

# THE BANNER

January 29, 2007

## Help Us CSI R Spellin' Knot Good

AnnMarie Costella



Spell check and grammar check are invaluable software tools for any college student, but according to a new survey conducted by the cable television network Nickelodeon, the technology is quickly replacing basic writing skills for many people. Here at CSI, professors are noticing the negative side effects of these everyday short cuts. Students, however, who enjoy the convenient, timesaving aspects of spell check and grammar check, do not plan to stop using them anytime soon.

"I have found that students tend to believe that spelling and proper grammar no longer matters much, it becomes something that is easily done by machine, and therefore is not part of the work they put into a paper," explained Communications Professor, Brian Cogan. "I also see a remarkable relaxation of standards and slang creeping into papers, such as the abbreviation 'u' as seen in text messaging. What worries me is not so much that this phenomenon is happening, but how quickly it is happening and being normalized."

According to the latest findings, 21% of young people do not feel it is important to know how to spell correctly, 26% of adults and 25% of adolescents felt that knowing how to use a dictionary was unnecessary. Further, with the advent of cell phones and electronic navigation systems, 20% of adults and 21% of adolescents no longer read maps and 44% of adults and 52% of adolescents have ceased to memorize telephone numbers.

"I am 100 percent dependent on spell check," said student, Carinne Fassari. My spelling is horrible and the sad part about it

Continued on page 4

## TO J-SCHOOL AND BEYOND

Melissa Seecharan

In late August, two recent CSI graduates whose aspirations of becoming journalists were realized as they made the first steps in the pursuit of a Master's degree in Journalism. David Maltz, who is currently attending Emerson College, majored in Communications with a concentration in Journalism. Maltz left the hectic bustle of New York City for the numbing temperatures of Boston as he sought to move out of his "comfort zone." Meanwhile, double major Matt Safford opted to attend CUNY's brand new School of Journalism, a three-semester program where students are immersed in an intense curriculum. Both Maltz and Safford offered insight into their lives as maturing journalists, and their take on the media.

*What advice do you have for students interested in a career in journalism?*

**MS:** Prepare for a bumpy ride. If you want to do this for a living, I think the CUNY J school in general, and the interactive media track in particular, is a good place to start. When I come out of this program, I'll be able to walk into the office of just about any media company and confident-

ly say I can do just about anything: reporting, writing, packaging and presentation. In an age of major media convergence, that's probably the best way to get a good job.

**DM:** Start practicing your reporting skills now. Join The Banner if you haven't already. Journalism school alone won't prepare you fully. You need to get your foundation in place while you're still an undergraduate.

*Matt, why CUNY's School of Journalism?*

**MS:** I liked the idea of starting at a new school. Not that it doesn't have its drawbacks. But Jeff Jarvis, who's overseeing the interactive program, as well as working with the Arts and Culture track, is amazing. He founded Entertainment Weekly, and has worked in just about every other facet of journalism imaginable. Once I heard he was involved, I was hooked. I also heard about the program very early on, through the Journalism classes I took at CSI. And though I've definitely had my issues with CUNY over the years, I have an affinity for public education. It's served me pretty well. It's something I believe in.

Continued on page 3

## Student Elections Starts Soon Vice President To Quit

Kevin S.P. Mamakas

Nominations for the spring 2007 Student Elections will be open starting February 5.

Positions are available on the Student Government, CSI Association, College Council, Auxiliary Services Corporation, and Faculty Student Disciplinary Committee.

"It's important for students to run because this is their community and college," said Coordinator for Clubs and Organizations Debi Kee. "It gives students a voice for what happens on campus. We are hiring a new President and building Residents Halls. Running for office is the best way to have a say."

The Student Government is composed of twenty representatives known as senators. The senators bring student interests to the administration and faculty while chartering and funding all clubs and organizations.

Continued on page 4

## CUNY's Globe Trekkers Experience Darwin's Wildlife

Jennifer Miller

Our CUNY study abroad trip to the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador was filled with many early mornings. From January 2 to January 23, our days were filled with sunshine, wildlife and the people of Ecuador. Seventeen other CUNY students and I studied Ecology, Evolution and Conservation at the Universidad de San Francisco in Quito, San Cristobal and the rest of the Galapagos archipelago.

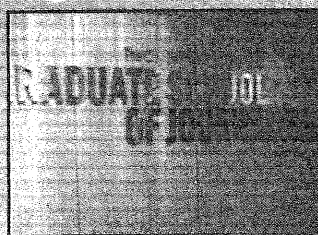
We spent the first few days in Quito and had classes in the morning and toured the city in the afternoons. On January 3, we went to Mitad del Mundo, or the Center of the World.

We saw numerous statues of the explorers who had figured out where the equator line was, or tried to. We learned that within the last ten years, using GPS navigation, the actual equator line was found to be a few hundred meters away. However, the attraction still remains at the line first thought to be the equator. We went into a small museum and received a short lecture about the different types of people living in the provinces of Ecuador before heading off to the top of the building where there is an observation deck. From the observation deck you can see the mountains and the surrounding areas. Next we

went to the real equator line, which lies in an old village. We received a tour of the village and went into tradition huts.

To prove that we were actually standing on the real equator line, the guide showed us three little experiments. A sink filled with water was plugged and a bucket was placed underneath the drain. When she lifted the plug, the water went straight down the drain without spinning. Next, she moved the sink a few feet to the right and tried again. This time, however, the water went down the drain clockwise. Next, she moved it a few feet on the

Continued on page 6



Hi Ho It's Off to J-School We Go. Page 1



Take a trip to Ecuador. Page 6



Gwen Stefani's new album manages to escape sweet success. Page 9



# ADPA

## The American Democracy Project

The New York Times

### Dirty Bomb at CSI?

Lucie Lauria

Times are rough; one neither knows when a dirty bomb will detonate on the campus nor when to expect a nuclear mushroom cloud over Manhattan rooftops. In that case, what will our president and the politicians do for you? Nothing. They will hide.

You should hide too. In case you don't happen to own a well-equipped nuclear shelter, hide indoors - a cellar or basement would be the best. An acceptable hideout may be your car or just shield yourself behind a wall that happens to be nearby. Some shield is better than no shield, of course.

All happy days are like one another, as Tolstoy would probably say, but each unhappy day is unhappy in its own way. And so each nuke attack is unhappy in its own specific way.

While the unhappy day when the destruction would be brought upon us by a nuclear weapon can be in order of 100 times the bomb dropped on Hiroshima, a little dirty bomb, seems to be a lesser trouble. The bomb, laced with some radioactive material, contaminates only an area the size of a few city blocks with

a limited number of casualties. It usually kills or injures people in the immediate area. The radioactive particles will, however, most likely, spread through the air and blow with the wind.

**Here is some advice from the U.S. Health Department:**

Distance, the important factor in lessening the impact of exposure, may determine whether you live or die. Run away if you can. The most important concepts to minimize exposure are time, distance, and shielding.

Don't waste your time near the radiation source. Hide indoors or underground; go to the lowest level possible. Increase the shielding between you and the radiation source. Close doors and windows, seal them with duct tape, shut off and seal ventilation systems using outside air, close the fireplace damper, tape over vents and electrical outlets (and any other openings,) fill sinks and tubs with water.

If outdoors, cover your mouth and nose with a scarf, handkerchief, or other type of cloth to avoid inhaling radioactive dust.

If your clothes are covered in debris, you need to decontaminate.

Remove the outer layer of clothing and bag it. Take a shower, wash gently with soap, and wash your hair.

Seek medical help if you are injured by the explosion.

Don't eat or drink potentially contaminated food or water.

Fill up the sink and bathtub with drinking water, keep your phone handy, and turn on the radio.

You have to avoid radioactive contamination in diverse forms - e.g. dirt, dust, debris, and liquid on the surface of objects or on the ground. Radiation can also be airborne; don't forget to cover your mouth.

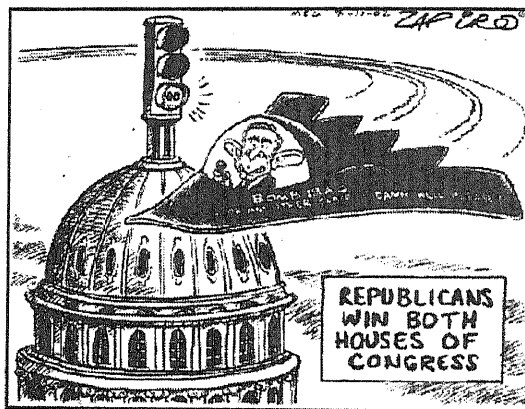
A dirty bomb would be the lesser of the two evils; however, a military nuclear weapon that creates a large fireball that would vaporize everything within it to form what is known as the "mushroom cloud." The vaporized material later cools off and falls down to the earth (radioactive fallout).

Clear yourself of any fallout debris and you may treat your radiation sickness with Potassium iodide, Prussian blue, diethylenetriaminepentaacetate, or Neupogen. Potassium iodide when taken before or soon after exposure can protect the thyroid gland from absorbing radioactive iodine and developing thyroid cancer.

The symptoms of the radiation sickness involve nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fever, loss of appetite, skin irritation, seizures, or coma.

If radiation is small, no immediate health affects will occur. In the long-term, there may be an increased risk of developing cancer.

Six years after 9/11, the political situation in the world didn't get any rosier but quite the opposite. Enjoy your happy college days but be ready for the unhappy one when the "mushroom" cloud looms up. This is not to scare you but to prepare you. Hope for the best but be prepared for the worst.



### Red Dragon Blasts a Satellite

Lucie Lauria

Chinese Xichang Space Center in Sichuan Province launched a long-range ballistic missile on January 11th and brought down one of its own aging, defunct weather satellites. The kinetic-kill destruction of the satellite, which had been orbiting at an altitude of more than 500 miles, alarmed military experts not only in the United States, but also in Taiwan and Japan.

The unannounced hit of an old weather satellite Fengyun-1C, in an ostensible test of an ASAT (anti-satellite) kinetic energy weapon, was first reported by Aviation Week on January 17th while China's diplomats confirmed the test only after two weeks of circumlocutory communiqués. The Chinese silence on the issue implies that either the diplomatic corps were in the dark about the test of the ASAT space weapon or China did not anticipate such an ardent international upheaval. Or maybe, it did, and after all, China may be expecting the U.S. to join in the space disarmament discussions.

China's foreign ministry spokesperson Jiang Yu told La Stampa: "Our position has not changed; we've always been, and we remain against the armament of space."

In fact, the United States has so far avoided any participation in international treaties that would ban space weapons

and resisted proposals of both China and Russia to agree on space disarmament and has persisted in the trajectory of conducting its own ASAT research endeavors to perform ASAT weapons' test.

China wields an extraordinary potential to compete militarily with the United States as this breakthrough ASAT technology test has demonstrated. The military observers are alarmed about the possibility that U.S. technology has fallen into Chinese hands.

At present, the United States dominates space satellite networks functioning for espionage, reconnaissance and battlefield coordination. The most recent test has manifested China's capability to bring down the U.S. "omniscient spy eye" hanging in the same altitude as the old weather satellite.

The unexpected friction between the communist party-state and the White House culminated in the National Security Council spokesman Gordon Johndroe's recent communique: "The United States believes China's development and testing of such weapons is inconsistent with the spirit of cooperation that both countries aspire to in the civil space area. We and other countries have expressed our concern to the Chinese."

Paradoxically, "In 1997, the U.S. tested an infrared laser on the ground that would have been powerful enough to fry a satellite in orbit, but the laser apparently

failed to work. It did successfully destroy a satellite in a 1985 test using a kinetic energy weapon launched from an aeroplane," The NewScientist revealed.

While Russia and China endeavored to set up an international agreement on the space disarmament, the United States has, so far, refuted every such proposition. On December 13, 2006, Robert Joseph, the State Department's representative for arms control stated: "No nation, no non-state actor, should be under the illusion that the United States will tolerate a denial of our right to use of space for peaceful purposes."

According to Pravda, "the United States has been widely reported to be developing satellite-killers of its own, in classified projects shielded from public debate, using more advanced technologies, including lasers."

"In October, President Bush signed an order giving the United States the right to deny adversaries access to space for hostile purposes. As part of the first space policy in nearly 10 years, the policy also said the United States would oppose the development of treaties or other restrictions that seek to prohibit or limit the U.S. access to or use of space," AP reports.

Washington will likely take precautions against China's ASAT technology.

Many believe China has been creating space arms to attack Taiwan, which has been stubbornly opposing the unification with the Chinese mainland, but it would be ridiculous to presume Taiwan an exclusive target.

Taiwan's top politician Joseph Wu told Radio Taiwan International that "(Taiwan's) concern over China's military expansion has led Taiwan to call for an international arms embargo against China. He also said China has nearly 900 missiles targeting Taiwan according to U.S. military reports."

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday criticized U.S. plans for space-based weapons, saying it was the reason behind a recent Chinese ASAT weapons test. "I would like to note that China was not the first country to conduct such a test," Putin said. "The first such test was conducted back in the late 1980s and we also hear it today about the U.S. military circles considering plans of militarization of space. We must not let the genie out of the bottle."

Now it's Washington's turn to consider Beijing's latest achievements in ASAT technology and seriously discuss the issue of space-based weapon's disarmament with other members of the "star wars club." The Bush administration will likely take precautions to toughen up export controls, but it may be already too late for that. One of the ways to counter China's ASAT technology appears to be the willingness to discuss disarmament treaties. Conversely, China's missile message may have been the first shot of the impending "star wars" arms race and another eloquent step on the path leading to the WWII.

# STAFF

#### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

MELLISSA SEECHARAN

#### CO-MANAGING EDITORS

KEVIN S.P. MAMAKAS  
ANNMARIE COSTELLA

#### ART DIRECTOR

ENRIQUE INOCENTE

#### ADP EDITOR

LUCIE LAURIA

#### SPORTS EDITOR

JENNIFER MILLER

#### STAFF

NICOLE BONELLI  
JOHN DE PETRO  
DOMINIC FIDUCCIA  
STEFANIE PLUST  
MICHELE ROSE  
ALLISON RYDER

#### CONTRIBUTORS

MATTHEW CIRELLI  
STEPHEN SPAGNOLI

#### FACULTY ADVISER

FREDERICK KAUFMAN

### Interview

continued from pg 1

*You're part of the School of Journalism's first class, was there any trouble adjusting?*

**MS:** It was a bitch at first, but I think that was mostly because the faculty and staff were adjusting right along with us, because the school was brand new. By the time mid-semester rolled around, things got a lot better and settled down. That isn't to say they still don't make mistakes, or that we don't. Overall, I think the administration and faculty did a pretty decent job of listening to what we had to say. The frustrating part was just dealing with the issues long enough to give them time to react. The other thing that's important is that the program pretty intense. It's understandable, considering it's just a 3 semester program. But the course load really doesn't give you the chance to work much more than 10 or 12 hours a week. I was doing 18 at the Writing center when I started, and I had to cut back. Like I said, it's understandable I guess, but for people who are going to a public university because they have to, it's hard to afford a lifestyle like this. I didn't really believe it was going to be this intense. I worked 30-35 hours a week through most of my undergrad and managed close to a 4.0. Here, there's no way you could do that.

*Dave, your decision to attend Emerson meant relocating to Boston. What has the transition been like?*

**DM:** The transition has been amazingly smooth. Living in Boston is very different than living on Staten Island. Not living with my parents gives me the ability to make my schedule revolve around me, since I don't have to worry about meeting my family obligations. Living on my own has been a very humbling experience. Money is tight and I've had to learn how to make due with the money I have.

*Of all of the journalism schools, why Emerson? You could have stayed in NYC.*

**DM:** I could've stayed in NYC, but NYC is my comfort zone. I think journalists have to jump out of their comfort zone in order to be successful. Since I never lived in Boston, I have to work harder to find information for my stories. This is more challenging for me as a journalist.

One thing I like about Emerson is it's location. The school is a 5 minute walk from the Massachusetts State House. We're also a tight knit program, so we treat each other as colleagues, not just another face in the class.

*What's your're area of concentration, and what does it entail?*

**DM:** My area of concentration is print and multimedia journalism. This entails taking courses that cover not only basic writing,

but taking stories and learning how to deconstruct them so they can be reworked to be suitable for any media (print, online, TV, and radio). In addition I'm taking conceptual classes. Last semester I did a research project about people's news gathering habits.

**MS:** Well, interactive media, or online journalism is kind of a mishmash of everything. We're learning to record and produce audio and video, take photos, and format it and package it all for the web. It's a popular program here that a lot of people are defecting to from the other media tracks.

*How did you become involved with journalism?*

**DM:** I became involved in Journalism when I was a child. My parents got the Staten Island Advance and the New York Times delivered every day. I would read the Advance every day. My parents allowed me to go online when I was around 13. At around that time, online news was starting to take off and I found myself increasingly interested in journalism as a whole.

When I got to college, in the back of my mind I wanted to be a reporter. When I was a sophomore I took Intro to Journalism and started writing for The Banner.

**MS:** Well, as I hope a few students remember, I was the ADP editor at The Banner for a couple years. That had a lot to do with my direction, as did a certain professor/faculty advisor who shall remain nameless. But the impetus really, was my frustration of the Bush administration's mishandling of foreign policy after 9/11 and my desire to do something beyond going to an ineffectual protest. I decided to write ineffectual journalism instead. was Bush-bashing way before it was in vogue.

*Why are you pursuing a M.A. degree in journalism?*

**DM:** I feel that there are skills that I still need to learn, and others that still need practice. Getting my Master's also allows me to study more conceptual topics. In addition, in graduate school, I only take classes that are relevant to my major.

**MS:** There's a huge debate about this. A lot of people think that J School is a waste of time and money. For me, I'm here to get more experience, gain more marketable skills, and hopefully not have to start at the bottom of the media career barrel once I graduate. I don't want to spend a couple years interning at a backwoods newspaper or getting someone coffee at a magazine.

*Many people now get their news from sources other than print media. What affect does this have on the future of media?*

**MS:** It's not just print that's on the decline. Old media in general is on a steep down slide. Nightly network news is hemorrhaging viewers. And while the cable news

channels remain popular, their average viewer age isn't anywhere near that coveted 18-34 bracket. I read somewhere recently that Bill O'Reilly's Fox program has an average viewer age of 70. Everyone is scrambling to figure out how to get news to the non-geriatric camp. Newspapers are in the worst shape. Aside from losing readers and not gaining young ones, they've lost their other major revenue stream to free classified ads on Craigslist. I'm just waiting for the iPod of text to come along and make text cool again.

**DM:** This has a huge impact. At Emerson, they teach us how to create news for all the forms of news media. Journalism education now involves heavy use of technology. The journalists who know how to use the technology will probably have an advantage over those who don't.

*Now that you're studying journalism, what do you feel is the biggest misconception of the media?*

**DM:** I think the biggest misconception is that the media is involved in some sort of conspiracy to sway your views. At least from the journalistic side, we're just trying to tell the story.

**MS:** The whole "liberal media" think is a big bone of contention with me. All these media organizations have been bought out by mega-corporations. They logically then lean toward the interests of big business. And trust me, those interests aren't to the left. But the while "right wing/left wing media" meme is overlaid anyway. If your views are left of center, then the media is right-leaning from your perspective. If you're conservative or republican, then the media seems liberal. It's all a matter of perspective. People who really care should either do something about it, or quit bitching and moaning. Slingshot mud doesn't benefit anyone but the pundits who do the slinging.

*Dave, you were Editor-in-Chief of the Banner (2004-2005), did your work with this newspaper prepare you for journalism school?*

**DM:** It definitely gave me an advantage over the students who had no prior journalism experience. I knew quite a bit of terminology going into the first day of class, and this certainly helped make doing my assignments easier.

*Matt, how were you prepared?*

**MS:** To the extent I was prepared at all, I'd say working at The Banner was the largest part. Classes at CSI gave me the basic tools, but at The Banner, those tools were honed. You learn this stuff by doing. And you can only do so much in a class or two. But when you have to fill a page every two weeks, you get more journalism practice than most people would ever want. If you come through The Banner wanting more, I think that's when you know you should probably be working in journalism.

THE BANNER IS PUBLISHED BY THE STUDENTS OF THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND. ALL WORKS CONTAINED WITHIN THIS PUBLICATION ARE THE PROPERTY OF THEIR CREATORS, AND ARE PROTECTED BY COPYRIGHT LAW. NO MATERIALS WITHIN THIS PUBLICATION MAY BE REPRINTED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, IN ANY FORM, WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE EDITORS. OUR OFFICE IS LOCATED AT 2800 VICTORY BLVD., BUILDING 1-C, ROOM 228, STATEN ISLAND, NY, 10314. OUR NEWS BUREAU CAN BE REACHED AT (718) 982-3116 OR AT BY E-MAILING OUR WRITERS. FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION DIAL (718) 982-3116. FAX (718) 982-3087. OPINIONS EXPRESSED HEREIN ARE THOSE OF THE WRITERS, AND ARE NOT NECESSARILY SHARED BY THE BANNER STAFF OR THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND. THE BANNER IS NOT A PUBLICATION OF THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND AND THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTENTS OF THE BANNER.



## Spell Check

continued from pg 1

is if it weren't for spell check I probably would have been able to spell on my own. I am not as dependent on grammar check because I don't trust it. In the past I have used it and when I got the paper back my teacher had to correct my grammar, the same part that I had changed using grammar check."

For some students spell check is modern technology's answer to the tedious and laborious task of consulting a dictionary or thesaurus. "I rely on it more often than I should," said CSI Senior, Dianna Vassallo. "I still think it's important to know how to spell, but I can see why people wouldn't worry about it as much. We have spell check to automatically correct our errors for us."

Some feel that the technology can be beneficial if it is used to aid and enhance the learning experience. "I think every student should run spell check by default, but peer feedback still works best," said Communications Professor, Austin Lee. "I think freshmen and foreign students who lack basic skills could benefit a lot from using spell check. For seniors, they need to learn to re-read their essays and edit unnecessary phrases. The best papers at every level are written by students who go over their work carefully."

Matt Safford, a tutor at the Writing Center, believes spell check can actually help people learn how to spell better and faster than conventional methods. "I think having a program that points out what you spell wrong and shows you the correct way, is a good thing," he asserted. "Of course, some people just auto-correct and don't proofread. But as an instructor, the first time you see a paper with the word 'pubic' in place of the word 'public,' you pretty much know what the student is (or isn't) doing."

However, he believes that grammar check is far more harmful than helpful, as it does not adequately explain why the corrections need to be made. "The problem is, while spelling is a simple matter of letter order being correct or not, grammar in general, and English grammar in particular is immensely complex," he said. "No computer is going to give you a reliable answer about where to use a semicolon or whether you've got a dangling modifier."

Safford spends 10 hours per week helping students to improve their writing. He often witnesses careless mistakes. "If someone comes to me at The Writing Center with a paper that has multiple misspelled words and grammatical mistakes that are clearly the result of their failure to proofread, I'd either have them sit there and proofread it themselves, or ask them to come back once they've done so," he indicated. "We're here to help students meet their own potential, not to do the work they were supposed to do on their own."

Technology makes our lives easier but it also enables our laziness. While spell check and grammar check are great, they are clearly not substitutes for careful proof reading and editing nor should they eliminate the necessity for people to learn how to spell properly or construct a grammatically correct sentence.

## OP-ED

The opinions expressed do not reflect those of The Banner

### CSI STUDENTS GET AN A IN RUDENESS

John DePetro

There has always been chatter going on from one student to another in classrooms and there always will be. The teacher yells, then he threatens to separate the talkative group (but he never does), and then the rest of the class turns around and gawks at their newly embarrassed friends. The class's concentration is broken and then restored. And that's fine. But what goes on today in CSI classrooms is ridiculous. Maybe it's because I've been hearing the quiet conversations behind me for two decades that I'm not too outraged by that (however, the whispers are rude and unacceptable when viewing films), but everything else I had to put up with daily is just too much to take anymore.

For starters, the text messages need to stop. Very little is more abhorrent than watching students stomp away on their Sidekicks while those who surround them attempt to learn about Joan Didion's cold, depressing writing style or try to listen to geology lecture on the differences between a rock and a mineral. To most students these subjects are boring. I'll give you that. But if you don't want to hear about styles or stones and you would rather text your probably very unremarkable friend, don't register for the class.

Lateness. I get to class on time. Most of my classmates get to class on time. But there are usually 2 or 3 very special students in each class who have the reserved right to show up to class whenever they feel like it. Their schedule must say that their classes begin at 12:20ish.

Routinely these boys and girls stroll through the door fifteen minutes late (or even later on very special days). This is where the problems start. Because they are so very special, the rest of the class has to stop. Then all of a sudden, the class becomes about them. They ask questions which have already been answered and distract those around them as they get settled. The tardiness just wastes time. It wastes the professor's time, it wastes the time of the students who actually want to be there.

So what can we do about these offenders of etiquette? The solution is simple. In fact it's written in everyone's syllabi. Most professors have a lateness policy or a cell phone policy or both clearly expressed in the very first handout of the semester. The penalties for the rule breakers are usually pretty harsh even though they are rarely (if ever) enforced. I say it's up to the professors to get these discourteous students in line or out of class. If you say you're going to fail a student due to lateness, then fail them. If you say you're going to ask students to leave the class if they use their cells, then ask them.

Woody Allen said, "90% of life is just showing up." Somehow I don't think Mr. Allen meant a half an hour late with a Sidekick in one hand, a cup of coffee in the other and an iPod in your ear.

### COLLEGE NOT FOR EVERYONE

David Nudleman

Some people want money, others want easy money and everyone wants lots of money. It seems that kids coming out of high school know everything they want to grow up to be or still want to live like it's still high school. College can be a great experience, give you a degree helping moving you up the ladder in society or can just be a complete waste of time.

College can help lead young adults to find positions they have wanted since their elementary days or to positions they never knew they would have. College offers majors where undergraduates study the subject they seek knowledge to become specialized, well educated and masters of their craft.

Funny thing about degrees are sometimes the wrong people have them. Imagine taking four years plus in college majoring in communications then comes the time where you have to make that powerpoint presentation of a new ad and you curl up in your seat. Could it be because you never took a public speaking class as a requisite, you're nervous or you're not the right person for the job?

As we grow up we start things to see our friends get positions at jobs because their aunt's cousin went out with the boss. It becomes more of what you know and who you know as opposed to just where you go and what you know.

Some of today's most successful adults are college dropouts, Steve Jobs, Bill Gates, Michael Dell, Kayne West, etc. These adults left college because they have the right idea and knew where they wanted to go and how to get there.

College can mold your brain, teach you the required courses but it's our every day experiences that help us into the young men and women of the future. College provides us both with information and hands on knowledge to take our careers and goals to the next level. If you're not willing to use it what you learned after acquiring it relies solely on that individual.

I feel I learn the most when I am inspired as opposed to being filled with knowledge. Once you are inspired not only does your brain develop but your heart and soul does as well. I think that if students can find inspiration from the things they learn instead of just compiling knowledge the success ratio would be higher and productivity amongst young adults would triple.

Growing up near tons of college kids and some dropouts, I have witnessed that inspiration drawn from money, ideas, other successful adults, businesses, arts and all types of media have been their reasoning for doing what they do. It was just partially what they learned.

College will help you learn how to work, teach you how to work hard and maybe even help you even get work, but it will not work for you unless you let it.

## Elections

continued from pg 1

CSI Association is a non-profit corporation composed of six students three faculty, and four administrators that develop and review student activity fee budgets for Sports and Recreation, Health and Wellness, the Children's Center, WSIA, Student Publications, and PDC.

Consisting of faculty, staff, and seven students, the College Council formulates policy relating to admission and retention of students, grading practices, degree requirements, and protection of academic freedom.

Auxiliary Services consists of five students, two faculties representatives, and four administration representatives. They are responsible for the management of the bookstore, dining services, vending services, and parking.

The Faculty Student Disciplinary Committee consists of two students, two faculty members, and a faculty chairperson, only meets when all informal procedures have been exhausted. It meets when a student requires a disciplinary action.

"Students can make a change instead of sitting on their asses", said Association representative Michele

Payton. "Instead of complaining, run for a seat and change it." Students can run for positions until noon on March 30. Each committee has a minimum grade point average and students must be a

matriculated student to run. The nomination packet is available in 1C-207. "We have senators who either joined SG to become a politician or to make a change," said SG Vice President Ilya Geller. "It creates bickering. That is why I am not going to run next year and will resign on February 1. However, if students want to make a change, they should run. Social change is why you should run, not for politics."



## EDITOR'S NOTE

Winter break is over and that can only mean one thing: back to work! We at the Banner are eager to get things up and running again after encountering one very unexpected problem.

In case you missed the technological drama, here is a brief synopsis: Due to an uncooperative FTP server the November 27th issue was not able to be printed on time. And after one week of failed attempts it was decided by the entire staff that the final issue of the semester would not be published. Despite finally getting the issue published, we were set back one week. Chances of any kind could not be taken. But fear not as that extra issue will be published this semester.

Every year or two, the Banner puts out special issues. In the past themes included a comic issue, a music issue, and a sex issue. This semester, we will honor the graduates by publishing a commencement issue.

Speaking of graduates, if you're a loyal Banner reader, or have even picked up a past issue, then you're familiar with David Maltz, former Editor-in-Chief, and Matt Safford, our first ADP editor. As they approach the end of their first year in journalism school, both fellows are doing extremely well and representing CSI in the best way. If you're interested in journalism, and I know many of you who read this paper are, check out my interview with Maltz and Safford.

Over the break, members of the Banner staff traveled the world and even had their first taste of fame. Jennifer Miller recently returned from a month-long study broad trip to Ecuador. Despite this devastating restriction, Miller's article documenting her experience there is worth the read. If you read any of Brooklyn's newspapers, you might have seen AnnMarie Costella's byline as her article "Yo, Yo, Son, What's Up? Don't you speak the 'Slangage?'" could be found in every Courier Life publication. Congrats AnnMarie!

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: Content

Over the Thanksgiving break my cousin who attends Pace University explained to me how censored her school paper is. If I've appreciated anything about the Banner, it would be its edginess. Hearing about the lack of freedom in other schools helps me appreciate the constant envelope pushing your staff does. Thank you for taking advantage of what we take for granted.

Chris D'Auria

Re: Tales from the Front Line

Keep it up Lucie Lauria and the Banner for the cover story on Iraq vets and families. Articles like these deserve to be on the cover. Through awareness of issues like politics, the CSI community is enlightened and less apathetic. Awareness of issues is what we need in such historical times.

Omar Hamad

This is a great article. I love the real humor reporting of what goes on. It's the most interesting and the most true.

Joseph Podkalicki

The two articles on vets and mothers coming together to discuss the Iraq War were written with points of view that made me realize how devastating the war is. The imagery of a soldier sniffing coke and a mother's cry for help makes me wonder how many more lives have to be sacrificed for a cause that only Bush and his cronies believe in. A lie that has destroyed many families.

Enrico Turchi

Here's a tip if you don't want to go to war to kill "innocent" people. DON'T JOIN THE MARINES. Odds are, if you join a military service, you will be called in a time of war. That's the point of voluntary registration. I feel for those affected by the war.

Billy Kline

Re: Tunnel of Oppression Forces Students to Confront Prejudices

Walking in another person's shoes must be hard, but even harder if you're a minority. This article just pokes at the surface of the problem which is minority treatment in the world. But I have to be glad CSI is taking a stand and showing the average white person what a minority has to go through to be on almost equal footings not even on campus, but around the world.

Jaime Mamus

I work on campus as a tutor and was informed by one of my students that this event was going to take place. I was very interested to find out what had happened because I was unable to attend the event. I found it very interesting that the writer did not just observe the event but also participated as a discrimination victim. I would like to have known if this was an effective event or not.

Elizabeth McNeill

Unfortunately, I was unaware of the event presented by the Office of Pluralism and Diversity. From the article written by Kevin S.P. Mamakas, it seemed like a very powerful event that hopefully changed how students viewed things. Good job.

Lori Katz

It may be hard to experience, and hard to go through, but what the office of Pluralism and Diversity did was a good thing. Some people don't know what it's really like going through those kind of things, and with an event like that, maybe some people who have done hateful things can get a taste of what life is like.

Chris Mical

Re: Sex and the Island

I must admit I have been in that situation and damn it kind of hurts when you lose your buddy! But we all need to realize that things

change and so do people. Yet, there are those who never know when to quit. It's a sad world we live in. Keep on writing Nicole; Keep on writing!

Moyeed Amusa

Every time I pick up The Banner, I always turn to the "Sex and the Island" column. The headline that Nicole Bonelli makes always makes me laugh. I think that the "Sex and the Island" column relates so much to college students if it talks about daily subjects in a college student's life.

Evelyn Bletsas

While reading this article I was shocked but at the same time I kind of expected this behavior from a guy. Friends with benefits might seem great at first but the majority of the times end up in a wreck! I'm glad that you woke up and saw who that guy really was, a jerk.

Idelle Perez

Re: Planned Housing Top Concern at Town Hall Meeting

I feel there shouldn't be any housing at CSI. The school is crowded enough. With housing there will be more confusion, traffic, and no parking.

Adam Salhary

I am so happy to hear of any progress being made in planned housing at CSI. Even though "town houses" will be in place of dormitories, any type of student housing is sure to increase the quality of the college's student body.

Vincent Mackey

Re: Basketball Diaries

I believe Mike Jones' articles about the team beginning this season was a nice idea because it gives fans of the Dolphins a chance to know what the team has in terms of veterans and new talent. The article gives the fan a feeling of anticipation, and the content of the piece is very informative. Nice job by Michael.

Stephen Spagnoli

Re: Medieval Times

It's simply amazing to me that there are some CSI students willing to go to Medieval Times but the sporting events on campus typically draw 1/10 that number. I think we are a college community should be more interested in watching our classmates compete than paying to a rigged dinner show.

John DePetro

I liked reading the article on Medieval Times. The photo spread brought back good memories. I used to go to Medieval Times when I was younger and my boyfriend and I went recently. Although it wasn't as I remembered it to be, we enjoyed ourselves. Could any student have gone on this trip? If so, I missed that memo.

Lauren Demetrio

### STUDENT GOVERNMENT MEETING SCHEDULE

#### SPRING 2007

**FEBRUARY 1, 8, 22**

**MARCH 8, 22**

**APRIL 12, 26**

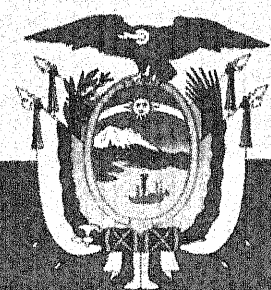
**MAY 10**

**ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THURSDAYS DURING CLUB HOURS (1:30 - 3:30 P.M.) IN ROOM 1C-209 UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED**

**CLUE CERTIFIED**

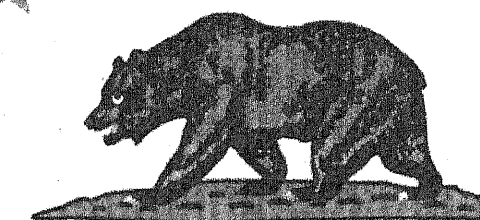


# The Ecuador Odyssey



Here are some snapshots from the CUNY Honor's College journey through volcanic islands.

# California, Here I Come



CALIFORNIA REPUBLIC

The Banner's plucky young sex columnist trekked westward to the Golden State.



Galapagos Islands  
Sections of the  
island on beaches  
the unique  
archipelago  
around the  
islands  
in the  
islands

On the right, a  
waterfall flows  
through the cloud  
forest, and below  
this is a guy hold-  
ing a big leaf.

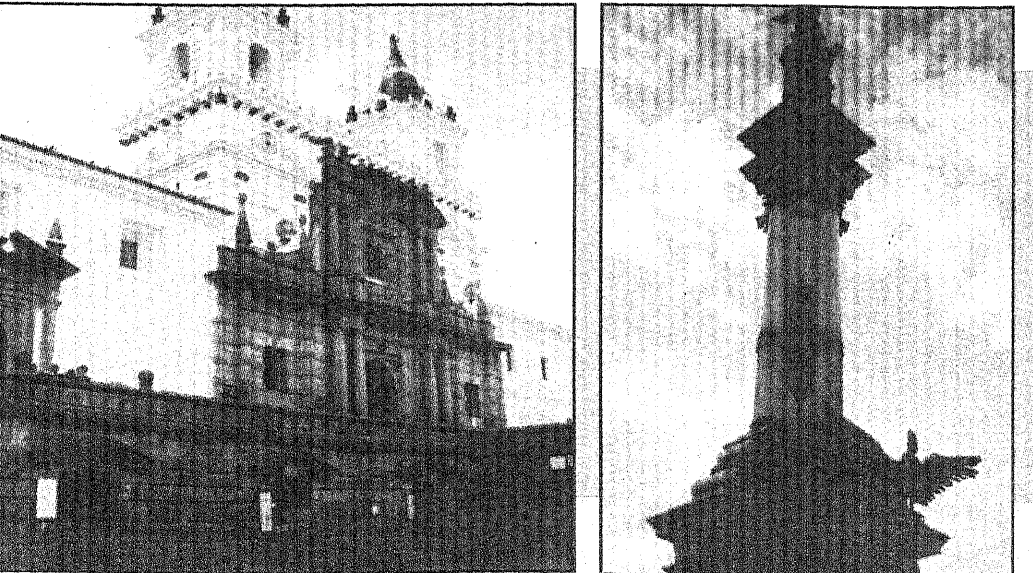
### Anaheim

### San Diego

### San Francisco

Continued from page 1

left side of the equator line and the water spun the down the drain counterclockwise. The next experiment was a to place an egg onto a nail. Within seconds, the egg was balancing on the nail. However, it takes practice to get that to happen since when a few students from our group tried to balance the egg, it wouldn't stand. For the third experiment the guide asked for a strong volunteer. She and the volunteer stepped a few feet to the left of the equator and she told him to hold his thumb and pointer finger together while she would try to pull them apart. She couldn't do it. Next she told him to put his arms in the air and intertwine his fingers and she would try to push them down. She couldn't once again. They straddled the equator line next and tried the first one again. This time, with a second his fingers popped open. The second half didn't work as well as the first but it was more of a struggle.



Continued in next issue



# COMICS

**The A Beacon**  
Written and Drawn by Enrique Inocente

PROFESSOR DOCBROWNE, SEEING AS HOW YOU'RE THE FACULTY ADVISOR FOR THE OFFICIAL CAMPUS NEWSPAPER THE BEACON, I THOUGHT YOU COULD HELP US.

YOU SEE, THE COLLEGE WILL BE MAKING A LOT OF CONTROVERSIAL DECISIONS THIS SEMESTER, AND I WAS HOPING TO GET YOU AND YOUR STAFF TO AVOID COMMENTS, CRITICIZING OR MAKING PUBLIC ANY FACTS THAT WOULD EMBARRASS THE ADMINISTRATION.

BUT THAT COMPROMISES THE INTEGRITY OF THE BEACON. I WANT, BESIDES ITS A STUDENT RUN NEWSPAPER, THEY DECIDE THE CONTENT. I'M THERE JUST TO MAKE SURE THEY DON'T THEIR'S AND CROSS THEIR'S.

OH YES, MOST COMMENDABLE.

IMAGINE OUR NEXT FUND RAISING PARTY WHEN WE FLASH ALL THOSE WEALTHY DONORS A COPY OF THE BEACON. THEIR EYES WILL LIGHT UP TO SEE ALL THE PRAISE SHOWERED ON THE COLLEGE.

THEN AGAIN, MAYBE TENURE DOESN'T INTEREST YOU. MAYBE YOU DON'T WANT JOB SECURITY. THERE'S NO SHAME IN BEING AN ADJUNT FOEVER. \*SHUCKER\* \*GIGGLE\*

SO... WHAT DO YOU SAY, DOC? YOU A TEAM PLAYER?

EXCELLENT.

OH WELL, I'VE ALWAYS FELT INTEGRITY OF THE PRESS WAS OVER-RATED. IT PAYS TO SELL OUT... HE-HE.

continued next page

**T-shirt**  
an Enrique Ignacio Inocente joint

LEESAN, I DON'T SEE WHAT'S SO OFFENSIVE ABOUT YOUR SHIRT?

IT'S ONLY IF THIS SHIRT OFFENDS YOU.

IT'S REFERRING TO THE BACK OF MY SHIRT, IT'S OFFENSIVE.

OH MY GOD!!! YOU SICK LIL' MONKEY! I HAVE YOU BURN IN HELL FOR THAT SHIRT!

MY RETINAS ARE BURNING!

**INAPPROPRIATE QUESTIONS TO ASK**

You ever take a dump and kinda stare at it with admiration?

OH GOD NO! EWWW. THAT GROSS, NO!

UH... YEAH, Mr. nichor. \*cough-cough\*

**Coked-up Cheer Bear Says:**

Always wear a condom. STDs are a leading cause for sexually transmitted disease.

## "Psst!" an Enrique Ignacio Inocente joint

PARENTAL ADVISORY

I like you. Do you like me?  
 yes  No

PARENTAL ADVISORY

**The A Beacon**  
Written and Drawn by Enrique Inocente

BACK AT THE BEACON OFFICE, LEESA REGALES THE STAFF WITH WITTY BANTER.

ELISABETH LIVES BOOK BARE IS GENIUS. BEYOND THE WIGS, MAKEUP, STILETOS, AND PROP DILDOS IS A POWERFUL STATE MENT ABOUT FEMINISM, OH, AND THE BRIT'S CAPTURE AND ATTEMPT WITH FINESSE WHILE AMERICANS STAY A SLAVE TO THE COUNTRY CLUB SOCIALITE AND HOLLYWOOD MACHINE.

KAYA MANAGING EDITOR

GULANNA EDITOR CHIEF

PETE ART DIRECTOR # DO IT UP RIGHT.

LEESA SELF-PROCLAIMED SERPENT

WIN NUGZ POWER

NUNU STAFF WRITER

OKAY ENOUGH OF ALL THIS NONSENICAL TOMFOOLERY! THE BEACON WILL NOT BE A HAVEN TO SHOUT NO MORE ARTICLES ON CRUDE, OFFENSIVE, SEXUAL MATERIAL.

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS! THE ALL ISSUE IS OUR NEXT ISSUE.

THEN MORE TO THE ALL CEELEACTY ISSUE.

WHAT ABOUT THE WEEKLY SEX COLUMN.

IT'S NOW THE NO-SEX COLUMN.

AND WHILE WE'RE ON THE TOPIC, THE COMICS SECTION IS BEING CUT. TAKE A HIKE ENRIQUE.

RAY, QUE LASTIMA!

KEEZ, DOC, WHAT PROUDISH CONSERVATIVE BUG CRAWLED UP YOUR RUMP SHAKA.

WHAT'S UP MY RUMP IS MY OWN BUSINESS! NOW LISTEN! THIS PAPER WILL BE RESPECTED.

I WILL HAVE CREDIT WILL HAVE PERFECTION! THE ADMINISTRATION WILL LOVE ME--

I MEAN, THE ADMINISTRATION WILL LOVE US, THAT'S WHAT I MEANT TO SAY, HE-HE.

YEAH, I BET.

**Cold Feet**  
an Enrique Ignacio Inocente joint

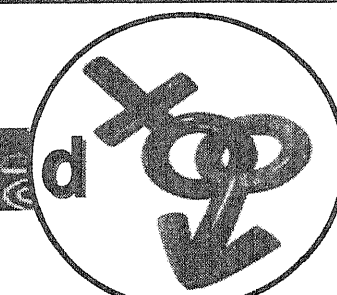
After consulting your father I realized it's a good idea to get married after all.

I like you. Do you like me?  
 yes  HELL NO



Se

Nicole Bonelli's



Nikki, You're Such a Slut!

"I know I may be young/But I've got feelings, too/And I need to do what I feel like doing/So let me go and just listen." As I sang along with Britney Spears' obnoxious voice, (she's my guilty pleasure), I danced my way through my closet while I got ready for a typical Thursday night drinking binge. Forty-five minutes later, and after asking my mom forty-five times "If I looked fat", I was halfway out the door. I grabbed my phone and threw it into my bag, but before it landed I noticed a missed call and voicemail from an "unknown" number. Feeling impatient, I bent my body to a 90 degree angle and lifted my left leg over my head just so I could get a single bar of service, but what I heard next made me want to crawl under my blankets and hide from the world:

"Nicole, you don't know me, but I am a student at the College of Staten Island. I have to say that I am disgusted by your column. You give out horrible advice that would probably make girls kill themselves. You sound like a desperate, dirty slut who never had sex."

First, that does not make any sense. How can I be a "slut" if I have never had sex? I've heard that, and similar complaints just because I write a sex column. The truth is, I can count how many guys I've been with on one hand, and as my editor once said,

"Nicole, you're practically a virgin."

Throughout my 20 years of living on this ever so lovely island, I have come to notice a huge problem that has been an issue even before I was born. Staten Islanders are at least, (and I stress at least), ten years behind everywhere else. Majority of the people on this island live in a prim and proper bubble, and if anyone pops this bubble, especially a girl, fingers are pointed and false accusations are made.

Over the past few months, I started to watch my dream unfold. My fears of what the future would bring once scared me away, and I made excuses for myself. I tried to suppress my talent, but my drive and ambition keep my dream alive.

I like to think that the reason I've been so "successful" when it comes to writing about relationships is that I still believe in love, and deep down, I believe we all do. Probably not as you stuff your face with some HoHo's due to a recent break up, but within the next calendar year. I haven't lost hope when it comes to meeting "Mr. Right" as I continue to write and daydream of the "perfect" guy sweeping me off of my feet. The truth is I haven't been in a "serious relationship" since I was sixteen years old, so certain issues are questionable. My family likes to tease me about the fact that I haven't brought a guy around to meet the family, so the

ongoing joke is, "Nicole, what's the deal, are you a switch hitter?" Let me set the record straight, I am not gay.

If dealing with my own peers judging me wasn't stressful enough, there is now another issue at hand: my extremely conservative parents. My mother managed to pick up an issue of the Banner at a doctor's office. How it got there is beyond me, but she felt the need to confront her daughter the "slut." There is nothing more embarrassing than having your mother lecture you about sex, reminding me every minute, "You're an embarrassment to the family!" My father didn't have much to say except, "You write about sex, who the hell is going to take you seriously when you look for a job?" My father obviously never heard of magazines such as Hustler, Maxim, Cosmopolitan, Playboy which all employ female writers. Oh, and I think my brother is still traumatized. Now, I could sensor myself because part of me doesn't want to give my parents heart attacks when they read about Precious, or how I lost my virginity. But, my other half is proud. I have a good head on my shoulders, and unlike people who choose majors and careers that guarantee them fancy cars and extensive houses, I'm taking a risk. I'm playing a game of Russian Roulette by following my heart instead of my pocket.

When I was asked to write the sex column for the Banner, I accepted right away, but felt slightly reluctant about my decision. My "bad advice" has dug a big enough hole for my own life, so did I really want to offer some "helpful hints", such as "Want to show him you care? Drive by his house late at night, and throw rocks at his window! Better yet, cry after sex. Men really love that!" The fact is my dating experiences seem to be a plus to people even though I have no idea what the hell I am doing. Oddly enough, every two weeks people seem to be come back for more. I appreciate those who have given me a chance.

I've been writing since I could hold a pen. Countless diaries that tell stories about how life used to be so simple, collect dust in my room. Writing about past crushes, petty fights, and family disfunctions is my form of venting. It's pretty much like free therapy. It beats smoking, right? But look to the person to your left, now to the person to your right, and while you are at it, take a good look at yourself. There is a 99.9% chance that everyone likes sex. Everyone is a little bit of a freak behind closed doors, but when those doors open, everyone wants to be preserved as The Virgin Mary. If I cared about what people thought of me, I would never leave my house.

No Doubt, Gwen Stefani Should Go Back

AnnMarie Costella



Yodeling has never been cool and neither has *The Sound of Music*, so surely a pop song that combines the two is a recipe for disaster, but somehow Gwen Stefani manages to make it work. The result is the wonderfully refreshing "Wind it Up," the debut single from her sophomore album, *The Sweet Escape*. Unfortunately, that's where most of the creativity ends. The album has a handful of catchy potential singles, but the bubbly, 80's retro, feel of her debut (*Love. Angel. Music. Baby.*) has been replaced by lyrics about motherhood and morning sickness.

The title track is a cheerful, saccharine-soaked, melody about love as Stefani croons: "If I could escape and recreate a place that's my own world and I could be your favorite girl (forever) perfectly together, tell me boy wouldn't that be sweet?"

The foot stomping "Now That You Got It" is a standout track and is sure to be the album's next single. Gwen chirps: "Now that I'm your baby, the things you promised me, now I want."

"Yummy" is oddly reminiscent of Kelis' "Milkshake" as Stefani sings: "I'm feeling yummy, head to toe." However, the lyrics take an odd turn when she injects: "I know you've been waiting but I've been off making babies and like a chef making donuts and pastries, it's time to make you sweat."

Stefani only took two years off between albums and *The Sweet Escape* seems rushed. "Orange County Girl," is lifeless tune and it's totally bland chorus. "I'm just an orange county girl living in an extraordinary world," only sinks it further. The irritating and repetitive vocals of "Brake It Up" will have you humming for some Advil. "Early Winter" blatantly rips off No Doubt's "Simple Kind of Life." The serious

inspired sample in "Don't Get it Twisted," was used recently and more successfully by The Black Eyed Peas on their track "Disco Club." Some critics have even accused Stefani of copying Ferg's signature brash, sexual, dead-pan vocal style for "Wind it Up."

Stefani may have succeeded in sexing up Julie Andrews and taking yodeling further into mainstream than Jewel ever could, but *The Sweet Escape* lacks charm and originality. Someone call the Harajuku girls.

Grade: C+



Gamers Club

By Dominic Fiducia

With the beginning of 2007 it's nice to look back at the year that was and select the top ten games of 2006. It's never easy to pick from so many games especially with 2006 being the year there were so many video game consoles with the debut of both the PlayStation 3 and the Nintendo Wii increasing the number of video game home consoles and handhelds to a total of nine. After taking careful look at what was released in 2006 these ten games were among the best of the best.

1. Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess (Nintendo)- Nintendo Wii, Nintendo GameCube (GCN)



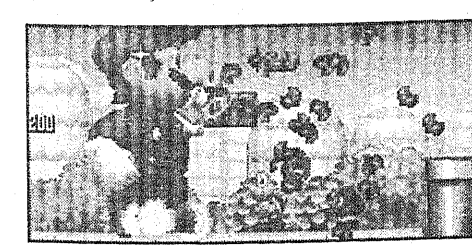
When a new Zelda is released it's never easy to find a game that's better than this Action-RPG series and this year is no different. This time Link has to save Hyrule by traveling between the realms of Hyrule and a place known as the Twilight Realm (where Link turns into a wolf). It's easily the best Wii launch title (it's also available for the GCN). Just remember when playing the Wii version you have to swing the controller now to use Link's sword and not the A button (believe me it takes a while to get used to that).

2. Gears of War (Microsoft)-Xbox 360



This third-person shooter is about humans who live on the planet of Sera who have to fight off an alien race known as the Locust. While the story isn't new what makes it different is that the level design is well made. Also the gameplay is easy to learn (even if the game isn't). Not to mention the on-line gameplay is great and the graphics in the game are superb. It's a must play for third-person shooter fans and it's easily the best game released on the Xbox 360 to date.

3. New Super Mario Bros. (Nintendo)- Nintendo DS



Mario returns to his roots in a new 2-D platformer. Many of the classic elements that made this series such a success have returned, including new power-ups like the Tiny Mushroom that makes Mario very small and the Mega Mushroom that makes Mario super-sized (although only temporarily). While much of this game isn't new, like the title suggests, it's still nice to be reminded why the Mario games are such a big hit in the first place.

4. Resistance: Fall of Man (Sony)- PlayStation 3



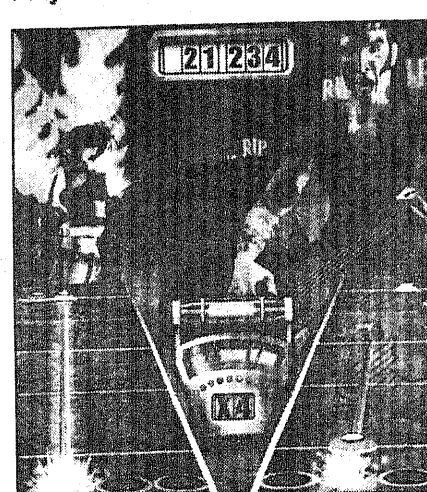
If there is one game that is worth the \$600 price for the PS3, it's this game about an alternate 1940's where mankind fights for survival against an alien invasion.

5. Okami (Capcom)-PlayStation 2



It's not easy to find a game that is both original and fun to play, but Okami is definitely that rare example of both. You are Amaterasu, a wolf who is also the Japanese Goddess of the Sun, who must save ancient Japan from darkness through the magic of brush strokes. It's the perfect game for anyone who wants to play something original.

6. Guitar Hero II (Harmonix)- PlayStation 2



Ever since the introduction of Dance Dance Revolution, music games have become a big hit with both gamers and non-gamers alike. With Guitar Hero II, the sequel to last year's hit game, you play not with a traditional video game controller, but with a special guitar controller as you play to become a rock music sensation. Not to mention living out your air guitar fantasies.

7. Bully (Rockstar Games)- PlayStation 2



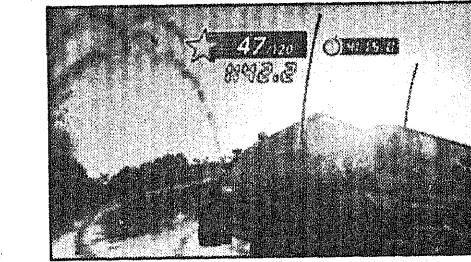
From the makers of the Grand Theft Auto series, you play as Jimmy, a new student who comes to Bullworth Academy, who soon finds himself having to defend himself against a group of school bullies. Despite what people may think of this game, it's not that controversial at all (especially when compared to the GTA series). The game has a very good storyline and gives you a sense of freedom by letting you become the school hero against the bullies or becoming one yourself.

8. Ultimate Ghosts n Goblins (Capcom)- PSP



In a remake of the classic 1986 NES game, Knight Arthur returns to save the Princess once again from the new Demon King. The Ghosts n Goblins series has always been known for its level of difficulty (which has earned a loyal fan following, but also a number of haters for the same reason). Despite how anyone feels about the series, it's nice to finally see a good 2-D PSP game.

9. Excite Truck (Nintendo)- Nintendo Wii



Zelda may be the must-have Wii launch game, but Excite Truck easily takes second place. Excite Truck is the spiritual sequel to the original NES launch title Excite Bike. In the game, winning style points is just as important as winning the races. Plus, it's a little scary that this game is so easy to just pick up and play.

10. Lego Star Wars II: The Original Trilogy (LucasArts)- PS2,GCN,Xbox,Xbox 360



The biggest sleeper hit of 2005 is back with a sequel and this time it's based on the original trilogy (you know, the good movies). Sadly, the game is very short (you'll finish it in about 5 hours). Still, you'll have fun during the time you play it and the real question still remains: Is Lego Batman next?

NEVER FORGET 9/11  
ALWAYS REMEMBER

24

Kevin S.P. Marmakas

A Nuclear Bomb erupted in LA on Monday night to end the two-night four-hour season premiere of "24". Like the fourth season, the villains in the sixth season are Islamic extremists. Two years ago, Muslim groups protested the show because it depicted Islamic people as terrorists. The Muslim groups fear that the audience will begin to believe that all Muslim-Americans are terrorists.

Media sources that cover the current Iraq war depict the majority of terrorists as Muslim. The groups believe that media coverage of the war will make it hard for members of the "24" audience to separate fiction from reality.

"24" is a heightened drama about anti-terrorism," the network said in an official statement two days following the premiere. "After five seasons, the audience clearly understands this, and realizes that any individual, family or group (ethnic or otherwise) that engages in violence is not meant to be typical. Over the past several seasons, the villains have included shadowy Anglo businessmen, Baltic Europeans, Germans, Russians, Islamic fundamentalists and even the (Anglo-American) president of the United States."

"24" is addictive because it shows the audience how terrorists work. In light of 9/11, even if the content is fictional, the subject matter has become fascinating to American people. This season, started with random terrorist attacks around the United States. It exposed how easy it could be for terrorists of any nationality to attack the country.

Whether intentional or not, the series addresses possible vulnerabilities and problems with the countries security. For instance, the TV terrorists used a suitcase nuke. Suitcase nukes were developed by the Soviet Union during the Cold War, and after the countries collapse some disappeared. The suitcases can easily be transported into the United States due to the lack of border security.

The show also addresses how in time of war, government officials take away the rights of American people by suspending habeas corpus and arresting people based on race.



# SPORTS

January 29, 2007

## Dolphins Split Tournament of Heroes

### Triumph over Nazareth College in Consolation Game

Matthew Cirelli

The CSI Men's Basketball team hosted the fifth annual Tournament of Heroes to honor former Dolphins players who were lost in the September 11 terrorist attacks. The team earned third place in the tournament played on December 29 and 30.

CSI rallied from a 19 point deficit in the opener against Rivier College when Ryan Hennessey's three pointer tied the game with four seconds left in regulation time. They went on to fall 84-74 in overtime. Robert Mesjaz then led the Dolphins to a 84-75 consolation round victory with 20 points.

In the tournament opener the Dolphins were plagued by foul trouble and sloppy play. They turned the ball over 25 times leading to 32 points for Rivier College. With just over twelve minutes remaining in regulation Rivier's Justin Parker slammed home a dunk, which put the Dolphins down 51 - 32 and appeared to be a momentum blow.

However led by Sean Weismuller's 18 points and Hennessey's 17, including a dramatic game tying 3 from the corner with four seconds remaining, CSI outscored Rivier 35 - 16 over the last twelve minutes and forced an overtime period. Gari Blackett also fueled the comeback with 19 rebounds, including 8 offensive boards. Ultimately, turnovers hurt the Dolphins in overtime as they went without a field goal until the 1:32 mark.

In the consolation match against Nazareth College the Dolphins again fell behind early. They trailed by as many as 11 in the second half, before they erupted for seven points in a 15 second span turning a three point deficit into a four point lead at 73 - 69. The scoring explosion began with a Robert Mesjaz layup after a missed free throw, followed by a Mike Jones steal and layup on the ensuing inbounds, and was capped as Mesjaz stole the next inbounds pass resulting in a three point play. The Dolphins only turned the ball over 14 times against Nazareth and held them to 35% shooting from the field including 0 for 9 from behind the arc in the second half.

"From a basketball standpoint, the goal of this tournament is to get ready for the CUNY season," Coach Tony Petosa said. "We did what we had to do today and we beat a good team."

CSI is now 5 - 5 including a 2 - 0



Dolphins player Robert Mesjaz helped the Dolphins beat Nazareth College in the Tournament of Heroes.

mark in conference play. Wheaton (Ill.), a nationally ranked team, won the tournament with a 60 - 44 victory over Rivier in

the championship after beating Nazareth in overtime during the first round.

The tournament has been held annu-

ally since 2001 honoring three former Dolphin basketball players whom were tragically killed during the attacks of September 11th. Before CSI's opening round game a tribute was made to the players, Terrance Aiken, Scott Davidson, and Tom Hannafin, as their retired jerseys hung high overlooking the basketball court.

Through the public address system the crowd of nearly 400, including friends and family of the former players, were reminded of the impact the players had on the Dolphin basketball program as well as their community. As Coach Tony Petosa stated, the object of the tournament is to "etch into eternity" the memory of, and "to pay tribute to not only three dear friends, but three loving fathers, sons, husbands, and brothers."

## FIVE YEARS LATER T.O.H. STILL SUCCESSFUL

Stephen Spagnoli

Back on January 26, 2002, the CSI basketball family paid homage to three extraordinary individuals - former Dolphins Terrance Aiken, Scott Davidson, and Tom Hannafin - who became our heroes when they gave their lives during the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. That night, those three individuals had their numbers retired during a halftime ceremony of a Dolphins regular season contest against the Baruch College Bearcats.

When Head Men's Basketball Coach Tony Petosa picked up the microphone at halftime that night and spoke of his former players, he had a vision to parlay that singular night into a two-day tournament to be played every year during the holiday season, appropriately named "The Tournament of Heroes." That vision has become a reality, and a success.

Petosa's goal prior to the inaugural Tournament of Heroes back in December of 2002 was to keep the event running for at least five years. He has succeeded in his effort to do so, as the fifth annual event was recently completed. When asked about how it made him feel to see the tournament get the exposure and respect it has over the years, Petosa praised the media for its treatment of the event, and of his program.

"The community and the media have always been good to me during my tenure here, and that is a good thing," Petosa said. "The more media coverage this event gets, the better."

Throughout the years, media outlets such as Time Warner Cable, The Staten Island Advance, and WSIA have all participated in covering the event. During the tournament's first year, CUNY Sports Jam, a weekly show dissecting the world of CUNY athletics, featured the event.

In addition to the media coverage, Petosa said that the families of the athletes have been very supportive of the event throughout its history, making it even more of a success.

"It is very important to be able to reflect on the lives of these three individuals," Petosa stated. "The families appreciate the fact that their loved ones are remembered with an event like this."

The jersey numbers of Aiken (13), Davidson (15), and

Hannafin (25) were the first ever to be retired in CSI basketball history. Every time Petosa sees the jersey cases on the upper concourse, he realizes how important the tournament is.

"This tournament was created for one special reason, to keep the memories of these three guys alive," Petosa said. "I learned from former coaches that maintaining a family atmosphere is important. The tournament helps us keep those ties within ourselves and the people who support us."

As far as the tournament competition is concerned, Petosa feels it is important for the Dolphins to compete against stiff competition in order for the team to be ready when conference games resume in January, and this year was no different.

"You want to compete to get better," the coach said. "I have always taken it upon myself to invite established teams into the tournament. It is good competition for us, and win or lose, I feel it makes us a better team."

The fifth annual Tournament of Heroes may have been the most exciting tournament of all time. On the event's first day, Wheaton College of Illinois rallied back from a 21-point deficit to defeat Nazareth College by a score of 94-89 in overtime. Later that night, CSI overcame a 19-point deficit to force overtime, but dropped their game to Rivier College, by a score of 84-74. The next day, the Dolphins redeemed themselves by downing Nazareth in the consolation game 84-75, while Wheaton College overmatched Rivier in the championship game, taking the contest 60-44. Petosa was happy his team rose up to the challenge that faced them after the opening round loss.

"It was definitely disappointing to drop that game to Rivier, because it was a game we could have won," Petosa said. "At the same time, we had to come back 15 hours later and play another game, and we were up for the challenge. I was proud of our ability to bounce back."

As far as the tournament's future is concerned, Petosa hopes it continues to be successful for years to come.

"I would like to see this tournament run as long as possible," he said. "Right now, I'd say lets start with another five years. Eventually, I would like to be able to do something even bigger."