed at around four A.M. All in all it was a fairly uneventful night.

Taylor later admitted that she regretted sleeping with Mike the frat boy. "I wasn't looking for a one night stand but I was so wasted and he was so cute," Taylor said. "And I didn't find out about his girlfriend until after we slept together, so that means I'm not a whore. Right?" We all looked at each other and could not help but burst out with laughter.

"Was it good?" I asked amusingly. "It was great," she said as she sighed in remem-



This is exactly what you might find at a crazy frat party. At least there's free beer!

brance. "But it's not happening again."

The one night stand is always a tricky thing, especially in college. If it was good, you just had great sex with a person you hardly knew. If it was bad, you just had sex with a person you hardly knew and now everyone will know about it. A one night stand can be hot, exciting and make us all feel a little devils. However, there is also the feeling of remorse, because the fact of the matter is this person with whom you have just had passion filled sex with has no idea who you are. They do not respect you, they certainly do not love you and they probably think you're a little bit of a slut. At what point does a heat of the moment pseudo romantic fling become a matter of social integrity?

"I personally love one night stands," Claire said that evening as we entered a party at the now infamous Tau Kappa Epsilon house.

"They are just so freeing and liberating, like yoga with less flexibility," Claire was one of those love the one you with type of girls.

"I just can't handle the awkward moments that follow it," I said as a bushy haired frat boy handed me a red cup filled with mysteriously frosted beer.

"Well you don't have to worry about that," Claire said smiling.

"Why not?" I asked curiously. "Because this isn't your school," Claire said as she gazed across the room. "You're leaving tomorrow and that guy over by the window has been staring at you ever since you walked through the door."

I tried my best to look caught off guard as the very beautiful boy made his way over to us. Claire immediately introduced us then ran off into the distance, leaving the two of us alone to start the ritual first meeting flirting.

"Yea, I'll probably be captain of the team next year," Peter said as he took another swig

from his 7th Corona bottle. Or was it his 8th? I lost track. "The only problem is my coach, he gets pretty anal about those drug tests, but I figured I'm in college, fuck it right?"

As Peter went on and on about his budding college football career and his plans for next semester, I couldn't help but wonder what his abs must look like under his wrinkled Abercrombie and Fitch Tee-shirt. And that wasn't the only body part I was wondering about.

I am not so infatuated with the whole athlete persona, but I can appreciate its advantages. Peter was what one would call a typical upstate preppy. Tall and built with piercing blue eyes which matched perfectly with his blue blood. As he continued to talk, and I continued to nod and study the movements of his chiseled jaw line, I couldn't help but wonder- is this guy for real? Or is he just trying to get me into bed? I decided on the latter and forced myself to refrain from physical content for fear of future self loathing.

The night wore on at a surrealistic pace, and the girls scattered off into their respective plans for the evening. Taylor and Mike the frat boy snuck up to his room to "not" have adulterous sex again, Emma won beer pong champion for the night to the dismay of many drunk frat boys, Diana and her boyfriend fought profusely throughout the entire night, only to be seen making out in his car at around 3 A.M. Claire was nowhere to be found.

"Why don't you just hang around in my dorm room until Claire calls you back?" Peter asked. Translation- why don't you come up to my dorm room so we can hook up?

"Ok I guess I could do that," I said apprehensively. "Knowing Claire it will probably be a while." Translation- I'll hook up with you, but there is no way you are get-

ting into my pants.

As I walked into the pitch black dorm room I suddenly felt a cold rush running down my spine. It was Peter's hand. He pushed my hair to the left side, as his lips make a trail across my right shoulder and stopped at the nape of my neck.

"I kind of have this new rule," I whispered as Peter turned me around to face him. "I promised myself I wouldn't sleep with guys I've only known for one night."

Peter stared at me for what felt like an eternity. He finally smiled shook his head in a painfully cute way and proceeded to kiss me. Who knows if it was the seven jello shots or the passion of his kiss, but as he lift-

However, there is also the feeling of remorse, because the fact of the matter is this person with whom you have just had passion filled sex with has no idea who you are. They do not respect you, they certainly do not love you and they probably think you're a little bit of a slut.

ed me onto his tiny twin mattress, I broke my rule.

When I awoke the next morning, the harsh rays of the suns reflection gave way into reality. I was in a college guy's dorm room. It was decorated accordingly; half naked models were plastered along the pristine white walls and empty Coke cans and Cheetos wrappers filled the room. I suddenly looked over to find his roommate passed out on the next bed and I realized what I had done. The one night stand had reared its ugly head once again and as predicted, it did not feel good.

I slipped out quietly before Peter awoke. I didn't know if he would be disappointed or relieved to not see me beside him that morning, but I had a pretty good inclination. I did the proverbial walk of shame back to Claire's dorm room, gave her a kiss goodbye and drove my regretful city girl ass back to Staten Island.

As time went by I managed to get through finals week without flinging myself off a building. Peter texted me when I got home to tell me what a great time he had but I never responded. After all, semesters pass, so do one night stands. Some guys stamp their mark onto our hearts forever and some fade into the distance behind our rear view mirrors.

Finding a guy in Staten Island may never come easy, but if this is such a horrible place to meet people, why is there still so much traffic?

If you have any questions or need relationship advice, or just a comment in general, email the sex columnist at the.Banner.csi@gmail.com

BANNER OPINIONS

Sharing Is Caring

D.NIEVES

Have you ever heard of the "Sharing is caring" policy? Well it seems that CSI is following it very well when it comes to its bathrooms. Within the campus there are unisex bathrooms to use as needed.

Is CSI not concerned with students safety, has nobody thought about what might happen if there is a female in the bathroom and a male just decides to walk in without checking if anyone is in the restroom or vice versa? Seriously, did the idea of rape, privacy or sharing a public bathroom together even come to mind? This is why they invented opposite sex bathrooms in the first place!

Currently, there are unisex bathrooms on the second floor of every building except in buildings 4s, 5n, 1a, 1p, 2a. Maybe CSI should consider removing unisex bathrooms altogether because if either a girl or guy needed to use a restroom, I'm sure the big boys and girls can find their way to the correct bathrooms without having to stop in a unisex bathroom.

CSI should change the unisex bathrooms throughout the campus into something more sufficient like a storage room or just change them into another men's or woman's bathroom. It would be convenient for both sexes of the student body and nobody would ever have to go through any type of embarrassment because of this. It would also make it a lot safer for the students. Lets get rid of the sharing and caring policy and be selfish for once.

Some Advice For The Advisers

C.BENIS

As I sat in the advisement office, I counted the heads of all the people who I thought were there before me. As each person left, others joined and I began to lose track of the new faces. For what seemed to be a painful hour of waiting my math game was over. It's my turn to hear for the third time that I still haven't taken a physical education class. I want my hour back.

It is called an "advisement stop", and it is designed to help guide students into their future courses. I'm not alone in questioning it's counter-productivity. The stop restricts your ability to register for classes until you have spoken to an advisor, but it is not the only bureaucratic hurdle. There also is the "departmental" stop, which can only be removed after talking to an overbooked, and overstressed professor within your department. What is left? An overcrowded office with rushed advisors, stressed out students, and hundreds of hours wasted.

The solution? Hidden within the advisement office, often ignored despite its usefulness and taken for granted, is called an "advisement waiver." Within the time it takes to sign your name, you can save yourself and the students who need actual advisement a lot of time. This semester, after handing in my waiver with a smile, I stood in front of the waiting area and counted the number of miserable faces.

Relaxation Sold Separately

TERESA TRIOLO

Registration day at CSI is like feeding time at the zoo. However, this zoo is gradually getting bigger and the portions are only getting smaller. In almost every 200-level course or higher the option of classes shrink immensely.

Since they meet only once or twice a week, this can cause a conflict with scheduling. It happens often that two different courses are both offered at the same time leaving fewer options. That leaves students having to pick one course over the other. If both of the classes are pre-requisites for a higher-level course then this can become an even bigger problem.

Since CSI has small classes and the maximum amount of students can only go up to 40 at most. That means registration becomes a competition. Not only are the scheduled times scarce, but the variety of courses are limiting as well. It also doesn't help that many courses that are offered in the fall are not offered in the spring and vice versa. This causes endless stress on many students, as well as delaying graduation.

More professors are needed in order to expand the list of courses at CSI. The more teachers we have the more often we can offer a class, and then create a wider variety of courses. Tuition may need to go up slightly as a result, but in the end it's worth it.

Until then, eat your main course sparingly.

CSI: Easy To Get In Hard, To Leave

AMANDA BOYLE

CSI needs to improve how they communicate when it comes to advising students in what classes they need to take so that they can graduate on time. A couple of months ago I looked at my degree audit to make sure I was on track for graduating on time in the spring of 2011, with only one internship class that I needed to take during the spring semester. My degree audit said I was 95 percent done and listed that I had everything I needed.

A week ago I checked back into my degree audit to see that they added a required class to my general education credits, which was already completed. I wasn't notified about this by anyone at CSI and I would have never known that I needed another class if I hadn't been checking the degree audit, which is offered under ESIMS.

I feel that this is very unfair because now I have to pay more than I expected for requirements that were already completed. I have talked to many other CSI students and they have had similar issues. I'm currently in my fifth year and I am ready to leave, but CSI has found a way to keep me here longer and get more money out of me.

CSI should be more organized when dealing with student's academic advisement. Unfortunately CSI has a bad reputation when it comes to seniors trying to graduate on time with out any complications.

The New York Jets: Success From Luck?

MARISSA PESSOLANO

The New York Jets have been very fortunate this season, currently being one of the top teams in football. With Rex Ryan's Jets playing sloppy on the field, in addition to an increased number of penalties and difficulties when it comes to closing games, this success comes as a surprise to many. The Jets are also prevailing despite the loss of two key defensive players, Kris Jenkins and Jim Leonhard, who are suffering from injury. Many can't help but wonder, are the Jets just a good team that knows how to make the plays they need to win? Or are they just a mediocre team that has had luck on their side?

Earlier in the season, the Jets struggled but were able to beat the Broncos. This came after committing three turnovers, and scoring the winning touchdown with just

1:13 left on the clock, thanks to a pass interference penalty. Weeks later, the Jets squeaked by the Detroit Lions winning 23-20 in overtime, after a frustrating performance with 11 penalties and five fumbles. The week after, the Jets had another overtime victory against the Cleveland Browns. This win came after three missed field goals, including one in overtime by Nick Folk.

Shortly after these close victories, it looked as if the Jets luck was about to run out when they found themselves trailing to the Houston Texans. After blowing a 16-point lead it looked as if a heartbreaking loss was eminent, but it turned around as Mark Sanchez connected with Antonio Holmes for a touchdown pass with 10 seconds left in the game. This victory shocked everybody as Jets and football fans every-

where thought it was over.

The pattern has started where week after week, fans find themselves pulling their hair out, nervous and frustrated down to the very end. Some are attributing luck for their success in these games, where sloppy plays and errors were made. Others however, argue that the Jets are a good, deserving team, that knows how to pull through to win in the end. Luck or not, as Bill Parcells said, "You are what your record says you are!"

Despite the success, Sanchez, along with the Jets defense and special teams in particular, are in need of improvement in order to keep this momentum as the season winds down. The Jets confidence however, was recently impacted for the worse. Losing in a 45-3 massacre by the New England Patriots, the Jets have lost the top spot in the AFC East. This devastating loss to a tough opponent gives the "luck theory" more fuel. Nevertheless, the Jets did beat the Patriots earlier in the season, but that fall back was shortly lived because of

another devastating loss to the Dolphins. Despite the losses to the Patriots and the Dolphins, the Jets have found ways to win against many of their previous opponents, which is what Rex Ryan says, "Championship teams do."

This football season has brought a lot of surprises, as there are not any overly dominant teams like there have been in previous seasons. Each division has close races and it would be difficult at this moment to correctly predict what is going to happen. Nobody expected the Jets to rise to the top, having a better record than previous Super Bowl Champions, the Indianapolis Colts. Although, due to the aforementioned flaws in the organization, along with the difficulties the Jets have had this season, many find it easy to say that the Jets success is just luck. It will be their performance in the expected playoffs and the future 2011 season, that will more clearly reveal whether their winning record was luck, or if the Jets have truly become a team to take more seriously.

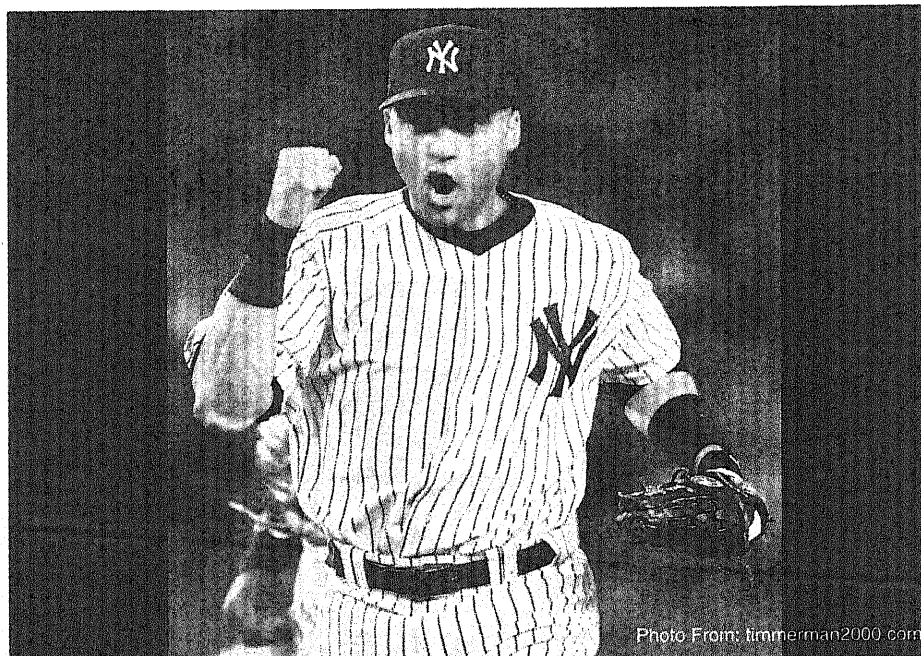
BANNER SPORTS

Jeter Talks Getting Shaky

DALE FJORBOTTEN

To what many saw as a done deal before the 2010 season started, is now anything but certain. The New York Yankees and legendary short stop Derek Jeter have had as good of a relationship as any franchise and player could have. Through his fifteen years with the team, the "Captain" has led the Yankees to an incredible amount of victories and memorable moments, but after a year-to-forget, Jeter finds himself and his future at the mercy of Yankee ownership.

Fresh off his 10-year \$189 million contract that started back in 2001, Jeter is now placed in an intriguing scenario. Derek is coming off a down year, hitting .270 AVG with 10 HR, 67 RBIs, 111 runs scored, and an on-base percentage of .340. Questions about his age and quality of play, have come into question many times in recent years. Taking this into consideration, the Yankees front office has decided to think with their heads and not with their hearts on shaping his



Who are the Yankees without Derek Jeter? The famous face of the franchise is looking to close a deal that will secure him for the rest of his career.

new contract. The offer, as it stands now, is for 3 years and \$45 million, a vast pay-cut from his 2010 salary of \$21 million.

As a player, Jeter's value has been declining, especially in the area of defense. His arm hasn't been as strong as it was in the past, and his range has decreased dramatically, which was very noticeable in the 2010 postseason. Excluding this past year, Jeter's

offense had been good, if not great at times. He finished in the top 3 for AL MVP in 2009, the same year in which the Yankees reclaimed their former glory by defeating the Phillies in the World Series. The downside for Jeter is that with his less-than-stellar defense, as well as his age and bad 2010 campaign, no other team in the league would try and match the offer the Yankees are will-

ing to pay him, even at \$15 million.

Now, enter Jeter's incredible intrinsic value to the franchise. He is a Yankee legend, totaling 11 All-Star appearances, 5 World Series rings, and finishing as an MVP finalist (within the top 10) 7 times. You mention his name along with the greats such as Babe Ruth, Mickey Mantle and Joe DiMaggio. He is the face of the Yankees. A tremendous player who raises his game to another level when the lights get the brightest. Known as "Mr. October" and "Captain Clutch," he is one of the most popular athletes in the world. This adds so much more than just stats to a player, and why he is more valuable to the Yankee brand than any other team.

It is unsure why the Yankees are reluctant to offer Derek more than \$15 million a year, even if it is overpaying him. The franchise has plenty of money to do so, and have done it more than once before. Kei Igawa and Carl Pavano, two names that bring animosity to Yankee fans to this day, total around \$100 million in wasted money as both pitchers never contributed at all. So what's an extra \$5 million a year to a franchise icon? Only time will tell if a deal gets worked out, or if Jeter opens the 2011 season in a different uniform.

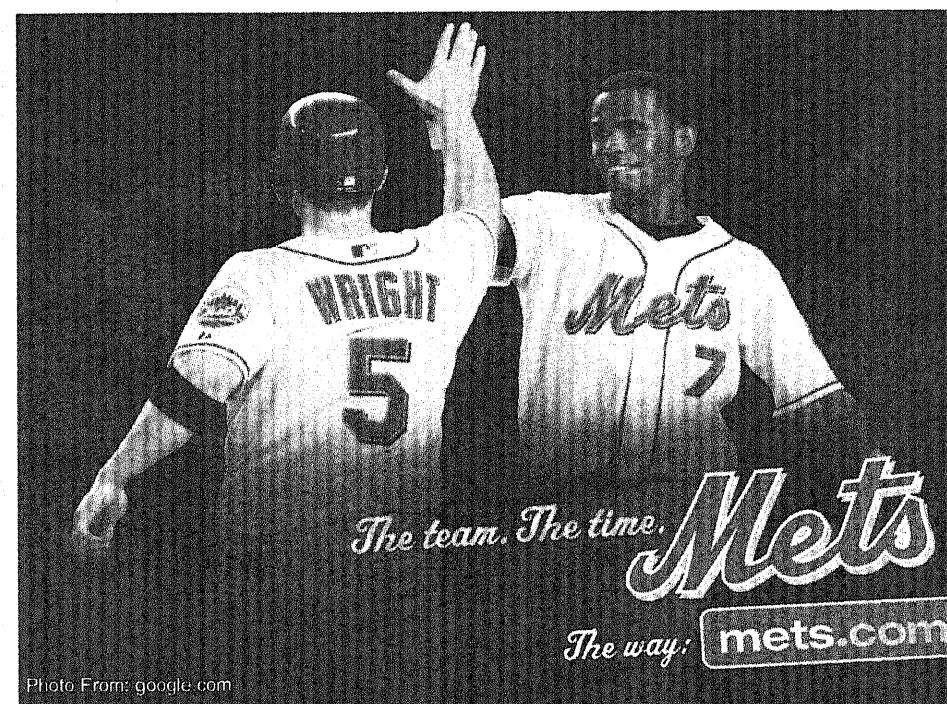
A New Tests for the Mets

JAMES KINGSLEY

The New York Mets season last year ending badly is an under statement. However, during this off-season they fired both manager Jerry Manual and General Manager Omar Minaya. They hired Terry Collins as the clubs new manager and Sandy Alderson as the new General Manager, along with J.P. Ricciardi as a special assistant and Paul DePodesta to serve as the teams' VP of player development and scouting.

Interestingly, Terry Collins, the former Angels manager that was forced to resign because of a mutiny led by former Met Mo Vaughn, has some fans wondering why not Wally Backman. In defense of his decision Alderson wanted a more experienced manager, remember Mets fans Collins was only signed to a two year deal. Backman may get his chance early depending on how the team responds to Collins this year or even next year. The rest of the coaching staff will be filled out as the rest of the off-season comes around. Mookie Wilson is coming back and Dan Warthen returns as pitching coach. Good news is that former hitting coach Howard Johnson will remain with the organization.

Many Mets fans and others have called for the team to get rid of 2nd baseman Luis Castillo, center fielder Carlos Beltran, clos-



The New York Mets as always, will look to their young superstars for the future of the organization- David Wright and Jose Reyes.

er Frankie Rodriguez and perhaps the most despised Mets starting pitcher Oliver Perez. Castillo could either get dealt or released, but Perez and Beltran are seen as potential contributors to the 2011 Mets.

Those aren't the only moves the Mets are looking to do. The organization will be adding a back-up catcher to presumed starter Josh Thole. They may not sign short-stop Jose Reyes and pitcher R.A. Dickey to contract extensions just yet, but they may get some pitching help because they are in talks with Jeff Francis and Chris Young, two injury-prone pitchers that may shore up the 4 and 5 spots in the rotation.

Regarding pitching, it is in need of

help with Johan Santana out until possibly May or June. The Mets already missed out on the best pitcher available, Cliff Lee, to the rival Phillies. With Zack Greinke being unlikely, the team will look at Young, Millwood, and Francis to try and hold down the fort until Santana returns.

The relief core is in trouble with Hisanori Takahashi signing a two-year \$8 million deal with the L.A. Angels weakening a thin relief staff. The loss of Pedro Feliciano also hurts the Mets and badly because he was the one of the best lefty specialists in the league. Hence the importance for a highly unlikely savior in Oliver

Perez to serve as the Mets new lefty specialist to replace Feliciano. The Mets let go of oft-injured starter John Maine, relief pitcher Sean Green and pinch-hitter Chris Carter, but both Carter and especially Green may be resigned.

It has been noted by the new management team that the Mets will still listen to trade offers from other clubs regarding players such as Jose Reyes and David Wright, but they will not be major players this year in the free agent market and will instead let their expensive contracts expire. It is a decent and horrible strategy for a team hasn't made the playoffs since 2006, but by letting the contracts of Perez and Castillo expire and the presumed build up of the farm system the Mets may be a contender soon enough.

In other MLB news the White Sox and Adam Dunn agreed to a 4 year deal, Derek Jeter is still a Yankee signing a 3 year deal, Victor Martinez signed a 4 year deal with the Tigers, Jason Werth and the Nationals agreed to a 7 year deal, the Rockies and Troy Tulowitzki agreed to a 7 year contract extension, Carl Crawford signed with the Red Sox for 7 years, and Adrian Gonzalez is now a Red Sox following a trade from the Padres. With many more trades sure to follow as the Winter Meetings are underway, the MLB free agent craziness has begun.