

Official Newspaper of the College of Staten Island

Stipends Stir Turmoil Within Student Government

SG Debates the Need to Reward Services to the Campus

BY DAEYUNG LEE

It appears that the selfless duty of serving on the Student Government comes with a price, a price paid for by majority of the student body. Members of the Student Government are paid a stipend at the end of each semester for their time and efforts spent towards improving and coordinating campus life.

On November 15th, a small faction within Student Government addressed the need for stipends but later reconsidered and attacked the steep pay grade rewarded to each position of the Student Government.

At CSI, most students are unaware that the extra-curricular activity could be called a job, one that pays handsomely.

Stipends are given to active members of the Student Government from money allocated from the Student Activity Fee. The Student Activity Fee is paid for as a component of student tuition.

Megan Derbyshire, no longer a direct member of the organization, served as a student leader to Student Government and has, in the past, received a stipend as a Commissioner, which she deems a gross overpayment of her efforts.

"I don't think I deserve a stipend, you choose to serve on the Student Government that is your choice," said Derbyshire. "In subsequent years, I wonder if people are going to come back for that stipend."

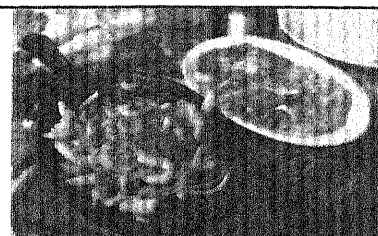
Derbyshire and the faction presented a resolution to the stipends with an improved base pay starting at minimum wage per hour for senators. Higher positions were given a larger base pay.

Currently, stipends are a way of rewarding Student Leaders for their services to the College. Student Presidents are paid 1500 a semester with Vice Presidents receiving 1200. Commissioners receive 1000 and Senators bring in 800.

During the meeting, the argument arose that the Student Government and Senators in particular, were being paid a disproportionate amount to the service they were actually performing.

Tensions ran high, as Senators felt attacked because of their role in SG, many of which are newly elected. Arguments ran across the table and a once orderly meeting

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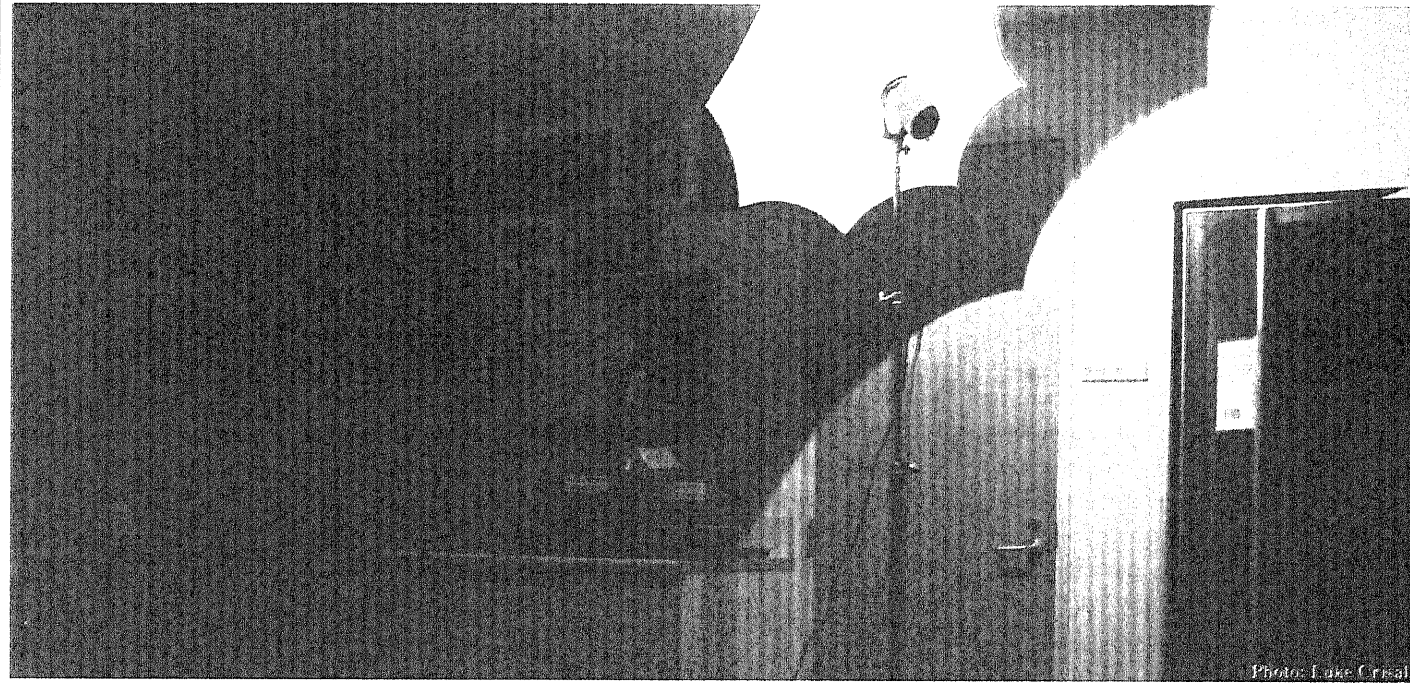


ADP's Tax Debate

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Pathways Brings Change to Photography Students

Department Revamped to Meet Curriculum Changes



CSI facilities such as the one above are being neglected by the allowed use of phones as cameras

BY LUKE CRISALLI

The recently instituted CUNY Pathways program had far ranging effects on CSI's Photography Department. The department saw changes in curriculum and the way students learn about photography.

"Lots of people work hard on their photos for hours, printing the same shot and adjusting it," said Photography Major Cassie Teixeira. "It could take days or weeks to get the right shot."

Opposition to Pathways has been strong among faculty and students. Before the cur-

riculum changes students started off with Photography 120.

In PHO 120 they learned the process from operating a 35mm camera and then worked inside a darkroom.

The campus catalog for the department states that "any capturing device including phones" may be now used.

This concerns some Photography major and enthusiasts. Some believe that the iPad or iPhone takes away from the basic idea of photography because there primary function is not to take photos.

"Using a cell phone, like an iPhone, is not the same as taking a photo with a camera. For you to call yourself a photographer after taking one picture on your phone is just not fair. At least a point and shoot would be better," said Teixeira. "I don't believe the iPhone, iPad, iPod, any tablet, or whatever it is that has a camera "function" is a camera. Photography classes should use real cameras, not phones."

While the inclusion of these new technologies upset some photography purists, others believe that is it a positive step.

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Too Much Sex and the Island?

You Tell Us What You Think!

BY THE BANNER

It has gotten back to us here at The Banner that our Sex and the Island column has received some complaints about the more risqué material that we have decided to publish over the last semester. Hearing these criticisms has caused me to reflect on them, and the progress that the section has made.

As the longest running member of The Banner and now the current Editor-in-Chief I have a bit of a different take on the matter than a lot of my peers, and it's a bit less cavalier at that. I have seen The Sex and the Island in many different forms, from instructions on how to give a blowjob that were a little too graphic, circa 2009, to an attempted emulation of Sex and The City in 2010 and early 2011.

While every person has their own unique vision of what the column should look like, the previous writers for the section have not even come close to providing the entertainment combined with the real human errors that factor into everything, including sexual intercourse.

When Daeyung Lee took over as the primary person writing for the Sex and the Island columns in the Fall of 2011, he managed to write stories that were humorous, entertaining, and genuinely expressed some of the follies that come with interacting, and sleeping with, members of the opposite sex. This year we have tried to continue this model, and have grown our stable of writers for the column from one or two to a half a dozen or so people. In fact, we now have more people clamoring

to write for the Sex and the Island column than we have ever before, and we have gotten writers on staff because they had come in intending to write for the column and stayed to do just more. Why would we want to derail all of the successes we have had over the last three semesters?

Are the stories we run in The Sex and the Island column too graphic? Sometimes they definitely straddle that line, but the intent isn't to see how much penis and vagina we can cram into one story, but rather to show that there is a humorous side to sleeping with people. When you add the human element to anything, especially sex, you're bound to end up with a few mishaps and some generally amusing anecdotes, and that's all we're trying to

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Fair and Simple: The Flat Tax Solution

BY JOHN FALCONE

As 2013 begins, W2 forms are going to start hitting our mailboxes. With the tax season upon us we are reminded just how complicated our country's current income tax system is. There is, however, a simple solution to the problem; a flat tax.

Our current tax system is progressive. It divides us into different income brackets, each bracket with its own rate, which progressively increases as our income increases. In addition, the current system also offers endless numbers of deductions and exemptions, which in turn form loopholes, regardless of which bracket you fall into. When you consider that our current tax code is pushing four million words it is easy to understand why your accountant charges you so much to file your taxes. Without a doubt, the current system is complex, but it is also unfair.

How is it unfair you may ask? Should not those who make more pay a greater percentage, after all they can afford it can't they? Keep reading.

In a flat tax system there would be one rate that would apply to everyone. A flat tax system would eliminate deductions, eliminate loopholes, and make it much easier for the taxpayer to figure out what they owe. All one would need to do would be to multiply their income by the tax rate and your finished. A flat tax would therefore be fair and simple.

As we all learned during this past Presidential campaign, thanks to Mitt Romney, currently approximately forty-seven percent of Americans do not actually pay federal income taxes. This is because their taxable income is essentially zeroed out by deductions and tax credits. On the same note, thanks to President Obama's promise that middle income families who earn \$250,000 or less per year will not see tax increases under his plan, we also now know where hypothetical line is drawn between those who could afford to pay taxes and those who cannot.

Keep that in mind as you consider that President Obama won the popular vote this past election running on a platform of not raising taxes on those who make less than \$250,000 and raising it on those who make more than that (and most if not all of the forty-seven percent are in the "less than" category) you must realize that America chose to endorse inequality.

We have decided since certain groups of people make more money than another group then they must pay for a bigger chunk of the burden than the rest; in other words they should be treated unequally.

So next time you see a "We are the 99%" bumper sticker on someone's car, or you hear someone crying about financial inequality, remember that our current tax system, the one we voted to continue, actually fosters inequality by unfairly spreading the burden.

Here is where the flat tax comes in. "We the people" need to share the tax burden, all of us; that is fair, that is equality. If you disagree, that is fine; this is after all a free country.

Realize, however, that once you want to unevenly distribute the tax burden you are by default supporting inequality. If a higher income is what you desire, then get out there and earn it. Supporting the taxation of those who make more simply because you feel that their level wealth is somehow unjust is just downright un-American.

Along with being a fair solution to our currently unfair tax code the simplicity of a flat tax would help encourage investment, as those who earn more will not be forced to pay higher rates on their income. Investment creates wealth, and it is the creation of wealth that has made the United States the greatest nation on earth, not the redistribution of it.

So in the coming weeks and months, while you are sitting in your accountants' office paying them to decipher the tax code, or you are seeking help to fill out your FAFSA because you cannot figure out what your tax paperwork says, remember there is a fair and simple solution; the flat tax.

Taxes, the Fee we Pay for Living in a Civil Society

BY M MILEY

With the passing of the fiscal cliff and tax season approaching, the bellyaching of people complaining about taxes is about to begin in force. Now while a lot of people will be seeing their taxes increase, this is because the Republicans refused to extend the payroll tax holiday while keeping the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy. This should come as a surprise to no one since it's fairly obvious that Republicans only care about the wealthy, and really if you thought otherwise this should wake you up to their regressive stances.

But payroll tax, an extremely regressive form a taxation that only affects the working and middle class, since the rich make their money off of things other than paychecks, isn't what most people are talking about when they bring up taxes. They are of course referring to the income tax, which has the dubious honor of being something that people like less than dentistry. Which leaves me out feeling weird among the people complaining in April about paying taxes, since as I mentioned in the title, taxes are the fee we pay to live in a civilized society. Taxes make are daily lives of mindless consumerism possible, they pay to upkeep the roads you travel on, they pay for a police force that is nominally there to protect you (actually just capital and the rich but that's an article for another time), this list goes on and on.

Now this doesn't mean I don't think the way we handle taxes in the US isn't flawed. Nominally the income tax in the US is based off of progressive taxation, which in short means you pay the taxes you can afford. Meaning, the more money you make, the higher your ability to pay is. This isn't exactly the case, since the founding of the income tax in 1913 the system has become more regressive, putting a higher burden of it upon the lower classes. Just think that you right now paid more income tax than Mitt Romney did, who made so much more money than most of the people reading this right now, and that frankly is bullshit. Now my preferred for of taxation is a very radical form of progressive taxation, that would leave people earning under 30,000 dollars a year receiving an amount of money from the government to augment their income, to no owed income taxes at 30K a year, which is close to the national median income in the US, and starting into a progressive tax from 30 and up. Now I wish I had more space to fully explain and defend my idea but sadly I do not have that luxury, instead (and more realistically for the time being) I would prefer an improved and expanded form to what we have now, with more tax brackets on the upper end of the spectrum with an increase in Capital Gains and the estate tax.

The problem I always find with people is that they do not actually understand how income tax in the US works. When you file taxes people fall into income brackets and are taxed according to those brackets. For example let's say you make 250,000 dollars a year and the tax for that bracket is 30 percent (a number I have just made up this is an example), you will be taxed 30 percent of that, now let's say you get a raise and are now making 250,001 dollars a year, and the bracket for anything over 250K is 50 percent, you will not be paying 50 percent on your total income instead you will pay your previous bracket, than a 50 percent tax for that single dollar you got in that raise. Which is why whenever conservatives say you can lose money by getting a raise they are either ignorant or liars.

Now opposed to a progressive tax, are regressive taxation and proportional taxation. In proportional tax there is one rate that everyone pays. Here in the US we generally hear it referred to as a "Flat Tax." I'm against the flat tax, because it is also horribly regressive. While seeming fair on the outside, a flat 15% seems to be the magic number that its proponents seem to agree on, it's effects will vastly impact the poor, working and middle class more than the wealthy. Since 15% of someone's who income is 30K or less has a much bigger impact that someone who is making one million or more per year. That's not even getting into the fact that 15% is hardly able to fund the massive military apparatus the US fields, so that number will inevitably go higher, impacting the working classes in the US even more. It's also important to keep in mind that around these debates we are told that taxes are too high in the US. Besides the fact that the US has the lowest taxes in the industrial world, our taxes are at historic lows, while wealth inequality is at historic highs not seen since the "Gilded Age." So we can either have a tax policy that benefits the people and the nation as a whole or one that is solely intended as congratulatory hand job for the wealthy and over privileged.

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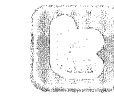
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A Welcome Back To Campus From The Editors

BY MARK REVELLO & DAEYUNG LEE

First off, we here at The Banner would like to welcome everyone back to another semester here at CSI, or just plain welcome you if it's your first one here. Hopefully the fall semester went well for everyone, and everyone will continue to do well here.

It is an incredible thing to see how much The Banner has grown in only one semester. As the Editor-in-Chief, I can personally attest to the growth of the staff as both people and writers in such a short time. On top of the physical and mental growth of our staff, we have strived to publish as much content as we can fit into the confines of the paper, and we have succeeded in that.

Hurricane Sandy impacted The Banner in a tough way. Our publisher, located in Jersey City, was put under six feet of water and as a result our publishing schedule had been drastically and negatively affected by these circumstances. While acts of nature like this are out of our control, I cannot help but feel somewhat guilty for issues six, seven, and eight being published way after they were put together.

We at The Banner have also learned from this experience in dealing with unforeseen circumstances and the consequences and will be

able to better deliver you your college paper on time, with relevant and up-to-date stories.

The Banner will continue to publish as much as we can in the 2013 Spring Semester, and continue to do the best we can do, as we have done before. Hopefully, you won't be disappointed as we keep up with the best of what

we have done and getting rid of the worst we have. As always, criticisms and concerns regarding your paper can always be brought to us, myself, or Daeyung, in Room 228, located in building 1C. Anyone is welcome to bring their ideas or ways for us to improve to us, as we are always looking to do so.

CSI in January pretty much sucks due to the frigid weather and wind tunnel like conditions. Add snow, freezing rain, and a full course load, and some days can really suck. We here at The Banner are always looking for potential writers and contributors for our publication and we are always looking to grow and make new friends.

The plus side of coming into the Banner office, even to just say hello, or make new friends, is that it is always warm and we usually have coffee. Come for that, and you may end up staying for more.

I'm Daeyung Lee the co-Editor-In-Chief

point some of you in the direction of our Lifestyles, Arts & Entertainment, and Sports Sections, which are guaranteed to give you a minute respite from studying.

As of recent, our Sex and the Island articles have been under the spotlight. They are currently being likened to a "Penthouse Forum." Personally, I think we'll continue to bring you the raunchiest and most awkward

As always, criticisms and concerns regarding your paper can always be brought to us

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here at CSI's Newspaper, The Banner. I want to wish everyone a successful Spring Semester because I know how intensive and stressful classes can get.

As the co-EIC, I promise to help alleviate some of that tension with the same hard-hitting, campus relevant news. I'd also like to

The Banner also offers internships to those more definite in choosing journalism as a major. So there's also a chance to earn some college credits.

We're all really looking forward to seeing some new faces around the office, especially since I'm getting tired of the old ones already.

All joking aside, our doors are always open and someone is always around. I'm hoping to see you soon!

The Banner is now offering INTERNSHIPS to CSI students. Internships last one semester and give students the opportunity to learn about media. Interns will work a minimum of 12 hours per week, and can focus on:

- Blogging
- Editing
- Photography
- Graphic design
- Layout & production
- Reporting
- Web design
- Fact-checking

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"Stipends Incite Turmoil Within Student Government"

Continued from the front page

was quickly reduced to a shouting match and SG officials had to be reminded to follow Robert's Rules of Order.

"I am working as hard as I can under the title of Senator," said Senator Tatiana Mironova. "As a member of the National Honor Society and an international student I don't have the time to have a part-time job

to help out my family. The stipends are small but they help."

The meeting resulted in a clearer outline of the expectations for Senators before stipends could be awarded. Headed by Student Leader Kevin Storberg, Senators are expected to serve on at least one committee, undertake one major leadership project, spend at least two hours in the office, and log all progress on a monthly report.

Stipends would only be given out

assuming that each member met the requirements for the position they held.

This proposition was approved unanimously with new contracts to be drafted for all Senators.

However, the ethics of the situation arises through the fact that Student Government is allowed to use its power to allocate money from the Student Activity Fee. Using this responsibility to vote on the quantity or guidelines for receiving a

stipend seems unjust.

The rationale behind the need to enforce stipends was even more ludicrous as Student Leaders reported that the Student Activities Fee already had money allocated for the stipends and that without using it, the money would sit there with no purpose.

Since then, the debate has been tabled and Derbyshire's proposal was shot down with only 4 members of SG in favor.

"Too Much Sex and the Island?"

Continued from the front page

show here.

We would love to hear what the readers of the column think, and if there is legitimacy to the complaints we have been hearing, then please bring them to us. We always want to improve, and can only do that with some thoughtful constructive criticism.

Mark Revello
Editor-in-Chief

Sex has always been a touchy subject, you know, for people who don't have sex. But people live it; it's a part of life.

When we bring you news, it's with the intent of covering life on campus, which surprisingly, includes sex.

Perhaps our diction is too explicit and our syntax too sexy, but ultimately it means we are living life to the fullest. We apologize if we've burned your eyes and scorched the earth with blasphemy because our passionate lovemaking is graphic, but quite frankly, there are a lot of people who enjoy our stories and laugh whole-heartedly.

We'll continue to paint a vivid picture and provoke anyone who can do it better to, pardon my French, nut up.

Daeyung Lee
Co-Editor-In-Chief

My first article in the Sex and the Island section fueled the fire of this uproar. Excuse me for sharing one of my most memorable and enthralling experiences with the citizens of this campus, but the story had to be told—it was more damaging to my life than it seems. There was one part of publishing this piece that made it one of the greatest moments of my life: I, with the Editor in Chief, worked on a part of the article that made it stronger and emphasized the tone of what I strived to get across. We at the Banner are all about unleashing writing potential and unlocking mysteries about writing—it's what makes contributing here special. I am disgusted and disappointed about all of this talk about censorship. It is deeply necessary that you reconsider.

Jean-Claude Quintyne
Staff Member

We're living in the 21st century, an age where face-to-face encounters and interpersonal relationships have taken a backseat to text messaging and social networking sites. With the influx of communication technology, people have become increasingly apathetic towards the idea of human interaction. However, there is still one vital human interaction that technology can't make up for: sex. It is rooted in our nature, it is our sole mean of procreation, and, when done correctly, can be one of life's greatest pleasures.

Sex is ever present throughout our lives, but can often times cause controversy. Some people would choose not to read about the sex lives of horny college students, regardless of how hilarious or helpful they can be. There is nothing wrong with keeping your sex life private. But there is something wrong with punishing those who do not share your conservative views. This is our newspaper. We publish stories that capture the interest of our fellow students as well as the writers' interests themselves. While some of our stories have recently ruffled some feathers, the solution to this problem is simple; if you don't like it, don't read it.

Victoria Caroccia
Lifestyles Editor

Sex is the alluring Twinkie after a zombie apocalypse. It's the warm gooey middle inside a crunchy chocolate chip cookie. For those of us with a sweet tooth, it's the culmination of a destination well sought-after. I compare it to finding water in a desert. I suggest you take a sip from the well.

I agree, a lot can be said for those that choose to abstain and that level of militancy is commendable. But don't get mad at us because you weren't invited to the cool table. All of this passive aggressive pseudo criticism of our sex column must stop. For one, the column is a success that receives resounding praise. And secondly,

like the Bible we work in parable. The loveable anecdotes we detail are entertaining yet embarrassing adventures that resonate well with our audience. We'll stop writing so visually when our shareholders—the tuition payers—begin to complain. Until then, pipe the 'expletive deleted' down.

Jeremy Pasker
Managing Editor

I can enjoy a sex story as much as the next person, however, one between friends over a drink and one published in a student newspaper for the entire campus to read are two different things. Personally, I love the sometimes-graphic nature of the stories published, but then again my friends write them so I am a biased reader. I do understand the recent backlash to the Sex and the Island and I agree with both sides. There is nothing wrong with a little compromise. If we can keep publishing the same ideas but wording them in a way where a reader can get the idea without hearing the words 'penetration' or 'glucking,' as in recent articles, then maybe we can make a deal. I am in favor of keeping the administration and others that support our jobs here happy and satisfied but I will make sure as copy editor to not let the work suffer.

Amanda Granberg
Copy-Editor

"Pathways To Change Photography Department Curriculum"

"For the first class it's okay. The main thing a student needs to have is 'the eye' and even if the device is a phone you can still tell when someone has captured something that not everyone else sees regardless of cheesy filters and automatic options," said President of the Photography Club Alexandra Hunt. "Not everyone may have a 35mm or even a digital camera, but if someone discovers a passion or talent via their phone, I think that's a beautiful thing."

Department Head and Professor Beatrix Reinhardt designed the new curriculum for the photography department. Reinhardt believes that the department is doing its best to adapt to new technologies.

"I am very optimistic that further developments are in our close future. We are moving into the right direction," said Reinhardt. "Each photographic medium has its own aesthetic properties. Be it 35mm, or digital, photographers have been selecting and will continue to select according to their aesthetic sensibilities and the intentions of the work they produce. We just getting more choices and this is a good thing!"

Another change to department included a

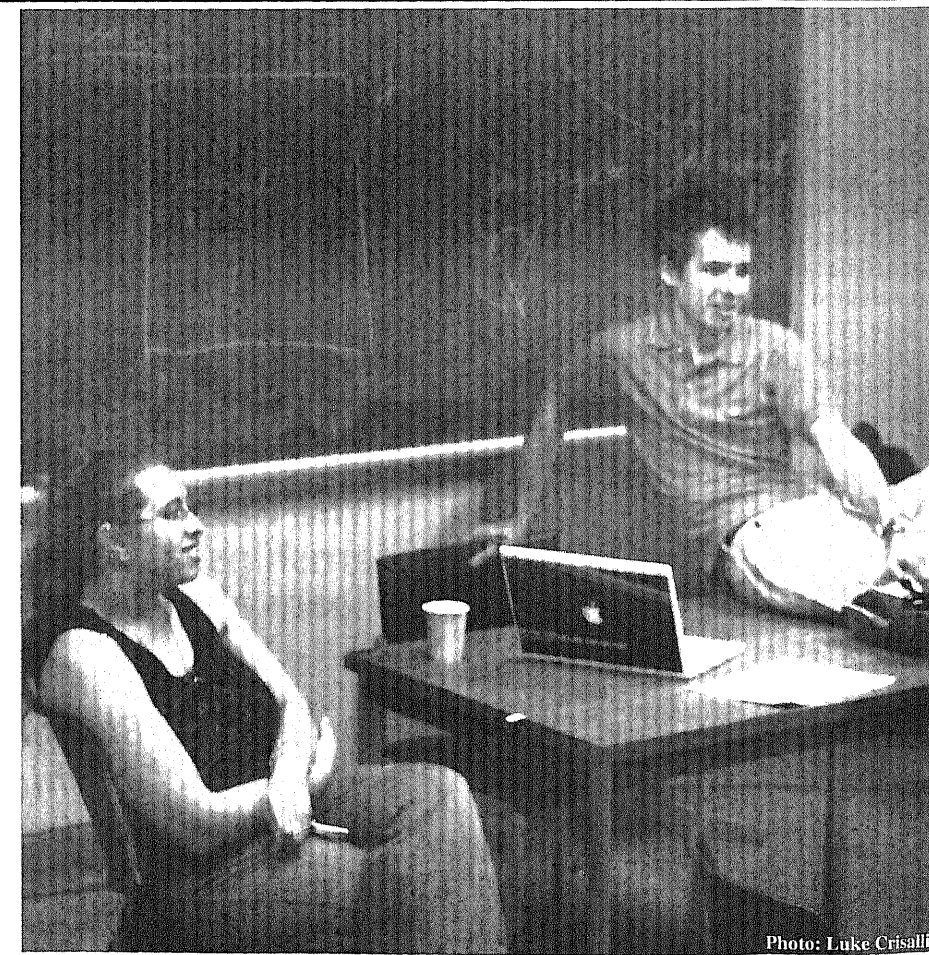
new 'Introduction to Photography' course, with Photography 101 replacing Photography 120. The redesigned introduction course for the department will now focus on a photograph in its theoretic terms. Students will first learn what makes a photograph and its visual grammar before learning techniques.

Students who planned to major or minor in photography will have to take another new course, PHO 202, 'Introduction to the Darkroom' in addition to PHO 101. This will further their skill set.

"If you continue to pursue photography, you have to learn what a camera is, how it functions and how it began," said Hunt. "No exceptions."

Those who were against the Pathways changes and those who were for them could both agree on the importance of learning how to use a camera, digital or otherwise.

"Students who plan on majoring or minor in photography will have to learn how to operate a 35mm film camera. In Photography 101 a student can use ANY capturing device, including a cell phone, or iPad," said Reinhardt. "I also would claim that in order to understand these capturing devices one has to have a basic understanding about aperture and shutter as well as understand the 35mm single lens reflex camera."



The photography club at CSI casually allows students to experiment with different techniques to capture the perfect picture

BANNER STYLES

Luscious Locks for Under Ten Dollars

The Best Products for All Hair Types

BY VICTORIA CAROCCIA

For centuries, women have experimented with

countless products to achieve the perfect hair. Through perms, blowouts, and dyes, we have pushed our hair to its limit and have unwitting-

ly done more harm than good. Fortunately, new salon technology has allowed us to salvage what's left of our natural hair and repair the

damage that's been done. By using these affordable and effective products, your locks and your wallet will thank you!

Fine/Straight Hair

If you have thin, straight hair, then you know how difficult it is to style it. Fine hair lacks more than half the structural proteins that make up thicker textured hair, which causes it to fall flat and makes it nearly impossible to hold. By over compensating with extra product, you're adding extra weight to your hair and causing it to flatten out even more. The following products will give you lots of volume without weighing your hair down.

Pantene Pro-V Flat-to-Volume Shampoo and Conditioner \$3.99:

Pantene products are known for adding volume and shine to any hair type. This shampoo and conditioner set uses micro-boosters to give your roots a lift while adding luster. Not to mention, it smells amazing!

Neutrogena Triple Renewal Body Boosting Foam \$6.99:

We always turn to the experts at Neutrogena for our skincare needs, so why should hair care be any different? This foam is chock full of vitamins and amino acids to give you volume and restore strength to your hair with every use. Use it on damp hair before styling for extra volume and hold.

Medium/Wavy Hair

Medium hair is much easier to work with than thin hair, but can still be a pain. Because medium textured hair absorbs more water, it is more likely to frizz in humid climates. Flat ironing

John Frieda Frizz-Ease Smooth Start Shampoo and Conditioner \$5.49:

Frizz-Ease blocks frizz and repairs split ends for healthy, manageable hair. For best results, avoid shampooing your hair everyday to keep it from drying out and leave the conditioner in for a few extra minutes.

your hair is a temporary solution, but can eventually lead to fried ends and dry hair. These products are perfect for styling and maintaining in-between hair types.

Garnier Fructis Style Sleek & Shine Anti-Humidity Smoothing Milk \$3.99:

While most Frizz-Ease products are known for taming frizzy, unruly hair, Garnier Fructis stepped up their game and came out with a frizz blocker of their own. Made with fruit micro-waxes, this lightweight serum seals out humidity and calms hair while giving it some extra sheen.

Thick/Curly Hair

Everyone longs for thick, wild hair, but not everyone knows how to maintain it. Most of the people who were blessed with luscious locks either fry it straight or throw it up in a bun and pretend it doesn't exist. Having crazy curls can sometimes be a hassle. But if you use the right products, your hair will be tame and envied by all.

Pantene Pro-V Curly Hair Series Treatment \$4.99:

Most curly hair products are a bit pricey, but work wonders for your hair. Pantene has a line specifically for curly hair that works fairly well and won't hurt your pockets. Leaving in the conditioner will shape your curls and prevent frizz or breakage. Avoid using regular shampoos that contain sulfate, which dry out your hair and make your curls look like crap.

Garnier Fructis Style Curl Sculpting Cream-Gel, Extra Strong \$3.99:

Like Pantene, Garnier has an affordable line that caters to curly hair and works just as well as the big name products. Their cream gel moisturizes your hair and sculpts curls without any crunch.



Ring in the New Year With These Closet Makeover Tips

The 2013 Closet Cleanse

BY VICTORIA CAROCCIA

The start of a new year is always a great time to make changes. Whether you're trying to eat healthy, starting a new job, or just need a change of scenery, New Year's resolutions are set to help us revamp our lifestyles for the better. Unfortunately, most of us lose sight of our resolutions and revert back to our old selves by late January. This year, however, I've decided to actually stick to my New Year's resolution, which was to get more organized. First stop: my closet, a hole in the wall with sliding doors and entirely not enough storage space. Over the years, through extensive research and experimentation, I have found ways to accommodate most of my clothing into my pathetic excuse for a closet. With these organization techniques, you'll be on your way to a cleaner closet in no time!

Typically, you should clean out your closet twice a year; once before Fall and Winter and again before Spring and Summer to recycle out all of your seasonal clothing. Because I lack storage space and self control, I like to clean my closet once a month to make room for the new clothes I accumulate and get rid of my old stuff. I start out by clearing out everything in my closet and separating them into piles. My "keep" pile is all of the clothing that I wear daily and will never tire of. My "donate" pile is all of the clothing that I know I'll never wear again and deserves a good home. As I'm making my keep/donate piles, I'm also



sure to separate any seasonal items that I find. Fall and Winter clothes that made the keep pile will go back in my closet, while Spring and Summer clothing will be banished to one of my dresser drawers.

Once I've sorted through every item I own, I can now start putting things back into my closet. I start with all of my hanging items; coats, button-down shirts, etc., and turn all of the hangers backwards. If I take something out to wear it, I'll place the hanger back the correct way. When I go to organize my closet again, I'll automatically know to get rid of all the clothing still hanging backwards because I haven't worn it. This makes the closet cleansing process much easier and will entice you to organize your clothing more often. Some people like to group their clothing by

color and arrange it in ROY G BIV order. I find this method to be a bit daunting and obsessive-compulsive. I like to organize my hanging clothes by sleeve length, from short to long. It makes my racks appear super neat without looking like I have OCD. My closet has more shelves than racks, so I can only hang so many things. When I've run out of space on my racks, I neatly fold my sweaters, jeans, scarves, and t-shirts to stack them on my shelves.

Dividers are a great way to separate your piles and keep them from toppling over. You can find them at any home goods store, including Bed Bath and Beyond, for as low as \$6.99. My clothing often takes priority over my accessories and I run out of places to store them. After my racks and shelves are full, I have to get creative. I

recently purchased two small, decorative curtain rods and drilled them into the back wall of my closet. Then, I found a bunch of old shower curtain hooks and used them to hang my purses from the rods. I also bought a bunch of Command hangers (plastic hangers with adhesive backs) for my jewelry. I stuck them next to my curtain rods, but if you were blessed with a walk-in closet, you can easily place them on the inside of your door.

When I am eventually able to see the floor of my closet, I proceed to sort through my shoes. I used to keep shoeboxes and stack them up underneath my shelves. This proved to be a terrible idea when I had to destroy the pile every morning to get a pair of shoes to go with my outfit. To avoid any further trauma, I invested in a shoe rack for 20\$. I use it to store the shoes I rotate on a day-to-day basis, and save my shoe boxes to store seasonal and dress shoes that I don't wear often.

Finally, after hours of sorting, rearranging, and tearing out my hair, I have achieved a clean closet. Not only does it look immaculate, but my newly organized closet allows me to easily style myself and utilize all of the fabulous stuff that I own. Not to mention the fact that I just donated hundreds of dollars worth of clothing to people who will wear it more than I ever would.

It's hard to tell whether or not I'm going to stick to my other New Year's resolutions. Regardless, I have a fresh new wardrobe and outlook for 2013.

BANNER STYLES

How to Stay Warm and Look Good Winter Fashion to Fight the Frost

BY NICOLE PAGANO

Usually when people think about winter fashion the words bulky, heavy and annoying come into mind. However, there's a way to dress warm and cozy without looking like a giant snowball or overheating indoors.

There are many different kinds of jackets: ski jackets, fashion jackets, comfy jackets. It all really depends on what you like.

For the more sporty kind of person Colombia offers a huge range of jackets from ski, to camp to everyday. Not all are extremely heavy and some are. Their Omni line offers different shield for whatever weather you are going to be enduring, from Omni-dry to Omni-heat and many in between.

For the more fashionable person almost every designer has his or her own jacket line. Don't want just one option? Macys has 100 plus designers you can choose from all at different prices. Tommy Hilfiger offers fashionable and warm jackets for the whole family. Be careful of some fashion jackets because although they look nice but don't do the part of keeping you warm.

If you want to go more for the comfy look without wearing a bulky jacket try Gap, they are known for their stylish yet cozy looks and are still affordable. Now what about keeping your legs warm and looking good. Jeans and leggings are of course the easiest go to choice. Jeans are no longer just the boring old blue. They have really stepped up in the fashion world and can be found in all different colors, textures and even patterns if you shop at certain stores. Urban Outfitters is one store that knows how to dress up a jean; from their cigarette high-rise jean, which is more of a

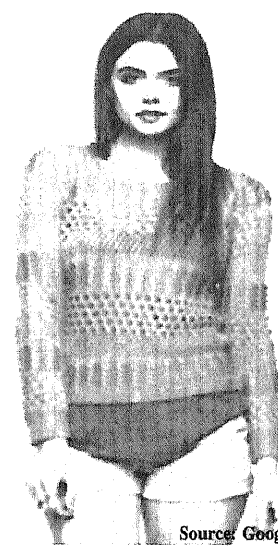
60's style, to their mid-rise floral print jean. Yes just imagine a floral print jean, very fun.

And the fun doesn't stop there; they have many different kinds of leggings and with different colors, patterns and textures. They offer a wide variety of abstract print leggings; it's like art for your legs. This site is definitely worth checking out if you're looking for something different and unique.

This winter season sweaters are a must, especially oversized sweaters. They look great over a skinny jean or legging paired with flats or booties. Forever 21 has a mixture of different sweaters; fitted or oversized, and their prices are reasonable. Sweaters are so versatile they can be dressed up for work or a special occasion or dressed down to just lounge around in. Forever 21 has a wide variety of tops and blouses perfect for winter.

For men stores such as American Rag offer over 75 denim brands; from Levi's to J Brand, so there really is a style for every kind of guy out there. Colombia also offers a wide range of sportswear pants, but what you maybe didn't know is that they also offer a line of casual pants, from sweats to cargo. Both these stores offer sweaters and tops for any occasion or outing.

Keeping your feet warm and looking good can also be difficult, it's not that there aren't enough choices for boots or shoes it's that there are too many choices. Women literally can select boots or booties from thousands of options and designers and men's footwear is becoming just as competitive. Bass shoes are a great choice when trying to find a warm boot or shoe. They have tons of stores and can even be found in outlets. If you cant make it to a store



Source: Google Images



Source: Google Images



Source: Google Images



Source: Google Images

they are easily accessible online. DSW shoe warehouse is also another big shoe vendor with many different designers. Stores like this are your best bet, they are warehouses so they give you the best price and have the biggest selection to choose from.

There are so many option when it comes to winter fashion, looking good is always a plus but with options and stores like these you can guarantee you will look good and keep warm.

Campus Style

BY DIANA PORCELLI



Erika Renoird
Sophomore



Johnny Marques
Freshman



Jessica Quizhpi
Freshman



Ahmed Mustafa
Freshman

6 Style: Fashionable and Cute/Nerdy

Style: Band Merchandise

Style: Cheetah Print and Chic

Style: Kid Cudi and Jordan III's

BANNER ARTS

Games that Should Be on your Radar for the New Year The Most Anticipated Titles for 2013

BY STEPHEN KLEIN

It seems as though the best games are coming at the end of this console generation with the next PlayStation and Xbox under heavy speculation.

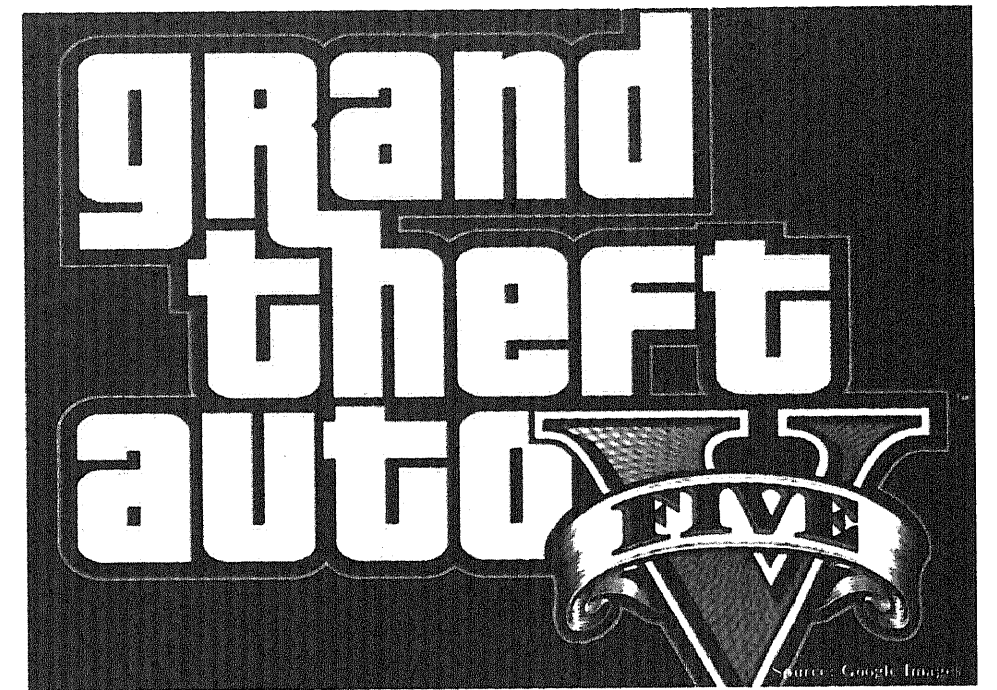
Just in February alone, there's Sly Cooper: Thieves in Time and Metal Gear Rising: Revengeance to look forward to. While Rising is more action-oriented than previous Metal Gear games, perhaps that will work to game's advantage in providing a unique and exciting Metal Gear experience. I would argue that Thieves in Time looks equally exciting in part due to some heavy Vita support including augmented reality modes, cross-buy support offering a free Vita version with the PS3 version, and cross-save support across both platforms.

Speaking of the Vita, in addition to Thieves in Time, Killzone: Mercenary and Tearaway look to be surefire hits for the system. Mercenary is being developed by series creator Guerrilla Games and is running on the Killzone 3 engine so expect to see the same level of quality as the PS3 counterparts. Tearaway, developed by LittleBigPlanet creators Media Molecule, uses the Vita's functionality in several creative ways and could very well be the killer app the Vita needs. For PS3 owners, along with the aforementioned Thieves in Time, there's Beyond: Two Souls, The Last of Us, and God of War:

Ascension. Beyond, from Quantic Dream, the makers of Heavy Rain, is something to be especially excited for, at least in my opinion. Why? Heavy Rain is one of my all-time favorite games and I could go on and on about why, but that's another article for another time.

The Last of Us, from Uncharted series creators Naughty Dog, looks equally promising. Not just because of the Uncharted series' high quality, but because the cinematic action or stealth options prevalent to the player. It doesn't hurt either that Naughty Dog expects the story to raise the bar for the industry. God of War: Ascension, the newest installment and earliest prequel in the series, not only looks to provide another grand and epic experience not only for single-player, but also for multiplayer. That's right. For the first time, God of War will have a multiplayer mode which looks genuinely fun and different.

A little later in the year, we have Dead Island: Riptide, Metal Gear Solid: Ground Zeroes, and Grand Theft Auto V. Despite adding some minor improvements, Dead Island: Riptide has the potential to be the extremely fun experience that the first Dead Island was. Ground Zeroes not only looks phenomenal, but sounds phenomenal. For one thing, the game play is open world, a first in the Metal Gear series, and the developers are looking into apps for smartphones to play certain parts, like



Source: Google Images

weapon-building, on the go.

Last but certainly not least, Grand Theft Auto V is personally my most anticipated game of 2013. With three playable characters and an extremely broad open world, I could go on and on as to why it will be phenomenal, but again, that's another article for another day. Although, I will leave you with this, the three switchable characters could make the game more cinematic since in an action movie, you're constantly shifting perspectives.

However, the huge open world could make this the ultimate time sink.

Of course, there's always the chance that we'll still see Doom 4, Devil's Third, Agent, and The Last Guardian, that is if development hasn't already shifted to the next generation of consoles. With so many great games on the horizon, along with potential PS4 and Xbox 720 announcements, 2013 should blow 2012, a relatively weak year in gaming all in all, out of the water.

Restaurant Owner Brings Authentic Mexican Flavors to Staten Island Local Food with an Ethnic Flair

BY MARIE SCARSELLA

Growing up in an overwhelmingly Italian area, it's always a bit heartbreaking to crave a really good burrito. And what do you do when you can taste the perfect tacos and enchiladas, but all that's around you is pizza and pasta?

Thankfully, chef Moises Gallardo has come from Puebla, Mexico to save us with his authentic Mexican restaurant, Mezcal's. Located on Victory Boulevard and Bradley Avenue, the tiny eatery features delicious food and a cozy atmosphere.

Mezcal's features an extensive menu, packed with all of the standard Mexican favorites - nachos, tacos, burritos, fajitas - you name it, they have it, and it is top notch. The meat is always cooked to juicy perfection, and it is always divinely seasoned. The veggies are always equally as flavorful, and so fresh that you'd be convinced they were just picked.

The marinades and sauces are also high quality and bursting with flavor. The green sauce highlights a bright and festive flavor, while the red sauce packs a savory and zesty punch. Both can be tasted in perfect harmony with the simplicity of a chicken enchilada.

The restaurant also features more traditional dishes, such as Carne Asada - a tender steak marinated in lime juice and spices served with pico de gallo and fresh handmade guacamole (that is so smooth and flavorful you'll have to go for seconds) on a bed of

fresh tortillas.

You can top your meal off with a nice frozen margarita...or twelve, considering how addicting they are. They come in a variety of flavors, and are just the right strength. They bring on enough of a buzz that you might not want to drive after, but they aren't so powerful that they'll bring you to your knees. If margaritas aren't your thing, there is sure to be something to suit your pallet on Mezcal's giant drink menu. Might I recommend the mojitos made with fresh mint leaves, for example?

If you aren't stuffed by just thinking about everything, you can finish your meal off with a nice dessert. Often fruit based, they're both delicious and a little better for those trying to watch their figures. Highlights include the chimichanga marimba, which is a tortilla fried and stuffed with bananas and mangos. However, for those with more of a sweet tooth, you might want to check out the ever-so-divine fried ice cream.

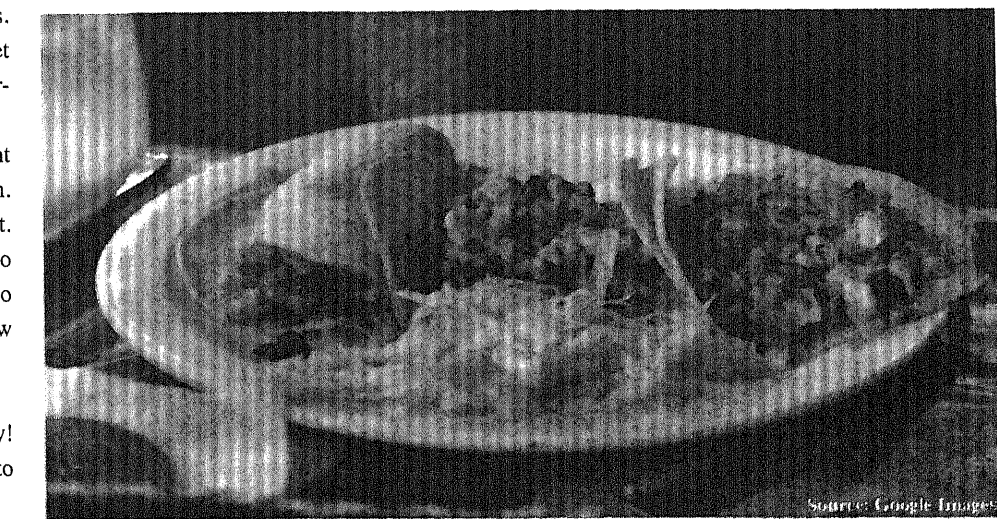
Because the restaurant is small, you might want to call ahead and make a reservation. However, if not, the wait is well worth it. Mezcal's is the perfect spot on the island to bring a date, grab a bite with friends, and to satisfy your Mexican cravings. Besides, how much more pasta can you really eat?

(BONUS! Mezcal's is vegetarian friendly! Now you really don't have an excuse not to check it out.)



Source: Google Images

Top: Sizzling chicken fajitas are served with a side of refried beans and rice
Bottom: Delicious and mouth-watering chicken tacos



Source: Google Images

BANNER ARTS

The Banner Recollects the Top 10 Albums of 2012 2012 Wraps Up With Some Amazing Lyrical Adventures

BY MARIE SCARSELLA

1. *Minus the Bear - Infinity Overhead*

While Minus the Bear is typically known for their outrageous guitar riffs and smooth tones, *Infinity Overhead* took that to a new level, combining familiar sounds with bits of funky flair. While it's no *Highly Refined Pirates*, it has easily earned a place among the top of the band's catalog.

2. *Benjamin Gibbard - Former Lives*

Death Cab for Cutie and Postal Service front-man decided to take a leap into the solo world with his first full length, and oh how he succeeded. The songs are a bit more mellowed out than those on the latest Death Cab record, yet they still feature Gibbard's lyrical charm and vocal enchantment, making it equally as lovely as Gibbard's prior work.

3. *The Killers - Battle Born*

It seems as though the Killers can't put out a bad record. With their prior album, *Day and Age*, was certainly their weakest (it was still awesome, though), *Battle Born* came in to pick up the slack. Featuring triumphant choruses and throwback guitar riffs (Miss Atomic Bomb to Mr. Brightside, anyone?), this record proved the Killers proved they still have it.

4. *Cursive - I Am Gemini*

Cursive had been inactive for a while, and their



return was highly anticipated. What could be better comeback than a concept record?! I Am Gemini told a coherent story while still maintaining musical integrity, incorporating the heavier style for which Cursive is known and loved. Plus, it's catchy as hell. One day I'll stop singing "Drunken Birds" to myself. I swear!

5. *Murder by Death - Bitter Drink, Bitter Moon*

This is the perfect record for all you whiskey drinkers out there. *Bitter Drink, Bitter Moon* blends a southern folk sound with singer Adam

Turla's Johnny-Cash-deep vocals, creating the perfect bar rock.

6. *Fiona Apple - The Idler Wheel Is Wiser Than the Driver of the Screw...*

Fiona Apple has always been a little crazy, but it can be said that craziness is a true sign of genius. If that's true, then she must be an absolute lunatic, considering *The Idler Wheel...* is as close to perfect as it can get. The upbeat and melodramatic flair of the album makes it some her best work to date.

7. *DIIV - Oshin*

Heartthrob is set to be a pop record. Thankfully, this has an early release date because what could be more intriguing than that?

8. *Daft Punk - TBA*

Daft Punk is one of the most well known electronic acts in existence. They made a name for themselves without leaving their emo band and shaving half their heads (cough cough,

If this album it out by the time you are reading this, you should definitely consider purchasing it legally and not just downloading it from the internet. Foxygen has been excellently recreating the sounds of the 60's psychedelic movement with a contemporary twist that makes it fresh and exciting to listen to. Listening to Foxygen is like drifting through an acid trip without the drugs.

9. *Tool - TBD*

It seems as though once the New Year rolls around Tool fans hear rumor of an upcoming album. While usually indulging in rumors like these results in you're hopes and dreams crashing harder than the Challenger, Tool had

If you're looking for an album to get your adrenaline flowing, look no further than Oshin. Some of the tones on the record are a little eerie, while others are hauntingly beautiful. One thing is for certain, though, and it's that you can't put this record on without feeling the urge to sway.

8. *Smashing Pumpkins - Oceania*

Billy Corgan, I love you, but all I can really say about this album (besides the fact that it rules) is that it leaps and bounds better than *Zeitgeist*. The Smashing Pumpkins finally sound like themselves again, and that is awesome.

9. *Passion Pit - Gossamer*

Despite being one of the most depressing albums of the year lyrically, there's something about *Gossamer* that makes you feel warm inside. It could be the bubbly synth, or it could be the realization that there is someone out there crazier than you, but either way, this album will make you want to dance.

10. *Animal Collective - Centipede HZ*

Animal Collective has always been a trippy band, but if you close your eyes while listening to *Centipede HZ*, you'd swear you're seeing swirly rainbows...or something. The album is fun, it's crazy, and it's absolutely excellent.

The Banner's 5 Most Anticipated Albums for 2013

5 Albums to Look Forward To in the New Year

BY MARIE SCARSELLA

Tim Kasher - TBA

Release Date: TBA

Whether he's with Cursive, the Good Life, or on his own, Tim Kasher's material is always a treat. It's been a few years since his last solo release, *The Game of Monogamy*, and while it never gets old, the itch for new songs needs to be scratched.

The Yeah Yeah Yeahs - Mosquito

MARK REVELLO

Queens of The Stone Age - TBA

Release Date - TBD

Josh Homme has been out gallivanting around the music world for a few years now; between forming the super-group "Them Crooked Vultures" with Dave Grohl, of Foo Fighters, and John Paul Jones, of Led Zeppelin, re-releasing QOTSA's eponymous first album and then touring it, and then reuniting with old band mate's Kyuss and then touring with them, the man has been working non-stop for the last few years. That said, it's nice to know Homme still has time for QOTSA, and he will most likely take the best of what he has been doing and combining or

Release Date: April 16

It's Blitz was released four years ago, and quite frankly, that is too long to have to wait for new material from Karen O and the boys.

Tegan and Sara - Heartthrob

Release Date: January 29

What's interesting about Tegan and Sara is that every record they've put out has had a different sound. Their previous record, *Sainthood*, was a high-energy indie toe-tapper, and

applying to the rest of Queens of the Stone Age.

Yeah Yeah Yeah's - Mosquito

Release Date - April 16th

It looks like the Yeah Yeah Yeah's might be taking a departure from experimenting with lighter, pop-friendlier sounds, and going back to their heavier, darker roots, judging on the new material they performed early in January: "Suck Your Blood" and "Earth", two tracks they performed in concert earlier this month, only ratcheted the anticipation level of fans for the new album.

Foxygen - We Are The 21st Century Ambassadors of Peace and Magic

Release Date - January 21st

Krilllex?) Considering they haven't put out an album since 2005, it's relieving to know that they're coming back to save the day and take the electronic music scene back from it's current captors.

David Bowie - The Next Day

Release Date: TBA

Who wouldn't be excited about new music from David Bowie?! What more of a reason to be excited do you need?

a tour early last year, and has showed signs of coming back. If Maynard isn't too busy with Puscifer or with his vineyard, we might see an album within the year.

The Strokes - TBD

Release Date - TBA

The Strokes have been hinting at a new album since late last year. With *Angles* released to mild and lukewarm reviews, hopefully the band will come back together to regain the cohesiveness that they once had. On January 25th they released the single "One Way Trigger". The single feels the same way as *Angles* did, but hopefully The Strokes are saving the better songs for the full release.

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SEX AND THE ISLAND

My Summer of White Boys There May Never Be Another One

BY VICTORIA CAROCCIA

Ever since Mario Lopez graced my television screen as A.C. Slater on *Saved by the Bell*, I knew I had a thing for Latinos. Unfortunately, growing up on the South Shore of Staten Island didn't yield many opportunities for me to meet the Latin Lover of my dreams. Due to geographical circumstances out of my control, I was destined to be courted by a young Italian/Irish man whose name was either

to thinking, maybe I should give white guys a chance. They can't be all bad. After all, they have Ryan Gosling and Johnny Depp, perhaps I was being too harsh. From that moment on, Summer 2010 was dubbed the Summer of White Boys. And what a Summer it was.

The first participant in SOWB was a bass player named Pete. I had met him a few years prior, and there was a mutual attraction. He

that I was rejected by one of my own kind. *That's not how it works, I'm supposed to reject you.* I thought as I grabbed another Heineken from my secret hiding spot in the cooler.

The night was still young, but I was already way too drunk and pissed off to seek out another sex partner. I sunk to the ground and began to pout, to nauseous to even finish my beer. "Hey, you don't look so good," said

ately turned and ran in the opposite direction. She stumbled over to me and looked me right in the eye. "Are you hooking up with him? Tell me the truth, I won't be mad," she said calmly and slightly slurred. "No, sweetie. I know he wants to, but right now I'm sticking around for the free bud. You have nothing to worry about." She stepped back, nodded, and chased after Justin. Apparently she was his ex-girlfriend and he had been ignoring her calls all day. Ten minutes later, the Birthday Boy was back with a broken broom stick, claiming that the bitch had took a swing at him and it broke over his head.

The night ended with an extremely paranoid high, dinner from Wendy's, and a very, very awkward goodbye. Justin walked me to my car and thanked me for making his birthday special. He stood by my car door and gazed longingly into my eyes. "I really want to kiss you right now, is that okay?" (Note: If you feel the need to ask, then no, it's not okay.) "What are you asking me for? Just do it." So he did. It was exactly what I was expecting it to be; all lip, barely any tongue, a gentle cup of my face, and it was over in 30 seconds. "K, well, bye!" I squeaked as I got into my car and drove away as fast as I could. When I got home I saw a text from him. To this day, I kick myself for not saving it on some medium. "When you kissed me, it was like the whole world stopped spinning and it was just you and me. Did you feel the sparks between us? You're absolutely amazing. Can't wait to see you again."

I almost choked on my Frosty. Really, dude? Sadly, I had to tell him that I was nowhere near as into him as he was into me. He called me a heartbreaker and still gazes longingly at me with teary eyes and a bruised psyche whenever he sees me in public. (Another tip: If the guy wears tighter jeans than you do, chances are it will not end well and you should avoid him altogether.)

After that ordeal, I decided it was best to put an end to the Summer of White Boys. I

was playing a show at the Cup one night and had planned an after party at his studio, so Danielle and I decided to be creepy and join in on the festivities. Pete and I got to know each other and became friendly enough to share cigarettes and make out in the hallway of the studio. I had to leave early, but promised that there would be more shenanigans in store for him at the next gathering. Danielle thought it would be fun to throw a party at her

a voice from above. I looked up and saw a guy with a septum piercing staring down at me with a worried look on his face. "Let me get you some water." He came back 30 seconds later with a glass of water and a smile. "Hi, I'm Justin. Do you want me to stay with you until you're back on your feet?" I knew exactly what he was trying to do, and in that moment, I couldn't have asked for anything else.

I couldn't cook, didn't go to church, and the only Spanish I knew was "Uno mas margarita, por favor!"

Mike, Joe, or Nick. This fate may have satisfied my parents, who warned me against dating minorities. But for me, procreating with a guido juice head was not an option. I made it my life goal to meet a straight version of Ricky Martin and live happily ever after in our beach mansion off the coast of South America.

I went to high school in Manhattan, which was greatly beneficial to my dating prospects. LaGuardia was chock-full of desirable Latino boyfriends who would sweep me off my feet and drive both of my parents to drink. I meandered through various friend groups, finding my niche among a group of Filipina/Latina vocal majors who shared my particular taste in men. When I told them of my plans to meet and marry a Mario Lopez of my very own, they laughed. "Mira, Hispanic guys don't like White girls! Pero like y'all are too vanilla!" My whole world shattered. Sure, I grew up in a predominantly White middle class neighborhood. But I was certainly not vanilla! I listened to Daddy Yankee, took Spanish in middle school, and was often mistaken for a Colombian with my curly hair and bamboo earrings.

I laughed off their harsh words and immediately asked them to introduce me to their hot male friends and relatives. But soon enough, I realized my band of Boriquas were right. Hispanic guys had no interest in me; I couldn't cook, didn't go to church, and the only Spanish I knew was "Uno mas margarita, por favor!" I was devastated. I tried my hand at Puerto Ricans, Colombians, and every Latin Lover in between to no avail. What's a girl to do? After a harsh rejection from a Filipino singer/songwriter from Jersey, I was at my wits end. I met up with my best friend Danielle for coffee and girl talk.

"I don't understand what I'm doing wrong!" I lamented in the middle of Dunkin' Donuts. "All I want is a buff Latino who will love me like Slater loved Jesse! Is that too much to ask?" She suggested that perhaps I go for guys who actually took an interest in me; the ones who were there all along but were overlooked due to my obsession with authentic tans and sexy accents. This got me

house one weekend and invite our various friend groups over. I saw it as the perfect opportunity to finally have sex with Pete. Throughout the night, we snuck out for cigarette breaks and mini make out sessions. Finally, with Danielle's blessing, we headed up to her bedroom to attend to some unfinished business.

After a few minutes of tongue kissing and excellent oral examinations from both par-

ties, it was time for some penetration. As he began to enter me, a worried look crossed his face. "What's wrong?" I asked, partially concerned but mostly annoyed. "No, we can't do this," he said. "There's people outside, they're gonna come in." Umm, really? The possibility of getting caught is part of the fun. "I don't care, just do it already." I demanded, exasperated from playing cute and in dire need of another cigarette. Once again, he refused, claiming that he didn't want anyone walking in on us. "Fine. I have to go throw up anyway. Goodbye." I didn't really need to throw up, I was just shocked and appalled

We talked for a while about everything from music to gymnastics to my perfect ass. He was super sweet, but definitely not a guy I would consider taking to bed. The rest of that night was fuzzy, but I do remember giving him my cell number and promising we'd hang out soon. Big mistake. The next day, we made plans to hang out on his birthday. Apparently he had smoked a birthday blunt, because he was stoned off of his ass when I

met up with him. Danielle offered to drive us to the ferry, simply because she loved seeing me a state of utter dread and irritation. We spent the day circling Chinatown for a good bubble tea place and discussing our past relationships.

Later that night, we went back to the island to meet up with our friends for a night of Olde English and complementary weed. We were waiting casually outside of his house when I heard a female voice from behind a bush. "JUSTIN YOU ASSHOLE!" Out popped a petite, pretty brunette who was clearly drunk and very angry. Justin immedi-

knew in my heart that no white guy could ever compare to the Mario Lopez, Ricky Martin, and Enrique Iglesias hybrid that existed in my wildest imagination. Not all was lost, however. I finally found my Latin Lover about a year later when I stopped looking. He doesn't speak a whole lot of Spanish, but he's an excellent cook, met my parents' approval, and is amazing in bed.

To all the White men who were offended by this story, you can thank your overly sensitive, dimwitted brethren for giving you a bad rep. Maybe in my next life I'll give you all another shot.

BANNER OPINIONS

Lazy Students as an Adjective for a "Poor" Institution Professor Ed Hack and English 001

BY JEAN-CLAUDE QUINTYNE

September 2010: The eerie aura of comfort that penetrated my body as I limped into the "neighborhood-like" atmosphere that CSI emits caused me to subconsciously slip into a trance that opened my mind to a universe that cleared up most of the hazy path that welcomed every piece of information that I was inevitably going to take in.

I saw the vast amounts of students hurriedly walking to their respective classes, I gazed at the various buildings that entitled different studies, and I wondered how the hell I was going to tackle the workload that high school did not prepare me for. All I had was my writing skills and a sliver of confidence that managed to guide me through the first couple weeks of my college career.

When I registered for my classes, I was extremely excited but didn't have a clue what

I was doing. I had dreamed for weeks about having a two or three day school week with classes that I loved. I ended up giving myself a beautiful six-day week that included a nine o'clock Saturday morning class, complete with a six-hour break on Thursdays.

Upon making some friends, I quickly learned about the difficulty some of them had with their English classes. Intrigued, I quickly became obsessed with my 001 (remedial English) class. (I was placed in remedial English because my handwriting was unreadable on the assessment exam.) As depressing as that was, it also became the best thing that could have happened to me. I had the best English professor a student could ever wish for; his name was Edward Hack. He covered everything from knowing the difference between "it's" and "its" to efficiently writing a critical essay—my favorite kind of essay. In no

time at all I sharpened my skills, learned some new things, and became one of the best writers in the class.

I recall shaking his hand at the end of the semester and feeling an electric current that surged through my entire body that had blurred my vision for a moment. The strength of his grip severely caught me off guard because at the beginning of the semester, he told the class that he was a vegetarian. At the time I felt sorry for him. Before I became a vegetarian a few semesters later, I loved cheeseburgers and thought that he was missing out on that orgasm of deliciousness. I also believed that he was a skinny and frail sixty-something year old man, but that belief disintegrated instantly when he almost squeezed my fingers into dust.

Amongst everything I learned in that class, one thing he discussed in great detail does stick out. He made it clear that CSI isn't

Columbia University or Princeton University or even Hunter College and the cause for that is CSI students' work ethic is generally believed to be low. I have discovered that notion is common amongst many Professors at this institution as well; some even believe that we are "lazy." Professor Hack stressed that if the students here squeeze every bit of information they can out of their experience here and if they perform to the best of their ability, this institution would dramatically improve.

I believe Professor Hack. It would be incredible to see a massive improvement in the quality of learning here. I have made many friends who are simply incredible and have the uncanny ability that is supposedly lacking around campus. Where are the rest of you all? Will you help me defeat this notion that we are "lazy?"

CSI Students Displeased With Their Food But Be Prepared to Eat Your Words

BY BRADLEY POPKIN

While growing up, I've heard kids refer to cafeteria food as gross, disgusting, garbage, nasty, and vomit inducing. But not me, I kind of like it. Many students, myself included, spend long days on campus. If you have 3 or 4 classes in one day then you might be out of the house for 10 or even 12 hours at a time. And therefore, it's likely you'll need to eat.

I went out and polled students to find out if anyone liked or disliked the quality of food served. It was fairly close with 13 students unsatisfied and 11 who found it acceptable. As expected, the students who found the food satisfying also preferred not to eat in the cafeteria if given the choice. The food here is not top notch at all. But it is greasy, semi-healthy and served relatively quick.

"One time I saw a worker pour two gallons of oil on the stove," said Emely Apparicio. "That's like death."

In addition, amongst the students polled

several had mentioned price as a factor that prevented them from enjoying the school's cafeteria food. Money is precious to the average college student, too precious to sacrifice on mediocre food.

"We all work hard for our money," said Magdy Akramy. "There is no reason we have to waste our money on food that does not match its worth."

Director of Dining Services Jodi Merendino realizes price is something that students dread. To counter that claim, Merendino states the kitchen buys all their products from, Sysco, the same place as every other restaurant on the island. Price is not the only deterrent.

"A lot of people throw around the word quality without knowing what it really means," said Merendino. "We serve the best quality food possible."

The inability to use credit cards has students going elsewhere to fill their stomachs, but when desperate they're forced to go without

money out of the ATM.

"There's a small fee for all transactions from the ATM. Not for nothing, an employee working for dining services who asked not to be attributed in this article explains students should expect to see debit transaction machines available in the future. Take it with a grain of salt as this has been thrown around before.

You probably thought the cafeteria was your only choice to go eat, but you're wrong. A lack of exploration and desire has kept students from finding other cosy, hidden gems on campus. The Park Cafe Restaurant sits in a lonely and undesirable location in a small square crevice next to the cafeteria. Upon going inside you'll find it empty most of the time, but according to Manager Lenora Mauch, over the past year a small spike in students has been seen.

"I love working here," said Mauch. "I love taking care of the kids."

If her exuberant personality wasn't enough

to get you to sit down at one of her tables, then the menu might. Everything from crepes to seafood is served. Students can even call in an order and take it to go, provided you have Mauch's personal phone number.

The cafeteria does have a kosher section, and several new smoothies, and the new selection of Soupman dishes. Though, some students expect better.

"It would be great if there was a halal food cart, or a sushi bar," said Aisha Arcangel.

I've never hated cafeteria food served at school but there are some who definitely do. Some avoid it at all costs and enjoy a coffee diet, others settle because there's nothing else and even fewer out right enjoy it, kind of like having to use public school restrooms. No one really wants to, but if the need to go becomes intolerable you usually have to cave in. The logic I use when eating cafeteria food is a starving person will eat whatever is closest regardless of quality.

Social Media Etiquette What's Off Limits?

BY VICTORIA CAROCCIA

Last week, a family friend of mine suffered a great loss; his two young daughters were killed in a car accident. When we heard the news, we were shocked and deeply saddened. No one knew what to say, and because it had happened so suddenly, we really didn't know any of the details. What we did know was that a loved one was going through an unthinkable tragedy, and we somehow wanted to help. My mother called our friend's wife and left her a voicemail, letting her know how sorry we were and that we are there for whatever they may need.

Also wanting to give my condolences, I logged onto Facebook and began to compose a message to the family. As I typed, I felt something holding me back. I realized Facebook might not be the most appropriate medium to express my deepest sorrow. However, when I went to check the Facebook

pages of the deceased, their timelines were flooded with heartfelt messages from young classmates and friends who have become accustomed to Facebook as the only form of communication.

At a time like this, most people would accept and appreciate any kind of thoughtful message. Whether it is a hand written sentiment, a phone call, or maybe even a text message, letting someone know you're thinking of them can be all the support they need to keep going. However, with all the nonsense people post on Facebook and Twitter, I don't view social media sites as my go-to for dealing with life's more serious issues. If I lost a loved one, I wouldn't be checking my inbox for sympathy tweets, nor would I be updating my status to check in at a funeral home.

Despite my stance on social media etiquette, there are many others who make

exceptions to the unwritten rules. People will post everything from their mundane daily routines to political rants. With the wide range of post-able things on the internet, why should sympathy messages be off limits? Many of us have become accustomed to the fast and convenient forms of communication that technology allows us to utilize. Granted, having a conversation with someone who's just suffered misfortune is never easy. Through our smart phones and social media accounts, we can talk to one another without the daunting task of actually being face-to-face. We can still be compassionate without having to worry about any in-person faux pas.

Having an iPhone and a Facebook account to mask my awkwardness has proven to be a luxury many times over. Nevertheless, something about sending this message to my heartbroken family friend still didn't sit right with me. Maybe it was the fear of seeing the

"sent from my iPhone" message pop up at the bottom of the text. Perhaps it was the fact that my message would most likely be sitting in their inboxes for quite a while, considering they have more important things to do than check their Facebook updates. The main reason was that this message, no matter how eloquent or grammatically correct, was still a cold, impersonal Facebook message. It would never be a Hallmark card, nor would it be a tearful phone call or a warm embrace. Just plain words on a dimly lit computer screen, in the wake of an inconceivable catastrophe.

Call me old fashioned, but part of me feels that certain situations should be reserved strictly for in person meetings. I still can't bring myself to hit the send button. Hopefully they won't mind that I'm saving my condolences for the funeral.

BANNER SPORTS

CSI Basketball Captain Shines On and Off the Court

Tierno Grabs CUNY Scholar Athlete of The Month

BY JESSICA PIFALO

Student-Athlete, Leader, and Scholar Olivia Tierno does it all as President of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), a student representative on CSI's Hall of Fame Committee and a member of CSI's Intramural Council. With such a hectic schedule, the senior still maintains a 3.92 GPA, awarding her with the prestigious CUNYAC Scholar Athlete of the month.

Tierno is a Psychology major from Staten Island, NY and when she's not hitting the books, you can find her on the court leading the Lady Dolphins.

The senior is a key factor to the team, where she stands second in the CUNY conference in shooting, fourth in field goal percentage, fifth in free-throw percentage, sixth in steals and eleventh in three point field goals.

Tierno says that time management is key when dealing with a busy workload, but school always comes first in her eyes.

"Since I was younger I've always had a lot on my plate," said Tierno. "Through it all I always make sure school comes first, and then I put basketball into play."

Through all her hard work, Tierno credits her parents tremendously.

"Honestly, my parents help me a lot," said Tierno. "They really keep me on track."

Basketball comes as a reward for excelling in the classroom for Tierno, and is what pushes her to do her best in school.

"School honestly does push me, because basketball is my reward when I do well in school," said Tierno. "It's something I get to look forward to."

The captain credits her coaches, Tim Shanahan and Wayne Travelled, and their constant concern on how players are doing in the classroom.

"Their main concern is school comes first all the time," said Tierno. "They make sure we are all doing well in our classes and always try to find ways that we can get the help if we are struggling."

Tierno's journey through basketball has been a bumpy one, suffering two ACL surgeries in her early years at CSI. Despite these injuries, Tierno refused to walk away from the team; in fact the injuries pushed her more as a player.



Tierno recipient of the CUNY Scholar-Athlete of the Month leads the Dolphins this season as Captain.

"I always had nerves about coming back and with recovery," said Tierno. "But I have been playing basketball since I was five and I could never give it up."

Aiding her recovery was the support of her coaches and teammates. "The support I received only pushed me more to recover quicker so I could go back to my team." Said Tierno

That support continues on as she takes the reigns of Captain in the 2012-2013 season.

"Olivia is a great player, she really puts up points for the team." Said teammate Jennifer Coughlin. "She is dedicated to whatever she does and commits to it, on and off the court."

After Tierno hangs up the jersey for good in May, she will pursue graduate school in hopes of getting a job as an Occupational Therapist, or even have her own practice. For now you can catch Tierno and the rest of the CSI Dolphins on the court, or online at www.csidolphins.com.

Dolphins Swimming Takes Win and Loss Against Lehman College

Men's Team Falls While Women Dominate

BY MICHAEL PAPANDREA

The College of Staten Island Swimming and Diving team split against the Lighting of Lehman College, January 11, 2013 at the CSI Sports and Rec Center. The women captured an outstanding 172-45 victory, while the men fell 149-90. The women rise to 7-1 overall, while the men drop to 2-4 overall.

Diving into action, the women's team would be victorious in all but one event for the evening. The team of Karen Ragnanan, Dakota Dawkins, Jessica Pifalo and Kelly Walsh would start things off by capping a first place finish in the 200-yard medley relay with a time of 2:13.77. From there the Lady Dolphins would dominate the entire meet.

Pifalo, and teammates, Junior Vasiliki Stergioula, and Sophomore Stephanie Collyer would capture double wins. Pifalo saw first in the 200-Yard Freestyle with a time of 2:17.61, and a 1:11.34 finish in the 100-Yard Butterfly, while Stergioula would race to first place finishes in the 50 with a time of 29.21 and the 100 freestyle with a time of 1:06.60. Collyer dominated the diving board sweeping two wins in the one and three meter diving.

Aiding the huge win was the help of Adrianna Vivas in the 1,000-Yard Freestyle, and Elaina Lei in the 100-Yard Breaststroke, Karen Ragnanan in the 500-Freestyle and Dakota Dawkins in the 200-Yard Individual

Medley.

With this win, the Lady Dolphins finished second in the CUNYAC conference with a 5-1 record behind three time CUNY Champs, Baruch College.

"I think a lot of teams underestimated us this year," said Pifalo. "We struggled so much last season, with a 2-7 record, we just took that feeling of being underestimated and it really pushed us to work hard all season to get to where we are now and shock the conference this year."

The team will get the opportunity to face Baruch and the rest of the CUNY Conference on January 31 February 2, when the CUNYAC Swimming and Diving Championships take place.

"It's going to come down on who wants it more," said Pifalo. "I think we are capable of winning it all this year, we have to stay focused and keep pushing ourselves now more than ever."

Baruch is not the only team CSI needs to worry about. The Hawks of Hunter College are close behind the Dolphins.

"Hunter will come back strong," said Pifalo. "We only beat them by 2 points early this season, we can't just assume we'll beat them again, we are going have to work for it."

On the men's side depth was the Dolphins downfall against the Lightning. Lehman got a



Junior Jessica Pifalo snagged double wins against Lehman

nice start by taking a first place finish in the 200-Yard Medley Relay. Sophomore Timur Rakhimov would get on the board for the Dolphins with a first place finish in the 1,000-Yard Freestyle, however Lehman would take second, third place and fourth place finishes, outweighing Rakhimov's first place points.

Lehman then took another first place finish in the 200-Yard Freestyle, but it wasn't long till CSI's Yury Zimarev came storming back with a win in the 50-Yard Freestyle. CSI would hold some control with win's as Andrey Tarasov and John Pignatelli and Zimarev, would grab the next three wins, Tarasov would win the 200-Yard Individual Medley and Pignatelli would take the win in the 1-Meter Diving, and Zimarev would take the 100-Yard



Sophomore John Pignatelli swept 1-Meter and 3-Meter against Lehman

Butterfly. Despite more wins from Tarasov, Pignatelli, Lehman's depth was too much for the Dolphins to come out with the win.

With the loss, the men's finish with a 1-4 conference record. Going into the CUNYAC Championship, the Men's team will have to focus on posting big points in order to stay ahead in the Championships.

Pignatelli will look to return as Champion on the 1 and 3 Meter contests.

The Men and Women will travel to Garden City, Long Island on January 15, to take on non-conference opponent Adelphi University in their final meet of the season. Then will travel to Lehman College for the 2012-2013 CUNYAC Championship.