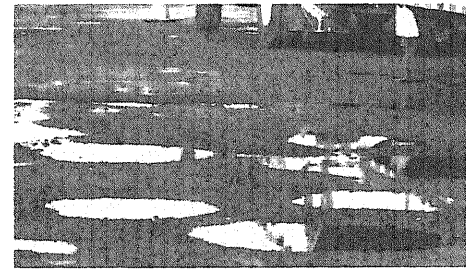


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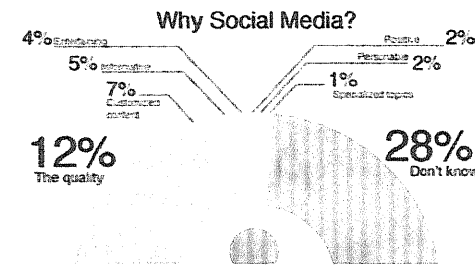
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NYPD Arrests Driver Carrying Drugs Onto Campus Staten Island's Drug Epidemic Hits the College of Staten Island



A photo provided by the NYPD highlights the money and drugs confiscated during a bust on CSI

BY BRADLEY POPKIN

Staten Island might appear to be a quiet, mostly crime-free borough but it does have a history involving narcotics. The entire borough, and the College of Staten Island, have been embroiled in a battle with prescription pills, ecstasy, marijuana and cocaine.

This article comes from an investigation from a banner staff reporter into the hidden life of drugs on campus. The sources for this work, from the New York City Police Department, are confidential, as per department policy.

The College of Staten Island's main campus grounds are patrolled on a 24-hour basis by Public Safety Officers. Public Safety Officers are sworn law enforcement/NYS Peace Officers and have the power to make arrests.

In 1992, the NYPD and CUNY came to an agreement that said police could not come onto the grounds of campuses citywide unless called or in an emergency.

"Most cops don't know that," claimed THE BANNER'S source. "I never knew that I couldn't come on campus. I knew we shouldn't because they've their own security and it might look bad on them."

On October 27 of last year, the source and his boss were driving an unmarked vehicle, around midnight, near the college when they saw a car with jersey plates try and go in through the front entrance at Victory Blvd.

"I was like that guy was probably drunk or there's something up with that," said the NYPD source.

Subsequently, the pair followed the car onto campus where the driver led them to the dorms. Without lights or sirens on, the cops approached the vehicle.

"I'm talking to him, he's very nervous; his girlfriend has her pants unzipped," said the officer. "Typically, that's an indicator, when they're driving, that she put something in there."

"They don't think that we will search them because there's a female."

Upon the suspects stepping out of the vehicle, a search of the vehicle's contents begins.

"I find in his center console eight, large bags of cocaine so I leave them in there," said the NYPD source.

A later search found hundreds of little, ziploc bags that drugs are kept in and latex gloves and \$480 on the suspect. The cocaine seized would amount to between \$400-500.

"I understand why the President got upset because it was in The Staten Island Advance the next day," said the source. "It looks horrible."

A trip back to the campus following the arrest turned up interesting results. After arriving in uniform, the source spoke with supervisors of the peace officers regarding their power of arrest.

"They were told by the higher ups that they

were not to do any enforcement activity," claimed the officer.

"It's a shame, they're doing a disservice to everybody," exclaimed the source. "Especially with the rampant drug problem that's going on right now and all the kids that I see on a daily basis selling drugs, taking drugs and doing drugs in parking lots, in their cars. They think they're untouchable."

Typically, all passengers in a vehicle containing narcotics would get arrested. Having claimed possession of the cocaine, the driver was the only person that left the scene in handcuffs.

The passenger, then 18 and student of CSI, had never been arrested.

The suspect, Julio Matias 18, plead guilty in January but has not been sentenced yet and has no priors. The charges, which include intent to sell, carry a class B felony which is the second highest.

"With a felony, you're supposed to serve a minimum of a year but typically they'll take a plea agreement where he might do like ten days or up to six months," said the officer. "I'd be shocked if he served any time because he made bail and he's never been to jail since."

The felony will remain on his record forever. Matias last made an appearance in Richmond Supreme Court on March 14. No sentence has been given yet.

SJP vs. Hillel at the Fountains in 1P

A Simple Demonstration Lands CSI in the Middle of the Debates at the Gaza Strip

BY CLIFFORD MICHEL

This semester, College of Staten Island's Office of Student Life officially recognized Students for Justice in Palestine as a chartered club. The newly implemented club plans to garner awareness for the state of Palestine, especially during the month of March in support of Israeli Apartheid week.

SJP held a tabling event outside of 1P on March 4, handing out flyers and holding up signs to spread the everyday injustices experienced by Palestinians. And on March 14 they invited author, Ali Abunimah, of "The Battle for Justice in Palestine" to speak at the lecture hall.

"SJP is a fight for human rights and the Palestinian people. Our purpose is mainly raising awareness about human rights violations that occur in Palestine and build solidarity with the Palestinian people and their struggle for human rights because it's not really spoken about in the media or even in school," said Neerden Mohsen, SJP club President. "We want to reclaim the narrative, and we're not going to wait around and wait for someone to come up and save us or save the Palestinians we want to bring that voice to our campus ourselves because we have a voice here, especially in New York City and we want to use it."

SJP at CSI is a supporter of the BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) tactics used in order to end, what they define as, Apartheid in Israel. Popular products that are frequently boycotted by SJP chapters are: Motorola Solutions, Hewlett Packard (HP), L'oreal, Sabra Hummus and Sodastream.

The ultimate goal of BDS is to boycott all Israeli products until the country complies with all international law.

"The fact is, the way that International politics and U.S. domestic politics are aligned, no action is taken. This is why people have adopted grassroots action in the form of BDS. I would like to see the U.S. in a position that would require Israel to abide by international laws, but I don't think that would happen without pressure from below," said Abunimah, who is also a board member of the Arab American Action Network.

"I'm very optimistic and hopeful, because

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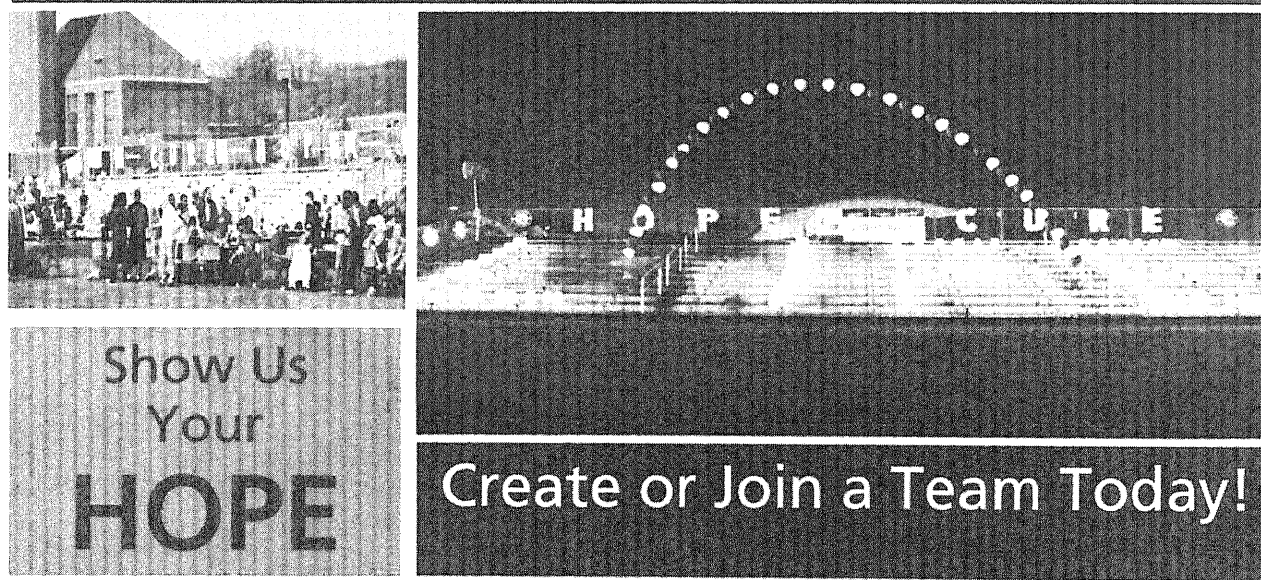
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An Increase in the Size of Potholes on Campus... ... Is Met with a Decrease in Administration Action

BY BRADLEY POPKIN

Potholes are a driver's worst nightmare. Many potholes begin to appear during the winter because of the salt and slushy mix of snow that erodes pavement. They bother over eight million New Yorkers a year, which includes the 14,000 plus that attend the College of Staten Island.

The thousands of drivers who commute to school from the five boroughs and even New Jersey are forced to deal with treacherous conditions.

Potholes located at both entrances, around loop road and in the gravel lot have caused drivers to slow down and often swerve out of the way.

"We're more interested in getting the roadway corrected," said Assistant Vice President for Campus Planning, Stephen Brennan. "You want to get those potholes fixed first and then we'll move to the lots."

On December 26, grounds' crews were dispatched to survey the entire campus and review what areas of the campus needed attention. Areas most in need of work were the loop road behind the library and along the stretch by the S buildings. Thirteen potholes inhabited the roadway.

There were also three found in the lot behind 6s and four in the lot by the recreation center. It's also possible that areas marked contain multiple potholes.

In order to fix the potholes, about \$18,000 has been dedicated by Auxiliary Services. \$900 is spent on each skid, which contains 56 bags of asphalt. So far, Brennan estimates his team has went through twenty skids. According to Brennan, crews work eight hour days between 7-PM and 3PM.

Vincent Bono, Director of Building and Grounds, alleges that "all asphalt plants in the north east are closed in the winter. Cold patches are the only way to make repairs temporarily."

Cold patch, also known as cold mix or cold asphalt, was first recognized as a way to make road repairs quickly because it can be applied right from the container without heating. Cold asphalt can be applied directly to potholes with little or no pre-preparation work.

According to VP of Finance & Administration Ira Persky, the school expects to receive asphalt between late March and early April. The gravel lot is seen as a last resort to students. It is problematic to many drivers because of the moonlike craters inhabiting the pavement. For those like Junior, Chris Maniscalco, having to park in the lot of doom is extra problematic. Maniscalco drives a Fiat.

"I try to park in the lot by 4s," said Maniscalco.

Robert Pashayan, a Junior, drives a Nissan Sentra.

"The pothole situation is bad and with the light situation at night it's a lot worse," said Pashayan.

Some like Sophomore Tony Onofrio actually prefer the gravel lot and don't necessarily mind it. Then again, not everyone drives a Chevy Avalanche.

"I came to the gravel lot because it's more accessible and closer to my classes," said Onofrio.

Potholes form when rain seeps through cracks in the pavement and freezes. When water freezes it expands and can push the gravel below the pavement even further down. As cars drive over the weakened pavement it begins to erode.

"We believe to date we have fixed approximately 200 potholes," said Brennan.

The loop road hasn't been paved for roughly twenty years, according to Brennan.

"We've had numerous discussions about it [paving loop road]," said Brennan. "It all comes down to economics. The VP of Finance is working pretty hard to get funding."

The budget for this winter's cleanup has doubled, according to Persky. Auxiliary Services typically allocates \$75,000 for the winter but Persky expects that to hover around \$150,000 by the end of the season. The amount of salt brought in has also doubled going from 1,700 tons of road salt; normal has been 300 to 400.

Because of the abnormal amount of snow that has fallen around the state, building and grounds crews have logged many hours on campus. The college pays for their salary but in overtime situations; auxiliary services will pay for 75% the cost and reimburse the college.

But CSI is just a portion of the Staten Island community, the other hundreds of thousands of residents have seen just how disastrous the roadways can be. An investigation done by the Staten Island Advance regarding Department of Transportation repairs returned mixed results.

On January 17, the Advance reported nine potholes to the DOT website. After claiming they inspect and repair potholes within thirty days, only four of them have been fixed.

One reported pothole in front of 187 Signs Rd. in Bulls Head, which clearly fits the agencies description, was not fixed and listed as repaired when checked.

The DOT defines a pothole as "a hole in the street with a circular or oval shape and a definable bottom."

"To be 'actionable,' the pothole should be at least one foot in diameter and three inches deep."

Since the beginning of the year, the DOT claims to have repaired 18,200 potholes on Staten Island.

For more photos of potholes check out The Banner's blog at TheBannerCSI.Wordpress.com.

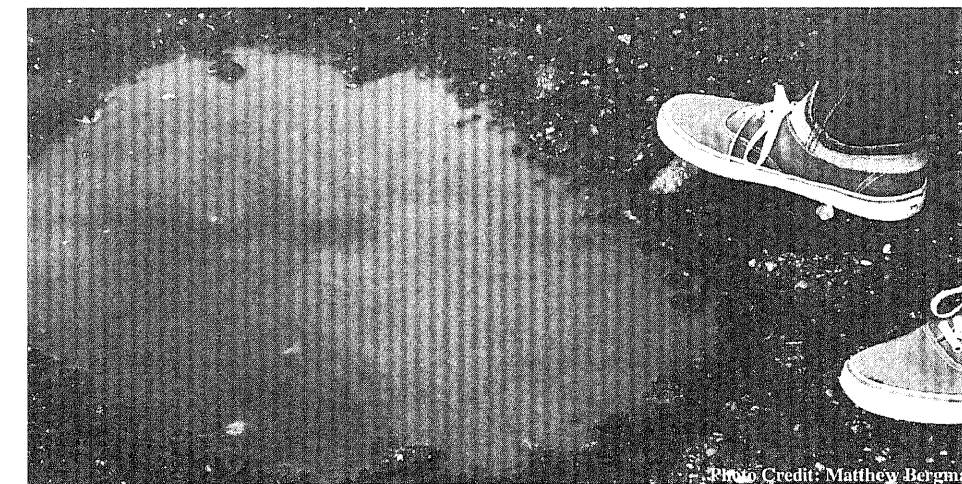


Photo Credit: Matthew Bergman



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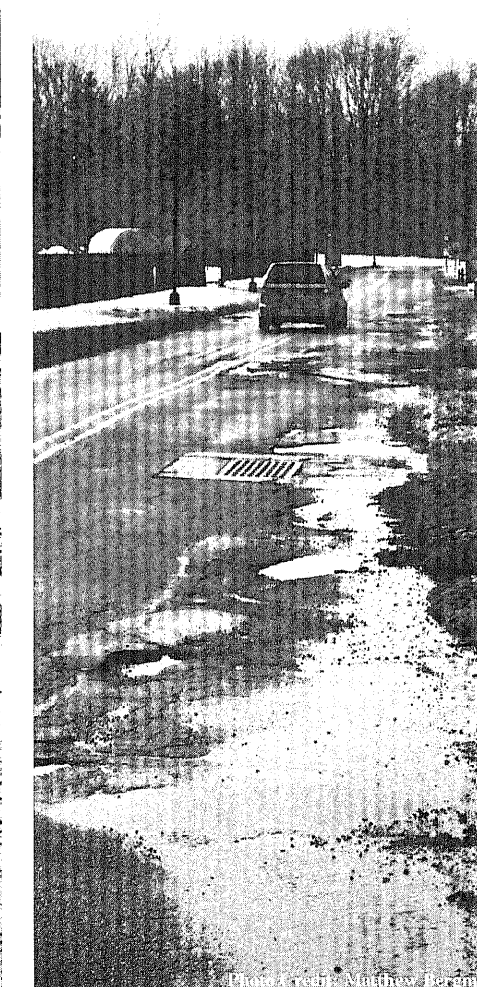


Photo Credit: Matthew Bergman

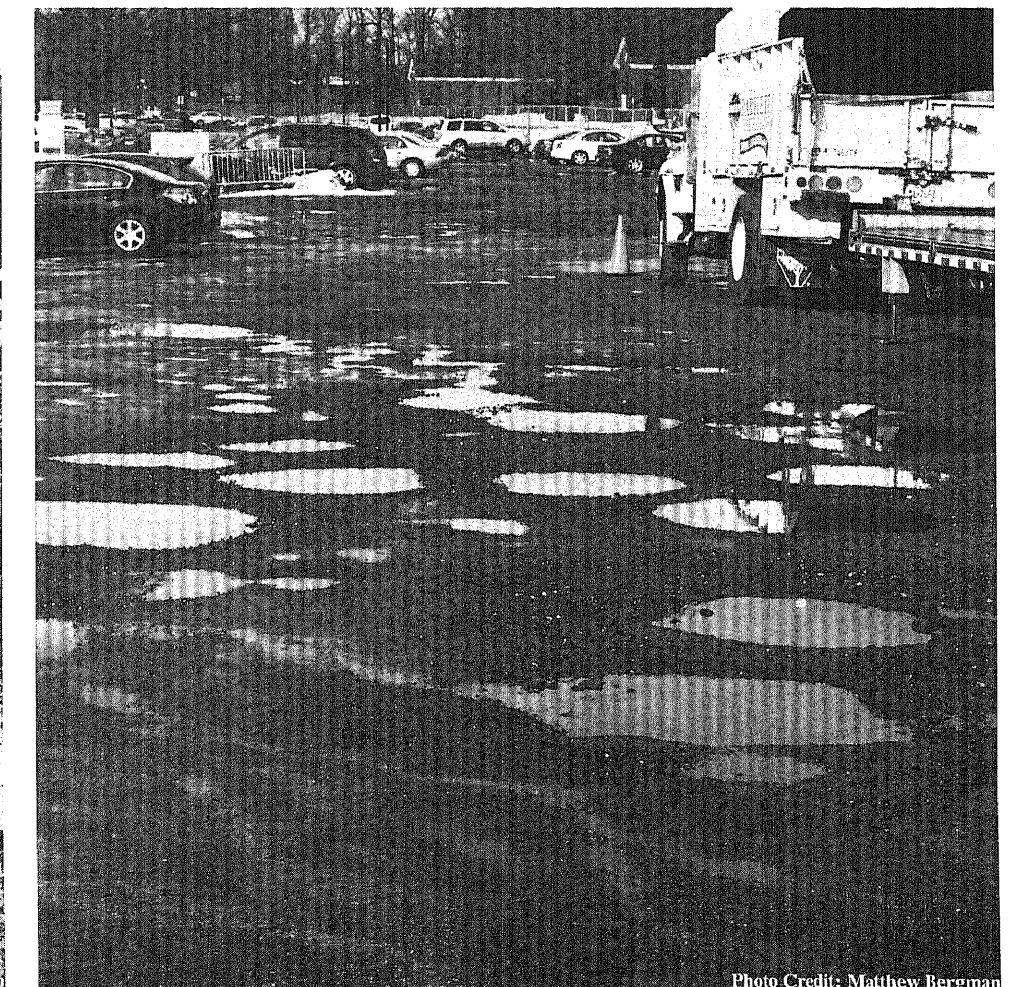


Photo Credit: Matthew Bergman

this is a movement that unites people from so many movements including Jewish and Israeli people."

In both of the events that SJP held on campus, pro-Israel members from Hillel and the Chi Alpha Christian Club came out to share their thoughts on SJP. Though Mohsen

expressed that pushback on all fronts was to be expected for such a controversial topic.

"They called it continuous because of what happened in other CUNY's. They specifically mentioned what occurred in Brooklyn College, and just to get into the SJP building they make you go through a full body pat down, a full body metal detector and then a smaller metal detector to look through your bag—which are

all intimidation tactics," said Mohsen, referring to the Office of Student Life.

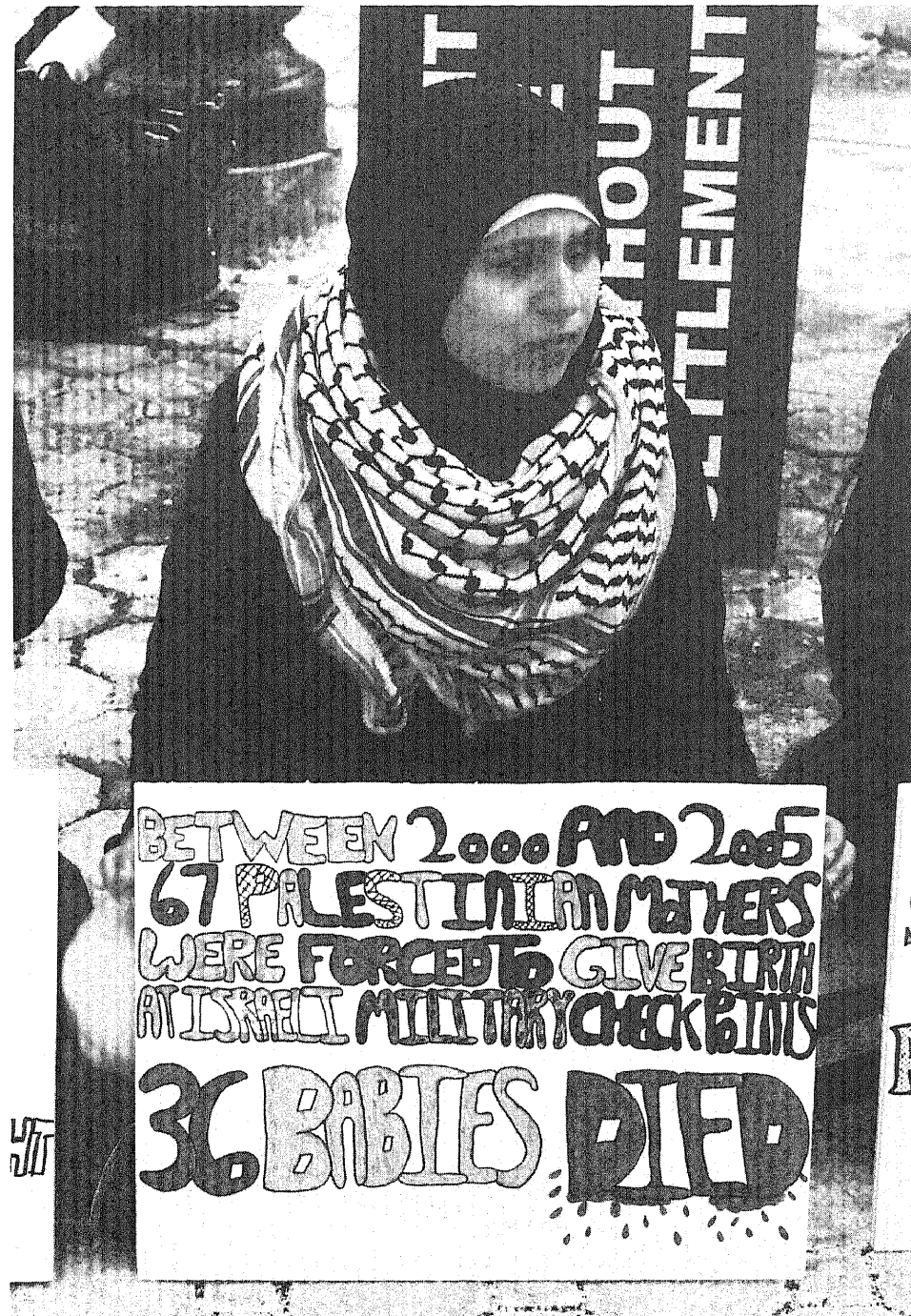
Despite the pushback, the CSI chapter of SJP is currently sponsored by the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Sociology and the English Department.

On March 25 SJP is holding another event where three CSI professors will join the BDS movement and boycott Israeli academia as they

deny Palestinians academic freedom.

SJP is a college student activism organization based in the United States and Canada. Formed in 2001, the organization holds more than 80 chapters at American colleges and universities.

The SJP chapter at CSI is located in Building 1S, Room 217 and meets on Tuesdays from 2:30PM to 4:30PM.



BANNER POLITICS

Ukraine Vs. Putin: European Union or Russia?

A Breakdown of Erupting Turmoil in Eastern Europe

BY MICHAEL ROACH

As this was being written the future of Ukraine is being heatedly fought over, making headlines every day. If you are wondering how this mess began, it essentially boils down to an internal struggle between Ukrainians, some who are pro-Europe and want Ukraine to enter into the European Union, and those who are pro-Russia that want to strengthen ties with the Russian government.

Obviously the situation has escalated quite a bit, so let us take a look at how these tensions in Ukraine have intensified to the point where it is now an international crisis.

A lot of the trouble can be attributed to Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich and the old government, which has been accused of numerous human rights violations including the imprisonment of pro-European Ukrainian opposition leaders Yulia Tymoshenko and Yuriy Lutsenko – both were figureheads of a previous 2004 protest in Ukraine known as the 'Orange Revolution'.

But the final straw for the protesters of Ukraine came with a November 21, by Yanukovich to halt all progress toward a European Union association agreement, which is the first step toward becoming a full member of the EU.

Pro-European protesters, disillusioned by Yanukovich's overtures towards stronger Russo-Ukrainian relations, took to the streets. Mobilizing via social media, pro-European Ukrainians gathered in the capitol of Kiev at 'Independence Square' starting a four month struggle between the protesters and government security forces. This struggle has come to be known as the 'Euromaidan' with 'Euro' representing the pro-European sentiments of the protesters and 'Maidan' coming from the name of 'Independence Square' in Ukrainian, 'Maidan Nezalezhnosti'.

As the protests grew in scope and violence throughout December and January, Yanukovich looked to the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, for both funds and advice. Putin stressed a firm hand with protesters, and soon anti-protesting laws were pushed through the Ukrainian parliament on January 16, effectively banning all civil liberties and freedoms of speech and assembly.

Riot police and protesters clashed on several occasions since troubles began this past November, but the most serious casualty rates came in the final throes of the Yanukovich government in late February when security forces were found to be switching from rubber bullets

to live ammunition in its clashes with protesters. Handgun and sniper fire was heard throughout the streets of Kiev as riot police advanced on protesters on February 20, and 21.

While opposition leaders and President Yanukovich worked out a deal which included serious reforms that were rapidly adopted by the government, it was not enough for the main body of protesters who began to plan a surge in protest activities.

On February 22, President Yanukovich was discovered to have fled to Russia in exile and protesters rushed to take over the government. By the next day, security forces had abandoned their responsibilities toward defending the Yanukovich regime and Yanukovich himself was wanted for mass crimes against the Ukrainian people.

This is when the situation began to attain very serious world-wide implications. On March 1, Russian President Putin obtained permission from the Russian parliament to send troops into the Crimean region of Ukraine: an area which is strategic militarily and is inhabited by many ethnic Russians. Military forces have moved in to 'protect' the Russian-speaking population of the Ukrainian peninsula, and are currently blockading major roads as well as military and naval bases. Putin stated in a media

interview on March 4: "If we see this lawlessness starting in eastern regions, if the people ask us for help – in addition to a plea from a legitimate president, which we already have – then we reserve the right to use all the means we possess to protect those citizens. And we consider it quite legitimate."

Putin has denied that the masses of uniformed unidentified soldiers blockading most Ukrainian military bases in Crimea are Russian, claiming they are Ukrainian. Reports from eyewitnesses, however, do not back up Putin's claim.

Putin's apparent willingness to use military force in defense of ethnic Russians has drawn numerous comparisons in the media and western countries to Hitler's invasions of the Sudetenland and Czechoslovakia in the late 1930's as he claimed he was defending 'ethnic Germans' from 'evil' governments: an ominous comparison.

Over the coming days the situation will undoubtedly continue to develop. We will see how the United States chooses to respond as well as the European community's reaction and if the new Ukrainian government will take hold. But moreover, the world will wait on Vladimir Putin's next move to see whether a Cold War-esque situation will fully develop.

World Revolutions in The Last Decade

BY MICHAEL ROACH

VENEZUELA

While the whole world has been watching events unfold in Ukraine, protests have been occurring in Venezuela due to a conflict triggered by a disputed election result. Henrique Capriles Radonski, a popular candidate for President ran against interim President Nicolás Maduro. Maduro had won the election even though Radonski challenged the results.

Outrage at the corruption in the Maduro government, as well as the high amounts of crime, united students and middle to upper class citizens against Maduro triggering violent protests that have raged since late January. Opposition leader Leopoldo López has been imprisoned by Maduro, only adding more fuel to the fire which still is raging in Venezuela.

SYRIA

The protests and uprisings throughout countries in the Middle East have collectively come to be known as the 'Arab Spring.' Influential over most of the region, the "Arab Spring" is still occurring in some places. Syria, which has had an alliance of secularists, nationalists, Islamic groups and others band together against the regime of Bashar Al-Assad, has seen a small civil uprising in 2011 turn into a full out civil war

which is still raging today. From chemical attacks to insurgency, Syria has by far been the most costly war in human lives of all the uprisings in the Arab Spring, with approximately 120,000 killed as of late 2013 according to the U.N. This is not to mention the well over three million Syrians who have fled the country and subsequently have become refugees, seeking asylum in Europe, Turkey, Russia, and the United States.

LIBYA

Another ongoing part of the Arab Spring is the unstable state of Libya which has seen not only a dictator cast down but also a slow slip into anarchy. Although the overthrow and death of Muammar Gaddafi, the 42 year ruler of Libya did much to advance the cause of the opposition, conflicts between the established state government in Tripoli and the non-san-

ctioned freelance militias which reside primarily in Benghazi and elsewhere have created a tense political battle which Libya is still currently engulfed in. With the 2012, September 11th attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, the tension between the state and militias grew even more tense as state officials cracked down on the militias.

EGYPT

Egypt however, was the focal point of the Arab Spring demonstrations in the Middle East. While the revolution there was technically successful, it is still going through the arduous process of creating a democratic system. In February of 2011, longtime dictator fall Hosni Mubarak stepped down amidst a public uprising after he had been President of Egypt for 20

years. Peace, however was short lived. When newly elected President Mohammed Morsi threatened civil liberties and temporarily suspended the newly created Constitution, the military, backed with popular support, ousted Morsi in a coup d'état. Both Mubarak and Morsi are on trial and the political situation in Egypt is as of yet uncertain.

MIDDLE EAST

Other Arab Spring countries which overthrew their regimes or instituted major/minor reforms include: Jordan, Morocco, Yemen, Tunisia, Algeria, Kuwait, Lebanon and Oman. However, not all Arab Spring uprisings took root. For example, protests in Iran were met with abysmal failure.

On February 14, 2011, in what has been called the "Day of Rage", Iranian protesters

took to the streets protesting alleged election fraud and the high suppression that the Ahmadinejad regime kept firmly in place. Other causes were a lack of freedom of speech and violations of human rights.

Like their fellow protesters from the 'Arab Spring', the Iranian protesters used extensive use of social media to mobilize and communicate in a severely controlled society.

UNITED STATES

Finally, while not as violent, social movements have erupted here in the United States including the push for marriage equality and the legalization of marijuana; two socially liberal policies which have attracted both political traction and social approval after years of demonstrations country-wide.

And who can forget our direct product from the 'Arab Spring', the 'Occupy Movement', which swept the country and made issues like income inequality and youth empowerment two issues critical in the political and social discussion in America today.

LIFESTYLES

The Not So Secret Struggles of a Sales Associate

Is the Customer Really Always Right?

BY VICTORIA PRIOLA

Not many employed people care for what they do. It's almost in our nature to hate what we do for a living. There is one category of work that is set apart from all others and without a doubt has the most complaints: Retail.

"I love going to work, standing around for nine hours straight for mediocre pay and no benefits with a smile on my face," said no one ever. I'm sure other work environments are much more problematic than a store, but the average person would be surprised by what sales associates have to endure within a work period. None of which they get paid enough for.

How many hours can you work without wanting to kill the customer? How much sleep can you obtain during your mealy hour break? What can you do to make your boss think you're actually doing something productive at work? Having a job in any type of store is the ultimate test of patience.

If you aren't aware of the reality behind what retail workers actually go through, prepare to be amazed.

Coupons are a Customer's Best Friend: When your store is having a sale, no matter the

discount, be prepared to be aggravated. There's just something about percentage off that gets a crowd going. If the sale is good enough, you can actually witness their transformation from people to animals. It'll be a 20% sale on an item, and when the item isn't \$2, it's your fault. It's also your fault when coupons don't work on the selected item the customer brings to counter. There could be a neon billboard blinking in front of the item display stating that the coupon will not work and they'll still demand that it does or it should.

There will always be those customers who hand you stacks of coupons which are all expired, claiming that they are still valid. Someone will fight you over a sale that ended in 2007 and truly believe they are right. You'll be having a nice day at work, when you're suddenly handed an encyclopedia of coupons, none of which are applicable to the purchase being made.

Building Up to Breakdown; Cleaning the Store: What your boss means when they ask you to "try to clean up the floor" is "make sure the store looks good for others who will completely destroy whatever you've worked on".

Anyone who has been assigned to make any sort of display knows that it will not stay neat throughout the day. Depending on the flow of traffic throughout your store, a decent arrangement will be ruined in under an hour. In my personal retail experience, I am notorious for having my displays ruined. I'll be assigned a table of shirts to fold and set in place and as I am folding the shirts, customers will pick them up and throw them to the wayside when it's not up to their standards. I've been directly in front of them and they've thrown what I had been working on for ten minutes on the floor or they'll move them out of the piles and leave them on different platforms. Then when you ask them if they need help finding a particular size, they don't want it. They'd rather just make a mess and leave.

A People's Person; Customer Service VS. Customer Labor: We all know that customer that comes into the store as if they were the most important customer of the day. With money to blow, they prance around the store as if they owned the place. This is all well and good for business, but not so good for the poor worker that has to cater to their every need.

There is a fine line between service and labor. After a while of holding merchandise for a customer and running around the store to make sure they have what they need, it starts to seem as though they've become your temporary boss. Every customer is supposed to be treated with the utmost respect, but there are some who think they're entitled to a little more than they deserve. When the store is packed, these people can be the biggest problem for retail workers. They'll cut others in the check-out line, forcing the sales associate to be in the awkward "whoever gets to me first, pays" position. They're usually always the individuals who are wanted out of the store the fastest.

Although retail workers get the short end of the stick, most of the time doesn't mean the customers are always wrong. Sometimes the workers are the wrong ones, but I guess since they are being paid to be there and the customers are there by choice, it is hard to see it that way. The bottom line is, treat others the way you'd like to be treated. The next time you're in a store, try to go easy on the employees. If you see them looking miserable, now you know why.

Hairstyles for the Hardworking College Girl

BY AMANDA V GRANBERG



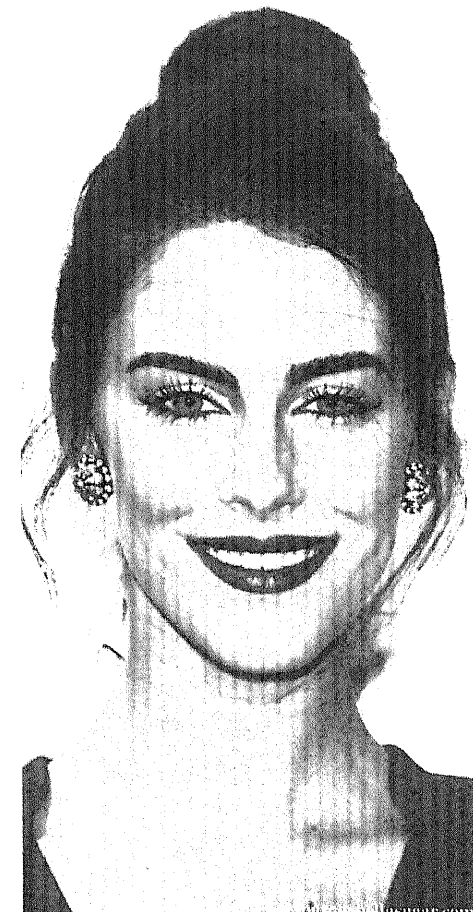
The Side Braid

This is a great hairstyle for girls with long to medium length hair, wavy to straight, or thick to thin. It's an easy way to look put together for a presentation in class or an internship. Simply pull the hair to one side and braid, if there is fallout on the opposite side, run a curling iron on low through the small tendrils, or just tuck them in with a bobby pin. The advantage with this look is when you're ready to go out at night, just undo the braid, use a light hairspray and the waves will be beautiful.



The Pixie Cut

Going shorter for summer is always a great idea as it will be more manageable and easier to work with on hot days. In a professional setting sweeping the hair to the side creates a polished and chic look without being masculine. Using an anti-frizz serum will make the style smoother and separate some hair for a more textured look. Another great product for this look would be "Healthy Hair Soy Paste", which is a pomade created specifically for dry hair-styling, available at drugstores for \$9.99.



The Top Knot

This hairstyle is great for early morning classes when there's not much time to get ready. Using a sock bun can sometimes be tricky but simply twisting your hair around a high ponytail can create the same look without a huge mass of bun and hair on the top of your head. It can also transfer to an after school job, meetings, or a night out. Pulling out some baby hairs around the face can make this look more unkempt for a wispy finish. For fine hair, secure with bobby pins so it holds all day.



The Diffusion

Girls with naturally curly hair are blessed in many ways, especially in summer when they can let their locks go free. For classes and such, simply dry washed hair with a diffuser (the huge claw that comes with most blowdryers), flip your head upside down and "scrunch". To ease frizz and hold the curls add a conditioning milk like the Shea Moisture Coconut & Hibiscus Curl & Style Milk for Thick, Curly Hair, which is available at drugstores for \$10.99.

LIFESTYLES

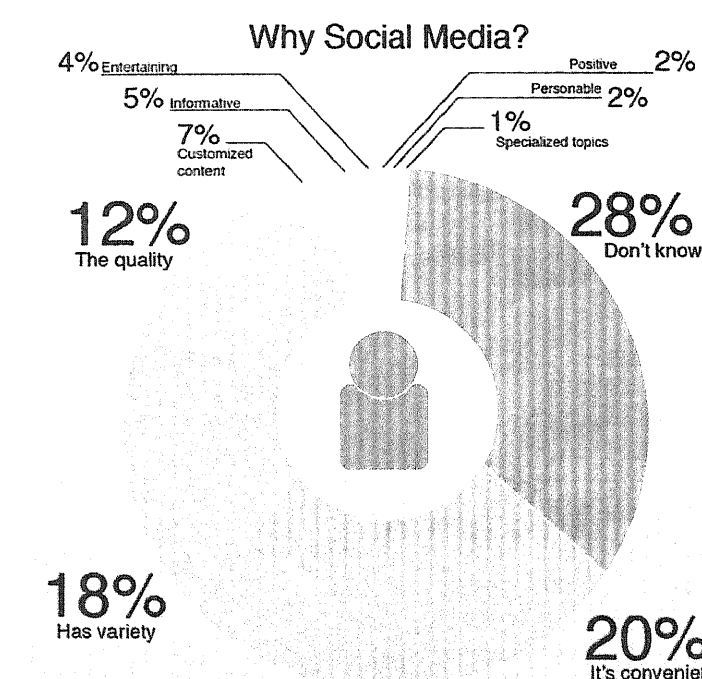
How Social Media has Revolutionized News

CSI Students Choose Twitter Over Traditional News Outlets

BY RYAN MILLER

We currently find ourselves amidst media's digital revolution. This cultural shift from traditional news sources (print media, television, radio) to more technologically enhanced sources (social media, websites, smartphone applications) marks a new era for news.

College students as a demographic perfectly demonstrate why these new facets of media are crucial to our informational digestion. Today's typical college student has a difficult enough time balancing school work, a job, extracurriculars, and most importantly, a social life. With so little time left for these on-the-go students, news sources are now breaking headlines and bringing them to the palms of our



hands.

Social media is the newest addition to our realm of communication. Primarily used for networking between people, sites like Twitter, Facebook, and Youtube have evolved beyond their original purpose and can now be considered a viable news source as well. Media outlets have flocked to these sites to further the reach of their voice, as they have profiles on each site dedicated to conveying the news much like their traditional predecessors. College students today are now more tech-savvy than prior generations, and clearly prefer these latest news mediums.

"I get a majority of my news through social media, most news outlets are on twitter and other social networking sites," said Justin Edwardsen, a junior at CSI. "So I'm simultaneously gathering information and keeping up with friends."

Edwardsen seems to echo the beliefs of many other students at CSI citing that, "social media allows for me to get the news I want, when I want it."

A poll of 250 CSI students found that 53% relied on social media as their primary news source. The fact that over half of those

polled preferred social media displays the need for information at our own convenience and right at our fingertips.

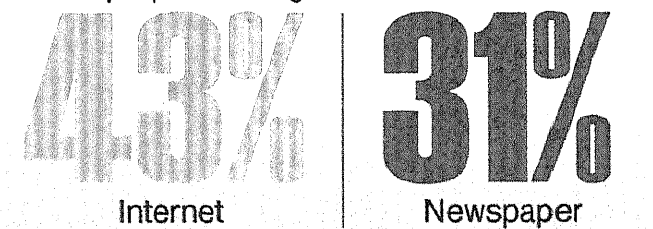
Social media certainly has its benefits, but its credibility can sometimes be questionable. There is a certain definitive quality about reading a newspaper article, as you can be assured that it's been fact-checked and edited. The online world is a much more open forum, where anyone can broadcast information, regardless of its validity. Officially credited websites and profiles can certainly be trusted, but often times it is difficult to distinguish what's real and what's not.

"Sometimes people post articles about breaking stories, but often times the sources aren't credible," said Erika Lanham, a sophomore at CSI. "It's important to double check information when you're getting it from an unfiltered source."

Printed publications are not the only ones taking to digital medium; television and radio have followed suit. Our parents' generation have become accustomed to watching the evening news or listening to the news on their commute to and from work. People enjoy how television and radio appeal to your senses. Both possess a special quality about them that have

Social Media vs The News

More people are using the internet for news content



kept people tuning in. Even though society's primary use of TV and radio may be for entertainment purposes, it's unavoidable to get glimpses of news from both each day. Conversely, our generation is more likely to turn to our laptops and smartphones.

While having a wealth of information at our fingertips is a valuable resource, we must remember that digital media, while convenient, may not always offer the best information.

"Print media has been around for hundreds of years already and will remain relevant for at least the duration of our lives," said Philip Szumanski, a CSI junior.

Digital media has provided college students with instant access to everything they need, but it is important to be conscious of the evolution of our news. This isn't the first time we have radically innovated the way we see the world, and it won't be the last.

Charts from SocialMediaDelivered.com

Don't Let Your Fear of Valet Parking Ruin a Night Out

Some Honest Insight from a Veteran Valet Guy

BY JOHN L. FALCONE III

Whether it is at a catering hall or the bistro down the block, valet parking is one of those inescapable realities of life in the big city. Some people, however, will go to great lengths to avoid it.

As someone who has been a parking attendant since 2006, I have come to realize that many people are afraid of valet parking, and they usually fear it for the dumbest reasons. Throughout the years I've had the job I have seen some rather unfortunate things happen to cars, seen keys get lost, and found out that co-workers had stolen something from a car, but stuff like that is far from the norm.

With the hope of alleviating your anxiety, I am going to try to give you some insight into the world of valet parking by honestly responding to comments that I hear almost every time I work.

"I don't want any scratches or dents."

Newsflash genius, neither do I. Many people seem to have this notion that the valet guy wants to damage your car, as if he gets bonus points for scratched bumpers and dented quarter panels.

The reality is that many guys lose their

jobs when they cause major damage to someone's car.

"I don't understand why I cannot park my own car."

At some restaurants and catering halls you will be told by a valet that the parking lot is for valet parking only. This can sometimes cause people to erupt into a fit of rage and accuse us

even been waiting 15 minutes for your car, but you see others getting theirs so you find it necessary to be over dramatic and whine about it. I usually hear nonsense like this after fundraisers, charity events, or auctions where there is a 50/50 raffle or a big prize given away at the very end. After the winner is called, everyone leaves at the same time. Surely you have the

The restaurant or catering hall management usually wants us to park all the cars in the lot for insurance reasons. If you do not want us parking your car, just leave the lot and park elsewhere.

of forcing them to give up their cars. Nothing could be further from the truth. In actuality that decision has nothing to do with the valet himself. The restaurant or catering hall management usually wants us to park all the cars in the lot for insurance reasons. If you do not want us parking your car, just leave the lot and park elsewhere.

"I've been waiting 30 minutes for my car; this is why I hate valet parking."

Please, shut up. Chances are you haven't

ability to perform some rudimentary math: 250 people who want their cars, divided by 5 valets on duty, equals you not getting your car instantaneously.

"Last time I gave my car to a valet something was stolen."

Oh really? Why would you leave an iPad in your car in plain sight? While no valet should ever take anything, please use your common sense about what you leave in your car. Temptation is a powerful thing. You sim-

ply would not believe what I have seen people leave in their cars; wads of money in cup holders, dime bags, cocaine, wallets, check books, smart phones, iPods, laptops, jewelry, and dogs (yes, I have had people leave dogs in their cars and not tell me).

"No joyrides, I know exactly how many miles are on it."

Typically this statement is made by men who think I am so impressed by their car that I'd be tempted to take it on a Ferris Bueller's Day Off style joyride. However, like most valets who have been on the job for a while I have driven just about everything, and I could really care less about your Corvette, BMW, or Maserati. Chances are that I drove something nicer and more expensive last night.

So, next time you go out for the night try not to let the fact that you have to give your car to the valet guy worry you so much. Remember that he is not out to get you and that it is in his best interest to keep your car safe. And please, do not forget that if you give him a nice tip and tell him to keep it in a good spot you'll likely get a better reaction than telling him you don't want any scratches or dents.

BANNER ARTS

The United Island Fest Rocked The Full Cup

Local Bands Show Hometown Love

BY VICTORIA PRIOLA

As the doors opened at 3:30PM opening night, people from all throughout the island began to fill the venue. The Full Cup has hosted many events throughout their years in business, but it is no ordinary venue. It is considered the home of local music and part of the journey to make it big on Staten Island.

Local Staten Island talent shined through on 388 Van Duzer St. as The Full Cup held the epic two day event: The United Island Fest presented by WSIA 88.9 and LX Booking.

Milestones, Polarity, One to the Head and A Work in Progress performed at the venue the first night, March 8. The bands Strays, Six Shots Later, Pledge, Road to Violence, A Death on Main Street, Smile You've Won, Pete's Lost Luggage, Endless Sacrifice, A Major Choice, Among the Ruined, and Avarice performed on March 9.

People should be aware that rock concerts such as these can get dangerous. Moshers were jumping from the ledge of the sitting area into the pit. One fan even tried running up the wall on the side causing a line of drinks to fall and shattered glass lined the center of the room. During the One to the Head set, another fan was kicked in the face, causing his eye to be inflamed throughout the rest of the night.

The shows headlining band Milestones, who have not played at The Full Cup since January due to their city to city tour, according to vocalist Damian LaRocco, were extremely excited to come back to their roots.

"It's a hometown show, we get home town love. It's awesome playing here," said LaRocco. "It's cool when people of different types of music come out to shows and support each other. We're all friends despite our different music."

Staten Island native band One to the Head are no strangers to playing local shows. Jonathan Reyes, booker at LX Booking and lead

vocalist of the band said that they have been together for two years now.

"The local music scene is everything to me, honestly. I love the scene so much and I try to give all bands opportunities to play, make sure things are done properly and in order. I wouldn't give up local music for anything," said Reyes.

Polarity is another band that has made a big break because of the local music scene and are Staten Island native. "My brother played music (as well). It's weird seeing people grow into the scene and then grow out. It changes all the time but it stays strong," said Polarity vocalist

Gunner Morales.

The feeling of unity and home radiated from the venue as the bands spent time before and after their sets hanging out with their friends and fans. No matter how much success the bands received, they remained humble.

Nothing has come easy for these bands but they've prevailed over their struggles.

"Don't trust anyone," said John Burman, bassist and back vocalist of Milestone. "Be smart about your decision making and when booking shows make sure you get paid."

Most of the bands that played throughout the two day event make it their goal to get signed and tour more often. The talent and passion is there and thanks to The Full Cup and LX Booking, the bands showcased their unique abilities to the music community. The bands sent their unconditional love to their fans.

"Without the fans, I would have nothing. I'm happy to be here. I'm happy to make music that everyone enjoys. I hope that they spread the news so the community grows and we grow together," said Jonathan Reyes.

As Milestones, formally known as Four Nights Gone, has gone through their changes as a band, they are grateful for those who have supported them the whole way by saying "Please don't leave us," to the crowd.



Photo Credit: Victoria Priola

300: Rise of an Empire - A Sequel Not Worth the Wait

A Success in Action but a Failure Overall

BY MATTHEW MCKENNA

300: Rise of an Empire attempted to seize glory with intense action movie that follows the epic story of a fictionalized retelling of the Battle of Salamis.

The movie is made by a different director this time around named Noam Murro. The original director for the first 300 film, Zach Snyder, who also made the recent Superman reboot Man of Steel, was still involved by producing the film and making sure it is as good as the first.

The audience's perspective is viewed through Greek general Themistokles played by Sullivan Stapleton. The General intends to unite Sparta with Greece to defeat their common enemy the Persians, but Sparta, being Sparta, is too stubborn to join. Led by the God

King Xerxes, played by Rodrigo Santoro, a call back from the original 300, and Artemisia, played by Eva Green, his naval commander, Persia then intended to crush Sparta and Greece in a classic boastful and self aggrandizing fashion.

During an interview, Zach Snyder acknowledged, "the movie isn't a sequel or a prequel because it happens during the battle of Thermopylae but at sea."

General Themistokles relies on tactics and his military honor more than brute force like King Leonidas played by Gerald Butler. Artemisia contrasts well to the Greek General because she relied on her savagery as a killer to combat Sparta.

The film has epic action scenes much like the original 300, so the film doesn't disappoint



Source: emanuelleny.com

in that department. Only this time the numerous bulky men with six packs battle on the open sea with huge war ships.

The camera and lighting used in the movie was much like the first, which is fantastic. The director put great detail into the slowed sequences used for the scenes showing sword slashing and lean body parts of large men shaking with every strike. The music soundtrack was well composed adding even more excitement to the already intense moments.

There were a few drawbacks however. The budget of the movie was \$110 million and most of it was put towards the actors and not the special effects. The special effects were bland and unrealistic. It did not match the standards of 2014 technology. The blood looked like red paint and the sword hits were

anticlimactic.

Speeches before the battle scenes were not believable especially at the beginning of the movie. The actors did not give their best performances this time around. The dialogue seemed stale and unimaginative.

Adding Lena Headey from HBO's Game of Thrones made the movie seem like an over-budgeted version of the show.

Most of the movie just imitated the first. The only difference was that they threw in an intense and gratuitous nude scene. The R rating probably saved it from complete disaster.

With all of these moments the rating I would give this film is a 3 out of 5 McKennas. It is worth watching if you like intense action movies and racy nude scenes but not worth watching if you like quality film making.



Source: Timenc.net

BANNER ARTS

Pizza, Hollywood, Selfies, & Celebrities

A Look Back On the 2014 Academy Awards

BY JONATHAN CABAN

Every year, the stars come out and people all over gather to watch them shine. That's right, I'm talking about the Academy Awards and it just celebrated its 86th year. Comedian and television host Ellen DeGeneres hosted the awards for the second time after hosting the 79th ceremony back in 2007. The event had its fair share of memorable moments that made you smile, laugh and cringe.

Let's start with the host, shall we? Ellen DeGeneres was fantastic as the event's host using the same humor and charm that makes her talk show so successful. You can count on her humor to be entertaining without being crude (unlike Seth MacFarlane's boob song from last year's ceremony). In her opening speech, she targeted actress Jennifer Lawrence's clumsiness to the unusual weather in Los Angeles.

"It has been a tough couple of days for us here," said DeGeneres. "It has been raining. We're fine. Thank you for your prayers."

Later, DeGeneres started one of the event's best moments when she walked in the audience and asked Meryl Streep to be in a selfie with her. Her intention was to have it be the most retweeted picture ever. Well, she got her wish, and more, when not just Streep, but many other celebs, jumped in to pose for the iconic picture. While it was an extremely creative marketing ploy for Samsung, it was still a great moment to see A-List stars acting like kids rushing to be included.

Soon after, DeGeneres asked the audience who would eat pizza if she ordered. Some raised their hands in amusement never dream-



Source: Hollywoodreporter.com

Hundreds of professional photographers around, however nothing beats a Bradley Cooper & friends selfie

ing that it would actually come. Later after a commercial break, DeGeneres came out with a very surprised delivery man then handed out paper plates, napkins and slices to a very happy crowd. She didn't just stick to the stage. She brought the show into the audience, making us at home feel like we're right there alongside them. I thought it was great.

The musical performances this year were as diverse as the films nominated. Pharrell was first and sang his hit song "Happy" from *Despicable Me 2*. I'm not a fan of this song but Meryl Streep, Amy Adams, and Lupita Nyong'o were as they danced with Pharrell when he left the stage and sang in the audience. However, he wore that same hat again and I'm wondering if it's become his good

luck charm.

Karen O with Ezra Koenig performed "The Moon Song" from *Her*. I'm not familiar with this singer but the performance reminded me of something I saw in Union Square in the city.

U2 sang "Ordinary Love" from *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom* and while I'm usually a fan of this group, I didn't find the performance memorable. Pink sang "Over the Rainbow" to commemorate the 75th anniversary of *The Wizard of Oz*. This was my favorite performance of the night, she dominated this song. Bette Midler sang "Wind Beneath My Wings" after the In Memoriam montage. If the montage itself didn't put you in a melancholy mood, then Midler's song did.

New South Park Game is as Enjoyable as the Show

Come on Down to South Park & Meet Some Friends of Mine!

BY STEPHEN KLEIN

After many delays and the fall of THQ, South Park: The Stick of Truth finally hits store shelves and was worth the wait.

What is probably most amazing about The Stick of Truth is just how much fun it is to explore and battle in the town of South Park. I must admit that I'm not a super huge fan of straight-up role-playing games.

Personally, I prefer RPGs with some action flair rather than being turn-based. Still, it was extremely addictive and was more fun than I can handle.

In fact, I'd even go as far as saying that South Park: The Stick of Truth ranks amongst the most fun and humorous games I have ever played. I haven't laughed this much in a video game since Portal 2.

That being said, I have no idea how Trey Parker and Matt Stone continue to be so hilarious after almost seventeen years of doing the show. With no censorship in the U.S. version of the game, there is so much gloriously offensive humor that I truly don't know where to begin.

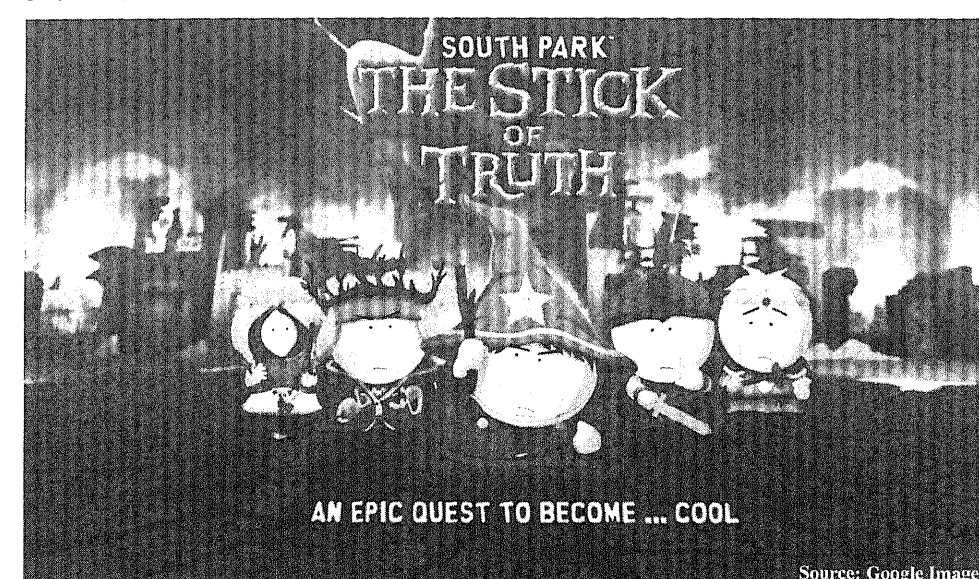
Humor aside, another thing that makes this

game so faithful to the show is just how similar to the show it looks. The Stick of Truth is not about the latest in graphical benchmarks. It's about visually recreating that South Park cartoon look as if you are playing in an episode of the show. The level of visual crappiness is just the icing on the cake.

However, the fact that this game isn't graphically stunning had me wondering why there were so many technical issues.

There are some very strange glitches and control issues in this adventure. The only one I came across that was particularly bad had to do with the text becoming completely unreadable. Although, once I quit and restarted the game, I never had that issue again.

Technical issues aside, The Stick of Truth encourages players to have fun and explore.



Source: Google Images

Finally, Idina Menzel sang "Let It Go" from *Frozen*. I was expecting this to be my favorite performance but it felt rushed almost like they shortened the song at the last minute. Also I'm sure the fact that her name was misspelled didn't help the situation.

Speaking of, let's talk about how John Travolta shouldn't be allowed to present anything anymore. The man called her "Adele Duzeem"! I get annoyed whenever someone mispronounces my last name so I'm sure Menzel was stinging about it right before her performance.

Coming up second on the ridiculous list was poor Kim Novak presenting Best Animated Short Film and Best Animated Feature with Matthew McConaughey. Kim Novak is a Hollywood legend (she was the lead in *Vertigo*) but she looked like someone who just escaped from the nursing home. Bless her heart.

Just like the ceremony, I waited till the end to talk about the winners. Best Supporting Actor and Actress went to Jared Leto for *Dallas Buyers Club* and Lupita Nyong'o for *12 Years a Slave*. I thought both of these wins were deserved and they each had great speeches acknowledging the inspirations behind their roles.

Cate Blanchett took the award for Best Leading Actress for *Blue Jasmine* and told Julia Roberts to "suck it" during her speech. Private joke maybe? Matthew McConaughey took Best Actor for *Dallas Buyers Club* (Poor Leo!). I'm not a fan of his and he came off like a jerk during his speech. But we will let him enjoy it, it'll never happen again.

Throughout my thirteen hours of gameplay, which is short by RPG standards, I'd say almost half of that time was spent collecting Chinpokomon, finding side-quests, and searching for other South Park digital memorabilia. For my first three hours, I barely even did any main quests. I was having too much fun.

Simply put, South Park: The Stick of Truth is a great game. Thanks to the heavy involvement of Trey Parker and Matt Stone as well as developers Obsidian Entertainment of *Fallout: New Vegas* fame, you will find not only one of the most faithful and downright best licensed games ever made, but one of the most enjoyable and funniest around. South Park: The Stick of Truth is awarded with a 10 out of 10.

Available Platforms: Xbox 360, PS3, PC
Genre: Role Playing
Published by: Ubisoft, THQ
Developed by: Obsidian
Franchise: South Park
ESRB Rating: Mature: Blood and Gore, Drug Reference, Mature Humor, Nudity, Strong Language, Strong Sexual Content, Violence

BANNER OPINIONS

The Age Old Debate - Creation Vs Evolution

The Creationist Argument

BY JOHN L. FALCONE III

Bill Nye still isn't able to walk right after the spanking he received this past February when he faced off in a debate against Ken Ham, one of America's most outspoken creationists and founder of both the Creation Museum in Petersburg, Kentucky and AnswersInGenesis.com.

Not only is his rump still sore, supporters of evolution admit that they are also feeling the pain of Bill Nye's blundered opportunity to defend the honor of those who believe that man has evolved from monkeys.

"After watching the debate...it was easy to pick out the smarter man on the stage. Oddly, it was the same man who was arguing that the earth is 6,000 years old," said Michael Schulson, writer for theDailyBeast.com, who himself is a believer in the theory of evolution. "It was like watching the Broncos play the Seahawks. Nye never had a chance."

If you are scratching your head and wondering how could Bill Nye, who is obviously an extremely intelligent and educated man, could lose this debate so badly, you obviously haven't watched it.

Nye's opponent, Ken Ham, is a young earth creationist, and essentially what that

means is that he takes the biblical account of creation as given in the book of Genesis at face value. He argues that the earth was created in 6 days, and that it is approximately 6,000 years old. He attributes much of the geological evidence which old-earth scientists (evolutionists) use to prove their theories to the great flood—you know, the one from the story of Noah's Ark.

Anytime that Ham spoke during the debate he sounded calm, cool, collected, and prepared. He clearly defined his arguments and made sure to speak to both the live and online audience as if you were normal human beings; in essence he made a reasonable appeal to reasonable people.

Nye on the other hand was a hot mess. Babbling on and on about random examples of scientific facts and scenarios he sounded like a sweaty nerd who takes biology class too seriously. There was a point where CNN's Tom Foreman, the debate moderator, paused to say to the audience after one of Nye's rants "that's a lot to take in, I hope everyone is holding up well; that's a lot of information."

In addition to the nerdgasm that Nye was having on stage, he repeatedly resorted to insults and assumptions about Ham's argu-

ments which Ham jumped all over. One that stood out was Nye's comments about Noah and his family being unskilled and incapable of building a boat the size of the Ark.

Ham did not miss the opportunity to make a reasonable appeal to the reasonable people in the audience: "Why would you say Noah was unskilled? I mean, I didn't meet Noah, and neither did you. Hey, there are civilizations that existed in the past that we look at their technology and we can't understand today how they did some of the things they did, who says Noah couldn't build a big boat?"

There were other examples of insults and assumptions: At one point, Nye equated English translations of the Bible with the children's game telephone, claiming they are inaccurate because they've been translated again and again; ironically later in the debate while attempting to debunk something Biblical he admitted that he is "far from a theologian." He also continued to refer to creationism as "Ken Ham's creation model," despite Ham repeatedly proving throughout the debate that numerous well recognized and widely published scientists from various fields hold to a Biblical-creationist belief.

Ultimately, while this debate was enter-

taining and both Nye and Ham made some good points, there was really only one moment that seemed to truly define who won this debate.

During the audience question portion, Bill Nye was asked to explain where the atoms that were present at the big bang came from; his reply was highly unscientific: "This is the mystery! This is what drives us, let's keep looking, let's find out."

Huh? You're Bill Nye THE Science Guy answering science's ultimate question and that is what you say?

If Bill Nye could have assumed one thing going into this debate it would have been that if Ken Ham were asked the question where did everything come from he would have recited straight from Genesis 1:1. "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." And that is exactly the answer Ham gave during his response to Nye. Nye must have known that Ham would say that, but yet Nye gave Ham the victory by not having an answer to this question.

Essentially Nye told the audience you have to have faith that science will find an answer to the question Ken Ham already has an answer to, and that is the biggest reason why Nye lost.

The Evolutionist Argument

BY MICHAEL ROACH

The ongoing "war" between religion and science marked its first significant battle of 2014 on February 4. At the Creation Museum, located in Petersburg, Kentucky, Mr. Ken Ham, the CEO and Founder of Answers in Genesis, the company which operates the Creation Museum, as well as leading Christian apologist, faced off against children's television super-star and Executive Director of the Planetary Society, Bill Nye "The Science Guy."

Despite the hesitancy of many other scientists to engage in debate with creationists, Bill Nye, being the superb and dedicated educator that he is, decided to take on the source of anti-evolutionary ideas head on.

There were many moments where secular people, including myself, had to slap our faces every time Ken Ham responded to something by saying, "Well Mr. Nye, there's a book out there that tells us everything!" Yet, Bill Nye kept a calm composure, despite ludicrous claims, and went the "extra mile" to explain evolutionary theory in the simplest scientific terms.

Nye consistently blew holes into both the Biblical stories for their scientific improbability as well as Ham's own scientifically inconsistent assertions. When Ham claimed that there were around 7,000 species of animals on "Noah's Ark," Nye swept in with elementary math showing calculations that suggested if 7,000 species of animals were on this "ark," approximately 4,000 years ago, in order to see the amount of species variation we have today, we would have had to discover 11 new species every day for the last 4,000 years!

But ultimately, Nye had a sense of giddy

enthusiasm to share the knowledge that science has revealed as well as convey the sense of wonder that lies in the unknown aspects of our universe. This can be summed up in his response to the question, "What, if anything, would ever change your mind?" where he responded, "We would need just one piece of evidence..." Keep this response in mind as I will contrast it to Ham's reply later on.

Moving to Ham's argument, things started to get not only inaccurate but simply desperate, as Ham used every argument known to man except ad hominem attacks, although it's implied through his attempts to spin the word "secular" with a negative connotation.

Ham used a "tiered" argument in which he tried to first make an imaginary contrast between "historical science" and "observational science," then created equal footing between creationism and evolution, and finally delivered his Christian message toward promotion of creationism in schools and society.

To start, we observe what Ham means by "observational" science and "historical" science. Ham asserts that historical science differs from observational science because you cannot observe events in the past directly. Thus, he claims that both evolution and creationism are equivalent. Still, he bases this assumption on another assumption that we cannot use observational science to make positive inferences on what occurred in the past – which we can.

His next move is to equate evolution with creationism in regards to validity. He attempts to do this by trying to make an "argument from authority"; unleashing a long montage of video of "creation scientists", or scientists who are sub-

scribed to the notion of Young Earth Creationism, expressing their opinions in favor of compatibility of science and Y.E.C.

However, upon further investigation, it's revealed that some of these scientists are on the payroll of known pro-creationist organizations including Dr. Stuart Burgess who is on the 'Council of Reference' for the U.K. Creationist group, Truth in Science, and Dr. Danny Faulkner who is actually working for Answers in Genesis – on Ham's payroll; he states that, "There is nothing in observational astronomy that contradicts a recent creation", even though he no doubt has observed throughout his career, numerous stars which are perceived as they were millions of years ago rather than currently as light takes millions of years to travel from one end of the galaxy to another.

Obviously, an astronomer with a belief in a 6,000 year old universe is a paradox equal in absurdity to a Jewish Nazi or an Irish temperance advocate.

Finally, Ken Ham looks to deliver the final part of his argument by equating creationism and evolution, stressing that they are 'both' theories that need to be taught in classrooms and elsewhere. This is his final and greatest fallacy. Creationism is not a theory because in order for something to be a theory, it must be able to make valid predictions which can be tested for its falsifiability or its validity.

Ham's creation model uses no data, no empirical evidence, and cannot make successful and reliable predictions. When Ham was asked the question, "What, if anything, would ever change your mind?" he in a nutshell stated, "Nothing". It's the arrogance of certainty which

nailed Ham's theoretical coffin in this debate.

So what is the point of this debate? It depends on who you ask. For Nye, this was a time to expose a large audience to why evolution needs to be taught and why creationism is a false and detrimental model to follow. However, a more poignant question is what implications does this debate have? People who are likely to believe in Ken Ham's creation model are also more likely to dismiss global warming as a hoax.

In fact, after the debate, Ken Ham and Bill Nye delved once more into debate over Global Warming during a segment from Piers Morgan Tonight on CNN, with Ham taking the "Global Warming is a hoax" stance, as predicted. In addition, teaching Creationism in schools not only violates the first amendment of the Constitution, but also slows scientific learning and stifles creative and inquisitive thinking.

Moreover, the fact that the Creation Museum has not only collected \$73 million of funding from the publicity generated after the debate, but also that this money isn't going to a charity or a medical endowment, but rather towards the construction of a life-size model of "Noah's Ark".

In Bill Maher's movie, Religulous, Maher visits the Creation Museum back in 2007 when it was still under construction. Maher interviews Ken Ham and asks him, in short, why is it necessary to state that dinosaurs coexisted with early men? His reply pretty much sums up his entire argument in the debate. Ham said, "If you're saying, 'this part over here says God made land animals and man on the same day' is not true, then ultimately, why should I believe this bit over here?"

SEX AND THE ISLAND

The Fairies Who Live in the Basement

The Tale of Naivety Saved by Blacking Out

BY JEAN-CLAUDE QUINTYNE

Was I out of my mind or had my decision to go without food for that day backfired? I saw her here, standing in front of the corner store, smoking a Newport cigarette and viscerally eyeballing every man that passed by, wearing a short but thick jacket with fur on its hood, tight jeans that were abnormally baggy on her, and long hair that seemed too beautiful to be on the head of a woman standing in front of a bodega in East New York, Brooklyn.

She was beautiful and had a commanding presence that suggested she didn't take shit from my body. Her demeanor caused me to believe I might be crazy to even think about approaching her—but I did. Before a word could stumble through my lips, the eerie stillness of that night found life as I tapped her shoulder. It seemed as if her emotions controlled the weather, for as she turned to look at me, a light breeze kissed my face and a chill shot up my spine.

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Surprisingly, she smiled at me. Her large, yet sleepy eyes gazed into mine—into my soul—as their black emptiness carefully examined my face. Her's was wrought with tight and shiny skin that emitted a soft glow in the street-light. I guessed she was in her middle to late twenties, because I hadn't spotted any wrinkles or grey hairs. And her perfume, whatever it might have been, threw me in a battle to resist grabbing her face and kissing her. Her lips appeared to be soft and inviting. I half-expected there to be a sign somewhere on her shirt advertising the hordes of men killed trying to seize a kiss without permission.

"Hi," was the word that floated from her tongue into my eardrums, said with such condescending intensity that I nearly apologized and went on my way. I asked her if she would have a cup of coffee with me, and she declined, and quickly suggested that this chance encounter would last a moment longer if we visited the nearest bar.

Two weeks had passed since I'd agreed to visit that bar with her. She had taken me to a beautifully decorated spot located in the basement of a two-family apartment. After that night, we went on a handful of dates to restaurants I didn't know existed in Brooklyn, though, I couldn't wrap my mind around why she asked me to wait in a black cab that was always parked outside of the restaurants when we'd finish dinner to which she briskly walked and nervously entered into, hurrying the driver to take us to my home.

She never spoke about herself, not even where she lived, what she did for a living, or

what her preferences were, until a freezing and windy December night.

I was one block away from my house—the taxi always let us out a block away from there—when she stopped me and asked if I believed if there was a god. Whilst using all of the drunken energy I had to prevent my sphincter from relaxing, I responded by saying that I didn't believe in anything, that I wasn't sure. She laughed a little, hesitantly grabbed my face, and said that we could be "the couple that abolishes evil in this world" and that "if I stand beside her, everything else will wither in our presence."

Bewildered and much too sleepy from the multiple Dixie cup's worth of "white rum and cranberry" that she had me gorge that night, I successfully restrained my laughter and responded "what if I am the 'evil'"—hinting at my preference for things that don't shit rainbows and pixie dust. Promptly, after a couple weeks of honeymoon-esque glances, hugs, and

groping, she slapped the two-hour buzz I miraculously and carefully sculpted out of me. I apologized for saying what I said, and, as if she were a temptress confined to a life of celibacy immediately freed, she threw me up against the building we were standing in front of and kissed me.

Her tongue vehemently massaged my lips, examining every inch of them with extreme precision, before penetrating them to begin its exotic assault on the inside of my mouth. I'd never felt a tongue so dry, yet moist, as it stealthily wrapped itself around mine, tugging it towards her body and then stopping momentarily before shoving itself deep into my throat. The kiss, or whatever the fuck it was, abruptly stopped. She stared at me and then asked to follow her. For some reason, I felt it necessary to withhold the fact that I needed to get home, for I had an important exam that required two hours of studying and at least seven smoked cigarettes festering in my lungs beforehand the following morning.

We approached a run-down apartment building three blocks from where we were, which somehow amounted to a twenty-minute walk. She opened a creaky gate and, after a moment of fumbling through her obviously empty pockets, told me that she forgot her keys and pulled a butter knife from her purse and pried the door open. I ducked underneath cobwebs and shielded my face from waves of dust, until we arrived in a dark room. Its hollow nature caused me to focus on feeling for walls or a floor, instead of where exactly I was. She released the grip she had on my forearm and

walked to a corner of a room in a manner that suggested she'd been here countless times before and flipped on a light.

An incandescent bulb that was dangling over my head flickered on. Its light revealed what I convinced myself to be a basement. There was a sink piled with stained paper plates and plastic cups just beyond my right side, a dirty lawn chair to my left, and two closed doors in front of me. With an embarrassed look on her face, she asked me to follow her to the door nearest to the lawn chair. We reached inside another hollow space until she signaled that I sit on the leather couch that sat by itself in the center of the room.

I was relieved—and mildly shocked—to sit on something so comfortable. Recklessly, I dropped myself on the couch, which made a subtle deflating sound, causing her to quickly look back at me with irritation and elicited some sort of multi-legged insect to emerge from it and scurry up the wall beside me. Her shoulders relaxed for the first time since I'd first seen her; she walked over to me, dropped her purse, and straddled me. The kiss she'd planted on me outside nearly half an hour before somehow resumed, and I was once again in bliss.

But she stopped again and pushed herself away from me. She sloppily lit a cigarette and asked for me to wait there until she got back. I didn't have enough time to respond. As soon as I agreed, she disappeared, and I found myself alone, drunk, and in a foreign place armed only with my dead cell phone.

Within an hour, I think, she returned and saddled herself next to me with a laptop and smelled as if she'd smoked and clipped a thousand cigarettes. My buzz was in its last moments as I began to feel the room spinning

She went on about "true love", "destiny", and other fables that hopeless romantics wax about, until I got a hold of myself and noticed that the laptop screen was flashing the opening credits to a Twilight movie. I finally said "adieu" to my buzz.

around me. She went on about "true love", "destiny", and other fables that hopeless romantics wax about, until I got a hold of myself and noticed that the laptop screen was flashing the opening credits to a Twilight movie. I finally said "adieu" to my buzz.

I didn't want to upset her, because she somehow had burst into tears as the movie dragged on, and I remembered that slap she laid on me earlier that night, so I kindly—and sarcastically—asked if there was a bathroom; the urine that had been building up in my urethra for who-knows-how-long felt as if ammonia had been poured into it. But as I rose to my feet, she grabbed my arm, pulled me back down, and whipped out a beautifully rolled joint—the

source of that awful smell. With the smirk she had on her face, she didn't have to utter a word explaining why I should forget about the bathroom break.

Before I knew it, the joint was lit and I was in a world beyond cloud nine. As a matter of fact, whatever cloud I was on caused me to accept her offering me wheat bread filled with chocolate syrup.

She gently put the laptop on my trembling legs and pulled an inflatable bed from underneath the couch. Moments later, with the joint nearly finished, she and I were lying on our stomachs watching the atrocity of a movie that had been playing on the laptop screen. The man and the woman in the movie were talking themselves into a sex scene when she began to whisper obscenities in my ear. I couldn't make out anything she was saying until the next few.

"You naughty boy," she whispered, "you naughty, naughty boy. Tonight's the night you'll do it. You'll break my back seal won't you?"

Never in my life had I lost a buzz and a high as quickly as I did that night. When her words registered in my muddled thoughts, my only instinct was getting the fuck out of there, where ever there was. But I remembered the sting of the slap she had given me earlier, and how excruciating it was. No human being who cared about her face would allow a blow of that magnitude to happen again, not even if it meant her dignity.

But I declined, hoping that she would pass out because the joint was finished. I was wrong. She pulled out another, which was rolled more elegantly than the first, sharply increasing my worry. I took a long drag from the new joint, and thought that I had discovered the secrets of life.

Along with her slowly repeating the request

for me to "break her back seal" accompanied her calculated stabs of my torso with her pedicured nails, which worked their way down to my belt buckle. She had somehow flipped me onto my back and removed my pants. But I was long gone, for every time I glanced at her, hoping that she'd stop, billions of fairies fell from her mouth.

The rainbow-colored fairies morphed into a menacing stream of blood; she rose to her feet and exited the room, returning with a bottle of ammonia that she promptly splashed around the room, demanding that I "stick it in her ass."

After I blacked out from the smell, I never saw her again. But the last image I have of her is her stark naked body standing over mine.

SPORTS

Men's Baseball Season Preview

BY MICHAEL PAPANDREA

After advancing to the CUNYAC championships four years in a row and winning it last year, the men's baseball club will get a fresh start with five seniors leaving. There are 13 freshmen and a total of 16 new players that will help fifth year manager, Michael Mauro, shape the team.

The Dolphins first showcased their new squad not in New York, but in South Carolina, where they took part in the Cal Ripkin Division III Experience. Coach Mauro plugged in a few of his freshmen into starting spots, and none played a bigger role than Nick Delprete.

"I got a nice second baseman, Delprete. He's gonna start right away," said Coach Mauro. "I also have a pitcher, Chris Falcone, he's a lefty that actually transferred from Felician college. He's gonna be good."

Delprete started 4 of 5 games at second base and was featured in the leadoff spot for each

start.

Other newcomers that were used as starters in South Carolina were third baseman Tilson Brito, catcher Frank Sconzo, and pitcher Falcone.

Overall, the team went 2-3 against some tough competition. When they return home, they will get a chance to improve on that record with five straight home games. With the amount of first year players, coach isn't worried about way the season has started thus far.

"The good thing is I have enough leftover kids that have played in the championship game to kind of feed off the younger guys," said Mauro. "To let them know what we expect and how hard it is to get to the championship game. So I'm not really worried about that cause the freshmen that came in kind of bought into the system. So they kind of understand what we do."

One of the biggest strengths to last years

ball club was the number one ranked defense to back up their strong pitchers. That defense is expected to take a hit with the inexperienced college players, but coach Mauro believes his defense only got better.

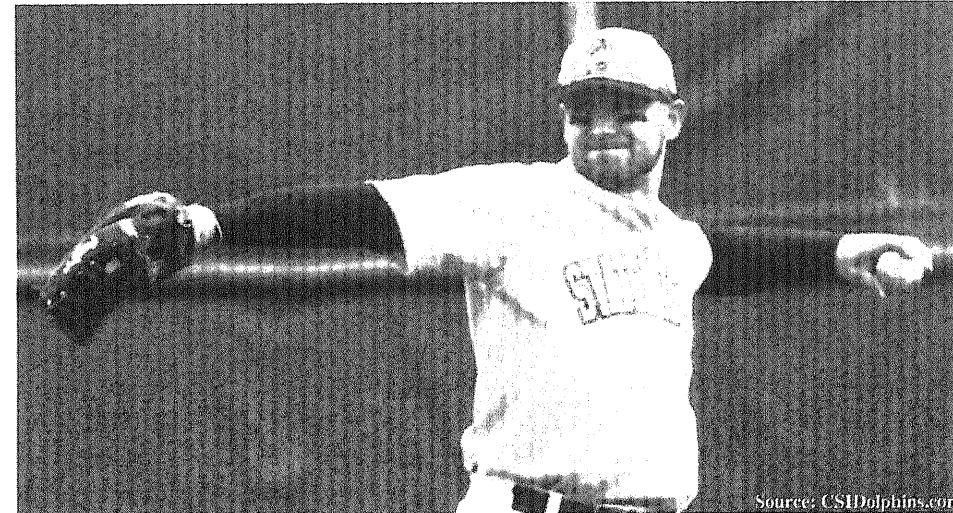
"The first 5 games we played in South Carolina, we made three errors so we've done well," said Mauro. "Our defense is probably our strongest point so I'm happy about that."

Another key to the season will be the returning players. Guys like outfielder Will DiFede, infielder Joseph Palmeri, pitcher Anthony Storz, pitcher and infielder John Baggs, and lone senior, Chris Ramanaukas made major contributions to the team last year and will look to follow it up.

DiFede was able to maintain a batting average of .340. Palmeri and Baggs hit .284 and .308, respectively, while Storz held an era under 2.00 in limited action. Ramanaukas was able to hit above .400 last season and reach base in half of his at bats. In his final season, he will be a huge part to the teams success moving forward in 2014.

"He's the only senior on the team and he did everything last year," said Mauro. "He's very valuable because all these kids get to see how much hard work he puts in and the results and it rubs off on other kids. So he's gonna be our big leader for this year."

With a handful of returning players, the team was able to do a great job recruiting pieces to keep them in the hunt for the CUNY title. More importantly, if a good amount of the freshmen can take on important roles, it will help the team keep contending for years to come.



Source: CSIDolphins.com

Dolphins Named ECAC Champions

Men's Basketball Team Defeats Kean 73-71

BY JESSICA PIFALO

After the CSI Men's Basketball team lost the CUNYAC finals last week against conference foes York College, then took another hit when they were snubbed out of a spot in the 2013-14 Division III National Tournament, the Dolphins were due for some good news. Fortunately, they got some on Sunday, March 9 when they were crowned ECAC Champions after defeating Kean College 73-71 on their home turf in front of a huge crowd.

To make the win even better, history was made that night when Senior Bloochy Magliore became CSI's All-Time Leading Scorer and Head Coach Tony Petosa got his 400th career win. For Magliore, this win was something truly special.

"It's the greatest feeling, I didn't know if I was going to be able to do it but my teammates stuck to me and they helped me out to get through it," said Magliore.

Hitting the court the Dolphins fared well in the first three minutes coming out of the gate leading the Cougars by seven with the score of 11-4. Kean would quickly answer by chopping down CSI's lead to one with 12:44 left in the first half, after Kean's Michael Burton drilled a

three followed by a nice layup by Kyle Latorec.

From there the Dolphins struggled getting shots to connect, as Kean grabbed the lead from the Dolphins a minute later. The teams stayed close to each other throughout most of the first half.

Kean led by only one or two points till the 6:30 mark, and that's when the Dolphins fate took a turn for the worst. Kean came out on an explosive run and extended their lead to seven, sending the Dolphins into trouble. The Dolphins saw themselves down by six going into the locker room.

Desperate for momentum, the Dolphins needed to come out strong in the second half. Despite an early three pointer from Senior Kevin King to help cut the lead down to three, the Cougars once again stormed back extending their lead to eight with 16:56 left.

The Dolphins continued to fight hard after Senior Jonathan Chadwick-Myers hit a three-pointer to keep the Dolphins alive and only down by five.

Kean again took control of the game extending their lead to 11 with 11:06 left in the ball game, and was their biggest lead of the night over the Dolphins. Things certainly didn't

look like they were going CSI's way, but if you know anything about this Dolphins squad, you certainly know they are a comeback team; and comeback is exactly what they did, going on a huge 17-7 run capped off by a three-pointer by Chadwick-Myers with 4:26 left, the Dolphins were ready to win this game.

Led by Chadwick-Myers and Magliore, the Dolphins would see themselves extending their lead to six, with the help of Dylan Bulger, Will Fonesca, and Frankie Schettino. Despite Kean's final efforts, the Dolphins were able to hold off the Cougars and take home the 2013-14 ECAC Championship.

Leading the Dolphins was the senior duo of Magliore with 15 points and Chadwick-Myers with 16. Magliore also took home ECAC's MVP title.

With the win the Dolphins finished their 2013-14 campaign as a 28-3 team. Despite the win, the team still feels bittersweet about not making the NCAA Tournament but knows that the NCAA made a huge mistake.

"We knew that we should have been in the NCAA Tournament," said freshman standout Frankie Schettino. "And by winning this tournament this proves it."

Inside the Dolphin Tank

Meet Men's Baseball Coach Michael Mauro

BY MICHAEL PAPANDREA

Michael Mauro has been taking his guys to the CUNYAC championship match since 2010, and has been coaching the team for five years. This season will feature a group of new players that look to gain valuable experience at the collegiate level and learn Mauro's system.

The Banner: Did you play baseball for CSI? What position?

Michael Mauro: I played for three years (88-90) at John Jay College. I transferred to CSI my senior year to play ball, but I got signed to play professional baseball for the Detroit Tigers in their minor league system. I was a shortstop.

TB: What made you want to be a coach?

MM: My College coach was Lou Demartino, he was a huge influence on my life. I wanted to do the same for players, so I got into coaching.

TB: What is the best part of coaching a team?

MM: The relationships that I make with some of these players. During and after they leave CSI.

TB: What was the best part of winning CUNY last season?

MM: We had a good group of kids. They worked hard and it paid off.

TB: Mets or Yankees?

MM: Yankees!! But I'm not an A Rod fan.

ECAC Championship Game VS Kean - Statistics

Player	Minutes	Assists	Points	Rebounds
Michael Magliore	37	6	16	4
Chadwick-Myers	31	7	13	0
Jonathan Chadwick-Myers	29	3	2	6
Dylan Bulger	28	3	15	2
Will Fonesca	24	6	10	0
Frankie Schettino	19	1	11	0
Kevin King	17	5	5	0
Michael Burton	15	1	2	1