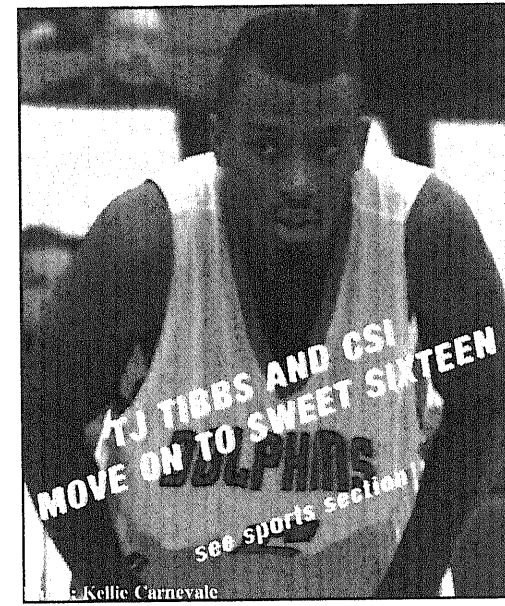


Official Newspaper of the College of Staten Island



## The Chaotic World of NYPIRG

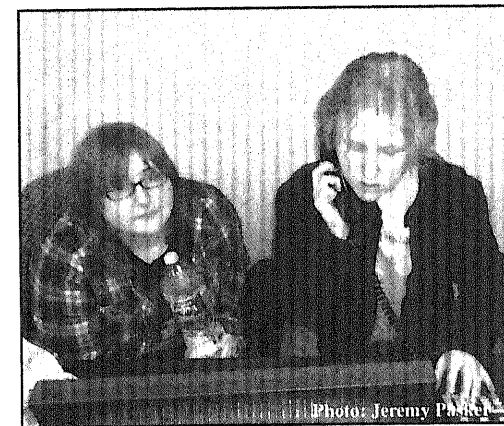
*On the Road to Albany, Organization is Key*

BY JEREMY PASKER

Tuition is going up. Once again, it's time to protest. Why is this article different from all the other articles about tuition increases and protests in Albany? This time, more students than ever are pissed off. So pissed off, that they're joining CSI's chapter of the New York Public Interest Research Group, and heading to Albany.

The Green Dolphin Lounge was chilly. The students who showed, displayed dedication and resolve. It was going to take more than a temper tantrum from nature to dampen their spirits.

Despite those obstacles, CSI students awaited the start of N.Y.P.I.R.G.'s Student Action Meeting. After mentioning of the organizations name over the microphone, a crowd of over 35 erupted into raucous shouts and applause.



Stephanie Parathyras, right, NYPIRG's environmental section leader, hard at work phone banking and recruiting participants for a student action meeting.

Continued on page 4

## CSI Protest Stopped by Paranoid Public Safety

*Those Uniformed Dudes on Bikes and Segues Keep America Safe*



Autonomous Students United members, led by Toyin Oladiran (third from right) gathered outside the Dolphin Lounge after protesting the increase in CUNY tuition. Public Safety may have freaked out, but ASU kept their cool.

BY DAEYUNG LEE

The protest scheduled on Thursday, March 1st went unnoticed to most CSI students. A team of Public Safety Guards surrounded ASU and kept a watchful eye on the small band of protesters.

Autonomous Students United, ASU, is a newly chartered club with multiple connections to the well-established NYPIRG. Rather than formal protesting, ASU demands attention using Mic Checks, Drums, and

Dancing.

These techniques failed to attract attention when ASU found themselves moved from the fountains near building 1P by on duty Public Safety guards who told them they were unable to stand there.

According to Toyin Oladiran, President of ASU, the Head of Campus Security called her over to tell her to stop her protest.

"He basically called me over and said, 'Time, Place, and Manner'" Oladiran said. "I

knew things were going to turn for the worst when I heard one of them on a bike whispering into their walkie-talkie. "They have just entered the building."

On their way down to 1C, ASU chanted and banged on their drums, inspiring Public Safety to follow them down to the building. Public Safety did not enter the building but did direct attention to Jesse Franklin, an ASU member who lit up a cigarette on the way to the building.

Continued on page 4

## Pathways Leads To A Lawsuit

### Senate to Challenge CUNY Initiative

BY MIKE PAPANDREA

CSI and the City University of New York Senate will file a lawsuit against the Board of Trustees for their actions in pushing the Pathways Initiative through CUNY's bureaucracy, said Barbara Bowen, Professor of English at Queens College and the CUNY Graduate Center.

Bowen discussed several critical points of the Pathways Program's flaws at CSI on February 23rd. Bowen particularly questioned the plan to drop core credits from 59 to a dismal

42, which proved to be a major concern amongst CSI's faculty.

The Pathways initiative is a CUNY proposal that unifies the curriculum across all CUNY Colleges.

The project boasts simplicity for transfer students, allowing them to hold onto more of their credits as opposed to losing them in transit. Based on the Senate and Faculty meeting, Pathways is raising more problems than it solves.

"Pathways will diminish our education," Bowen said. "Two of the main reasons why Pathways has not been able to come to terms with the people is that the process by which it was passed was skipped by the board and secondly, it fails to bring rigor to the curriculum."

Continued on page 4



Professor Barbara Bowen announced at a CSI CUNY Senate meeting that the Senate would be filing a lawsuit against the Board of Trustees over Pathways.



*Def Jam Poet Slams at CSI*

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*Student Government President Does it All*

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*Baseball Returns From Opening Trip, 1-3*

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## Conspiracy in the American Mindset

BY M. MILEY

I have written about conspiracy and paranoia in the American body politic in the past, it was even the basis of my thesis paper. I would not consider myself an exact expert in the subject, since there is a danger to studying and immersing yourself in the conspiracist mindset that could possibly drive one,

(the infamous "They" as I like to refer to them) are afraid of him and their knowledge of what is "really going on."

This then causes a reinforcement loop of sticking even closer to the beliefs that were rejected at the polls the first time, causing the new candidate to loose, which in turn leads to sticking closer to beliefs, lead-

*"There is a danger to studying and immersing yourself in the conspiracist mindset that could possibly drive one, well into insanity."*

well into insanity.

I spent nine months researching my thesis paper and this was a few years back when a plane carrying the Polish President and a few other high ranking Polish officials crashed in Western Russia, my mind went directly to wondering if Vladimir Putin was responsible, though I had no direct reason to think this. Thankfully I was able to recognize what I was doing and shake that line of

ing to... well you can see where this is going. This thinking is actually much related to a fundamental concept behind fascism. This idea, to quote my favorite Italian intellectual of the last 30 years Umberto Eco, "By a continuous shifting of rhetorical focus, the enemies are at the same time too strong and too weak."

This idea is shown perfectly well with in the modern Republican base where one

*"Conspiracy thinking is an alternate world view with its own logic and historiography that is well alien to a rationalist, or at the very least an empirical world view."*

thought. It is important to realize how seductive conspiracist thinking is.

Conspiracy thinking is an alternate world view with its own logic and historiography, that is well alien to a rationalist, or at the very least an empirical world view.

This is something that people overlook when discussing conspiracists in American politics, especially the brand of far Right paranoia that has overcome the Republican base in the forty some odd years since Barry Goldwater. I recall a conversation I had with a Center-Right conservative where he said when the extremists loose the elections they will come to their sense and move to the center. Frankly he is wrong about that statement, since the paranoid world view is a self-reinforcing world view, there is no evidence that

moment they will accuse President Obama of being a forceful tyrant bent on destroying America and then the next will insist he is an incompetent buffoon incapable of taking on America's problems. This is what makes dealing with or compromising with the far Right a non-option. A compromise is group A gives up a position to get group B onboard, what people often forget is that group B also gives something up so that both sides come close to achieving something they want, tit for tat if you will.

The problem is you cannot compromise with a conspiracist, or a fascist, since the thinking is similar, though while not all conspiracists are fascists, all fascists are conspiracists. They can't be compromised with since their very understanding of the world

*"The problem is you cannot compromise with a conspiracist, or a fascist, since the thinking is similar."*

can convince someone that there isn't a conspiracy, since any counter information to that is false information made up by the conspiracy, its circular logic with in circular logic with in circular logic ad infinitum. Meaning that far Right wing candidate X loses an election because of his crazy beliefs, his base supporters then see this as proof that "They,"

is flawed, and does not conform to how the world actually is and you cannot meet someone half way if they are living in, well a different reality from you. Let along the fact that many conservatives see compromise as solely the Democrats giving something up and Republicans getting their way. This is the true problem in American politics today,



Top: Republican presidential candidate, Mitt Romney, assailed Mr. Obama's foreign policy as ineffective and weak. Bottom: In a news conference on March 6th, President Obama defended his efforts to deal with Iran's nuclear program.

not that the parties don't want to work together, but that they fundamentally can't, since one is attempting to live in an empirical world and another one in fantasy land. Conspiracy has always existed in American politics, but it is only recently that it has come to take center stage and I have no easy solutions to this problem. A solution to this

involves the media actually growing a spine and calling bullshit when bullshit is spewed instead of treating it with a "ho-hum the truth must be in the middle" approach that our so called "liberally biased" media currently takes. It's not the only solution, but that one would go quite far in remedying the problem.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: "NYPIRG Plans Tuition Protest at Albany"

I really like this article about the tuition protest because college students usually don't have enough money to pay for college. Also that when you higher the tuition by \$300 a year, it makes it so much more difficult for students who don't have financial aid to pay their tuition, especially if they don't have a job which can help them pay this increase every semester.

Christina Gobrial,  
Senior  
Re: "NYPIRG Plans Tuition Protest at Albany"

It's good to know that students are protesting the raise in tuition. It's already really expensive and all loans do is delay payment and cause debt. People are just trying to learn. It shouldn't be so expensive.

Geoffrey Heath,  
Senior

Re: "CSI Students Pull for Paul"

I find it very interesting to see that students are getting so involved in the Presidential candidacy and are even campaigning. I think it's great that they are so involved.

Nicole,  
Junior

Re: "CSI Marketing Association Meets With Viacom Executives"

I thought this article was very interesting because after I graduate with my B.A. in English next semester, I plan on getting a B.S. in business marketing. I didn't know CSI had a marketing association. The visit to Viacom seems like a great opportunity and I hope to join the club when I start on my business track.

Rachael Weiner,  
Senior

Re: "Oscars Red Carpet Fashion Predictions Revealed"

I really enjoyed the article and pictures. I love seeing the stars and what they wear at awards shows. I thought Nicole did a great job with the photos.

Jessica,  
Junior

Re: "2012 Spring Fashion"

I found the article "2012 Spring Fashion" by Nicole Pagano to be very interesting. The article was very informative regarding spring fashion. The article talked about old fashion trends making their way back onto the runway. Fashion always repeats itself and Pagano expressed that in her article. One of my favorite trends right now is color blocking. "Color blocking is the layering of different colors and prints. It is safe to say that this trend is here to stay for a while," said Pagano. I enjoyed the article and look forward to reading more of her articles in The Banner.

Natasha Kinz,  
Junior

Re: "Martin Luther King Jr. Day Kicks Off at CSI"

I like this article because it's remembering the life and legacy of Dr. King. Many people, especially younger people, tend to forget our history and some may not even care. So having an article like this can bring back the importance of our history.

Caroline Panga

Re: "Have the Right Skills to Pay Your Bills"

The most stressful part about college is finding a job. I appreciate Stephen Klein for this article. I feel as if CSI is providing us with the necessities that are needed to be able to have a job that you actually enjoy. Although I'm a junior, it's about time to start worrying about careers. Now, I know where to go and how to prepare. Thank you.

Re: "CSI's New Club Fights for Free Education"

Talk about information! The article by Daeyung was fantastic. I loved the fact that CSI students are gathering together and fighting for education. Since this is my last semester, the changes won't affect me, but it's great to know that students are taking their education seriously. Jobs want people with education, but if school officials are making it difficult, then we will see riots like in Spain.

Sharon Cruz,  
Senior

Re: "My Boyfriend's Best Friend"

I found this article to be very interesting because I find myself arguing with friends and family can we be friends with people of the opposite sex? I have a boyfriend of three years and he has his best friend who is a girl and I have best friends that are guys. I feel like you have to have a lot of confidence in yourself and your relationship in order for it to work. Otherwise, you'll have constant fighting and tension that will cause your relationship to fail. If you doubt that your boyfriend's best friend may have feelings for your partner, you have to think realistic. If they like your partner, they would have made a move by now.

Ariana Induddi,  
Junior

Re: "Have the Right Skills to Pay Your Bills"

One of the good things of being at CSI is that the school really takes care of the students. Finding a job isn't always as easy as I would imagine, especially with the job rate so low. The people who work at the Career and Scholarship Center are extremely helpful and friendly. I remember going there last semester in hopes of finding a job. I recommend any student looking for a job involving their major should definitely go to the Career and Scholarship Center.

Sarah Aladhamy,  
Junior

Re: "Have the Right Skills to Pay Your Bills"

I enjoyed this article because it's no longer enough to get a college degree and find a fulfilling well-paying job. More college students need to understand that a degree is so common these days that they need something else like skill or experience to go with it. Thank you for providing the contact information to the Career and Scholarship Center.

Amanda Granberg,  
Junior

Re: "Dolphins Roll on Senior Night"

I thought it was a great way to acknowledge all the hard work and effort these gentlemen put in. Not only were they honored on senior night, but now, they will have this article they can always look back at.

Michael DeMarco,  
Senior

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
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Members of ASU drum & chant as they try to engage students in the Dolphin Lounge on the issue of tuition increases on March 1.

**"ASU Protest Cut Short by Public Safety,"**  
Continued from the front page

Upon questioning Public Safety on their role in shutting down ASU's peaceful protest, no comment was given. No comments were given even as Public Safety was asked for their procedure in dealing with protests. They directed ques-

edly chanted along with ASU members Franklin and Maurice Miller while others scorned the club as noise makers and "NYPIRG clones." Upon leaving IC, ASU accepted defeat for their walk-out and sat in a huddle refusing to give up on their mission.

**"It's a good cause, but they're too disorganized. Some people don't even like each other and aren't willing to work together," Miller said.**

Right now, we are going to head back to our club office and plan for our next event," said Melinda Yaeko. The Club members were forced to relocate their protest to other areas of the Campus. At 2:01 PM, ASU Safety and Campus Security entered IC but their chants to the Head of Security who's name they refused to give out to The Banner. Frustration ran high as the Club members were forced to relocate their protest to other areas of the Campus. At 2:01 PM, ASU Safety and Campus Security entered IC but their chants to the Head of Security who's name they refused to give out to The Banner. Frustration ran high as the Club members were forced to relocate their protest to other areas of the Campus. At 2:01 PM, ASU Safety and Campus Security entered IC but their chants to the Head of Security who's name they refused to give out to The Banner.

**"The Chaotic World of NYPIRG,"**  
Continued from the front page

A major issue for attendees was rising tuition costs. "Raising tuition defeats the purpose of a public education," Jessica De Luca said.

The gathering was more of a recruitment function than an action meeting. The Theme of the meeting emphasised a mission to create an active, aware, and goal oriented student body.

Keynote Speaker, Ben DeAngelis, introduced himself as a state traveler, liaising the different campus NYPIRG groups. He encouraged NYPIRG's expansion because of its history of covering an assortment of activist issues from the environment to better government to consumer advocacy, even the homeless. Allowing it's members the ability to run any campaign of their choosing, either political or social.

"Social change doesn't happen

organically," DeAngelis said. "It changes because people make it change, not by accident, but with calculated concerted efforts across vast organizational fronts."

The real action happened during the day when between class changes NYPIRG members could be seen handing out literature on current issues. Or in the morning when they could be seen "rapping" before the start of classes.

Andrew Oppenheimer, coordinator of CSI's NYPIRG chapter, uses rapping as term for speaking to students and informing them of their rights and responsibilities as the future movers of America.

Inside 218 in IC, an office the size of a closet, there are papers in disarray, textbooks, folders and other files in piles engulfing tables, jars of peanut butter & jelly left over from their last 'peanut butter and jelly jam' meant to feed the homeless, damaged furniture propped up by books and boxes.

"Whenever we clean it's gets like this [messy] the next day," Oppenheimer said.

Adding to the charm are slogans of 'social change' and 'get out and vote' posters draped across four walls combined with laughter and existential conversation echoing from within. That all combines for a cordial fun-loving environment, even-though the outward appearance seems messy and chaotic.

There are no incentives to participate and when money is scant, all that motivates NYPIRG members is knowing they could make a difference.

Oppenheimer thinks it's better to have an organization powered by the integrity of its students than by money.

"Enthusiastic students get things done," Oppenheimer said. Late at night on campus while soliciting participants for a future NYPIRG event callers dealt with, on countless occasions, rejection, avoid-

ance and dismissal by individuals who voluntarily gave their numbers, but now were too busy to acknowledge them. Some rejection calls were funnier than others.

"It's so awkward to talk to people when they're like I quit school," Alex Cannavo said.

I got a sense of how impassioned students at CSI can get if given a voice. NYPIRG is entirely run by students; there is a board of directors that conference twice a year about organizational policy change.

An active board member for NYPIRG Kevin Brijlall loves how NYPIRG is "actually run by students" and counts their action toward change, compared to other campus groups, as his favorite quality.

"We are not [wussies], we're activists," is CSI NYPIRG's mantra. Which will serve them well when NYPIRG attends Lobby Day Wednesday March 14th.

from a window inside the cafeteria.

Pressure built up amongst members of ASU in the aftermath of their shut down protest resulting in Miller's retirement from the club.

"It's Bull[expletive], I'm with their cause, it's a good cause, but they're too disorganized and some peo-

ple don't even like each other and aren't willing to work together," Miller said. "That's it, I'm done," he added as a farewell to ASU.

Despite ASU's failed attempt, the club is determined to rebound and continue fighting for free tuition against the proposed tuition hikes.



Stephanie Parathyas, NYPIRG's environmental section leader, set up a section in order to entice traffic to her field of expertise at an event on February 29th.

**"Pathways Leads to a Lawsuit,"**  
Continued from the front page

Cutting foreign language and writing requirements will prevent CSI students from competing at the graduate level, as most graduate schools require a lot more reading and writing credits.

Other problems with Pathways were quickly pointed out by representatives from several departments.

The English Department raised concerns over the loss of the required 4 hours needed for Freshman English Composition classes while the Sciences Department raised dissent towards the plan to eliminate lab credits for science classes, and the Foreign Languages Department seethed over the proposition

to abolish the need for foreign language.

"I will say that the student response from CSI was excellent, most kids want to do less work to graduate earlier. I am proud of the Student Government in opposing the initiative to promote the importance of education," said Drama and History Professor, George Sanchez. Bowen also mentioned that the Student Government acknowledged Pathways' watering down of the curriculum. She offered her support for the CSI students who would rather prefer to take more credits than the proposed Pathways plan is suggesting.

Chairman for Student Academics, Meagan Derbyshire, was responsible for the CUNY Senate heralded Student



Members of Student Government listen to speeches by CUNY Senate members at a meeting on February 23rd.

Government Pathways Proposal that revised the Initiative to a more respectable academic level.

"We can't sacrifice academics for convenience and we won't," Derbyshire added. Her secretary, Gabriella Leone also shared her defiance of the Pathways Program urging that, "Pathways will diminish our education."

On March 8th, a meeting will be held that will answer all questions in regards to the Pathways program. All CUNY Senators urged all concerned individuals to attend the meeting to accumulate as much information on the initiative as possible. With such a unified collection of outraged people, it will be no easy task for Pathways to pass this bill.

**Student Government President**  
**Does it All**  
For Kevin Storberg, Life is a Balancing Act

BY NICOLE PAGANO

Walking into The Banner office after knocking on the door in a sort of musical note, Kevin Storberg, CSI's Student government President, introduced himself with a smile.

"Sorry for being late," he said. "I got stuck at work."

As we sat down on the couch and began to talk, it was easy to see that Storberg is a busy guy. One of the first things he had to say about being Student Government President is that he has a passion for what he does.

For someone who was first asked to run for Student Government President, Kevin Storberg is making an impact while juggling a triple major of political science, mathematics and economics, while still maintaining a full time job and social life.

Storberg has always had a yen for politics. As an avid supporter of Ron Paul, he went door to door campaigning for him in Iowa this past January. He is also one of the founders of the Staten Island Libertarian Party, serving as the fundraising director.

Storberg enjoys being part of the Student Government, but as its president, he admits it's a lot of work.

"I'm not going to run again," said Storberg. "I really need to focus on school next year."

As a triple major, Storberg says he won't deny that it is difficult balancing it all.

"I find ways to keep up with my classes even though it's a lot of work," said Storberg. "I will tutor someone in English, in return for them to tutor me in calculus."

Storberg, who works at Ameriprise Financial, likes to train in mixed martial arts and jujitsu in his spare time. He is also an avid traveler who enjoys camping and is even planning on traveling cross-country this summer with some friends.

Besides being a part of the Student Government, Storberg is also a member of the Alpha Phi Delta Fraternity.

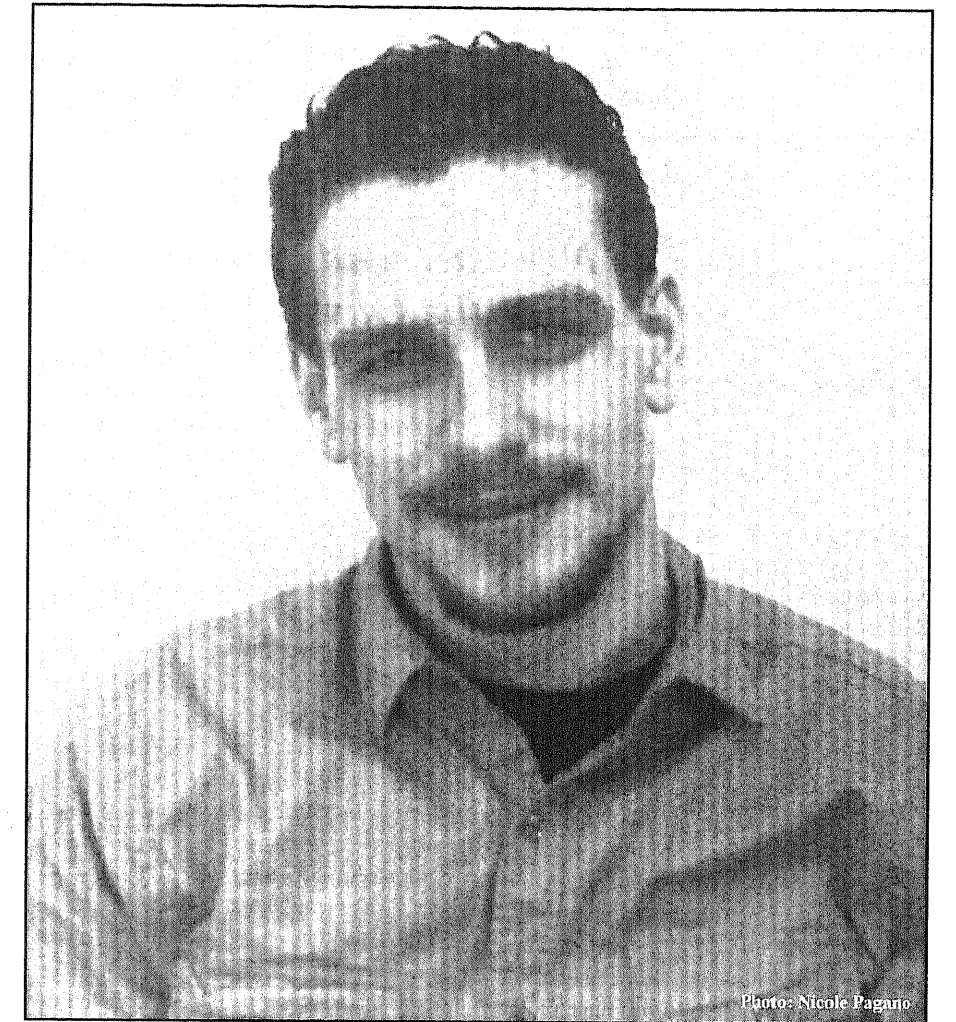
Donnie Hudec, Coordinator of the Student Government at CSI, he works closely with Storberg overseeing the changes that Student Government makes.

"In the over-a-decade that I've been advising student governments, Kevin Storberg has proven to be one of the most dynamic and selfless presidents I have ever had the privilege of working with," said Hudec. "He has shown on numerous occasions that he absolutely has the CSI students' best interest at heart."

Storberg works hard with the Student Government to accomplish goals for CSI and it's students, right now their main goal is to get the MTA on campus.

According to Storberg, he never takes sole credit for anything the Student Government does.

"It's not necessarily what I'm doing," said Storberg. "We all work very hard together, I



Student Government President Kevin Storberg balances a triple major, job and social life, all while trying to make a difference for the students of CSI.

would just say I'm the main overseer."

Although Storberg has showed an interest in campus politics, he won't be pursuing a career in politics once he graduates. Instead, he

decided he wants to be a Professor of developmental economics.

"No way would I run for office," said Storberg almost laughing. "I would piss off everyone."

**Tunnel of Oppression Develops Deep Thoughts Among CSI Students**

BY ROSS TERELLE

Recognizing the need to deal with discrimination on campus, On February 23rd, CSI, held its sixth Tunnel of Oppression.

"The event reflects on how people experience oppression," said Salvador Mena, the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs.

According to Winnie Brophy, Special Programs Assistant with the Centre for International Service, Attendance this year was about seventy-five, a slight decrease from last year.

The participants broke up into small groups to complete a four-part programme that lasted about an hour. In the first activity students walked through a dark tunnel with images ranging from white supremacy (KKK, neo-Nazis) to anti-gay/lesbian slurs (with nooses for those who support gay marriage) to anti-Muslim hatred and the banning of mosques (a reference to NYC). The unpleasant cries of men, women and children were audible throughout.

For the second activity facilitators placed labels on the students' backs and, in pairs, students had to guess what they said. When you hear cheerleader, "you think male," said one participant. His label said, "male cheerleader." Another student had a label on her back that

said, "NASCAR driver," and she admitted, "I think of men" when the topic comes up. The most striking example was that of a "disabled mountain climber." "I thought of him in just like a wheelchair," said the student with that label.

"A disability can be hidden, but sometimes, when it's visible, we tend to judge," said



Students participated in the Tunnel of Oppression, a workshop designed to reduce stereotyping in society at CSI on February 23.

Melissa Brown, the facilitator for this segment. She talked about a student with learning and physical disability that had attended earlier that day.

"When people see me," he told her, "they automatically think I'm retarded."

"Our goal is to use these activities to get people to break out of stereotypes," Brown

lazy and problematic.

One woman said, "If I have kids I hope they have brown-eyes."

"Well, you will know what to do when it's time to choose a mate," said the instructor, telling her she should marry only a brown-eyed man. The message was clear: blue-eyed people were inferior.

In the final activity, CSI students had a discussion, but focused mostly on the discrimination of blue-eyed people. Immediately they identified eye colour as a metaphor for race, gender, sexual orientation, disability or other social divider used to oppress people.

"No matter how right they were [blue-eyed people], there was no way they'd be allowed to be right," said a male participant. "It was a catch-22."

Then a CSI facilitator asked who would have helped a blue-eyed person. As a student pointed out, no one in the film helped the oppressed

group. They began to look into their own lives and discuss why. One student said he had quit his baseball team in protest when the coach had only allowed certain members to play.

A different person said he had heard a neighbour assaulting a woman, wanted to assist but was afraid for his own safety, the guy was twice his size. Another person discussed many white Americans had refused to speak out for African American rights in the south, saying maybe they had feared for their safety.

"It's easy to be like I would do this that and the third," said Kandas. "But when it [discrimination] happens, you don't know what you're gonna do. You could freeze up."

# BANNER STYLES

## Men's Spring Fashion The Newest Trends, Just For the Guys

BY NICOLE PAGANO

Each year, men's fashion becomes bigger and bigger. It may not ever out do the ladies, but it is coming in a quick second.

Men's Fashion Week proves to be a huge success every year, and every year Fashion Week adds more male models to the lineup. So why not have a piece that solely focus on fashion for the guys?

So many trends this spring season proved to have a positive reaction, some older and some brand-new.

While vests were in last season, blazers are in this season. They can be dressy and casual and come in a wide variety of colors and textures. Want to mix it up? Try white, one of spring's biggest new colors for men.

This season military style is in, double-breasted blazers, leather patched jackets, pants and boots. This style was huge on the Tommy Hilfiger runway. Another style that Hilfiger is most well known for is the preppy style. He's the man that made the polo shirt pop and made the nautical look okay for not just sailors.

Jungle fever is a huge trend this spring; Michael Kors took inspiration from camouflage colors and bright oranges and used them on cargo jackets and pants. Texture is also big this season, mixing and matching of

different materials. Leathers, wools and silks were all a part of Kors' collection.

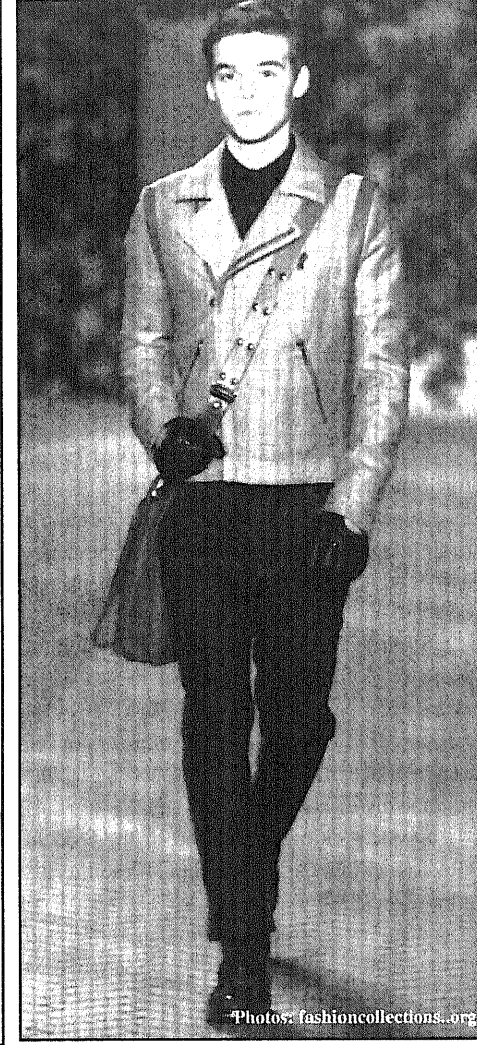
For a guy that's not so high fashion, Target collaborates with all different kinds of designers to make fashionable clothes affordable.

Mossimo and Merona are just two of the designers creating their just for Target lines. Casual button downs, Henley's, dress shirts, V-necks and polo's are just some shirt designs available.

Converse is one of the newer lines collaborating with Target. Their just for Target collection includes, flannel button downs, jeans, woven sweaters, cargo pants and even leather pilot jackets.

As always jeans are also a huge must for all guys, but this season lets add in some color, shall we? Sand blasted colors in desert orange or red, neon's also proved to be a big showstopper on the runway. Levi's is always the go to designer when it comes to jeans and this season they are big on the desert colors. Tight skinny jeans aren't so much in anymore as to perfectly fitted jeans.

It's all about feeling comfortable in what you like to wear, whether it is an outfit from Target, Macy's or a high fashion designer. Style is what you make of it.



Left: Michael Kors took inspiration from the jungle for his men's line this season, bright yellows and oranges and cargo shorts were huge on his runway. Right: Tommy Hilfiger mixed up his preppy look this season and added in military style with double breasted blazers and boots.

## Living a Top Notch Lifestyle

### CSI Student Learns to Control Her Shopping Addiction

BY RACHAEL WEINER

Living life as a compulsive shopaholic is even easier when you're not earning all of the money that you're spending.

Christina Gobrial, 21, is currently unemployed, yet demands all of the newest accessories and constantly pampers herself.

Gobrial is infatuated with the Macy's department store. Going to Macy's gives her the option of finding the newest products that she will fall in love with.

"Shopping is my life," Gobrial said. "It makes me who I am."

Since she is a college student, she doesn't have time to work. Her main priority is school, but her favorite past time is shopping. This shopping addiction is nothing new to her. Gobrial has been this way since she was a young child. Her parents often give her money to supply her "shopping needs."

They are usually displeased with the amount that she spends. She currently is in the process of returning a jacket that she purchased. Her father hated it and demanded that she returned it.

At the moment, she does not own any credit cards in her name, since she does not trust herself with them. By not owning any credit cards, she is able to control herself from furthering her excessive shopping habits. A store credit card is especially dangerous for a girl with an addiction like Gobrial's.

"I would probably abuse it," she said



Christina Gobrial, 21, a CSI Senior, lives her daily life as a shopaholic. Once or twice a month, she goes on a shopping spree at Macy's. She controls her money by not owning a credit card.

when asked how she would react if she was automatically approved for a Macy's credit card.

She loves many clothing brands, including, Calvin Klein, Ralph Lauren, Tommy

Hilfiger, and INC. According to Gobrial, she feels a strong sense of euphoria whenever she enters Macy's for her monthly shopping spree.

Gobrial has over 15 different purses and

shoes. She goes on the hunt for her favorite size 8 shoes in the Macy's shoe department. Her purses range from different designers, shapes, sizes, and colors. You can usually spot her strolling through campus with her Ralph Lauren school bag. She also has a large collection of jewelry. She wears a different piece everyday. One of her most worn pieces includes a silver ring and a beaded necklace.

Not only is she a frequent Macy's shopper, but also she is very friendly with one of the workers there. One of her friends has begun employment there a few months ago. Unfortunately, Gobrial's friend Christine is unable to supply a discount for her.

For the most part, Gobrial shops only when there is a sale going on. When she receives coupons via email or snail mail, she rushes to the mall to redeem them. If there is a sale going on, or she has coupons, she is able to purchase more for her money.

She loves to shop for clothing and accessories, but she also indulges in getting her nails, make-up and hair done. She gets her nails done every two weeks, usually a light pink ("girly") color. Her make-up is always a light shade of sparkly pink eye shadow, just enough to make her eyes twinkle when she speaks of fashion.

Whether it's clothing, shoes, purses or makeup; she likes to spoil herself. "I need the newest model of shoes. If I don't get it right away, I'll obsess over it."

# BANNER ARTS

## Poetry Slam Features Famous Def Jam Poet Carlos Andres Gomez Makes CSI Debut

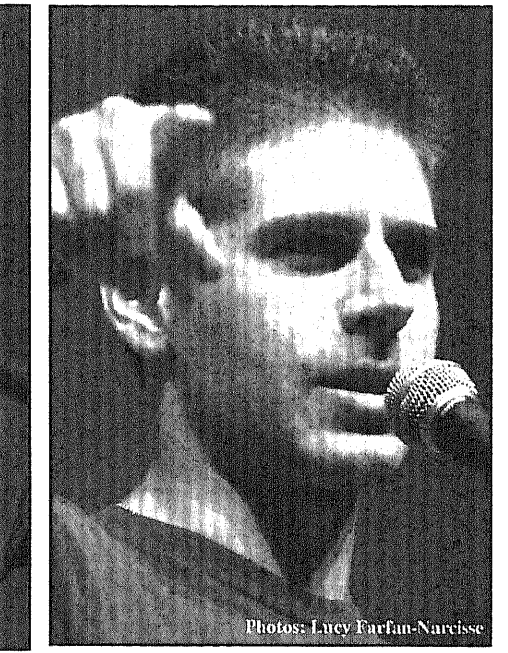
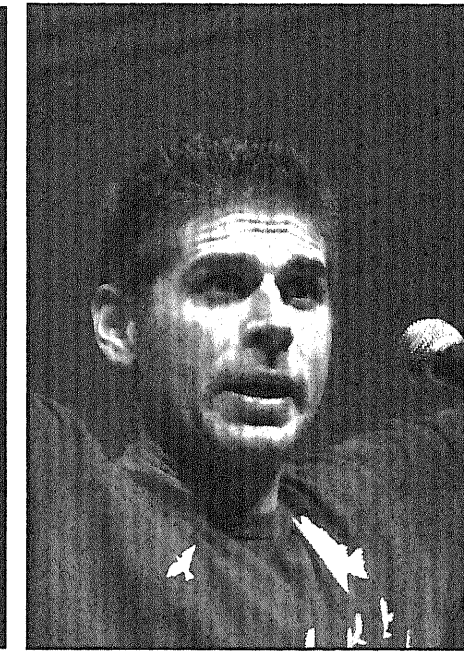
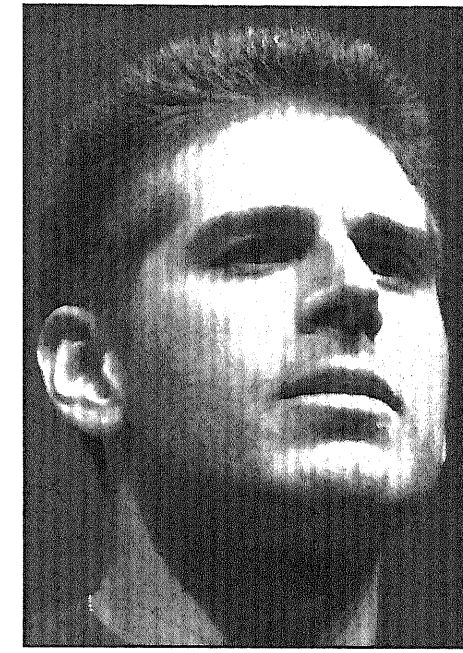
BY MIKE PAPANDREA

Native New York poet, Carlos Andres Gomez, made his first trip to Staten Island on March 1st when he performed a poetry slam at CSI.

The 30 year old is a Russel Simmons HBO Def Jam Poet and is described as "raw and intense...a rebel Don Juan with a sensitive edge," according to Underrated Magazine. His words bring attention to often ignored social issues that he has come face to face with in his lifetime. Times like his trip to Rwanda and the days when he taught creative writing at a Manhattan high school were stepping stones for poems that he would go on to create. Poems of which are based off the belief that everyone is distinctly beautiful.

"Our children can't hear the truth at school if a person says fuck. Can't even talk about fuck even though a third of their senior class is pregnant." This hard hitting line is just the opening line to his poem "What's Genocide?" A poem in which he goes on to list other examples of things we can and can't do that are hurting our society. Important figures that are not taught to the youth like Che Guevara and Phillis Wheatley. The poem ends when a student of his asks him what genocide is to which he responds "This. This right here is genocide." The audience gave him a big round of applause as they were touched by how serious and genuine the poem was. Although his content is filled with sensitive issues, he still finds the where with all to be the most upbeat person in the room.

When he took the stage he took it with a smile and began to ask the audience questions.



Carlos Andres Gomez, a 30 year old Russel Simmons HBO Def Jam Poet performed a poetry slam at CSI on March 1st.

Questions like "What kind of poems do you want to hear tonight?" This type of interaction was constant throughout the show, and, although hesitant to answer, the audience satisfied him with their responses. He asked questions about random topics like dancing, gay marriage, pet peeves, and even asked if we thought that we didn't fit the look of our name. One of the older audience members even had a mini conversation about why he doesn't like his name because it doesn't fit his personality and look. This type of interaction almost broke the barriers of performer and spectator, as most of

the people in the room spoke with Carlos.

The upbeat personality of Carlos and his deep empowering messages in his poems probably should not have mixed together as well as it did. He was able to make the audience laugh with the stories that he told in between poems. He also showed his soft side by saying "This is for all the people that are in love or wanna be in love. I fall in love every day." The audience gave him the same type of "awe" you hear in your favorite TV sitcom.

Every line of every poem is structured together with great detail. With lines that cover

the smallest and biggest themes that make you wonder how he ever thought of it. Lines like "You are the first note in Beethoven's head when he wrote his 9th Symphony." Carlos can find inspiration and beauty in many things. And he has 3 simple tips that can help you become a better writer yourself.

"Here are the three most important things. One, don't be afraid to write something that is crap. Two, get in the habit of writing everyday so that you can improve and get more confident in your work. And three, try to figure out what is the one thing you wanna tell people. What is most important to you that you have to say."

## The Turtles Perform at CSI CFA Presents Flo and Eddie

BY LUCIA ROSSI

CSI had the privilege of having the famous band, "The Turtles" play their most remembered songs on February 25th in the Spring Concert Hall.

Entering the Concert Hall I realized two things. The first being that this band had so many dedicated fans, including my father who accompanied me. The second, I was definitely the youngest person in the room. Howard Kaylan and Mark Volman decided a great way to make their entrance would be to play Lady Gaga's "Bad Romance" and dance onto the stage wearing white wigs. They joked at how surprised they were that this was the type of music that is popular today.

People in our generation may not recognize them by name, but when people hear the lyrics, "I can't see me loving nobody but you for all my life," that's when realization sets in.

The Turtles first formed in 1964 by their headliners Howard Kalyan (Eddie) and Mark Volman (Flo) and were known for popularizing the work of Bob Dylan and of course their hit songs, "You Baby" and, "Happy Together." They opened for U2 and have performed for President Richard Nixon in the White House. They were considered the earliest form of rock

music for Americans and considered to be like The Beatles. Despite their age, they still enjoy performing as if it were the 60's and 70's again.

Howard wore a black top hat, black blazer, a yellow buttoned shirt, black slacks, and bright yellow sketchers. Mark let out his big dark curly hair and wore a casual burgundy button down shirt with jeans.

They started out with a Bob Dylan cover of "It Ain't Me Babe," to show the songs they played in high school. They progressed by playing a song of a whole other genre to show their variety, this was Reggae. You could tell when they played songs like the "Pied Piper" the audience could not help themselves but reminisce and feel such nostalgia.

Howard and Mark told the audience the story of why they became Flo and Eddie. Their record label was stealing money and they were suing them in a lawsuit that took 4 years. During this time, they could not perform under the name "The Turtles" so they created other identities under Flo and Eddie and made several hit albums, lucky, the record label never found out. By the end of the 4th year, they had won their lawsuit and regained the money that was stolen.

Bands like "The Turtles" who have decades of experience did not need special



"The Turtles" played their most remembered songs on February 25th in the Spring Concert Hall at CSI.

effects to make them look cool. Their image, energy, and humor was what made the crowd love them. Howard and Mark sang with beautiful harmonies which they showed in their cover of Bruce Springsteen's "Hungry Heart" which they were the original background singers for.

"I've never seen a school with a performing arts center that has no parking lot," Howard and Mark joked.

Howard's voice over powered the room

with perfect pitch, and Mark's as well. It was as if nothing had changed them. If musical talent was a muscle then they are most definitely in shape as shown by their dance moves.

They ended the night with their most known song "Happy Together" which is also the name of their up-coming tour. When the song ended, everyone stood up to give them a standing ovation. People were yelling and cheering until they left the stage. It was truly a great evening and everyone left feeling that they got to relive a part of their youth.

# BANNER ARTS

## Decoding Bon Iver

How an Unknown Folk Band Left Grammy Watchers Stunned

BY MARIE SCARSELLA

At this year's Grammy Awards, several high profile contenders as well as up-and-coming artists duked it out for the title of Best New Artist. Over the award's fifty-three year history, the honor has been given to artists such as The Beatles, Mariah Carey, and Adele.

Among those nominated this year were The Band Perry, J. Cole, Nicki Minaj, and Skrillex. That is why many were surprised when the winner's envelope read Bon Iver.

Social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter were filled with the phrase, "who is Bonny Bear?" and "why does this guy deserve a Grammy?"

Bon Iver, also seen stylized on the internet as "Bony Bear" and "Bonnie Bear", is a folk band from Wisconsin fronted by Justin Vernon. The name comes from the French phrase for "good winter" or "have a good winter".

What makes Bon Iver's win so interesting is that the group is not technically a new artist? Though this is their first major break into the mainstream, the band has been around since 2007 when they independently released their first record, *For Emma, Forever Ago*.

*For Emma, Forever Ago* is considered to be a hit in the indie world. The album has appeared on many important "best of" lists, including *Rolling Stone's* "Best Albums of

the 2000s", where it ranked at number 92, and *Pitchfork's* "Top 50 Albums of 2007", where it ranked at number 29.

Their self-titled second full length is what brought them to the Grammy's. It helped them secure wins for Best New Artist, and Song of the Year. The band also secured nominations for Song of the Year and Record of the year for the track "Holocene".

*Bon Iver*, which was released on June 17, 2011, debuted at number two on the Billboard charts and sold approximately 104,000 copies in its first week. As of late January 2012, the album had sold nearly 358,000 copies.

According to Vernon, every song on *Bon Iver* represents a specific place. Each track on the record has its own clear sound, allowing them all to stand on their own. The instrumentation of each track varies, using elements such as fingerpicked guitars, double bass drums, and prominent horns.

Other notable work the group has been involved with includes a contribution to the *New Moon* soundtrack, the second movie of *The Twilight Saga*, and a collaboration with Kanye West on his album *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*. West's track "Lost in the World" samples Bon Iver's "Woods", a track from the band's



Photo: Google Images

**Bon Iver surprised many critics and fans when the folk band won for Best New Artist at this year's Grammy Awards.**

Blood Bank EP. Vernon also contributed vocals to West's "Monster".

Though the band's music may not appeal to the mainstream — they have no dancehall hits or radio top picks, it is evident that the band has

worked very hard to get to the point they are currently at. With such an impressive collection of work under their belt, the only surprise is that Bon Iver didn't win the Best New Artist Award sooner.

# SEX AND THE ISLAND

## The Drought of a Single Man

Why I Choose to Change the Headline of this Story to: No Sex and The Island

BY DAEYUNG LEE

It's probably better to call this one, "Lack of Sex and the Island," which would pretty much just be the Island. It's not that I don't like having sex or that I'm scared of getting an STD. It's more along the line that I'm looking for something meaningful now. Which sounds more along this line of, "I can't get laid."

I've slept around enough to know that I don't really like it too much. It feels like I'm buying a prostitute, except I'm paying her in

night's fornication.

And even though I don't know what it feels like, I'm sure the experience would be a hell of a lot better if I was lying next to someone I actually cared about rather than some misinformed girl who was too ashamed to make eye contact afterwards. I think it's going to feel like the second coming of Christ or something. The skies shall part, diamonds will fall, and we'll all ride on rainbows. Somewhere out there is a girl that I don't need to have sex with to feel lucky. Companionship is what I really want. My best

present for me would be sex. She was very thoughtful. But the idea of using herself to buy my affection traumatized me into flaccidity. There was no sex to be had that night, but I managed to drink myself to the

attack I have to make up an imaginary woman who was wowed by the extreme level of my libido.

"And then I took her to my bed, you know what I'm saying bro?!"

*"I'd like to think that for every woman who is mentioned in a 'bro circle' there is a woman talking about how unimpressed she was last night."*

point at which I woke up in her roommate's bed with her roommate. As a result, we haven't talked for a while and we probably won't ever talk again.

Sex seems less intimate nowadays because people have perverted it to such a level that it's no longer an experience shared between two. Sex is selfish now. To be honest, if you really want that kind of experience you'd save a lot more time, money, and effort by using the internet. If you'd rather get yours and leave, I'd have to say that you're inconsiderate and you probably shouldn't procreate because the world doesn't need little bastards running around and humping everything like it was inanimate.

Yet it's still hard to tell my friends how I really feel about having sex without having my sexuality questioned. Just to avoid

Why do we stand around in circles and brag about the women we have tricked into sleeping with us, no matter how fictional they are? Intimacy is dead, chivalry is dead, and basic manners are dead too. I'd like to think that for every woman who is mentioned in a "bro circle" there is a woman talking about how unimpressed she was last night.

As of now, I'm living the single life as miserable as ever. It's not coming from the act that I haven't engaged in coitus, I just really want someone to talk to and hold while we sleep in a bed that's probably too small for both of us. This relationship doesn't depend on sex but for me, sex depends on it.

I don't need to have sex. I need to find someone who I can talk to and enjoy her company, rather than ruin something that could have been with an embarrassing couple of minutes. It seems so much more important to me.

*"It feels like I'm buying a prostitute, except I'm paying her in false promises and alcohol."*

false promises and alcohol. Male promiscuity is overrated.

While I was still in the military, it was a form of masculinity to take pass on the weekend, wind up in a coed's dorm at NYU, tell her war stories, and leave her disappointed in the morning. The uniform helped a lot of the time but it didn't help the fact that I felt disgusted with myself and sorry for whoever's daughter I had just bedroom wrestled with. It was worse when I had to brag to my squad mates with loud, raucous (and often exaggerated) stories of last

friend told me that maybe I should live alone and get a dog or something.

But I'm not saying I don't like sex. I'm saying that I don't like having one night stands and turning every possibility into one that results in regrets.

Now that I can't care less what people really think about me, I know that I don't mind admitting that I hate sleeping alone less than I hate sleeping next to a stranger.

I'm an old-fashioned kind of guy, I guess. I realized this during Christmas last year when an ex-girlfriend decided a perfect Christmas

## Florence and the Machine – Ceremonials

BY MARK REVELLO

Florence Welch and 'the Machine' were the talent equivalent of Adele almost exactly this time last year.

Think about it if you can remember. Both acts had cemented themselves as talented artists with the release of their debut albums in the middle of the year and both made even more waves with an unstoppable array of radio-friendly single after single that propelled them both to the forefront of music consciousness.

Both deservedly went on to win Grammy awards for those albums and were officially out in the lime-light. Though Adele's six Grammy's make Florence and the Machine's one seem paltry in comparison, the point is around Grammy season both were extremely talented, and untouchable.

That is probably why I am so disappointed with Florence and the Machine's second album, "Ceremonials." Back in the late months of 2009 I remember hearing Florence Welch's voice for the first time and thinking to myself that I didn't want her to become famous or well-known because I wanted to keep that majestic voice all to myself; when the release of the single "Dog Days are Over" was all over the radio there was an added poignancy to the song because it looked like Florence and The Machine's dog days as an artist seemed to be over as well.

The dog days are unfortunately back for Ceremonials. Though Florence Welch still uses her voice to give life to her songs and hits



a variety of frequencies with the ease of an opera singer, the songs on *Ceremonials* are just all over the place to have that same feeling as *Lungs*. As someone who has a voice that gives you goose bumps, using cliché frills and keeping the same lack of feeling for a double album, both puts you to sleep and hurts.

Ultimately the voice and heart of the songs remain the same but it appears as if the fame changed the content and transplanted the heart into someone else's body. Hopefully we won't see the same thing happen with Adele.

## 'Entertainment' That Has Got To Stop

BY MARK REVELLO

**Adam Sandler**— Quick! Re-read that name again and think of what your favorite movie with him was when you were younger. Was it *Happy Gilmore*, or *Billy Madison*? If neither of those seems familiar to you are obviously too highbrow, or too young. Point is, there is so much goodwill and praying for funny movies again for this guy just from two or three movies made nearly 20 years ago, that us viewers keep stupidly hoping that there might be a snowball's chance in hell Sandler might release a solid movie. It's like Eddie Murphy's career all over again because instead of good movies we got *Jack and Jill*, and before that *Funny People*. Both movies were so abysmally terrible that I would feel bad wasting ink, and therefore money, on this page rehashing it. Either try harder, or stop, end of story.

**The Black Keys**— The Black Keys came on the rock scene around the same time as all of the other garage rock style bands that turned out to be pluralized forms of nouns and adjectives (I.E.: The Vines, The Libertines, The Strokes). The Black Keys were different. I thought anyway, from the others of this time because they were consistent. The Hives have gone the way of Polio, and The Strokes talent dropped quicker than the plane carrying Buddy Holly and Richie Valence. Two years ago I could at least still say, "At



least we still have The Black Keys doing the garage rock slash blues sound right". I am now wrong two years later because of course my hopes stagnated like stale Journey songs. The Black Keys made their bones singing and playing music about the few blues associated with being white, and they did it very well. Fast forward and money and fame seemed to shear off all of their hair and soul in the process. These guys can get back on top if they can channel that lo-fi, bluesy sound into an album that doesn't sound like it was the equivalent of a watered down Miller Lite.

## How To Gain The Most Out of Sex From Your Man

Learn the Right Moves to Turn Him On

BY LUCIA ROSSI

Everyone deserves to have a full and enjoyable sex life with their partners. But, what knowledge is needed to gain the most out of what you got? How can the sex be even better?

*"The harder he is, the more stimulation he can provide... So the question is, what can you do to make his equipment even more efficient?"*

New research has shown that the quality of a man's erection affects your pleasure. I'm not talking about size. I'm talking about the erection itself. Basically, the harder he is, the more stimulation he can provide, which makes sex more satisfying. So the question is, what can you and your lover do to make his equipment even more efficient?

"We know that certain nutrients, sexual techniques, and lifestyle factors absolutely affect the potency of man's erection, which helps to improve his partner's experience as well," said Dr. Steven Lamm, author of *No Guts, No Glory*.

Of course when using these tips to your advantage, be cautious to be nonchalant about how you go about them so that your man doesn't feel emasculated or inadequate.

Certain types of food can be very helpful to enticing a man to his fullest. Any dark fruit, especially blackberries, contain high levels of

Anthocyanins, which is a potent antioxidant that helps to induce arousal. An Indiana University study said that by using Anthocyanins, blood vessels will expand and will then make room for blood to rush to the penis for a quicker erection. Better get to buying some blackberry jam or berries to share for a snack!

To have healthy, well-functioning, male equipment, a man needs to have at least seven to eight hours of sleep every night. A good solid amount of sleep is need for two reasons. First, men show erections during their REM cycle of sleep.

"This means that fresh blood is being

driven into the penis and ensures that its getting the nourishment that it needs," says Dr. Lamm. The second reason sleep is important is mental. Men don't just get morning wood because their testosterone

If you want your man's best performance, make sure he is not on a full stomach. Dr. Lamm says, "After a large meal, the blood he needs to produce an erection goes to his stomach to help digest the food." Eating fast food

*"You might want to help improve his stamina. This means take advantage of his second wind. One hour after you've already had sex, go for round two."*

level is at it's highest, it is also because when they get enough sleep, they dream. Because of this, they renew themselves physically and psychologically. Dr. Barry McCarthy says, "His mind is a fresh palette in the morning, and with no other thoughts or anxieties competing for his attention, he can focus on hundred percent on sex."

Now, alcohol can be considered in some ways good and bad. Its good because people are less up-tight and self-conscious when drinking. However, psychologically, its an inhibitor. It reduces the probability of having a top-notch erection because the alcohol reduces the testosterone formation in the testes. Its unacceptable if he can't get hard enough for you to enjoy yourself, so being under the influence is probably not a good idea. If you're planning on getting busy, its best not to have more than two drinks, or better, be sober.

would make it twice as worse. "When there are a lot of extra fats circulating, it stuns the cells in the body that are responsible for redirecting the flow of blood to the penis, so an erection isn't going to form easily," explains Dr. Lamm. Its best to get it on before you eat or maybe after a small meal.

Lastly, you might want to help improve his stamina. This means take advantage of his second wind. One hour after you've already had sex, go for round two. Sixty minutes is known as the "refractory period" to doctors. That is the amount of time it takes a man's penis to fully recover after already ejaculating. With this in mind, he is sure to last longer than he did the first time.

A small tip Dr. Steven Lamm gives is, "To prevent condom inducing shrinkage by making sure the guy is rock-hard before you roll on the glove."

# BANNER OPINIONS

Ask Sandra: She Has All the Answers...

The Banner's Resident Advice Columnist Answers CSI's Toughest Questions

BY SANDRA CHAMOUN

Dear Sandra,  
My parents always fight. They constantly argue and say they are happy, but I'm not so sure I believe it anymore. I always suggest that if they are not happy, maybe they should split up. I try to make them happy by planning family activities but it never works. I just don't know what to do anymore.

Dear Stuck in the Middle,

It is not easy to watch two people we love, argue. It is great that you have tried to set up family activities because spending time with loved ones can be therapeutic. However, if the base of the headboard is not bolted to the bed, then that bed will always be rocking. This means that the root cause of your parents arguing has not been ironed out, resulting in their constant bickering. As difficult as it may be to stand and watch, you must consider removing yourself from the middle of your parents' arguing because it is not your fault. Therefore, you should not carry the burden of their disagreements. It is easier said than done but I suggest you remove yourself from the middle of this battle because you are not the one to blame and unfortunately you are not the one who can fix it either.

Dear Sandra,  
I am so involved in school lately and making sure I have good grades that I see my some of my close friendships slipping away. How can I find time to keep my friends happy and still manage to study?

Dear Friendship Patcher,

Sometimes as college students we must find creative ways to juggle our academics and social life. In between class or study time you can give yourself breaks to grab a coffee or some lunch with a friend. This may not seem to be the most quality of hang outs, but it can make all the difference because you can allow yourself to unwind and feel refreshed, while not taking too much time away from your responsibilities. Sometimes my friends and I have study groups at the library or our houses. We don't study the same subjects but we study together which allows us to catch up and give each other encouragement along with getting the job done.

Dear Sandra,

Do you have any advice on internships? Are they really worth it? I have been told yes and no by many people and I am a little confused about what to do.

Dear Internship Seeker,

Internships are the type of opportunities that I find valuable. Regardless of where the internship is, the professional experience that it gives college students is the best take home message. Internships are a great way to practice interviewing skills along with learning professional conduct. Some internships can be eye openers for our future goals. They should be used as a way to get ourselves into the career field we wish to pursue and find out if we can see ourselves in that particular setting. Internships are a great way to gain references and mentors or even to set us in the right direction. Personally, I once had an internship that influenced me to completely change my career path, which I found to be the most valuable part.

Dear Sandra,

I drink a beer a night, is this normal? more like four or five a night, again, is this normal?

Dear Beer Lover,

Normal is not a destination one arrives at but instead on a subjective continuum. My judgment of what is "normal" for you might not be the case in your eyes. That being said, your question has instigated the thought of possible dependency. Needing a beer or four or five to get to sleep might be the beginning of a not so kind cycle. I advise you to speak with a counselor because this might be stemming from another unresolved issue in your life that is leading you to need an outlet such as the one you described.

Sandra Chamoun is senior and psychology major at CSI. You can reach her at the Heath and Wellness Center in IC where she is a peer counselor.

## Nathan Drake Leaps to Sony's New Handheld

The PlayStation 3's Killer App Strikes Gold on the Vita

BY STEPHEN KLEIN

Despite some quibbles in the transition from full-fledged console to handheld, *Uncharted: Golden Abyss* is an extremely impressive launch title.

In an era where people rely on their smartphones for gaming, Sony has just released their successor to the PlayStation Portable, the PlayStation Vita. It's no secret that this is an incredible system capable of delivering console-quality experiences. It's also no secret that these smartphones, or even the Nintendo 3DS, may cause stiff competition for the Vita. Even with upcoming titles such as *Resistance: Burning Skies*, *promises of Killzone* and *Assassin's Creed*, and a wide variety of launch titles, does the Vita have a bright future?

*Uncharted: Golden Abyss* says yes. Sony Bend, who was overseen by the original developers of the PS3 blockbusters at Naughty Dog, has delivered a game that showcases what the Vita is truly capable of. It is, however, not without fault.

While it's great that Bend made the game playable in two different ways: with touch and motion controls or traditionally with dual sticks and buttons, some motion and touch controls are mandatory at times. Some other features feel tacked-on like the use of Vita's Near functionality. Considering there's loads of collectibles (as opposed to just treasures in the PS3 outings), it's a fun idea to allow players to trade with others via Near, but it feels mildly tacked-on.

In addition, several crucial elements to

*Uncharted* appear to be missing, namely action and storytelling. There's still some action and unexpected moments like the burning building level, but *Uncharted 3* did it better. Overall, *Golden Abyss* is simply not as action-oriented with less focus on combat and more on exploration, but that's not necessarily a bad thing.

As for storytelling, the story and pacing leave much to be desired and it doesn't flow well. The cutscenes feel intrusive as there's too many and they're too lengthy which was never a problem in the other games. As a result, it lacks the movie vibe that *Among Thieves* and *Drake's Deception* had.

Some minor issues include dumb unrealistic enemy AI that are too easy and no real traditional puzzles in the *Uncharted* sense which now rely more on the touch screen. In terms of the overall gameplay, difficulty spikes appear out of nowhere with lack of checkpoints later on and due to the continuous same settings and little variety, the game starts to feel repetitive. Glitches occur as well with sound and music occasionally cutting out.

As for the good stuff, several other elements notable in *Uncharted* are here including humor, dialogue, and, of course, the graphics. In fact, the graphics in *Golden Abyss* are phenomenal especially for a launch title. Lighting effects are amazing and backgrounds look like scenery. Some visual elements like water and shadow effects look great too, but others like hair don't look natural and explosions



*Uncharted: Golden Abyss* transitioned from full-fledged console to handheld on the PlayStation Vita

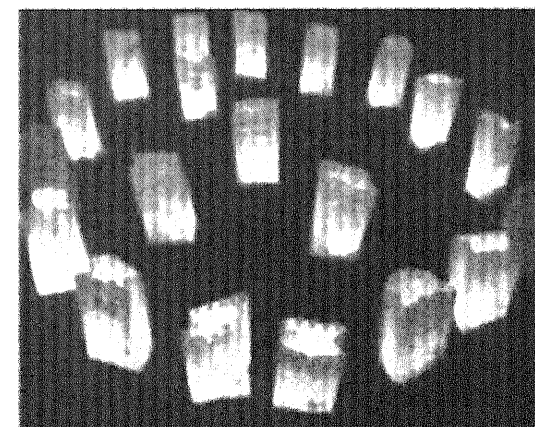
could look better.

There are also the little things that make *Golden Abyss* great and make you want to forget about its flaws. Certain actions are made easier like when an icon appears on enemies when you can melee or stealth kill them and ledges highlighting when climbable. Slow motion cinematic jumps are awesome too and there are turret sections which were sorely missed in *Uncharted 3*.

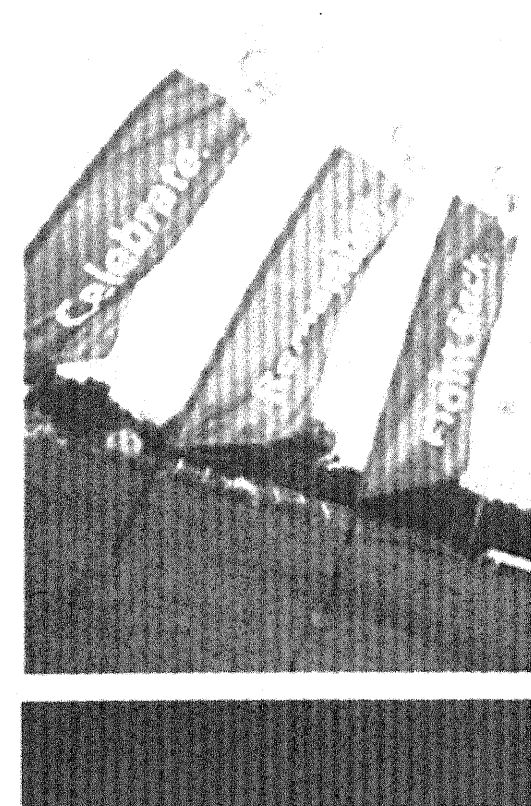
*Uncharted: Golden Abyss* introduces innovative ideas and gameplay elements to *Uncharted* all the while delivering a very immersive console-like experience. Even with all its flaws, this is the killer app for the PlayStation Vita and a very strong reason to consider getting one (as if the extremely positive hardware reviews weren't enough). *Uncharted: Golden Abyss* receives a 9 out of 10.

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# BANNER SPORTS

## Tibbs and the Dolphins Make School History *Basketball Underdogs Make First Ever Trip to "Sweet 16" Round*

BY JESSICA PIFALO

Last weekend, D3Basketball.com voted the CSI Dolphins, "most likely to disappoint" in the opening round of their NCAA Tournament Regional.

"Just because a CSI team hasn't done it or because we aren't expected to do it doesn't mean its good enough for us," said star point guard TJ Tibbs on his twitter account shortly after getting wind of the article.

After winning the CUNYAC championship last weekend, the Dolphins opened up with a 98-73 win over Ithaca College in the first round of the 62 team national tournament.

The Sports and Rec. Center was packed to near capacity as Tibbs tied a CSI all-time single-game record with 14 assists and added 24 points in the victory.

The teams would trade leads for most of the first half until CSI gained momentum and went on a 10-0 run to close up the first half and take a 6 point lead going into the half.

The Dolphins controlled the second half, shooting 62.1% from the field and would extend their lead to as much as 22.

Bloochy Magloire and Jordan Young finished with 18 points apiece and freshman Javon Cox added another 14, while senior Dale

Taranto finished with 11.

One night later, the even larger crowd was given a real treat.

Tibbs once again starred, pouring in 40 points as the Dolphins took care of Rhode Island College 77-67.

The win sent the Dolphins to the "Sweet 16" round of the Tournament for the first time in school history.

In the first half the teams would trade leads four times before the Anchormen took control with a three pointer putting them up 10-9. The Anchormen would not let up taking a four point, 19-15 lead.

A pair of free-throws from Tibbs and three-pointer from Magloire would tie up the score at 19 as the teams would go back and forth once again. The teams continued exchanging leads up until the Dolphins would grab a 3 point, 33-30 lead at the half, despite shooting only 27% in the first half

After Rhode Island cut the lead to 1, CSI responded with their biggest run of the night 17-8 sending fans into a frenzy to take a commanding 57-47 lead.

Jubilant from CSI's crowd quickly silenced as Tibbs would go down with an leg injury. The reoccurring cramping problem sat Tibbs down for a short time, but the



Seniors Dale Taranto (3) and Jordan Young Celebrate Winning The CUNYAC Championship on February 25th.

Anchormen would take advantage going on a 12-5 run.

Shortly after, Tibbs would return to the game and he didn't waste any time.

He struck back with a three-pointer to send worried Dolphins fans back on their feet, followed by another to send the gym into hysteria.

CSI closed the game up by sinking 9 out of 10 foul shots and would get the win.

To go along with Tibbs' 40 points, Cox added 10 points and 8 rebounds while Magloire tallied in 8.

Young, who fouled out, would finish with just six and Lamiek Black would contribute 3 points and an important 9 rebounds.

The win was the Dolphins 19th straight and they will now take on Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Lancaster, PA, Friday March 9th. A win would send CSI to the "Elite 8" the next night against the winner of Franklin & Marshall/Amhearst.

If the Dolphins survive the weekend, they will advance to the "Final Four" round, which would be the four remaining Division 3 teams in the entire country.

## Dolphins Baseball Returns From Opening Trip, 1-3 Bats Start Off Quiet In South Carolina, But Anderson Shines in Opener

BY JAMES MARDIKOS

It would've been easy to think you were watching a replay of last season's CUNY championship game.

A drastic difference in temperature, for the better, and location, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, were the only the differences. Richie Anderson made sure the result of the game was still the same.

The standout Junior pitcher, yet again, won a scoreless pitchers dual against Ferrum College, 1-0, in CSI's season opener last week.

Despite only three hits against Ferrum pitching, the Dolphins were able to scratch across a run in the bottom of the 8th on a sacrifice fly by Junior Shortstop, Bryan Moreno.

The game was eerily similar to last season's CUNY Title game when the Dolphins traded scoreless innings with Baruch until ultimately winning, 1-0 in 10 innings. The pitcher that day was also then sophomore, Richie Anderson.

The opener would prove to be the only highlight of the week for the Dolphins as

they would drop the next three contests against Ferrum, 2-0, rematched the next day, and a double dip against North Carolina Wesleyan, 9-2 and 5-4.

The question mark coming into the year was how the offense would respond after a down year last season.

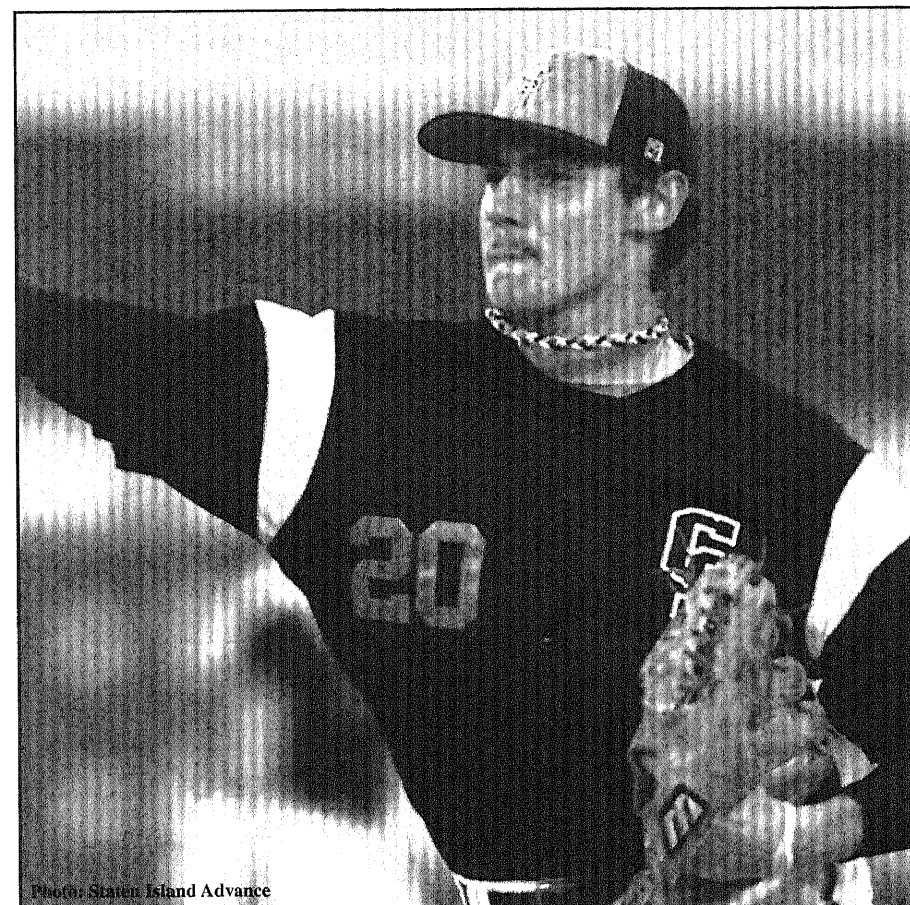
Two runs over the first three games wasn't exactly the start they were looking for.

Bright spots on offense were freshman second basemen, Luis Ortiz who finished the week hitting .500 (5 for 10) and Moreno (.266, 4 for 15.)

Primarily relievers a year ago, Junior Anthony Colucci and Sophomore Michael Van Pelt both made their first career starts for the Dolphins in Games 2 and 4 respectively, both performing very well.

Colucci was solid over 6 innings, allowing just 4 hits and a run but was the hard luck loser in the rematch against Ferrum. While Van Pelt threw 5.1 giving up 2 earned and didn't factor in the decision of the second NC Wesleyan game.

The Dolphins will return home on



Richie Anderson picked up right where he left off last season, firing another complete game shutout against Ferrum College.

March 8th for their home opener against Mt. Saint Vincent College at 4:30 and 6:30. They will also host St. Joseph's Brooklyn on Saturday March 10th (12pm, 2pm) for another double header and Yeshiva (12pm, 2pm) the next day for yet another DH.