

THE BANNER

Latinos Lack Health Insurance at Double the National Average -- New Study

BY CUNY NEWSWIRE
CUNY.EDU

The percentage of Latinos lacking health insurance is double the national average, according to a recent study by the Latino Data Project of the Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies (CLACLS) at the CUNY Graduate Center. In addition, the number of uninsured Latinos is increasing at a higher rate than that of other groups nationally, and in New York State, nearly one third of Latinos are without health insurance, the Latino Data Project found. The report, titled "Health Insurance Patterns among Latinos in Comparative Perspective, 2004-2007," was one of six studies recently released by the CLACLS, including an overview of "The Latino Population in New York City, 2008." All the reports can be found at <http://web.gc.cuny.edu/lastudies/>.

The health insurance report, which looked at the ten most Latino-populous states in the U.S., noted that "in all states examined, what is most conspicuous is the disparity in the rate at which Latino adults are uninsured compared with the other major race/ethnic groups." Among the lead findings are:

* Between 2001 and 2007 Latinos saw the highest overall increase in the

rate of people who lack medical insurance in the United States, with the rate of uninsured Latinos rising by 2.5%.

* The growth rate of uninsured Latinos was five times greater than that of the non-Hispanic white population.

* Latinos in New York State report significantly lower rates of uninsured persons compared to the other ten states with the highest Latino populations in the U.S., with only Georgia reporting a lower rate of uninsured Latinos.

United States
Census
2010



Photo by ci.rolsville.nc.us

The U.S. Census counts every resident in the United States, and is required by the Constitution to take place every 10 years.

* Despite this, nearly one-third of Latinos in New York lack medical insurance, a rate that is nearly twice that of Asians, twice as high as non-Hispanic blacks, and nearly three times as high as non-Hispanic whites in New York.

* While Latinos of all ages are more likely to be uninsured than non-Hispanic persons, the lack of health insurance coverage is particularly acute among Latinos aged 18-24, where over half (51%) of Latinos have no health

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Why The Census Matters

The 2010 Census affects your voice, funds, and country

BY KANIKA KHANNA
ADP EDITOR

Every ten years, the United States undergoes a seemingly insurmountable task in the distribution of the U.S. Census. Our founding fathers wrote for "actual Enumeration" of the country's population in order to determine the number of Representatives allotted to each state, as stated by TIME Magazine. Since the first Census in 1790, the nation has utilized every possible method of collecting data to organize this year's Census campaign. This year's Census is ten questions long and, as reported by The Christian Science Monitor, "if the 2000 census effort is any guide, about three-quarters of Americans will participate, despite a \$130 million advertising and public-relations campaign".

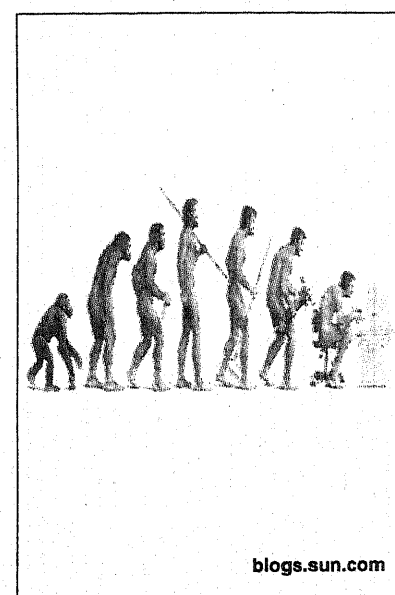
Due to the 2010 Census, it is predicted that thirteen seats will be redistributed in Congress; the 2000 Census resulted in eighteen changes. New York lost two seats as a result of the last Census and may lose another due to this one. While this doesn't seem like a large number, the reapportionment of these seats in the House of Representatives will highly influence the way Congress is run, and how the House will vote on certain issues as a whole. Additionally, the number of Representatives impacts the Electoral College, thereby holding weight in presidential elections.

One might ask - why is this all so important? Does filling out a questionnaire really impact the success of my country? The Census holds other roles in our government that many have never realized. The Census also aids the government in the spending of about \$400 billion in federal funds, to programs such as Medicaid. Vital federal programs will be vastly manipulated through the 2010 Census based on the population of local communities. Investments in healthcare, infrastructure, education, and public services will be made to those communities that are prominently represented as one that would benefit from such efforts. Furthermore, the Census has become the nation's largest temporary employer,

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blogs.sun.com

Was Darwin Right?

When Undergraduate Studies End, Testing Begins

The Alphabet Soup of Grad School Admissions Exams

BY WILLIAM KLINE
STAFF WRITER

Scholars from across the academic sphere have debated the merits of pursuing a master's degree. Opponents of attending graduate school often turn to the Bill Gates Principle.

Gates amassed a fortune of \$40 billion and ranks as the richest man in the world, according to *Forbes*, yet dropped out of college. That's fine for anyone selling personal computers to virtually every home in the late 90s and early 00s. Until the day when time machines exist (and even then, Microsoft will probably own the patent), graduate school serves as a practical alternative. With the prospect of postsecondary education comes the most dreaded two words in academia: standardized testing.

Terms like GRE and LSAT sound like text-messaging acronyms to some. Here are the four main tests an applicant

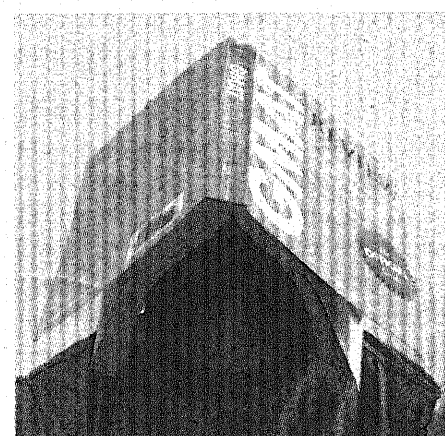


Photo by mbaforbetterfuture.com

Testing for graduate school can sometimes go to the head. Here's a primer.

might consider while applying for graduate school.

GRE

As a full disclosure, and as a bit of participatory journalism, this reporter took the GRE—one of the most widely used tests for graduate school admissions. The GRE—short for Graduate Record Examination—can be best described as a more advanced version of the SAT.

It tests verbal and quantitative abilities—words and numbers. The verbal

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American Democracy Project

Obama's Afghanistan Decision Is Straining Ties With Democrats

BY CARL HULSE AND ADAM NAGOURNEY
NYTIMES.COM

President Obama's decision to send more troops to Afghanistan over the objections of fellow Democrats on Capitol Hill is straining a relationship already struggling under the weight of an administration agenda that some Democratic lawmakers fear is placing them in a politically vulnerable position.

The result has been a subtle shift in which Democrats in Congress are becoming less deferential to the White House, making clear that Mr. Obama will not always be able to count on them to fall into line and highlighting how Mr. Obama's expansive ambitions are running up against political realities.

The troop buildup is stirring unease among Democrats at a time when they have been struggling to navigate cross-currents of pressure from different constituencies. Democrats now face the prospect of enacting a health care bill that Republicans are using to paint them as fiscally irresponsible and intent on extending the government's reach deeper into the economy and personal health decisions. Mr. Obama continues to push for action to curb global warming and to revamp immigration policy, subjects that seem certain to expose new geographic and ideological strains in the party, even as Democrats in Congress press the White House to make addressing high unemployment its singular focus.

To a considerable extent, the strain stems from a calculation by Mr. Obama's aides

that it is essential to move early in the term. But there are political calculations as well: Mr. Obama has nearly three years to recover from any damage he suffers by pushing through legislation that divides the public. Members of Congress do not.

"They say you do the tough things early," said Representative Anthony Weiner, Democrat of New York. "Early 2010 is early for the White House, but it is perilously late for members of Congress. I don't know if it's a new tension, but it's certainly something people are talking about on the Hill."

Some Democrats worry that the administration is willing to sacrifice some House and Senate seats in the interest of accomplishing its broader goals.

"There is a tension and a wariness about where everyone is coming from," said Representative Raúl M. Grijalva, Democrat of Arizona and co-chairman of the House's liberal caucus. "We are being asked to be loyal soldiers, but I think what you are seeing now is resistance to going along to just go along."

Mr. Obama's aides and Congressional Democrats said that the reaction to the troop buildup had in fact been more restrained than they had expected, and that they were confident that in the end Democrats would rally behind Mr. Obama on the issue. Democrats will have to vote at some point next year on financing the troop buildup and many are likely to vote against him.

"The president made a courageous decision knowing full well that people in his

own party would be the most vocal critics," said Rahm Emanuel, the White House chief of staff. "But that won't interfere with the things we agree on: the economy, health care and energy independence legislation."

till, this White House can ill afford even a slight souring of its relationship with Congressional Democrats at a time when it is calling on them to do so much. And some of the issues Mr. Obama is pressing could make Democrats vulnerable to attack not only by Republicans, but also by fellow Democrats in primaries.

In Pennsylvania, Senator Arlen Specter has come out against Mr. Obama's Afghanistan policy, setting up a clash against his Democratic primary opponent, Representative Joe Sestak, who backs the escalation of the war. His move gives Mr. Specter, who switched parties earlier this year, a chance to win some support from the left, which has been the base of Mr. Sestak's support.

Some groups on the left have threatened to run candidates in primaries against moderate Democratic incumbents who do not vote in favor of including in the health care bill some form of a public insurance plan to compete with private insurance. Members of the Congressional Black Caucus have refused to cooperate with advancing a major overhaul of federal financial regulation out of frustration with what they see as the administration's inattention to the economic struggles of members of minorities.

"There are voices here that have information pertinent to the administration's program, but many of those voices are not being heard," said Representative Alcee L. Hastings, Democrat of Florida and senior member of the black caucus.

And it is not just the progressive ranks where Congressional patience with the

White House is wearing thin.

Conservative and moderate Democrats from swing districts and states are uneasy over the push on a health care overhaul, with some questioning whether the effort on health care should have instead been set aside for a singular focus on the economy and jobs.

"Whether it is at the end of 10 months or two years, the question in the minds of the American people is going to be, Has everything been done to get the economic engine running again, to put people back to work?" said Senator Byron L. Dorgan, a North Dakota Democrat up for re-election next year. Many senior Democrats say the administration's war strategy could divert scarce resources from domestic priorities in what promises to be a difficult budget year in 2010.

"I do not support the decision to prolong and expand a risky and unsustainable strategy in the region," Senator Russ Feingold, Democrat of Wisconsin, told administration representatives appearing Thursday before the Foreign Relations Committee. "I do not believe more American lives should be risked for a war that no longer serves our most pressing national security interests."

Mr. Obama remains extremely well liked among Democratic members of Congress, and that reservoir of good will could be critical in the months ahead. Even Democrats who are speaking out aggressively against the troop buildup emphasize that they strongly support Mr. Obama, demonstrating that lawmakers know their fates are tied to how successful the president is.

"We want this administration to be successful," Mr. Grijalva said. "It is important to us and it is important to the country. But the loyalty issue is a two-way street."

Carlos Pascual, who became the American ambassador to Mexico in August, said the 2 percent figure is misleading and does not capture hundreds of millions of dollars that is in the process of being spent. "The logjams have been broken," he said in a telephone interview Friday, indicating that five Bell helicopters would be delivered to Mexico next week. Two years ago, the United States announced a \$1.4 billion, multiyear aid package for Mexico and Central America, a huge increase over previous spending, but the delivery of the money has been bogged down by burdensome contracting rules and other delays, the agency found.

The slow disbursement of funds has frustrated top Mexican officials, with Mr. Calderón raising the issue in a meeting with American lawmakers this year.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, questioned about the slow spending when she visited Mexico City in

July, acknowledged that "our long process of approval was cumbersome and challenging for the Mexican government" and vowed to "see what we can do to cut that time."

Mexico and the United States first agreed to increase American antidrug aid during meetings in March 2007 between President George W. Bush and Mr. Calderón in the city of Mérida. The so-called Mérida Initiative resulting from the meeting represented the largest foreign aid package in the Western Hemisphere since Plan Colombia, a multibillion-dollar effort initiated in 2000 to combat drug cartels and end the insurgency in that country.

The hundreds of millions of dollars in annual aid pledged for Mexico represents a significant increase over previous spending. In 2007, for instance, Mexico received only \$36.7 million in counternarcotics assistance. Central American nations have also been promised more money in antidrug aid, and spending in

the region has been similarly behind expectations.

The State Department attributed some of the delay to the challenge of tracking all the money and programs spread across numerous government agencies, saying that dozens of additional staff members have had to be hired at the American Embassy in Mexico to handle administrative matters.

Helicopters and a surveillance plane are the most expensive items, and contracting requirements associated with such aircraft have slowed the spending, officials said. It usually takes two years from the beginning of contract negotiations for helicopters to be delivered, State Department officials said. In Mexico's case, the time lapse will be much shorter if five Bell helicopters are delivered as scheduled. But delivery of a surveillance plane and Black Hawk helicopters for the Mexican military will take longer.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

-30-

BY WILLIAM KLINE
EDITOR IN CHIEF

If you are one of the two dozen or so people who read the blog post on The Banner's website, you already know that I resigned at the end of the Fall 2009 semester.

This letter first appeared only three issues ago, so it does not stand as an enduring tradition of departing editors to issue a final statement, nor is it even a "final" statement persay. While the readers of *The Banner* will occasionally catch my byline until I graduate this May, something about penning a final letter as editor in chief seems so, well, final.

As James Plunkett very astutely pointed out in his web-exclusive, I stepped down as editor due to "personal reasons." That could mean anything from an extramarital affair to shaving my head bald like Moby and starting a dirt farm in the rural South. I'm not married, but towards the end of the fall semester I did consider the latter on several occasions.

Personal reasons, for me, included studying for the GRE (see page 1), applying to three different graduate schools, working part time, and occasionally finding slivers of time to study. Once in a while, I would sleep standing up while an aide would pour chewed up food in my mouth. It sounds terrible, but it saved time.

For the spring 2010 semester, I accepted an internship with investigative reporter Wayne Barrett of *The Village Voice*. Today was my first day. I owe it to *The Banner*.

If a platform for aspiring college journalists like *The Banner* did not exist, the opportunities afforded to me through my current internship, and my previous internship with *The Nation*, would have never presented themselves. Of course, I received a stellar education from several amazing journalism professors. But I think they would agree that a course load

only goes so far. Activities and achievements outside of the classroom, at the bare minimum, resonate well with potential employers. And there is the parting moral in this whole crazy saga that I can leave off with, that is it.

I didn't know what would happen when I finally resigned as editor. I assumed that Student Life would retire my number and hang my jersey from the rafters in J-C. President Morales would give an emotional speech, often interrupted by spontaneous applause. Then, the new editor, Brian Gonzalez, as capable an editor as they come, would present me with a gold Rolex as a single tear trickled down my cheek. In fact, that was exactly what was supposed to happen, but we didn't file the paperwork three days in advance.

In the words of Jeff Winger, the charming editor of *The Greendale Weekly* in NBC's hit-comedy, *Community*, said: "Dealing with problems isn't my job no more. My new job is hanging out, having fun and cracking wise." Journalism may be a thankless job, but I have so many people to thank. So I save these last 100 words for them.

Thanks to a colleague, a competitor, a co-editor and a friend who drinks far too much, quotes Norman Mailer and bursts into flippancy fits of rage. Thanks to a journalism professor who dislikes seeing his name in print. Thanks to another journalism professor who taught us more than we rightfully should have learned. Thanks to the staffers—former and current—for teaching me what it means to be an editor. Thanks to Student Life, for patiently bearing with my many rookie questions. Thanks to a new editor, who always gave sage advice. Thanks to CSI, for enduring my constant battering and allowing us to exist. Finally, Thanks to Debbie and Bill—my parents—who dealt with deadline stress as much as I did, and made all of the above possible.

Check out my recently launched blog at williamkline.wordpress.com

Check Out The Banner On The Web



The Banner on Wordpress:
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The Testing Begins

(continued from page 1)

portion consists of antonyms, sentence completions, analogies and reading comprehension. The quantitative section consists of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and other types of daunting math (at least for a wordsmith). The test also includes a writing component.

In all likelihood, the testing center will administer the exam via computer. The "computer-based" adapts to the ability of the student. Questions increase difficulty for a correct answer, and decrease difficulty for an incorrect answer.

If you take the GRE in a location far from the power lines, a paper-based test will be given.

Each of the two main sections, verbal and quantitative, scores from 200-800. Graders judge the writing component on a scale of 0 to 6. The cost of the test is \$150.

GMAT

The Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) allows business schools to gauge a potential applicant's ability. The test consists of two writing tasks, 41 verbal questions and 37 quantitative questions. While the structure sounds much like the GRE, the test attempts to ascertain more about a student's ability to solve problems and reason, according to mba.com.

Unlike the GRE, the GMAT total score ranges from 200 to 800. The cost for the GMAT is \$250.

"The GMAT is a pointless steroid infused SAT exam," said Shivam Sohan, a student from CW Post masters program. "Save your time and sanity, take the GRE. B-schools now accept it."

LSAT

If you want to attend law school, become a lawyer, and eventually run for Congress, chase ambulances or have a commercial on afternoon television, then the LSAT will serve that need.

The LSAT contains a reading comprehension portion, but its Analytical Reasoning and Logical Reasoning Portions set it apart from the GRE and GMAT.

Nicole Lloret, a current applicant to 10 law schools, studied for the LSAT for months and called described it as one of the most intense experiences of her life.

"Studying for the LSAT taught me a lot about self-discipline and how to persevere even when it feels as if all hope is lost," said Lloret, who is applying to top schools such as Columbia and Fordham. "How to succeed on the LSAT however, still remains a mystery."

She said that the latter two sections depended on a person's innate sense of logic.

Registration for the LSAT costs \$132.

MCAT

According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, almost every medical school in the country requires the MCAT, or Medical College Admission Test. The MCAT spices up the test by adding a Physical Sciences and Biological Sciences section.

The MCAT consists of 146 total questions and lasts for almost four and a half hours. The cost for registration is \$230.

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. Through these internships students will become involved in the operation and production of *The Banner*. Interns will work a minimum of (10) hours per week. Depending on the type of internship students will assist in blogging, correspondence, editing, fact-checking, graphic design, layout & production, photography, reporting, web design, etc.

For more information visit us in 1C-228 or contact us:
Phone: (718) 982-3116
E-Mail: the.Banner.csi@gmail.com

Mexico Still Waiting for U.S. Aid, Report Says

BY MARC LACEY
NYTIMES.COM

The United States government has spent only 2 percent of the more than \$1 billion it has pledged to help Mexico win its battle against drug traffickers, according to a government study released Thursday. Despite vows by the Bush administration, and now the Obama administration, to help President Felipe Calderón of Mexico in his three-year-long assault against drug cartels, actual spending totaled only about \$24 million by the end of September, the Government Accountability Office said.

BANNER BRIEFS

A Roundup of CSI News

CSI Receives Stimulus Funds to Offer Job Training for In-Demand Addictions Professionals

State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) Commissioner Karen M. Carpenter-Palumbo has announced that OASAS-Certified Education and Training Providers will offer free tuition for unemployed New Yorkers to enter the addictions workforce, now one of the nation's top ten growing occupations.

The College of Staten Island was awarded \$16,800. Other awardees include: City College of New York, Alcoholism Council of New York, American Institute for Hypnotherapy and Psychotherapy, Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service, Argus Career Training Institute, Kingsborough Community College, Outreach Training Institute. Statewide, OASAS awarded \$500,000 in federal stimulus funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to 14 OASAS training providers. The funding, provided by the state Department of Labor, will train nearly 130 unemployed or underemployed individuals in careers in the addictions field.

CSITODAY.NET

Faculty Member and Wife Honored at Celestial Ball for their Support of CSI and its Students

Gordon and Lorraine Di Paolo have been quite successful in their respective careers—Gordon has been an Associate Professor of Business at the College of Staten Island since 1971 and has had a career in marketing and sales for the Revlon Corporation, and Lorraine is the President of Benchmark Capital Advisors on Wall Street in New York. More importantly, the Di Paolos believe in sharing their success to help others achieve and, as a result, they will be among the honorees at this Saturday's first-ever Celestial Ball, a fundraiser, sponsored by the Alumni Association, CSI Foundation, and Friends of CSI, to support scholarships at the College.

CSITODAY.NET

Ruane Receives Prestigious Graduate Women in Science Fellowship

Sara Ruane, who has been working toward her PhD in Biology Professor Frank Burbrink's lab since 2007, has been named a Graduate Women in Science Fellow. Ruane explains that Women in Science is "a nonprofit organization that specifically gives awards to women in science as an underrepresented minority."

This honor follows Ruane's two other awards during her tenure at CSI, the 2009 Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Fund from the American Museum of Natural History and a 2008 Explorers Club Grant.

CSITODAY.NET

CSI rising in the ranks of higher education

BY BARTON HOROWITZ
SILIVE.COM

SI Live – When Frank Sinatra performed "My Kind of Town" back in the '60s, the Sammy Cahn and Jimmy Van Heusen song boasted about such Chicago icons as the Wrigley Building and the Union Stock Yard.

If a similar song were to be composed today about Staten Island, it would most certainly include such local treasures as the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, the Staten Island Yankees and the College of Staten Island (CSI), which has made remarkable strides since the appointment of its third president in June 2007.

Upon his installation to the college's top administrative position, Dr. Tomás D. Morales hit the ground running, rocketing the Willowbrook-based school to new heights of accomplishment.

"I'm working to build a greater sense of community on the campus," said Morales, whose achievements should give all Staten Islanders a reason to boast.

Since assuming his role as CSI's president, Morales has led the college to milestones in academic and student affairs, athletics, finance, faculty, campus technology systems, transportation, community involvement, alumni affairs, government relations, philanthropy, and more.

The college leader exhibits unbridled enthusiasm for his work — and displays an uncanny talent for setting — and obtaining — the loftiest of goals for CSI.

"We're just beginning. This is just the tip of the iceberg," Morales said. "The potential here is extraordinary; the potential is to be one of the leading senior colleges of the City University of New York (CUNY)."

Recent accomplishments at CSI are extraordinary. In 2009, the college experienced a 23 percent increase in its number of awards from state and federal funding agencies, amounting to a total of \$11,415,590 for the year.

In addition, the school secured the largest scholarship endowment in the history of the CSI Foundation, receiving a \$200,000 nursing-student scholarship from the Brooklyn Home for Aged Men. Also this year, the foundation allocated more than \$120,000 for scholarships to CSI students, and raised \$75,000 for the college's Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Initiative.

"I don't do it all myself," Morales said. "I've put together a really good leadership team, and we're just trying to move the institution forward."

Keeping the institution on track, and prioritizing all that needs to be done, requires strong communication between himself and the many others who fill key roles at the college, he said.

"I do a lot of listening. I listen to the faculty; I listen to the students; I listen to my staff," Morales said. "The hallmark of a CSI education is the opportunity for undergraduate students to experience real world hands-on research, using sophisticated equipment side-by-side with leading scientists and authorities in their fields. That's a niche — that's what we are known for."

All the while, the college's commitment to its CUNY masters and doctoral programs also continues to flourish, with nearly 30 CSI students receiving CUNY doctorate degrees in 2009.

Morales highly values the contributions of others at the college, and he reminds everyone of this by annually recognizing all staff members for their years of service.

"Everybody plays a very important role in moving the institution and making CSI the best it can be," he said. "It's all about the students; we want them to have an extraordinary collegiate experience. This is accomplished by our faculty and staff."

Among the extensive list of accomplishments reached under Morales' leadership are such milestones as the initiation of a shuttle-bus run between the Staten Island Ferry and the CSI campus; a broadening of the college's Virtual Classroom partnerships to include the Posts and Telecommunications Institute of Technology in Vietnam; the appointment this year of 43 new faculty members, and a grant from the National Science Foundation in support of the City University system's high-performance computational and visualization center, which is based at CSI. The super-computer is designed to serve faculty throughout the City University system and be a vehicle for economic development throughout the region.

In 2008, the National Science Foundation awarded CSI nearly \$1 million in funding under its "Science & Technology Expansion via Applied Mathematics (STEAM)" program. During the first year of the grant, it had supported over 50 students with scholarships for study and research. Also last year, the Career Academy of the Career and Scholarship Center was fully established, assisting CSI students to identify their strengths and weaknesses, decide on a major, create a résumé, consider internships and — by senior year — prepare for a job search.

As CSI grows in recognition both on and off the island, so does its attraction as a coveted destination for higher learning. This is reflected in the college's enrollment, which hit a record high in 2009. Graduate enrollment, for example, increased at the college for the first time in seven years; and the Macaulay (CUNY) Honors College program at CSI

has doubled its enrollment into the class of 2013.

"These are students with very high grade-point averages, very high SAT scores, who have other options; but they've decided to come here, to the College of Staten Island," Morales said of the Macaulay enrollees. The same is true for The Verrazano School, CSI's very own four-year honors program.

A total of 138 CSI scholarships, totaling \$213,000, were allocated to 95 students for the 2008-2009 academic year. Included among these are students in CSI's highly successful valedictorian and salutatorian program, which offers "a full scholarship to every single Staten Island high school graduate who graduates one or two in his or her class," Morales said.

And let's not forget about athletics. To mention just some of the CSI sports highlights of 2009: The women's volleyball team made its first trip in program history to the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) post-season tournament; the women's soccer team won its fifth-straight CUNY Athletic Conference (AC) championship; the Women's basketball team netted its first-ever ECAC Metro championship; the men's swimming team won its third National Collegiate Athletic Association national championship; the women's softball team won the CUNY AC championship for the fourth time in six years, and the men's tennis team won the CUNY AC regular season championship for the first time in a decade.

"Whether inside or outside of the classroom, at home or abroad, the CSI experience speaks to the heart of its students," Morales said. And from this columnist's perspective, it also speaks to the heart of all Islanders. To borrow a phrase from songwriters Cahn and Van Heusen: "This is my kind of town" — and CSI is very much a part of it.

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.

Meetings are held every Thursday from 1:30 pm until 3:30 pm. Free Pizza!

"Latinos Lack Health Insurance at Double the National Average – New Study"
Continued from the front page

insurance.

* The lack of medical insurance is also felt most strongly among Latino males of all ages. Some 37% of Latino men are uninsured, a figure which is twice the rate of the total population and nearly three times the rate of non-Hispanic white men.

Major findings from "The Latino Population in New York City, 2008" include:

* There were over 2.3 million Latinos living in New York City in 2008 an increase of 5% from 2000.

* Some 31% of all City Latinos lived in the Bronx, 27% in Queens, 22% in Brooklyn, 18% in Manhattan, and 3% in Staten Island.

* Latinos were 28% of the City's total population in 2008 and accounted for 52% of the population of the Bronx, 27% of Queens, 25% of Manhattan, 20% of Brooklyn, and 15% of Staten Island.

The other recently released studies include "A Profile of Latina Women in New York City, 2007"; "Demographic, Economic, and Social Transformations in Brooklyn Community District 4: Bushwick, 1990-2007"; "Fertility Rates

Among Mexicans in Traditional and New States of Settlement, 2006"; and "Latino Middle Class Income Earners in New York City, 2006."

The Latino Data Project makes information available on the growing Latino population of the United States, and especially New York City, through the analysis of extant data available from a variety of sources, such as the U.S. Census Bureau, the National Institute for Health, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and state- and local-level data sources.

The Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies is a research institute that works for the advancement of the study of Latin America, the Caribbean, and Latinos in the United States in the doctoral programs at the CUNY Graduate Center. One of its major priorities is to provide funding and research opportunities to Latino students at the Ph.D. level. It has also established and helps administer an interdisciplinary specialization in Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies in the Masters of Arts in Liberal Studies program.

College of Staten Island to MTA: Please serve us better

BY JAMIE LEE
SILIVE.COM

According to representatives of the College of Staten Island, there are 1,600 bus stops within the boundaries of the borough.

Yet if you combine the ridership of the two buses that stop at the Willowbrook campus' front gate, the S62 and S93, with that of the CSI shuttle bus from the Staten Island Ferry, you would have the third-most-trafficked bus stop on the island.

Increasing service there, then, would seem like a no-brainer.

Instead, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority has stonewalled proposals to extend city bus service onto CSI's Loop Road and make one stop in the heart of the campus at the Center for the Arts.

"Extending the bus routes onto the campus would streamline public transportation for students, faculty and staff members coming and going from CSI," said Associate Professor of Political Science Richard Flanagan, during a sit-down with elected officials and CSI group leaders last week.

With an enrollment of nearly 14,000 students — and just under 3,000 parking spaces — the combined ridership of individuals coming to campus via bus service is more than 2,000 individuals per day.

That's more than get on and off at the intersections of Hylan Boulevard-

New Dorp Lane or Bay Street-Victory Boulevard, as well as the Ring Road stop in front of the Staten Island Mall.

In fact, the only two locations that would see more bus traffic are the St. George Ferry Terminal and the Eltingville Transit Center.

"This is standard A-B-C, 1-2-3 stuff in terms of public transportation," said Associate Professor of Finance Jonathan Peters. "You move the buses to where the people are and where they're going. The MTA keeps saying they want to better serve the community, but how do you do that without adding routes and service?"

There was complete agreement with the student representatives at the meeting, which included state Assemblyman Lou Tobacco (R-South Shore) and City Councilman Vincent Ignizio (R-South Shore), who have long been proponents of a similar route extension of the S74 in Charleston.

"As Prof. Flanagan and Prof. Peters explained today, there is a great need for improvement in our bus service on campus," said Ben DeAngelis, representing the Straphangers Campaign of CSI's branch of the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG). "The current system means that students have to transfer from their MTA bus to the loop bus, or walk into campus, taking up valuable time. With a main hub centrally located, students could get to class easily when arriving on campus."

"Why the Census Matters"
Continued from the front page

offering nearly 800,000 jobs for canvassers and phone bank positions. In today's economic state, employment of any kind proves difficult to find. The Census Bureau has created a great opportunity for those seeking employment, a chance that many Americans are not taking for granted.

Some Americans remain wary of the Census, particularly when considering the security of the information we are being asked to give. As reported by The Christian Science Monitor, "all census takers are checked by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. And they take an oath to never reveal personally identifiable information. The penalty for violating the oath is five years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000... After the forms are processed, they go into a locked vault for 72 years. In 2012, the results of the 1940 survey will be open to the public".

The Census remains an essential part in upholding the system of our country. While surveys and statistics are far from glamorous, the questionnaire is simple and worth ten minutes of your time.

The elongated, and inconvenient, commute has translated to negative effects in the classroom, he said.

"As an organization, we believe that in order for students to do well in class and get the education they need, transit to and from campus must be made as smooth as possible," DeAngelis charged. "For too long, Staten Island has been ignored by the MTA, and now as the borough and college's population grow, we need to accommodate for these changes."

And the fact that the S62 route included a path along Loop Road during the 1960s, '70s and '80s before CSI moved to Willowbrook has caused some to ask why it can't simply be restored.

"The former bus route [which was No. 112], which is now the S62, included going through the property of the former Willowbrook State School," said Dr. Alan I. Benimoff, referencing a 1969 bus map of the island. "This should strengthen the case for running the S62 through the CSI campus."

Routing S62 buses onto the campus and adding a stop at the central Center for the Arts would create a 1.7-mile diversion and tack on some five to 10 minutes in additional travel time, said New York City Transit spokesman James Anyansi.

"We think it would be a major inconvenience for the customers who live west of the college," he said.

In addition, the S62's schedule was designed to meet ferries arriving and departing from St. George, and changes in its timetable would result in missed connections, he said. On top of that, extending the route would increase operating costs.

"No, Beg Your Pardon"
Continued from page 11

dents that I have pointed out aren't proof of that I do not know what is, and I would like to congratulate Nicholas Imbomone in being elected President, he's a good man, and he means good, just remember Nick, hold your ground, SG has compromised enough. In that spirit I would also like to congratulate Student Government for starting to turn in the right direction in what I can only see as a sign of solidarity, they voted on a cut to their stipends, (as of the printing of this article, this motion did not get enough votes to pass, so the stipends remain the same, so I take this bit back, shame on you, shame on all of you for allowing that to happen).

Even more hopeful is that in their first meeting, which took place on January 28th, there came a motion to pay for a hotel room for the College's Vice President which cost about \$180, now although some members of Student Government were for this (when I get my hands on a copy of the minutes then we will all know who gave their support) many were not, and in one statement, a senator reportedly said, "Is this really what the Student Activity Fee money should be going to?" I can say with great pride that this motion was voted down and our money, our Student money, meant to be spent on the Students, the real power on this campus, was not spent on an administrator. So good show SG, and good job I look forward to hearing more stories like this, and trust me I will be looking.

I would like to end on one final note. For too long, many of the publications were in disarray. Fallout from the "Pub War", coups, counter-coups, revolts and restructuring had scattered many of us to the wind, and for too long the administration and SG has enjoyed a free ride. However I feel that the Declaration of Independence sates it best:

"Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object convinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security."

Now we are rebuilding, reforming and becoming stable. The period of chaos is now over, and we're back. Hell is going to be coming to Frogtown.

SEND YOUR OPINIONS OR LETTERS TO:

the.BANNER.csi@gmail.com

Science & Technology

The Evolution Vs. God Debate.

A Survey Among Students and Professors On the Battle Between Religion and Science.

BY BRIAN KATEMAN
SCIENCE WRITER

In one corner, we have Charles Darwin, the great naturalist who took the scientific community by storm when he discovered natural selection, one of the mechanisms by which species evolve. In the other, God, who is arguably the most praised and influential figure in the religious community. Advocates for evolution, god, and the combination of the two, are fighting for limited spotlight here at The College of Staten Island and in the world.

A recent Gallup poll released in May 2008 asked the following question: Which of the following statements comes closest to your views on the origin and development of human beings - 1) "Human beings have developed over millions of years from less advanced forms of life, but God guided this process, 2) Human beings have developed over millions of years from less advanced forms of life, but God had no part in this process, 3) God created human beings pretty much in their present form at one time within the last 10,000 years or so."

The final report regarding the intersection of evolution and religion was striking: 36 % of the United States believe that human beings have evolved with god's guidance, 14 % believe that human beings have evolved without god's guidance, and 44 % believe that humans were created in their present form. Are these statistics reflective of students at CSI?

A random sampling of 225 enthused students at CSI from a variety of majors, ages, and ethnic backgrounds revealed encouraging statistics: 52 % of the student population believe that human beings have evolved under God's guidance, 26 % believe that human beings have evolved without God's guidance, and 20% believe that humans have not evolved and that the Earth is less than 10,000 years old. The surveys, which were collected from individuals at the entrance of different academic buildings and seated in their classrooms, proved that a much higher percentage (78%) of individuals believe in the theory of evolution at CSI in comparison to the entire nation (50%).

Far lower than the observed acceptance rate of evolution at CSI, how do science professors feel that

nearly 1/2 of the nation's population does not believe in the well supported, unifying principle in biology?

"It's terrible," said evolutionary biologist, Dr. Frank Burbrink, who studies the phylogenetics and biogeography of lizards and snakes in his lab. "We have the ability to be the most educated people in the world in the United States and people just throw it away and they don't even look at it."

In fact, a poll published in the journal *Science* in August 2006 concluded the United States ranks second to last when it comes to public acceptance of evolution among the 34 countries surveyed. Commenting on this lag of public support for science in America, Professor Burbrink shared the following sentiment: "On England's ten pound note they have Darwin, and on ours we have a lot of slave owners - I think that is sad."

Yet still, there are many students at CSI who believe the theory of evolution makes sense when accounting for God's hand in the process. As Dr. Burbrink explains, this a tricky position to uphold because religion and science "are not compatible with one another in terms of assessing evidence of evolution or natural history or examining explanations of the world."

Despite this ideological incompatibility, Dr. Steve Morris, who teaches a broad range of philosophy classes at CSI, explained that he views religion and Darwinian evolution as being compatible in general. "The idea being that though Darwinian evolution is a scientific fact, such evolution is a tool," he explained, "that God used and continues to use to make the world as He sees fit." He did, however, acknowledge that fundamentalist beliefs, such as literal interpretations of religious texts and young earth creationism are strictly incompatible with evolution.

With all this controversy regarding the origin of humans and all other species, how do science professors address the big elephant in the room - religion?

Professor Burbrink explained that he does spend a small amount of time discussing things that students consider a major challenge to evolution, introducing evidence that intelligent design has been fabricated, but otherwise feels that religion is better suited for a philosophy class. "Discussing every

aspect of every counter argument with religion, which isn't a testable hypothesis, is a complete waste of time, and a complete decay of the education process in the classroom," he said, with conviction.

Professor Morris, however, firmly believes that religion should not be discussed in a general science class at all, advocating that science professors may not be well versed enough in philosophical questions concerning religion and evolution to hold a proper discussion. He expressed that "such questions are best left to either a philosophy class, a religion class, or perhaps a social studies class."

Dr. William Wallace, a marine biologist at CSI, explained that he is more concerned with discussing "how" things happen, rather than "why." In line with this, he only discusses the intersection of religion and science in the classroom when he needs to discuss the origin of life.

Highlighting the mountain of evidence supporting evolution, he feels that questioning the legitimacy of the theory is a waste of time. "If people want to debate whether or not a higher 'power' had a hand in this process (biological evolution), that is their prerogative. However, as I see it, in the end, there will be no way to prove or disprove the existence of God," he said.

It is clear that students and professors disagree on the intersection of science and religion. Will the controversial debate ever be resolved?

In a touching poetic prose, Professor Wallace pleads for a much more tolerant world in light of so many viewpoints: "Once we overcome the desire or personal need to convert the non-believers in science or religion we will all live in greater harmony with each other and the wonderment of our great universe."

Despite differences about how the universe came to be, whether a subscriber to evolution, religion, or both, we can all agree with Professor Wallace that the world is a beautiful wonder.

But perspectives regarding the nature of the universe are powerful and influential, and thus are worth discussing and fighting for in the classroom, no matter how unpleasant the reality of this division may be. Religious and secularist mentalities have had and will continue to have visible impact on public policy in the United States. It is our responsibility to therefore not only openly discuss the legitimacy of these ideas in appropriate academic settings but also understand how they can help us decide the paths our government and educators should take to lead our future generations of leaders.

Microsoft to plug critical IE hole targeted by exploit code



BY ELINOR MILLS
NEWS.CNET.COM

Microsoft said on Thursday that it will offer six updates for 12 vulnerabilities next week including a critical hole in Internet Explorer that affects Windows 7 and other current versions of the operating system for which exploit code has been released.

Late last month, Microsoft said it was investigating an IE vulnerability after someone released proof-of-concept code affecting IE 6 and IE 7 that could be used to take control of computers.

Microsoft described the problem in an advisory issued November 23: "The vulnerability exists as an invalid pointer reference of Internet Explorer. It is possible under certain conditions for a CSS/Style object to be accessed after the object is deleted. In a specially-crafted attack, Internet Explorer attempting to access a freed object can lead to running attacker-supplied code."

Of the six updates Microsoft will release on Patch Tuesday, three of them are critical, according to a Microsoft security bulletin advance notification.

Software affected includes Windows 2000, Windows XP, Vista, Windows 7, Server 2003, Server 2008, Office XP, and Office 2003.

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Business

Wall Street Compensation – The New Era of Financial Services Bonuses

BY THOMAS BRIGANDI
BUSINESS EDITOR

The holiday season is one of the happiest times of the year for most people. It is a time when families gather around the dining room table and enjoy being in the company of loved ones. It is also a time when people count their blessings, whether they be in the form of health, friends, or money. The holiday season also means a lot to the people who make the majority of their compensation during this time in the form of bonuses. In the past, major financial services firms, aka Wall Street, have been known to give out excessive bonuses to many executive or high level employees. The undue bonuses, sometimes numbering in the tens of millions of dollars, are given mainly to top performing employees who bring in a staggering amount of revenue for their respective firms.

This year's holiday season may be an exception to the concept of the vast

sums of money that go toward executive bonuses. In fact, according to *BusinessWeek*, a financial publication, "December has been tough for the global banking elite" for a plethora of reasons. They cite that "Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer, Alistair Darling, slapped a 50% tax on bonuses paid to bankers." This tax is a direct result of populist pressure coming from citizens who are outraged at the vast sums of money executives are making while "the unemployment rate in the UK for August to October 2009 was 7.9 per cent" (United Kingdom Office for National Statistics). This outrage against big pay-days was not isolated to the United Kingdom. Several days after Alistair Darling's announcement, President Obama scolded so called "fat-cat bankers" on national television in the U.S. regarding their sizable bonus checks.

Several Wall Street firms have since

reacted to the current affronts to their excessive compensation packages by changing the way in which execs are paid. The New York-based financial services company Goldman Sachs, the most profitable financial services firm the world has ever known, has been a pioneer in this process. "On Dec. 10 the firm announced it would pay its top 30 executives annual bonuses solely in restricted stock that can't be sold for five years" (*BusinessWeek*). This recent maneuver shows that some of the changes in pay practices on Wall Street are in an effort to get back in Main Street's good graces and to limit the negative publicity that they have gotten due to some financial services companies reporting record earnings this year.

Not surprisingly, Goldman Sachs was one of the companies that pulled in record revenues in 2009. "Out of 194 trading days through the end of September, Goldman Sachs earned at

least \$100 million from its trading division on 116 of them" (*Huffington Post*). These numbers are quite staggering considering the current economic difficulties society is facing currently. However, with such a strong performance, it is evident that Goldman is a winning team and will always be ahead of the curve, as it is currently regarding the notion of executive bonuses.

Wall Street has been making an effort to redeem itself as the so called 'Fat Cats' try to look slimmer in regard to their big pay days. They are taking the approach of mitigating the level of negative press the financial services sector has received since the financial bailout programs were implemented over one year ago. The negative publicity is likely to continue as long as investment bankers and traders continue to make large sums of money while one in ten Americans in the workforce are still unemployed. Thus, the strategy financial institutions such as Goldman Sachs are taking in damage control will perhaps continue through not only this holiday season, but also several holiday seasons if economic conditions on Main Street do not improve.

American Manufacturing – A Vestige of What it Once Was

BY THOMAS BRIGANDI
BUSINESS EDITOR

From General Motors to Caterpillar, companies are retrenching their operations in the United States' manufacturing segment. American manufacturing has been in a slow and long decline over the past several decades. Globalization, increased international trade, and an inability to adapt to a changing marketplace have all contributed to the fall of one of the greatest sectors of commerce the world had ever seen, American products being made by American Workers. Thus, this decline has culminated in the last economic trough and Americans are only now starting to recognize how deep-seated a problem this will be in the United States going forward.

If you go back about 20 or 30 years, an average American could get a high school diploma and expect a decent paying job in a manufacturing plant, with a decent pension and job benefits. This notion is dead. Increased output and lower operating costs of manufacturing products in the developing nations of Russia, India, Indonesia, Brazil, and in particular, China, have destroyed this visualization of the American Dream for the average American living in not only the rust belt of this nation, but also any

region which relies on manufacturing concept that these workers who, as a

colleague of mine phrases it, "only know how to put brakes on a Chevy" with no other formal education or college education for that matter will have a lot of trouble acquiring new skills to suit the changing marketplace. One of the most fundamental arguments regarding the decline of the American manufacturing industry is its correlation with the rise in world trade and globalization. According to *New York Times* contributor Thomas Friedman, globalization refers to the "flattening" of the world. Friedman argues that globalized trade, outsourcing, supply-chaining, and political forces have changed the world permanently, for both better and worse. He also argues that the pace of globalization is quickening and will continue to have a growing impact on business organization and practice going forward.

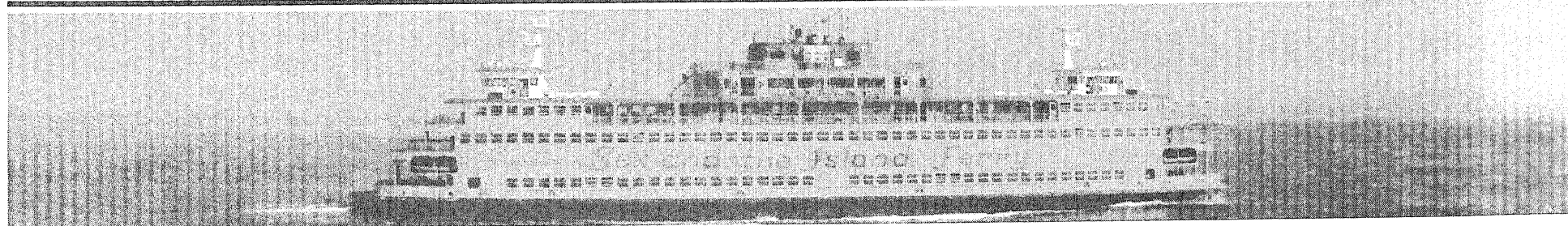
As I understand it, there are many people who believe that emerging countries such as China and India hindered the American manufacturing industry. They undercut our domestic industries by increasing output and lower operating costs due to the fact that they have a workforce that works at a significant discount to American workers. This notion

then leads into the argument of charging a tariff on imported goods from emerging nations who hurt the American manufactures. Being a free market capitalist, I must disagree with this concept because that goes against the free market completely. In this situation, the American manufactures must become more competitive relative to overseas manufactures taking the bottom line into account. Thus, the American manufacturing industry can bounce back if they become more competitive and cost effective than their overseas counterparts, whether that's through an innovative breakthrough that increases productivity or some other occurrence.

Consequently, the American manufacturing industry must be proactive in order to save what left of the market share for manufactured good that they have currently. They must do this not only to preserve hundred year old companies such as Ford or GM, but also for the millions of workers in the manufacturing industry whose lives depend that they will have a job both now and going forward, especially if those workers have no other skill set other than what that manufacturing vocation has taught them.

Thomas Brigandi is a Macaulay Honors student and is majoring in Finance and Accounting. He also is a Registered Securities Representative. He currently holds the Series 7 and Series 63 Securities Licenses.

LIFESTYLES



Love And/Or Sex

Originally Printed on Oct. 13, 2008

BY EMMA HERNANDEZ
SEX COLUMNIST

Once, I read somewhere that sex is better when you're in love with your partner and I couldn't help but scoff. I'm not sure where I stand on the whole view of "love" and "soul mates" because it varies every day. Sometimes I'm a believer, but most days I'm just skeptical of everything. But whatever you believe, I just don't think it's fair to say that one thing is better than the other without arguing both sides first.

I can honestly say I've only been in love once (I think) and I mean, not to sound conceited or anything but I've had more than a few good lays. Especially since I'm not exactly a big fan of relationships (I don't feel like they're ever really worth it), the majority of the guys I hook up with, sleep with or whatever-I'm definitely not in love with them. In fact, I didn't even really like the guy I hooked up with a week ago but I still managed to have a pretty amazing orgasm.

After work last Sunday, a bunch of us went over to our friend Lauren's apartment in Jersey City for pizza and lots of beer (classy, I know). We put her iTunes on shuffle and just hung out, telling stories and gossiping about everything and anything. Lauren's friend Andrew was there, a boy I had met at her Christmas party last December. I had been really drunk that night and all I could remember about him was we had a discussion about our mutual love for Chuck Palahniuk novels. We all ended up getting really trashed and I also remember Andrew trying on one of Lauren's dresses as a joke, because I had made a sarcastic comment about how the floral print of the dress he was wearing "really complemented" the state of his worn-in Doc Martens.

"Clothes were removed, hands were in places they should or shouldn't have been (depending on how you're looking at the situation)."

So, Sunday night, we were sitting around Lauren's kitchen table in these really awesome chairs that are shaped like spindly-fingered hands (the part you sit on is supposed to be the palm), just laughing, talking, and drinking. Andrew

was sitting across from me, wearing the typical punk kid uniform: a buzz cut, Doc Martens, slim fit black denim pants, an old school punk band shirt and a leather jacket with patches.

I noticed that he kept stealing looks at me, but I was barely paying attention to him. Karen and I were too busy lurking in a MySpace profile of this girl we both hate, making fun of an outfit she was wearing in one of her pictures, and crafting mean, witty truth box comments. Lauren, who was pouring everyone another round, heard our banter and asked Damien (one of my other gay best friends) what we were doing. He looked at us and told her:

"I don't know, but they're being mean. It's watching like Sex and the City, except the characters have septum piercings."

Damien came over, sat next to me and I started to whine to him about how a certain feathery headband that I bought at Urban Outfitters only weeks before, had snapped and broke while I was trying to put it on earlier that morning.

"Did one end snap around and penetrate your skull?" Damien asked.

His use of the word "penetrate" might have been a Freudian slip, because Damien and his boyfriend haven't had sex in weeks and it's a subject that's always on his mind lately.

I laughed and said:

"No, Damien, there was no penetration involved, whatsoever."

Then Andrew glanced over at me and muttered under his breath:

"Well, I mean, I can help you with that."

I just giggled and sipped my beer, secretly thankful that I was the only one who heard him.

The night went on and one drink turned into two, then three, then four. Andrew got up, excusing himself to smoke a cigarette and asked if anyone else would go outside with him. He looked directly at me as he said it and I knew what he meant, so I grabbed my purse and followed him. I lit my cigarette as he rolled his (the epitome of DIY) and we sat down on the steps to Lauren's apartment building. We started talking and he told me he liked my gladiator sandals. I was absentmindedly playing with one of the straps as I put out my cigarette and he made fun of me for it. When I looked up to say something back, he leaned in and kissed me. We



Photo by girlshrink.com

stood out there for the rest of the night.

It was the easiest, most effortless hook up I've ever encountered.

I always seem to fall into this pattern. It's a cycle and it's vicious, but I never know what to do to stop it. It's the same old story. Big and I are so off and on that when we're off, I fall back into old, bad habits. Like exactly what happened that night-hooking up with random boys just because I can (and also because I tell Big every detail in the hopes that he'll get jealous).

And of course, there are guidelines during this off period. I never let myself get attached to any of the boys I hook up with. It's always strictly "friends with benefits" even though it's more benefits than friends.

"In fact, I didn't even really like the guy I hooked up with a week ago but I still managed to have a pretty amazing orgasm."

It's not like I like Andrew, I barely know him. But the physical attraction was there and I just seized it. It was the first time I had let myself get carried away like that with someone since Big and I called it quits. I mean, it was there

Do you have a question for the sex columnist? Do you need relationship advice answered? Send your questions and comments to the.BANNER.csi@gmail.com

BANNER ARTS

Top Ten Hip Hop Albums Of The Decade

BY ALI SARFARAZ
STAFF WRITER

For the last ten years hip hop began to move towards a different direction. Gone are the days of baggy clothes and rapping about the environment an artist comes from. Today this industry has become big business and hip hop today is at a public demand. This has caused a lot of albums and hit singles to be very bubble gum esque or as many would label commercial hip hop. The lack of balance between commercial hip hop and reality hip hop has been so lopsided that even hip hop veteran Nas gave food for thought in his 2007 album Hip Hop Is Dead. Despite the new direction Hip hop has taken I was able to put aside putrid artists such as Soulja Boy and Plies and was able to find good music that set a positive standard for this decade of hip hop. The following list begins from number 10:

#10. Outkast - Stankonia

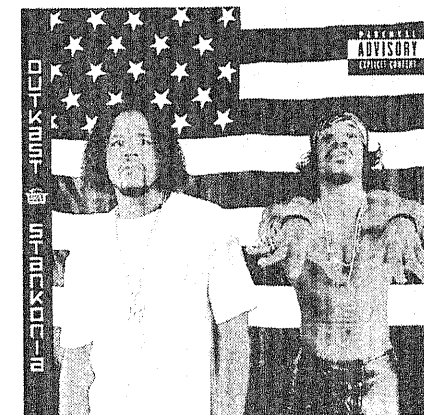


Photo by dikpresents.wordpress.com

In the early 90's Outkast was around but was over looked due to talent in New York and Los Angeles. After the 90's era the south began to make noise and it was this album Stankonia that opened doors for other south artists to be heard. The hit single Ms.Jackson rocked the country for months. Without this album the south would still be striving to be heard.

#9. Raekwon - Only Built For Cuban Linx Pt.2

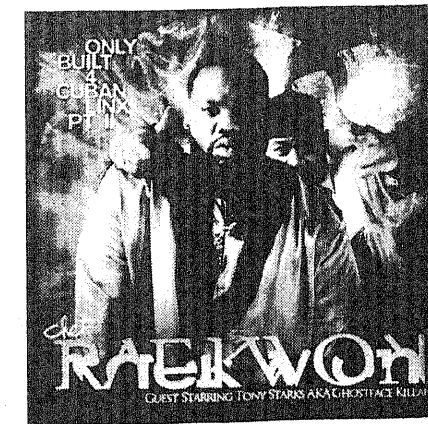


Photo by whatdaphuk.com

so I just took it.

Andrew and I ended up moving from the stairs in front of the apartment to the small alley in between Lauren's building and the one next to it. Clothes were removed, hands were in places they should or shouldn't have been (depending on how you're looking at the situation). We were already finished when we heard the door open and our friends talking, but we still had to quickly fumble around for our clothes in the dark. He handed my my shirt, buttoned his jeans and ruined the whole spontaneity of what we had just done with awkward small talk, asking things like "So, what are you into?"

Great. Of all the boys I could've hooked up with, I had to get the one who just wants to talk.

Hip Hop veteran Raekwon of the Wu-Tang Clan brought audiences the crime thriller sequel many hip hop fans have been longing for. The beginning of the album starts off where OB4CL1 left off. The entire album is similar to a movie with its story telling techniques and old gangster film samples which is seen in Sonny's Missing "They found his head splashed, caught him by the side of the buildin'/He had a mask on, 4-5, "Why did you kill him/It was supposed to happen, click the shit back (clack, clack clack) Here's the deal, you get on the floor, lay in the grass/ Had me handcuffed, take two puffs of the kush/ I see you out here, your name's real, can't let you get touched/" The ending of the track flows perfectly to the next one. As Sonny's Missing comes to a close the listener hears people in the apartment worried that the cops are all over the area and one person in the kitchen yells loudly "Y'all n***** gotta shut the fuck up, man. Then you wonder why n***** be getting' busted. Man, ya n***** is yellin', man. We in the back cookin', B, c'mon, man. The fuck, Langston, go to the store I'm still waitin' for that baking soda, man." This rant flows perfectly to the next track Pyrex Vision which now shifts the listener's attention to Raekwon in the kitchen cooking crack. This album is without a doubt the greatest hip hop sequel in history.

#8. Dr.Dre - The Chronic 2001

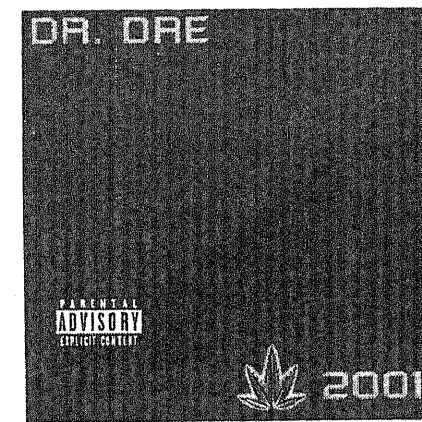


Photo by culturebully.com

In 1992 Dr.Dre made an unforgettable album named The Chronic. The original album put west coast hip hop on the map and with the mixture of drums and funk brought the west coast a style for future artists to run with. The classic was so masterfully done that hip hop fans demanded an encore. 7 years later The Chronic 2001 was released although it did not live up to the original classic it still went 6x platinum (6 million records sold) and rocked all of main stream America with songs such as Still D.r.e which was ghost written by Jay-Z and The Next Episode reunited Snoop Dogg and Dre.

#7. Eminem -The Marshall Matters LP

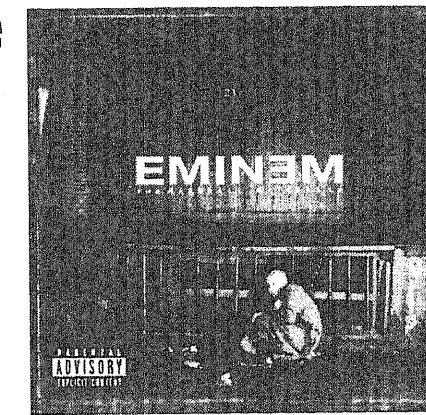


Photo by amazon.co.uk

If there was anyone who ever doubted Eminem as an artist they probably hushed after this album dropped. This was Eminem's sophomore album and probably one of the most successful sophomore albums ever released in hip hop history. The album has 4 hit singles however the clever flow and rhymes prove that all 18 tracks are worth a full listen. All of America was bopping their heads and singing along with Eminem's hook to his song The Real Slim Shady. It is amazing to see how funny Eminem can get and then all of the sudden become so deep and bring the listener into a dark and brutal lifestyle. Em's ability to show his different emotions on one album is very unique and solidified Eminem as one of the greatest Emcee's to bless a mic.

#6. Jay-Z - The Black Album

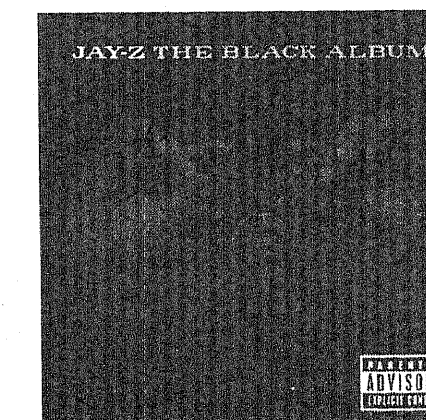


Photo by thestranger.com

"And if you cant respect that your whole perspective is whack maybe you'll love me when I fade to black" was the final words that continued to echo at the end of his classic track December 4th explaining his entire upbringing since the day he was conceived. This album was suppose to be Jay-Z's final goodbye as a hip hop artist. Despite releasing three more albums The Black Album was a musical celebration giving the listener pleasure with songs such as Encore and What More Can I Say. Jay also takes it back to the streets with songs such as 99 Problems giving the listener stories from his past "The years 94 and my trunk is raw/ and my rear view is the mother f***** law/ I got two choices y'all pull over the car or (hmmm)/Bounce on the double put the pedal to the floor." This album had so many quotable lines

that various artists such as Joe Budden, Cassidy, Clipse, Beanie Sigel, RZA, and Jedi Mind Tricks have sampled Jay's vocals.

#5. The Game - The Documentary

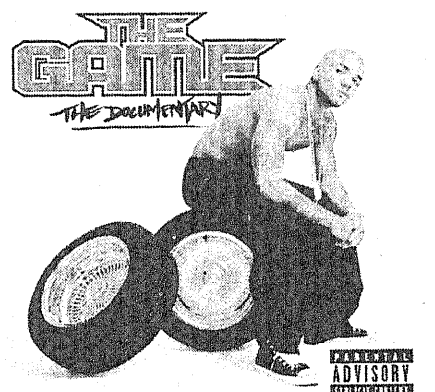


Photo by remixes.net

For most of the early 90's the west coast dominated the hip hop industry. At that time the days of bragging about gold rope chains and Adidas sneakers were a dying trend. The doors opened for a new style of hip hop which would be known as Gangsta Rap the heavy metal version of Hip Hop. Unfortunately after the demise of the Death Row dynasty the west coast fell asleep. It wasn't until the mid 2000's when the hip hop industry would be introduced to The Game. His album The Documentary brought back everything that was great and pure about hip hop. At a time period when rappers would brag about materialistic things in society The Game put on the throwback and took fans to Compton where Gangsta rap was born. His album took us all back to where gangbanging began with his first track West Side Story "Crip n*****, Blood n*****, S.A's, Asains, Dominicans, Puerto Ricans, White boys, Jamaicans, Latin King, Diciples, Vice Lords,Haitians, all these mother f*****s been patiently waiting." Every single track was perfectly written and produced. All 19 tracks on the album can be listened to without skips. The beauty of the album is that every song machine guns it's way for the next one. It gives the fan hype tracks such as How We Do, Higher and No More Fun and Games. We also notice many deep tracks that bring us into a gangster lifestyle of sadness and paranoia such as Dreams and Start from Scratch.

#4. Kanye West - The College Dropout

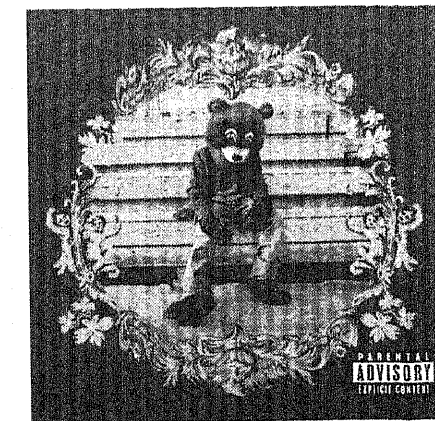


Photo by ak.buy.com

(continued from page 9)

The mastermind behind the Jay-Z classic *The Blueprint* released his own album under Roc-a-fella records and set the hip hop world on its ear. Before the world would remember Kanye West as the man who ruined young Taylor Swifts MTV award acceptance speech he was the guy who got into a car accident and had his jaw wired shut. Despite the circumstances he was in he made his listeners feel his pain with his hit single *Through The Wire* a song he rapped with his mouth wired shut. The clever baseline and sample from Chaka Khan's *Through the Fire* made West's hit single a classic for this decade. Throughout the entire album the listener is able to feel Kanye's burn and desire to make it big in an industry which virtually looked down on him as a lyricist. Beyond playing the role of an underdog West brings us to a lifestyle that many middle class Americans can relate to in his song *Spaceship*. He discusses the frustration and the anger he goes through working at the GAP. "If my manager assaults me again/ I will be assaulting him/ After I f*** the manager up then im gonna shorten the register up/ let go back/ back to the GAP." If the listener was too naive and did not understand what Kanye went through to make it in the industry then West cleared it all up in the final track *Last Call*. For the last 7-8 minutes of the track Kanye just talks with the beat on about his trials and tribulations. The combination of jazz and soul samples make this album one to remember.

#3. Nas - Stillmatic

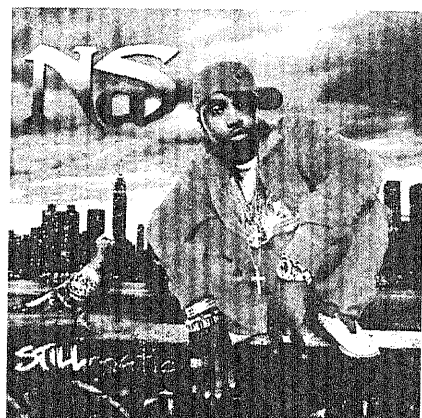


Photo by olgurbarpromotions.ning.com

"Ayo Nas what the f*** is this bull sh** on the radio son? Chil chill that's the sh**" These were the words of Nas in arguably the greatest intro in hip hop history *The Genies* from the hip hop classic *Illmatic*. The 1994 masterpiece put Nas in Hip Hop history but his success began to slowly fade due to switching over to commercial hip hop. However in 2001 Nas made his presence felt and revived his career with *Stillmatic* bringing back fans the social conscience he came in with *Illmatic*. The album received 5 mics from *The Source* magazine and the album eventually went platinum. The hit single *Got yourself A..* was mostly a street anthem but the album really gained a lot of recognition from his track *Either a diss record which directly responds to Jay-Z's track The Takeover*. The *Ether* track

really became a big part of Nas' resurrection and made him relevant again in hip hop. The album debuted at number 5 on the U.S billboard 200.

#2. 50 Cent - Get Rich Or Die Trying

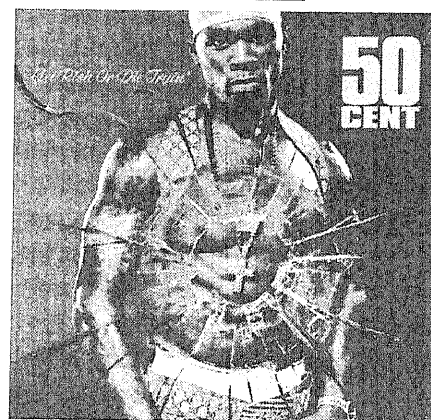


Photo by musictoday.com

You can either love or hate 50 Cent. Either way even the haters cannot deny his album *Get Rich Or Die Trying* was very well done. Before the whole world would know who 50 Cent was he was a cocky battle rapper in the streets of Southside Jamaica Queens, New York. His mix tapes such as *50 Cent* is the future opened the eyes of record executives including Jimmy Iovine and Chris Lighty. 50 brought back gangsta rap to hip hop at a time period in 2003 where artists bragged about their rented out Bentleys in Hip Hop videos. When artists were popping Crystal champagne 50 Cent was singing "many men wish death upon me/ blood in my eye dog and I cant see" a reference to the moment he got shot 9 times. This album brought the listener straight gangsta music at its finest with tracks such as *What Up Gangsta* the song sets up every other track in that album "G-Unit (What) / We in here (What) / We can get the drama popping / We don't care (What, what, what) / It's going down (What) / Cause I'm around (What) / 50 Cent, you know how I gets down." The track brings the listener a gangsta swagger about 50 "Front on me, I'll cut ya, gun-butt ya or bump ya/ You getting money? I can't none with ya then fuck ya // I'm not the type to get knocked for D.W.I./ I'm the type that'll kill your connect when the coke price rise/" This dark lifestyle of a gangster is seen constantly within this album with songs such as *High All The Time* " Now who you know besides me who writes lines/ and squeezes nines/ and has hoes in the hood sniffin on white lines/ you don't want me to be your kids role models/ I'll teach them how to buck them 380's and load up them hollows/" This album not only is one of the greatest albums of the decade but possibly in hip hop history. 50 Cent brought back a style in Gangsta Rap which was virtually dead and made it relevant again.

And finally...

#1. Jay-Z - The Blueprint

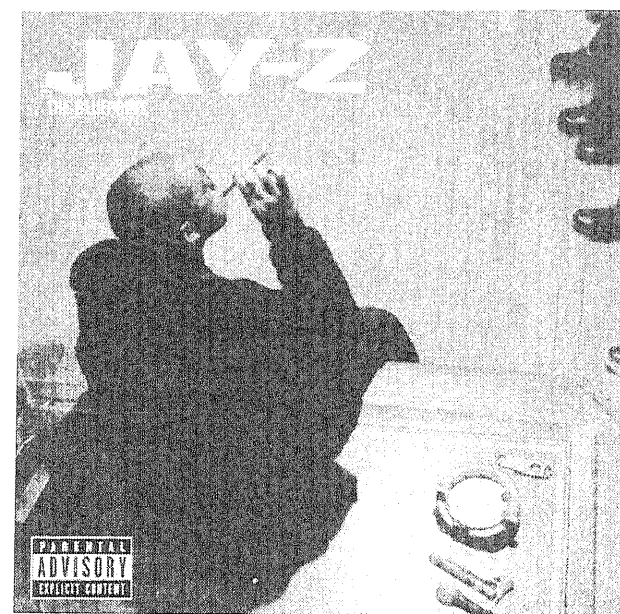


Photo by freewebs.com

James Brown the godfather of soul was heavily referred to as "the hardest working man in show business." For Jay-Z it's only right to call him the hardest working man in Hip Hop. The name itself *The Blueprint* was genius and lived up to its name. The album set a standard for how other hip hop albums should be made. It was responsible for bringing back the soul sound courtesy of producer Kanye West. The beat to the hit single *H to the Izzo* was a small sample from the Jackson 5's record *I Want You Back*. The soul sound was the theme of the album and Jay-Z's flow and rhymes made every hip hop artist in America want to rap over beats such as the ones Jay used. There were quotable lines in at least every single track. Every hip hop fan has his or her own favorite line in that album. Jay-Z although a rapper he in ways felt like a soul artist in this album. Samples from Tom Brock, Bobby Byrd, Bobby Blue

Bland, and David Ruffin really showed different sides of Jay-Z. In the Tom Brock sample in *Girls, Girls, Girls* Jay has an eloquent swagger and a very Don Juan esque style about him. " I got this young chick, she so immature/She like, "Why you don't buy me Reeboks no more." Like to show out in public, throw tantrums on the floor/Gotta toss a couple dollars, just to shut up her holla/ Got a project chick, that plays her part/And if it goes down y'all that's my heart" Jay is also able to take samples from Bobby Blue Bland and take aim at his haters in *Heart Of The City* "Young f**** spitting at me/ young rappers getting at me/ My n**** Big predicted the shit exactly/ "More money, more problems" gotta move carefully/ cause f***** hate when you getting money like athletes/ Yung'uns ice-grilling me, oh you're not feeling me/ Fine it cost you nothing pay me no mind" A revived genre of music in soul mixed with hip hop made *The Blueprint* truly the foundation for hip hop in this decade.

Spotlight: Tom Bones

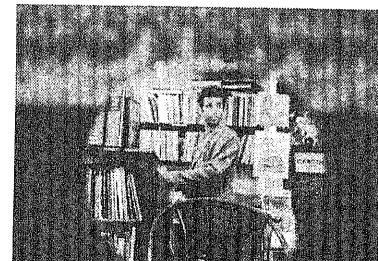


Photo by Matt Mauve

BY VIN FORTE
ARTS EDITOR

Tom Bones has remained fairly low-key on SI these past few years; releasing material via MP3s and CDs to anyone who will listen, never once making a huge to-do about promotion.

Friends of Bones already know of his, frankly, gigantic output. But a large output equals not a great artist.

According to singer/songwriter Jaclyn Shaw, "Tom Bones is a highly eccentric and imaginative personality in the Staten island music scene." She said, "His personality is just as open as his musical expeditions."

His solo material, plenty eclectic, can range anywhere from solo acoustic-guitar balladry to electronic soundscapes that would make Thom Yorke proud.

Frank Williams, of Wahoo Skiffle Crazies fame, said of the man, "Tom is one of Staten

Island's rising stars, both as a relevant, sensitive singer-songwriter and in DIY producing."

It's that DIY production that is truly Bones' ace in the hole.

With songs like "Wizardry" and "Snail Back" so meticulously crafted and shaped to create a perfect tone and sound for each type of song he is going after, one would imagine a high-priced studio and hours of sifting through tones and beats to get it just right.

Well, the hours are there, but the high-end quality comes from his house, wherein lies a computer, some instruments, and Tom: editing and recording away into the night until each song is to his liking.

In an age where so many "artists" give-up control to some fancy producer or session musician, Tom Bones is the last of a dying breed who grab the bull by the horns and make the process their pleasure; In doing so, they retain the nuances of their art and a whole-perfected instead of simply a finished end-product.

But chances are, Bones is just happy to have music for people to listen to. Listen @: Myspace.com/bones

BANNER OPINION

No, Beg Your Pardon.

A RESPONSE TO
"Pardon The Interruption"
Originally Printed on Nov. 24, 2009

BY MICHAEL MILEY
STAFF WRITER

Now this is not just meant to be a counter-response to Washeika's response to my *What The Hell Is Wrong With CSI* piece. But I will cover some of those rebuttals, with more than a helping of ad hominem comments. I will also attempt to update and respond to some feedback I have received from the previous piece as well as the open letter to Student Government that can be read in the newest issue of *Third Rail*, fall '09, but more on this later.

So first in a general response to her piece I need to say what the hell was that, for, after reading the piece several times, I am not exactly sure what the hell she is talking about. But now on to specifics, you said that, "I do believe that attacking the student government that you strived so hard to join was a bit crude". No, no it's not crude, I sought to change things from the inside, that route was closed to me. Shame on me for doing that because I should have remembered that real change can only come from without, not from within. But do you know what is crude? Coming into the *Third Rail* office shouting about this is what victory looks like while flipping on and off our lights and bragging about winning by two votes. Now you can keep on going and telling everyone it's a lie and that you came to our office to shake Neil's hand and congratulating all of us who didn't win. But to quote some asshole in Congress, "You lie" and I have six people who were there that will swear on a stack of bibles you did just that, so please stop lying to everyone. Oh and just, just one more thing, I think it was a bit crude of you and the former SG President Peter, to go around lying to members of the slate to get them to quit and sabotage our run; that was a bit crude. This next bit I found interesting and I quote it in full:

The allocation for the general Student Government scholarship fund is \$20,000. Now while this may not seem like a lot, please be aware that the commissions of Student Government also give scholarships. The Academic and Curricular Affairs Commission gives at least \$12,500 in scholarships a year. \$10,500 of this allocation is given to a different major every month for seven months.

To start \$20,000 doesn't sound like

a lot because, well it isn't. That's a scholarship for about ten students more or (actually) less. How many commissions give out scholarships and how much are they? Your next point I have to chock up to a typo on your part since if the ACA Commission gives \$12,500 a year how can they give \$10,500 to a different academic department a month for seven months when \$10,500 only goes into \$12,500 once? Lastly, "Most of the scholarships that are given out are to the sum of \$500 to \$1,500 dollars", to that I say once again how many? How many people have received these scholarships? How many students has this helped? If you have the budgetary figures, I'm sure that you can find out how many of us, your constituents, you have actually helped. Also, I do have a few more questions concerning some of these scholarships. You claim that SG only has \$20,000 for scholarships, but the commissions have more money, if these commissions are part of SG where is the money for their own scholarships coming from? If these funds are actually SG money, why are you turning it over to the administration to hand out? Or is this not SG money, why are you trying to take credit for something you didn't do? Besides the fact that it would prove you are intellectually bankrupt.

One other thing that bothered me was, "All of our meetings are free and open for anyone to come in and listen to the plans we have for the school, ask for assistance, ask questions, and put in their own creative ideas. Each of us is here to advocate and represent every student and we try to do that every day. Just like this college, your student government is nothing without the diverse and unique students that we serve every day". That's nice that all of your meetings are free and open for students, but what about students that can't make it to your meetings? There aren't classes during Thursday club hours (except for remedial classes) when you hold your meetings, but many people use that time to study, do home work, and many other things, shouldn't there be other ways for the student body to reach out to you? More importantly shouldn't you let the Student Body know these ways of contacting SG? How does one go about getting in contact with you via the internet and all the other ways of keeping in touch that we now have today. So you can sit there and say that SG has been fair and open but you have failed in letting the Student Body know what you are doing and how it affects them. Just saying you have open meetings

that almost no one goes to since I'm sure a majority of the students don't even know when you guys have meetings, does not count as being open.

Now you go on to talk about how Student Government had a "Winter Wonderland Dance" which is all nice and good that we can have fun and it was a fun time I was there, but now I'm not advocating some ascetic lifestyle for all of us. A party every now and then is nice especially at the end of the semester as a celebration, but once again would it kill us to get more speakers here to talk about the things impacting our life, to get the discourse going on this campus about health-care, banking reform, jobs, the nation as a whole, problems facing the college, Staten Island, the city and State of New York, things that should be done and what have you. I will tell you one of the best events that go on is "The World On Wednesday" when they have Ambassador Robert W. Dry come and speak, those are my favorite "World on Wednesdays" and I'm sure more of us would enjoy debating ideas and learning more about subjects we are interested in.

Now to address a problem you ignored being that SG is not that involved in rallying the students. It's tough, but that's leadership for you and considering that Student Government had one, just one, just one single rally against the tuition hike we had and you called it a day, you guys had conclusively failed at both leadership and the ability to get students involved in something that impacts them directly. I don't care if two people were at the first event, you should have been outside of 1C every day, outside of Morales' office and 1A, rallying the students and trying to connect with the other CUNY Student Governments to try and fight back. If none of them had reached out to you, you should have reached out to them and been LEADERS! Student Government should have been at the forefront of the call to the barricades to fight the hike, and with CUNY and SUNY "reform" coming at us with a projected ten percent tuition hike coming at us, I expect more from you (SG), and remember you will have allies in *The Banner* and *Third Rail* on that.

You also claim that most of the work you do is for the betterment of the students, but I ask again, what are those things? What are you doing exactly to help the students? To harp back on the idea of stipends, they are there to reward you for doing work, which as far as me and a majority of the campus goes. We don't know what the hell you are doing for us. But beyond that in this time of economic crisis when people are faced with pay

cuts and unemployment, when my job several years ago with the 'economy is bad' excuse, why do we have to suffer alone while SG tells everyone that there are budget cuts? That does not just go for Student Government that goes for the Administration as well, how come President Morales received a pay raise when our tuition was hiked? (For more information, please read the last few issues of *Third Rail*).

Now I have just one more thing to say about your article before I touch on some other things. You say, "The other issues you bring up are not the issues that Student Government can fix with its allocation. The problems you have with Buildings and Grounds should be addressed with Buildings and Grounds." Wrong! You fail governance forever! Good God Almighty do you even understand what you're supposed to do? You (and the rest of Student Government) are our elected representatives! I know you don't have the money to fix that but you are supposed to represent US, the Students and our problems, to lobby for our interest, don't tell me there's nothing you can do, it may be vain, since the bureaucracy at CSI puts the old Soviet bureaucracy to shame, to call CSIs bureaucracy Byzantine would be an insult to the Byzantine Empire but there has to be something you can do. So I understand the hardships, I do, of all the paper work, of waiting for one's turn to come up so that something can finally be done. But when we have publications that are paralyzed because of a tech problem and they have to wait days and days, even weeks or months, and I would not be surprised years for the Office of Information Technology (OIT) to come and rectify the problem, let alone the awful conditions that our professors are forced to labor under when dealing with their own computers, it's insane. So I refuse to believe there is nothing you can do to take steps to fix this, because if you can't and Student Government can't help with many of the problems on this campus, then what the hell is the purpose of even having it?

But now I quickly turn to other things. As I mentioned earlier in the article, the new *Third Rail* for fall 2009 is an issue we should all read. A sad note I would like to mention is that Washeika Torres is now our Student Government Vice-President, this to me is one of the worst ideas I have ever heard in the long sad history of bad ideas, if the several inci-

Continued on page 5

BANNER SPORTS

Brooklyn College spoils College of Staten Island home opener

BY JIM WAGGONER
SILIVE.COM

Brooklyn College changed its mascot name earlier this week, throwing out the Bridges and christening the newly-anointed Bulldogs.

Unfortunately for the College of Staten Island, the men's basketball team from across the Verazzano-Narrows Bridge remained pretty much the same. ¶ The Bulldogs strutted their defending CUNY Conference championship stuff Thursday night, spoiling CSI's home opener with a 90-60 rout that had little suspense after the opening minutes at the Sports and Recreation Center.

"We were manhandled," said 20th-year CSI coach Tony Petosa after his team dropped to 1-1 conference play and 2-3 overall. "They're good ... they're very talented ... they have a little bit of everything."

"But I was really a little shocked tonight. I thought we'd play them much closer. We have to play better."

Senior forward Richard Jean-Baptiste led a balanced attack with 21 points, six assists and three steals, but the reigning CUNY MVP had plenty of help. Junior forward Iouri Matsakov added 17 points and 11 rebounds as Brooklyn ran the Dolphins out of their own gym.

The Bulldogs took a 30-14 lead in the first 13 minutes, and coasted after leading 47-28 at halftime. They sank 35 of 66 shots for a 53 percent clip, and out-rebounded CSI by a dominating 48-32 margin.

CSI swimmers near NCAA qualifying times

BY STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE
SPORTS DESK
SILIVE.COM

College of Staten Island swimmers Pavel Buyanov, Nikolay Shevchenko and Vladislav Romanov posted national qualifying times in the USA Short Course Nationals Saturday.

Shevchenko finished the 100 butterfly in 50.64 seconds, placing him 53rd overall. The time wasn't fast enough to put him in the finals, but serves as a B-cut qualifier for the NCAA championship in March. If things break right for him, the Dolphin junior could earn his third consecutive trip to nationals.

Three-time NCAA gold medalist

Time after time, the visitors turned either a turnover or quick shot into a fast-break opportunity at the other end of the court.

"We can't play at their tempo," said Petosa. "We're not athletic enough or quick enough. We're not built that way."

Brooklyn continued to maintain its frantic pace in the second half and when senior guard D.C. Nisbett, a Petrides HS product, drained a three-point bomb for his only basket of the night, the Bulldogs were cruising with a 66-41 lead.

"They created our turnovers because they came out and got us," said Petosa of the Dolphins' 22 miscues and 18 Brooklyn steals. "Their guards were more physical than our guards and we couldn't take care of the basketball."

CSI sophomore Jordan Young tallied 11 points and eight rebounds, but it was a quiet night for last year's CUNY Rookie of the Year.

Junior center Mike Ledbetter led the attack with 25 points, hitting 12 of 17 shots, but no other Dolphin reached double figures on a night when they made only 22 baskets, shot 37.9 percent from the floor, and missed 14 of 27 free throws.

Brooklyn might have also had some added incentive after losing three of its first five games, including a 68-67 CUNY home opener to York.

The Bulldogs had been ranked No. 10 in a NCAA Division III preseason poll.

"I think they're better than they were last year," said Petosa, "and they won the conference last year."

"We have a lot of work to do."

DOLPHINS TAKE LOP-SIDED WIN OVER CITY TECH, 72-30

CSIDLPHINS.COM

The Dolphins grabbed a 72-30 victory over City Tech at the Klitgord Center in Brooklyn on Tuesday evening. CSI extends their record to 2-3 while City Tech falls to 0-4 overall.

CSI held the Yellow Jackets under ten points at half time, finishing, 38-9. The Dolphins completed the game shooting 51.67% to City Tech's 15.8%. However, the Yellow Jackets out rebounded CSI, 47 to 41.

Each Dolphins player scored and three players saw double digits. Allie Shanahan led with 18 points, six rebounds and four assists. Danielle McLaughlin had 16 points shooting 6-8 from the field. Katelyn Hepworth shot 6 for 7 from the field finishing with 13 points and a game-high ten rebounds. Kristen Panariello added 8 points and 9 assists.

Tempest Casey and Debra Thomas added 8 points each for City Tech while Kimberly Battle and Erica Simon grabbed nine rebounds apiece.

MT. ST. VINCENT COMES BACK TO DEFEAT CSI, 79-69



Ryan Hennessey dumped in 23 points but it wasn't enough to get CSI the win

CSIDLPHINS.COM

The College of Staten Island men's basketball squad fell on the road tonight, surrendering what was once an 18-point first half lead in a 79-69 loss to the hands of the College of Mount Saint Vincent in a non-conference game in Riverdale, New York. The win lifted Mt. St. Vincent to 4-1 overall while CSI, losing their second straight, fell to 2-4.

Both Dolphins teams played an explosive game at the Sports & Recreation Center last year, and it was more of the same in the early stages of the first half, as both teams took turns grabbing the lead, as the lead shifted a total of four times in the early going.

The home Dolphins grabbed a 10-9 lead at 14:34 on a layup from Nick DiMaggio, but from there, CSI resurrected its game, and took complete control of the rest of the first stanza.

A 20-2 run by CSI, catapulted by three straight three-balls from Christian Montervino and Ryan Hennessey, gave CSI a hefty 29-12 edge with 6:21 to go, and from there, the game pinballed back and forth. CSI led by as many as 18

markers, 43-25, with under three minutes to play in the frame, while MSV knocked the lead down to 15 on a couple of occasions but couldn't get themselves over the hump.

Despite being down at the half, MSV's DiMaggio was leading the way with 15 points. Little did CSI know, however, that MSV's lone senior would lead an explosive show in the second stanza, one that saw MSV methodically come back on the Dolphins.

A 16-2 run to open the half got things started, diminishing CSI's lead to a single basket. DiMaggio nailed two three's to start the run and a pair of free-throws to end it, but he wasn't done.

CSI ran a 7-0 run to respond to MSV's big run, but the home Dolphins had plenty of time left and used another explosive run to take control. First, they came to within a possession on three occasions and then another three-point bomb by DiMaggio at 4:34 tied the game at 65-65. From there, MSV closed on a 14-4 run over the stretch.

DiMaggio was unstoppable even in the closing moments going 4-for-4 from the charity stripe and hitting yet another downtown shot to put a punctuation mark on a 35-point night.

After 34.6% shooting in the first half, MSV shot a blistering 62% in the second stanza. CSI, meanwhile, struggled in the second frame, shooting 30.4% after shooting 53.6% in the first.

CSI was led by Hennessey's 23 points, while Christian Montervino finished with 20. Michael Ledbetter finished with 10 points and 8 rebounds, while Jordan Young finished with 8 points and 6 assists despite fouling out.