

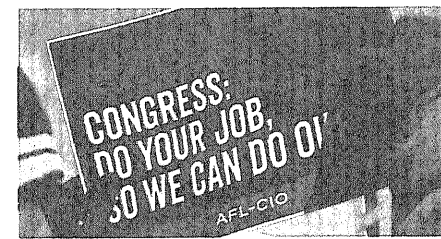
THE BANNER

The Official Newspaper of the College of Staten Island

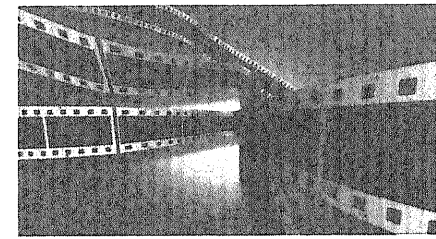
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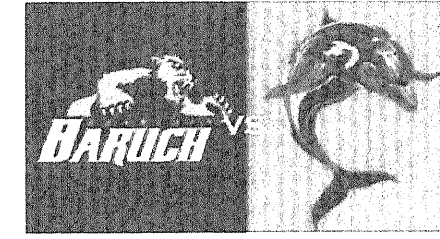
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The New Student Activity Fee Proposal: Why It Matters

"It's a Bandaid, Not Permanent"

BY: VERONICA PISTEK

Before issuing the proposal for the reallocation of the Student Activity Fee, the Finance Committee of Student Government wanted a better understanding of how each operation works.

A team comprised of four Student Government members and two students set out with purpose to receive information about each earmarking groups' expenses and line items.

Ultimately, the team wanted to assess which groups

can take a hit for reallocation of the fee, and which cannot afford to lose any more and face a future deficit.

Once the committee gathered much of their needed information, they put all of the groups' budgets into a master head sheet and examined each budget individually.

At a recent Student Government meeting, there was an executive call that asked for people to be dismissed so the board could discuss the fee. As the approval occurred with several participants unaware, it should be noted how this proposal will affect everyone.

According to the team, they wanted to project how each group will stand next year, since some groups will not spend the entirety of their budget. So, they analyzed which earmarking groups should experience increases and cuts in order to redistribute the Student Activity Fee and also determine how to create a new line for a Commencement Fee.

The need for a Commencement Fee has been discussed because the commencement expenses have burdened CSI Association's budget.

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Reallocation of the Student Activity Fee looks toward moving commencement expenses.

Photo Credit: Instagram.com

Out of Class, But Still On Campus

Hidden Gem Events That Students Should Attend This Semester

BY: SALVATORE CENTO

CAB Films. Open Mic Nights. Ace The Interview.

There's nothing wrong with watching "A Star Is Born", "Venom" and "A Simple Favor" a hundred times. Maybe you really like those movies.

Going to the same venue to safely say whatever's on your mind might open doors for making new friends.

Learning and perfecting techniques to get your foot in the door of a job you've always wanted? Perfect for the career seekers, but that seems to be all there is when you look at CSI's events calendar on the college's website.

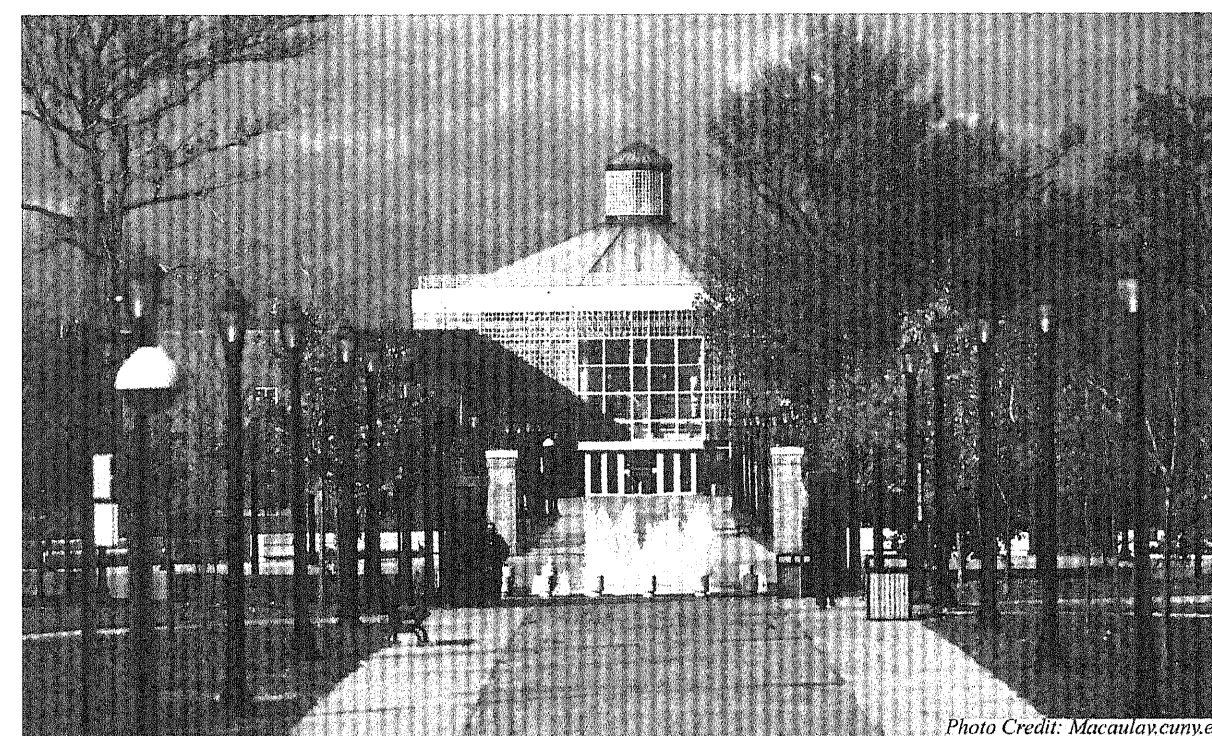
Only after you do a little digging and push to the side the usual givings, do you find what the college really has to offer.

New Experiences. Variety. A breath of fresh air.

First off, since we are in February which is Black History Month, CSI offers over ten different events celebrating the thorough and prolific customs of black communities including readings from well known authors, highlighting artistic works, bringing in live music, and having celebrities talk about their upbringing.

Not only that, but students have the opportunity to learn a form of brazilian martial arts called Capoeira.

Not only do we have a whole month's worth of activ-



The Spring Carnival is one of these functions that is sure to please.

Photo Credit: Macaulay.cuny.edu

ities already but there's much more in February.

For those looking to venture out, there's a CSI Study Abroad Fair and for those who are happy at home and prefer international affairs come to you, on February

14th, in 1P a Lunar New Year festival is taking place with games and prizes.

On the same day, there is a meeting of the student

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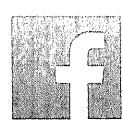
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BANNER POLITICS

The Longest Government Shutdown in U.S. History Continues

President Trump Refuses Negotiations For His Wall

BY: LUCIA ELM

Since December 22, 2018, the U.S. government has been on its continued streak as having been in the longest government shutdown in the country's history. President Trump declared a partial government shutdown after failed talks with Congress to support funding for a barrier along the southern border, of which he claims will keep out illegal immigrants and other unwanted persons from crossing into the United States.

This marks the second government shutdown to have taken place during Trump's presidency.

Considering how long the duration of the government shutdown has been thus far, legitimate concerns have been expressed as to how much of a negative impact it could have on the U.S. economy and other federal government affairs.

As a result of the shutdown, several government institutions have been halted and with that, so have incoming paychecks for government workers. Although certain institutions like the U.S. Postal Service and law firm agencies continue to function as usual, others like NASA and Homeland Security have been at the forefront of the distressing effects of the shutdown.

So far, the most widely publicized backlash against Trump's shutdown has been from TSA (Transportation Security Authority) workers around the country. Workers have taken to the streets to protest and have begun to call out of work sick as they search for other, more reliable sources

of income someplace else.

"We have a very stressful job as it is and for people to be worried about how they're going to pay their babysitter and pay their mortgage and their bills, it's just not something that is needed in our position," said Ben Struck, an aviation safety inspector to PIX11 news.

With less staff, travel time has increased

declare a "national emergency" if his demands for border funding are not met. However, Trump has decided for the meantime to only use that declaration as a last resort.

Nearly three weeks in, and neither side has been able to reach an agreement on the issue.

On January 8th, President Trump ap-

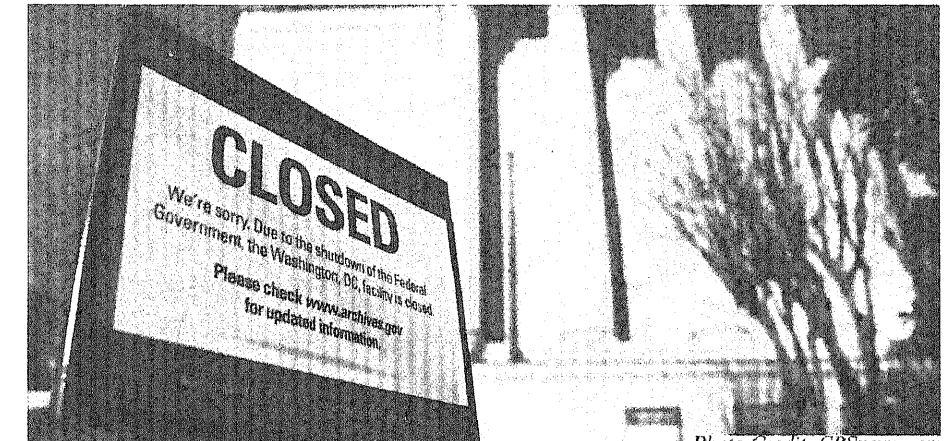
According to CNN, "Congress appropriated \$14 billion in supplemental funds to repair infrastructure in areas of the country hardest hit by disasters. In anticipation of a national emergency declaration, the official tells CNN that the Pentagon was asked to provide lists of unspent funds including those earmarked for civil works projects that are part of disaster recovery in Puerto Rico, Texas, California, Florida, and elsewhere."

People such as Senator John Cornyn, a Republican from Texas, is opposed to using these disaster funds to undertake such a project.

Cornyn stated, "So the President is now talking to his lawyers about whether he would have the authority to issue a national emergency and reprogram money that's been allocated for other purposes, but I will tell you that I will oppose any reprogramming of Harvey disaster funds. We worked very hard to make sure that the victims of Hurricane Harvey — their concerns are addressed and Texas is able to rebuild. And I think we are all together on that."

Those opposed to wall funding also believe that the current southern border does not pose a serious threat to the country like the President says it does. Other, more realistic policies can improve border security.

The shutdown is expected to last throughout January until Trump and Congress can reach an agreement and end the deadlock.



Congress Republicans and Democrats are at a standstill when it comes to finding the border. Photo Credit: CBSnews.com

in popular airports such as LaGuardia and Newark Liberty International. Safety is the top priority, and TSA officers are needed to screen all passengers before their flights.

For as long as the shutdown lasts, federal government workers in non-funded agencies such as the TSA will continue to work without pay. Workers that are considered non-essential are on furlough until further notice.

President Trump has threatened to

pealed to the American people on television regarding the debate. Shortly after, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer spoke on behalf of the Democrats.

Finding a viable source of income has been the hardest issue to tackle. The Trump administration has suggested using untouched natural disaster and emergency fund money as a possible source of budget for the construction of the wall.

A Breakdown of Brexit: For Better or For Worse?

Theresa May's Leadership is Challenged, But The Motion For Brexit Continues

BY: OLIVIA FRASCA

An organization of 28 states and 513 million people, the European Union (EU) is a major force in setting economic standards throughout Western Europe. The EU was initially created in the 1950s to avoid conflict after World War II. Since then, it has grown into a massive single market that allows for the free movement of goods and people between member states.

One of those member states, the United Kingdom, is set to leave the EU next year. That is, if all goes to plan.

On December 11th, the UK Parliament was scheduled to vote on Prime Minister Theresa May's departure plan. May delayed the vote and traveled to Brussels to make amendments to her draft.

The future of May's leadership came to

a halt on Wednesday morning, when members of the Conservative Party called for a vote of no confidence.

The motion meant that 15% of the majority party in the House of Commons lost faith in their leader. 48 members of May's Conservative Party called her leadership into question.

The vote occurred later that night among Conservative MPs. With 200 Conservatives voting for her and 117 voting against her, reported by Aljazeera, May will remain Prime Minister.

The parliament vote on May's draft is expected to occur before January 21st.

In June of 2016, the UK held a referendum on whether to stay or leave the EU. 52% of voters chose to leave.

Member states may leave the EU

through a process described in Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty. Prime Minister May began this withdrawal process on March 29th, 2017.

The UK will leave the EU on March 29th, 2019. Within this two-year period, Britain and the union have created a plan of action. This includes the country's withdrawal agreement and future relationship with the EU.

Britain's departure, notably referred to as Brexit, was years in the making. Those that want to leave believe the EU is dysfunctional and fails to address growing unemployment and immigration. There is also widespread distrust in multinational organizations, especially those created after World War II, according to Forbes.

Opponents of Brexit are concerned about maintaining amicable relations with major states of the EU and are unsure about the country's future economy after March. After the 2016 referendum, real wages in the UK have grown less than the rate of inflation.

Major concerns as Brexit approaches are Ireland and Northern Ireland relations. May's plan sets out a "backstop" to prevent a harsh border between Ireland and Northern Ireland during the post-Brexit period, noted in Aljazeera.

If the House of Commons agrees with May's draft, it will be introduced to all of parliament as a bill. It must be signed into law by March 29th.

May has a slim majority in the House

of Commons- if the plan is not approved, members of parliament must agree on another way to proceed. This may hinder the withdrawal in March, and leave the future of UK-EU relations in limbo.

Lawmakers may disagree on the plan together and call for another referendum just months before departure.

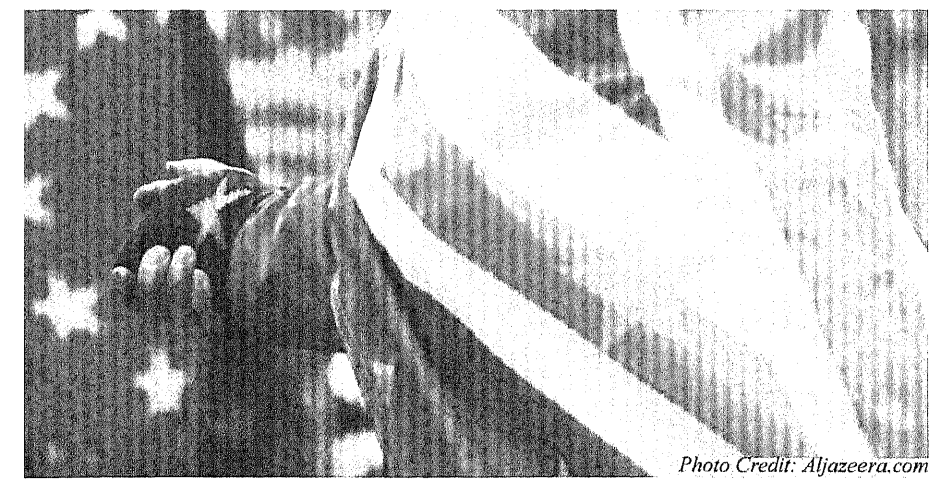
The official UK Parliament website details Britain's contribution to the EU budget. In 2017, Britain contributed around €13 billion, about 17% of the EU budget. The country received €4.1 billion back from the union, making a net contribution of €8.9 billion.

Supporters of Brexit believe the EU no longer serves a valuable purpose for Britain. The country contributes a significant percentage to the budget, but does not get much in return.

The UK will not have to contribute to the EU as much as it did before, or depend on approval from the EU council if Brexit prevails. Funding can go towards other development in the country instead.

Brexit is a chance for Britain to reach its full economic potential and become a leader in modern trade, free from the rules of the EU.

If Britain ever wants to rejoin the European Union, it must go through the same process that all prospective states go through. For now, it is on track to being the first member state to depart, and Prime Minister May will surely face criticism along the way.



The UK Parliament will vote on the Prime Minister's departure draft next January after a delay. Photo Credit: Aljazeera.com

BANNER NEWS

"New Student Activity Fee Proposal"
Continued from Front Page

As proposed, there would now be a separate \$50,000 budget for Commencement each year. While this lifts a heavy weight off of the CSI Associations' shoulders, it may affect a few groups who can afford to spare part of their money.

Moving with their plan, the committee sought out groups that had extraneous expenses that might not be relevant for all students. This is important because regardless if a student is full time or part time, they contribute to this Student Activity Fee.

For instance, Athletics had expenses of around \$18,000 for recruiting future athletes. This expense does not apply to the current students who pay to attend CSI. In addition, the part-time students on campus are unable to even be part of a sports team.

With a decent number of students who are unable to participate, the roughly \$17 that these part time and summer students are paying toward the fee could be reallocated for things that they can actually make use of.

Along with this idea of paying for things that you are not able to participate in, summer semester students are currently paying for activities that are often not offered in the summer.

Typically, clubs, publications, intramurals, and sports are not having meet-

Photo Credit: CSIToday.com



ings or practices during the summertime.

So with the new reallocation, full time students would be contributing \$27, part time students would be contributing \$15, and \$14.25 from summer students.

Along with Athletics, WSIA Radio Station would be facing a loss from the reallocation. This was determined because their prior year expenditures did not justify the current fee amount.

Publications will also potentially be taking a hit for the similar reasoning. However, with emerging publications such as "Queer-Zine", "Brainbow", and "All Ways A Woman", this may cause a future shortage of money to allocate for their usage- just about \$30,000 to split between the three new groups.

Moreover, Student Government is modifying their own expenses, specifically by decreasing the amount of stipends that are issued to their leaders. By doing this, Student Government hopes to set a precedent to value the needs of the college first.

Another group that is having their part of the fee modified is Transportation. Specifically, Transportation used to be funded by college support. In recent years, Transportation expenses have been carried by the Student Activity Fee.

In fact, a majority of CSI's population commutes by car, not transit.

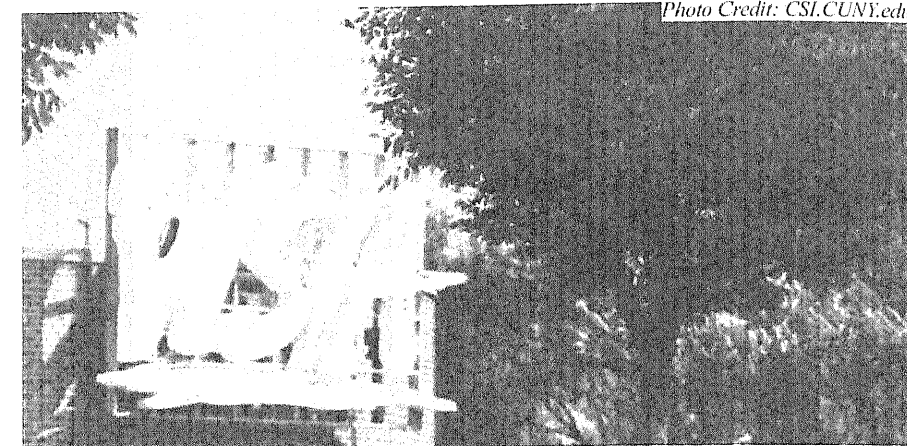


Photo Credit: CSI.CUNY.edu

With Transportation services being cut either way, Student Government members felt that reducing their revenue would not change the services offered to students currently.

While some groups may face the brunt of the blow, other groups might benefit from this reallocation. According to projections, intramurals were going to be negative. With the current evaluation of each budget, there would be an increase in the money allocated to intramurals.

Health and Wellness, an important service for students on campus, is partially funded by the Student Activity Fee. In order to keep this program sustained for the students, the proposal initiates an increase to revenue to match the current operating expenses.

Childcare will also be benefiting from

this reallocation. This earmarking group receives most of their funding from grants, many of which are not guaranteed. With increases from the Student Activity Fee, childcare services will continue to be offered to students who need it.

However, the same argument could perhaps be applied to figure out whether students who do not utilize the childcare center at all should contribute to this program.

While this all sounds logical to give money where it is needed, this reallocation serves as only a bandaid.

In order to fix this issue in the future without much redistribution of money, students are encouraged to come vote in the Spring elections, about 10% of the student body is needed to help these groups that are at risk at CSI.

BANNER NEWS

"Still on Campus"
Continued from Front Page



Photo Credit: Viewing.nyc

government, as well as for the students who want to witness the intricacies of the college in action (where money goes and how it is used).

If you miss this for some reason, do not worry. They take place bi-weekly. Students always want to know "why isn't this being fixed" or "why isn't that being

looked at and repaired?"

In March, when it comes to happenings in CSI that could be considered hidden treasures, one could attend the Mindfulness Circle on the 7th, which takes students on a voyage through meditation to rid them of stresses and worries.

Run by Grove Rune, she aims to bring

students to a stillness unlike they've ever experienced before.

In IC on the 12th, The Evason's will perform, who are a mentalist duo hoping to leave attendees speechless with their psychic adventures that are part hijinx and part romance.

As seen by the accompanying video

on the CSI Connect webpage, for those who like being involved, audience participation is a sure thing. Comedy, suspense and endearment all rolled into one.

Not much is given in the official description for the "Ultimate Gaming Event" on the 26th, but noting that it's in the gym of all places and that Dance Dance Revolution will be playable among other video games, who knows what else is in store?

When April comes around, two events stick out. One rather being under the radar, and one that's quite prevalent. On the same day and same location no less. The Spring Carnival will be held outside within the cafeteria plaza.

Besides the obstacle course, rock wall and other festivities that will be there, a husband and wife who go by the name Team M&M will also be present, creating art with balloons and sand, using the students who attend as their canvas. Both happen on April 30th, in front of IC.

And finally, closing out the semester, May brings another two happenings that may peak your interest. Taking place on the 1st, Josh and Mishan, the hosts of "Central Park Bubbles" will literally make giant bubbles and let students step into them.

Featured on TV shows, movies and magazines, this will surely be a hit for all those who go.

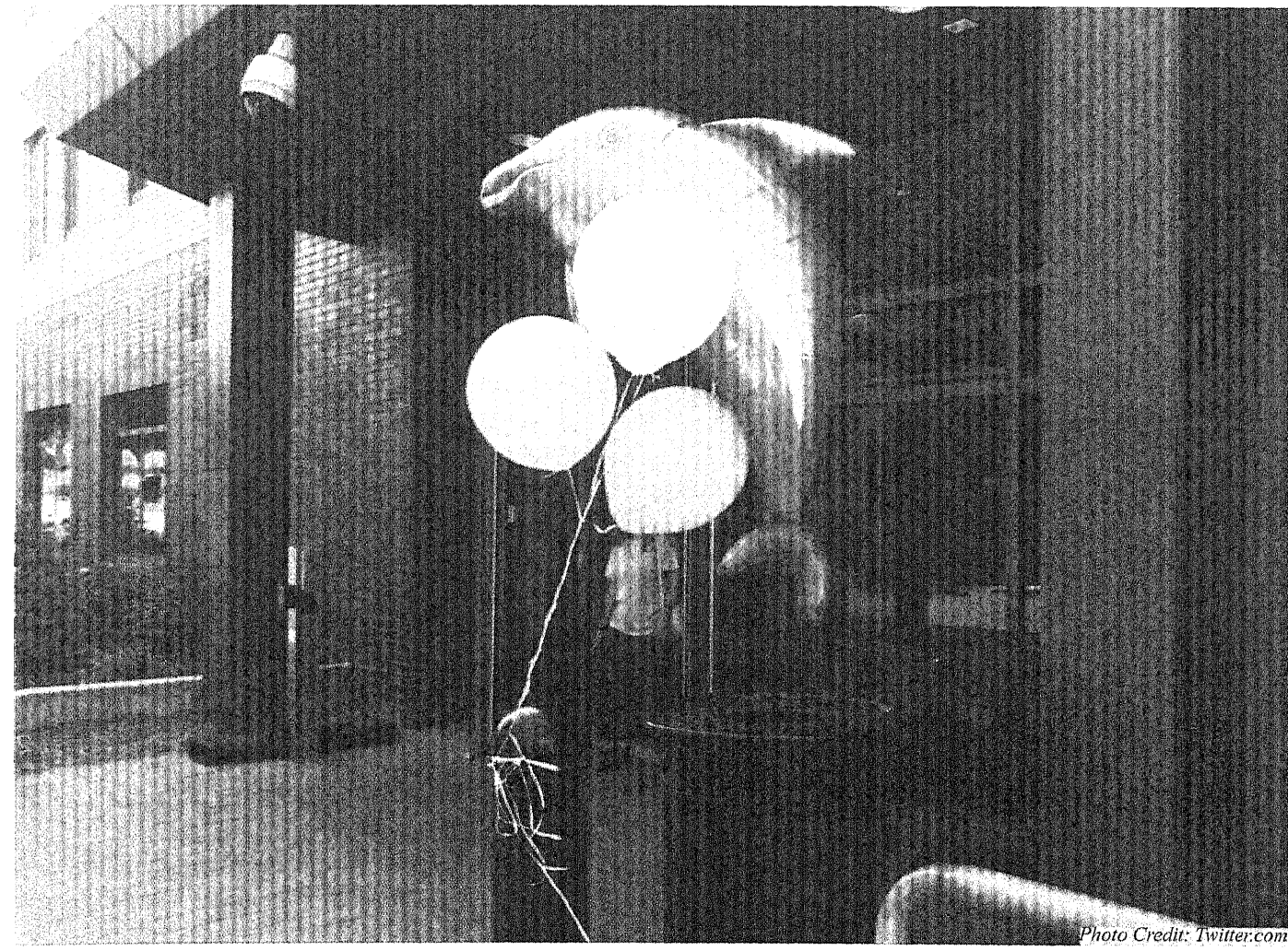


Photo Credit: Twitter.com

LIFESTYLES

The Ball is Supposed to Drop, Not You

New Year's Eve is an Exciting Holiday, But There are Some Dangers

BY: CORINA GERBINO

As New Year's Eve approaches, we're all making plans, preparing for parties, and getting hyped up. Every year, thousands of people wait from 6am in Times Square to watch the ball drop, even though it's freezing cold outside. Party hosts are buying the 2019 glasses and noise makers, as they can't wait for the party to start.

What else are people buying right now? Alcoholic drinks and fireworks. While these things seem like the ideal part of a New Year's Eve party, they are very dangerous. It's extremely important that you review some tips and know what goes on so you don't have a New Year's disaster.

There are so many different drinks that contain alcohol. Drinking is a very common tradition adults have on New Year's Eve. They drink all night before midnight and even after the clock hits 12. What most New Year's Eve partygoers don't realize is that this is very unsafe. There are so many reasons why.

A tip that everyone should follow is to of course, don't drink and drive. Drinking and driving can lead to problems such as car accidents, arrests, and death. New Year's is the most common time that alcohol-related car accidents and deaths occur.

Instead of worrying about driving while drunk, plan ahead. It's good that you and your close friends all have a way of getting home. One thing you should



Photo Credit: Ny.curbed.com

consider is having a designated driver. Although it might not seem fair that one person can't drink, you'll be glad in the end. It's better to be safe than sorry.

If you can't decide on a designated driver, here's another option: call a car service. Some good car services include Uber and Lyft. You can call them anytime, especially on New Year's. This is a good way to get a sober ride.

Sober rides are definitely safer than taking the risks we all know. However, there can be some other drivers out there

who are drunk. If you're too scared to be in a car at this time, you can sleep over at your friend's house.

Hopefully, you have reviewed the dangers of drinking and driving and ways to avoid a New Year's disaster. Alcohol doesn't just affect driving. There is a lot of trouble that can happen inside a house, bar, or club due to alcohol.

Every year, people drink too much and it leads to fighting. Fighting in a club or lounge can very well get you arrested. This happens a lot more on New Year's

Eve.

Here's a tip to help you avoid getting in a fight or to avoid getting hurt because you're nearing a fight. Please be aware of your surroundings. If you are aware and paying attention, you are less likely to be involved in fighting issues. The best way to help you be aware is don't drink too much.

Now that we've cleared up mostly with alcohol, and hopefully you'll follow these important tips, there are more things to know about the celebration coming up. Alcohol is not the only thing to watch out for. Another thing to be cautious of is fireworks.

Fireworks are beautiful. After the ball drops, you'll probably go outside and view the fireworks. They may be entertaining, but don't try to do them yourself, as they are very dangerous.

Only professionals are supposed to shoot the fireworks. If not done professionally, fireworks can cause eye injuries and burns. Please remember that buying fireworks is also illegal in New York.

Just because you don't own fireworks, doesn't mean others around you don't. If you suspect someone near you might shoot fireworks, please move away immediately. Always be aware of your surroundings, and you'll be safe.

As I come to a close, I want to wish you a happy and safe New Year's Eve. Please remember everything mentioned in this article and review it with your friends and family. It's better to be safe than sorry.

Have an exciting and safe New Year's celebration!



Photo Credit: Sirava.com

LIFESTYLES

Is it Time to Move Out?

Deciding Whether or Not Moving Out is the Right Call

BY: LUCIA ELMI

Things are moving fast. Jobs come and go, and so do friends. But with the loss comes even greater gains: new friends, career success, and a zest for greater ambitions. This might be the time for you to settle down, and in someplace that is not your parents' house.

As college students, it is our goal to strive for what we've always wanted—to become a greater extension of our families. To be independent means many things to different people, but it is generally a term that means it is a chance to break off and live a life according to your own rules.

Jack of all trades, master of none. That sounds exciting and all, but are you ready for it? You might think the first thing to consider is your schedule and the money in your bank account, but there is something that comes before all that. The amount of money in your account and how you deal with your schedule are all indicative of your sense of responsibility. That is what's most important.

Responsibility takes on many forms. It means taking accountability for your actions when you know you've done wrong, and you're not afraid to take a second chance and correct it. It also means understanding that kindness is a necessity in our world today and thus, taking a personal

oath to take care of the people around you is the key to fulfillment.

Why is any of this important? Because the acknowledgment of responsibility is your declaration as an individual that your actions shape and contribute to your community, and ultimately the world around you. Now that you can make an imprint, you should make one that's worthwhile. This is something you should really take some time to think about.

Living alone comes with its sacrifices. The freedom of moving out is a breath of fresh air, but there will be some things you will have to give up along the way. Far from your parents' financial safety blanket, prioritizing how you chose to invest your money will become essential.

Impulse spending on the latest handbag or signature sneaker design is not going to fly anymore. Smarter investments in your electricity and water bill is essential for comfortable living.

However, probably the most important thing you'll want to go over is exactly why you want to move out. Making a decision out of the blue to move out just because all your friends are doing it is not a good reason. There is certainly no reason to feel the need to rush something like this, as we will all be ready at one point or another to move out once the time is right. Don't rush



Photo Credit: Moving.com

Moving out can be an exciting but stressful time in your life.

the process and go at your own pace. Make sure the reason you have for moving out, whether personal or financial, is a justifiable reason to make this big step in your life. Moving out should reap more benefits than when you were living at home. It should not weigh you down with more cons than you already had.

Another important thing to consider is if you are able to psychologically cope with living on your own. Living on your own will definitely come with its stresses, including possible financial struggles and difficulty managing your time to take care of other responsibilities, such as cleaning.

Even the drastic change of environment may be anxiety-inducing. You'll find

yourself suddenly being thrust into the world all by yourself, away from friends and family. It can get lonely. Making time to prepare yourself mentally for this transition is essential for a smooth ride into adulthood.

These are just a few things that are worth looking into before you decide to move out. Things like these take time, money, and effort, and you should make sure you have all three of these things before making the transition.

With a little self-discipline, moving out to live on your own could be a life-changing experience that you should enjoy every step of the way.

Your New Year's Resolution for 2019

What Are your Plans for 2019?

BY: ROSEANNE CASSAR

The Christmas season is finally here and Mr. Jolly Christmas is working very hard getting his sleigh ready for the big day. Meanwhile, the big kids (a.k.a. adults) begin to get into the holiday spirit with parties, fun, laughs, family, friends, love and mistletoe for a sneaky little kiss.

The Christmas holiday may be an uplifting event, but there is something that goes with Christmas as an aftermath, and it's called having New Year's resolutions.

Everyone makes New Year's resolutions every year in hopes to make or create change in or around their lives. People will make a list and check it twice on what they need to do to become a better person. People are so funny today: they will make the same resolutions, do it for a short period of time then give it up because they lost all of their will power, drive and motivation to stick with their promises.

It is a crying shame when that happens. But why settle on the same promises that everyone else makes? There is an interesting article to read if you're looking to make New Year's resolutions this year.

This article can help you make the right resolutions that fits your lifestyle. Also, you can pick and choose from a list of fifty common New Year's resolutions that would not feel like you're being too repetitious on your yearly resolutions. It

can help you stick with whatever it is you want to work on.

Some examples of resolutions that are repetitive are getting in shape, eating healthier or eating less, stop procrastinating, be more active, and work on reducing stress. A good majority of people will

be a better person.

For example, you can improve your concentration and mental skills. To do this, you can use apps to guide you on ancient meditation techniques to boost concentration and hone in on our mental skills.

This can help you control your mood,

who don't think much of themselves when it comes to having confidence and who are not big risk takers.

So, if you decided to gain self-confidence, you would have a much happier life. Earning more money can also be something we can all work on. This resolution may be a little bit tricky because this requires you to putting on your thinking caps. Everyone who works for a living wants to earn extra money!

But the question is how. All you need is the proper tools and strong strategies for earning additional money. It may take a little or a lot of thinking with this resolution, but you can come up with a creative or inventive idea that will work for you.

You can also learn how to dress with style. To dress with style can make you appear powerful and confident. You never know what can happen if you dress to play the part of how you want to feel. It can help you land a job or catch the eye of a lovely guy or girl.

Either way, the way you dress can make a difference. The clothes you wear does make a statement to others. If you would like to read more about this, please go to www.lifehack.org for more information.

To all the CSI students and faculty, have a fun filled happy and healthy holiday season and a Happy New Year!



Photo Credit: Cute-calendar.com

Try something different with your New Year's resolutions.

make these common resolutions for the New Year.

Instead of following others by doing the same exact things, how about creating resolutions that would fit more into your lifestyle? There are some good examples of what a person could do to make yourself

learn faster, and have an easier time solving problems. Another resolution is to meet new people. This idea would definitely be beneficial to your mental well-being and help your career. Also, you can work on becoming more confident and take some chances. This is a good idea for people

BANNER ARTS

The Sequel Using the Internet as a Backdrop

How the Use of Social Media and the Internet Remains Prominent in "Ralph Breaks the Internet"

BY: BROOKE PRICE

Comedians John C. Reilly and Sarah Silverman reprise their roles as Ralph and Vanellope as they discover and journey deep into the internet.

After the steering wheel for Sugar Rush, Vanellope's game, breaks, Wreck-It Ralph and Vanellope von Schweetz venture into the internet in search of the wheel. If they don't get the wheel in time, Vanellope's game could be shut down forever.

Though they have no money, Ralph discovers social media and how to make



Photo Credit: Broadwayworld.com
Wreck-It Ralph and Vanellope von Schweetz discover the internet.

money off of it as a career so that he can purchase the steering wheel off of eBay.

When Ralph and Vanellope first arrive in the internet, they encounter the click-baits and pop-up ads that try and get Ralph and Vanellope to click on them.

While in the internet, Ralph and Vanellope meet Yesss, voiced by Taraji P. Henson, who is a social media superstar and the head of BuzzTube. She later helps Ralph become viral on social media.

Even though Vanellope loves her game Sugar Rush, she craves something new from her game, for she knows every detour and secret level.

Once in the internet, Vanellope sees a new racing game, Slaughter Race, which is the new and exciting dream game that she wants to be in. She later befriends Shank, voiced by Gal Godot, and other characters in Slaughter Race as she contemplates living in the game.

Vanellope connects with Shank because she is a racer like herself. She discusses with Shank her aspirations of leaving her game and staying with Shank in Slaughter Race.

At one point of the film, Vanellope runs into the Disney princesses who for the most part, are voiced by their original voice actresses from their respective films.

One comedic part of the film was when the princesses tell Vanellope that they're tired of constantly being glammed up in



Photo Credit: Awn.com
their dresses and tiaras and how they envy Vanellope's outfit consisting of a sweatshirt and pants. The princesses then change into comfy clothes to mirror Vanellope.

At one point during the Disney princess scene, Merida, Disney and Pixar's Scottish Disney princess speaks which such a thick accent that the other princesses cannot understand her. This prompts Anna to say "She's from the other studio," implying that Merida was created in Pixar, while the other princesses were created by The Walt Disney Company.

Besides the princesses, other characters make some cameos in the film. These include Storm Troopers, Baby Groot, Eeyore, Nick Wilde, Buzz Lightyear, Sonic and more.

The film also shows the dark web, where people can remain anonymous and buy and sell illegal items. This was a unique turn to show the hidden world of the internet.

Wrap Up Your Year with Spotify

The Popular "Wrapped" Feature Returns with a Breakdown of Your Listening History

BY: LAUREN SILVERMAN

The end of the year is an exciting time. With Christmas and New Year's just around the corner, many of us enjoy looking back on the memories we made over the past 12 months.

For music lovers, it's easier than ever to reflect on your past year in music. That is, of course, if you're a member of the popular streaming app Spotify.

The music service rolled out its beloved "Wrapped" feature in early December. Spotify Wrapped is a microsite, meaning it is an extension of its home website. It analyzes your listening data from the past year and organizes it into a visually-appealing highlight reel.

It contains several pages of highlights. The "Firsts" page tells you the first song you listened to in 2018, and the next quizzes you on the amount of time you spent listening to music this past year.

Spotify Wrapped will not only tell you your favorite artist of the year, but it shows how many hours you spent listening to them.

You will also get a list of your top five artists, songs, and genres. Spotify takes their year-in-review a step further by creating a "Top 100" playlist just for you, filled with your top 100 songs.

The feature not only includes data, but an

easily-consumable presentation that makes viewers feel like they are having a conversation with Spotify. It makes comments on listening habits, though they are not individualized. For example, it will note that your music taste is unique if you listen to an unpopular genre.

It also includes the oldest song you listened to.

Spotify also picks songs from artists and genres you haven't listened to and presents them in a personal 50-song playlist called "Tastebreakers," promising that you'll love it. It claims to pick these songs based on the ones you love.

One of the most popular pages from Spotify Wrapped feeds off the social media astrology craze. If applicable, it will tell you the most common sign from your past year. After viewing your interactive Wrapped slideshow, you are presented the option to share your stats on a scorecard across a variety of social media apps, from Instagram to Facebook.

Spotify Premium users are offered a special opportunity to share their 2018 Wrapped on a Times Square Billboard, given they provide their email address, name, and a photo of themselves.

In addition to your own personal statistics, Spotify also released general listening habits from 2018.

The top male artist of 2018 based on number of streams was Drake, and the top female artist was Ariana Grande. Drake's song "God's Plan" was the most streamed song of the year.

According to Spotify, 2018's "Rising Genre" is emo rap. However, the genre did not make it to the Most Streamed category. Harry Styles's "Girl Crush" was the most streamed Spotify Single, and the most streamed Spotify Playlist was "Today's Top Hits."

The top three breakout artists, from third to first, were King Princess, Normani, and Juice WRLD.

Spotify also included the top three "Throwback Songs" of the year. Based on their strong presence in social media in 2018,

it's no surprise that Toto's "Africa" and A-ha's "Take On Me" were first and second, respectively. "Billie Jean" by Michael Jackson came third.

Based on stream frequency of mood-based playlists, Spotify also created a graph to show "2018 Moods by Age." According to the graph, people in their teens and 20s are "lit," people in their 30s are "happy," and people in their 40s and above are "relaxed."

If you aren't a Spotify member, now might be the time to join. The streaming service is unique for its combination of music and social media, you can follow your friends, listen to their playlists, and enjoy live updates of their musical adventures.

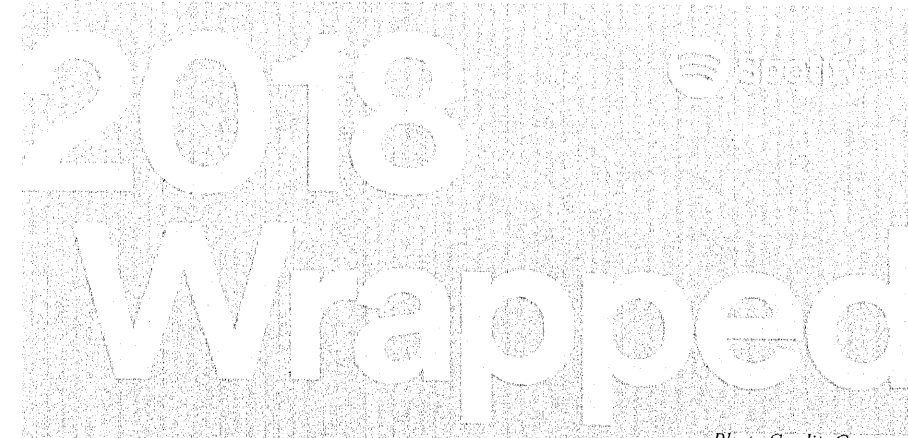


Photo Credit: Cnet.com
Spotify Wrapped gives listeners an analysis of their listening habits over the past year.

BANNER ARTS

Numerous New and Exciting Movies to Look Forward to in the New Year

The Most Anticipated Movies of 2019

BY: GEORGE BURKERT

With 2018 nearly over after a great movie year, 2019 is shaping up to be another great one. With sequels and Disney films looking to be box office hits and entertain audiences, 2019 is predicted to be one of the biggest film years in history.

Being released on March 8th is "Captain Marvel" directed by Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck. The film will star Brie Larson as Captain Marvel and will have Samuel L. Jackson, Clark Gregg, and Lee Pace return as Nick Fury, Agent Coulson, and Ronan the Accuser respectively. "Captain Marvel" will take place in the 1990s and show Captain Marvel trying to stop a conflict between two alien worlds.

Coming out April 5th is "Shazam!" directed by David F. Sandberg. The film stars Zachary Levin as the DC superhero Shazam and Asher Angel as Billy Batson, the boy who turns into the hero Shazam. Batson is an orphan who finds a new foster home and is given godlike powers by a wizard when he says "Shazam!".

Next up, on April 26th is "Avengers: Endgame" directed by Joe and Anthony Russo, showing how the remaining Avengers deal with the aftermath of Thanos defeating them and wiping out half of humanity. "Avengers: Endgame" is rumored to be the last film for many of the original Avengers like Captain America and Iron Man; an end of an era in the "Marvel Cinematic Universe" while also starting a new era.

May 31st marks the release of "Godzilla: King of the Monsters". It is directed by Michael Dougherty starring Millie Bobby Brown, Vera Farmiga, and Sally Hawkins. Godzilla will be taking on Mothra, Rodan,

Photo Credit: IMDb.com

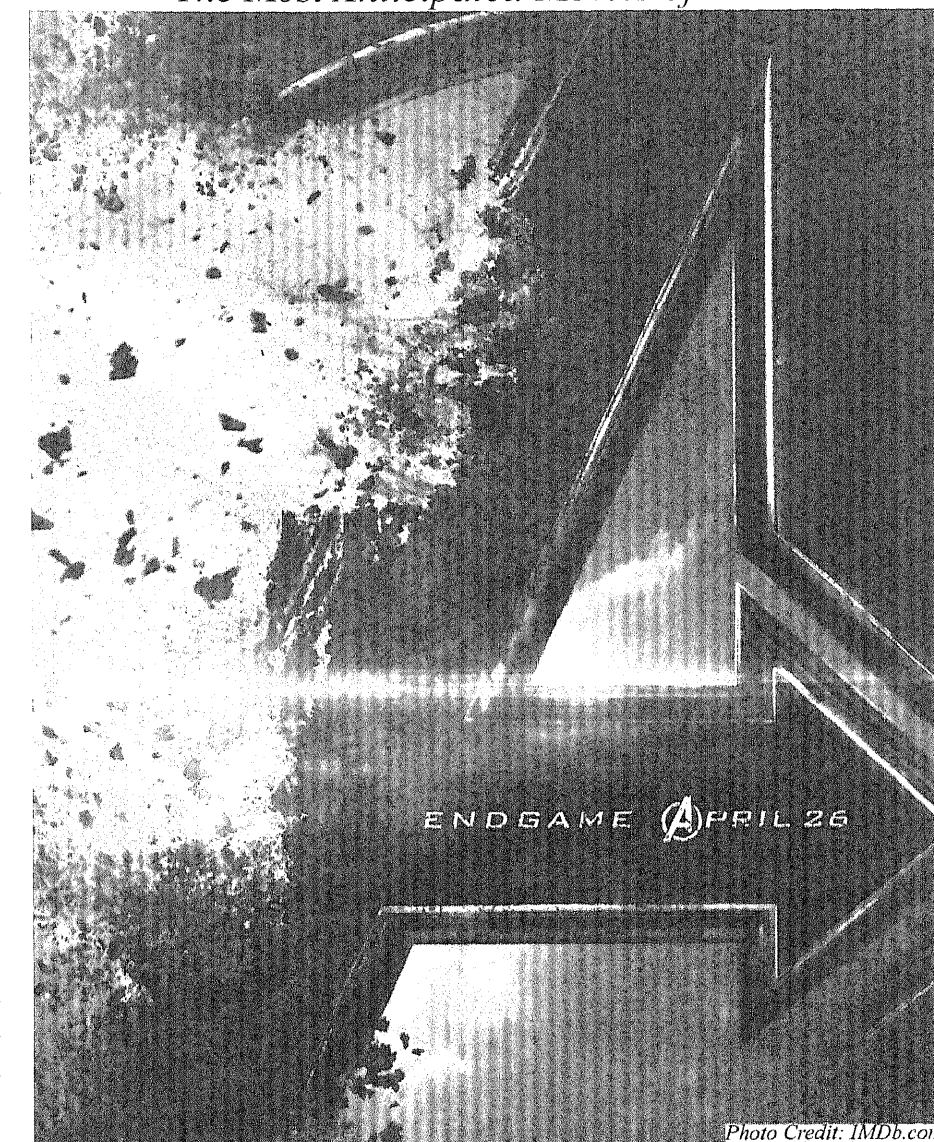
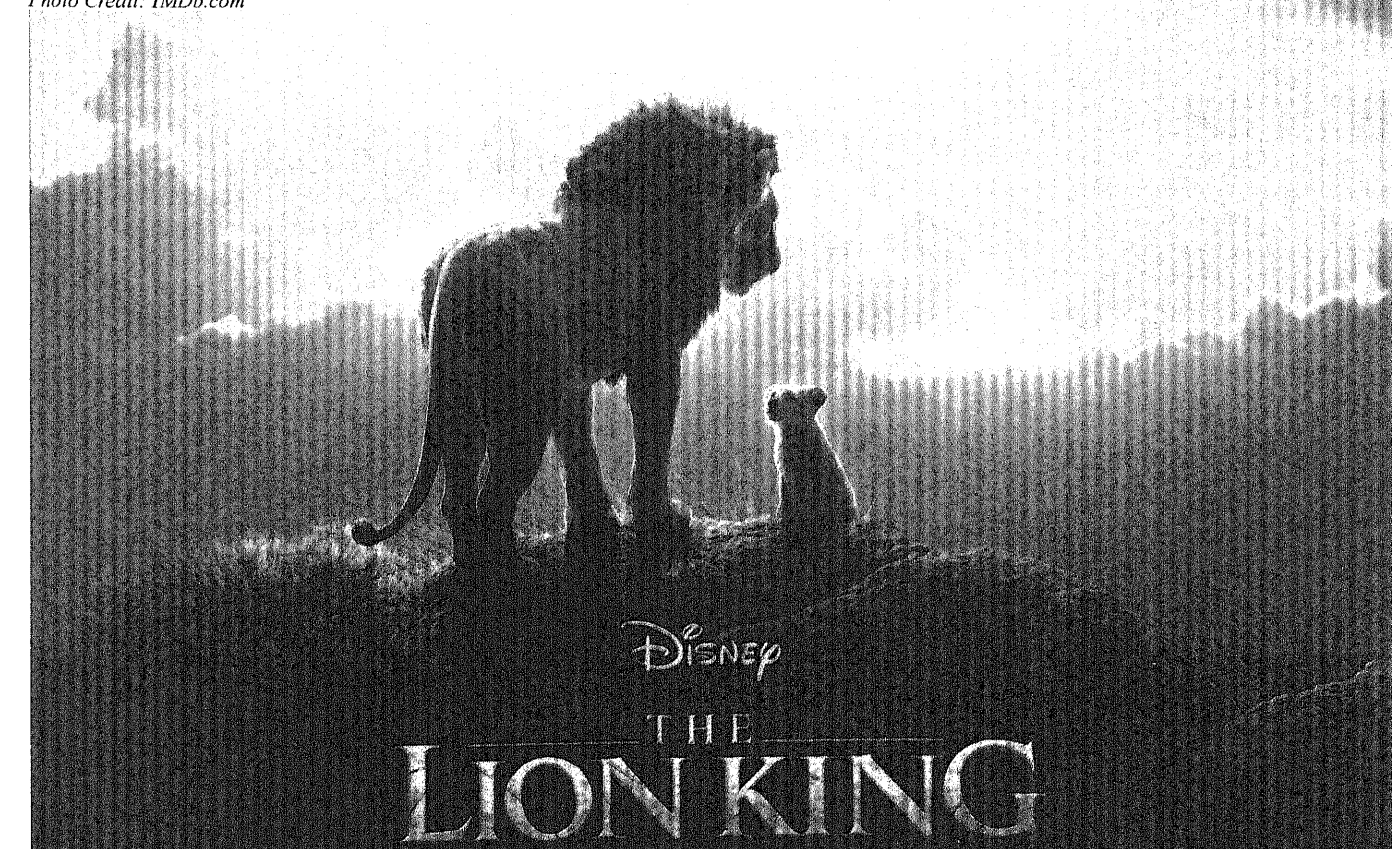


Photo Credit: IMDb.com
The first trailer for "Avengers: Endgame" is the most viewed trailer within 24 hours.

and the three-headed King Ghidorah.

"Toy Story 4" will be coming out June 21st and is directed by Josh Cooley. This film is the next installment of the "Toy Story" series and will have Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, and Joan Cusack reprise their roles as Woody, Buzz, and Jesse. "Toy Story 4"

will have Woody and the gang on a road trip showing how big the world can be for a toy and introduce a new character named Forky, who is handmade and reluctant to be a toy.

Coming out July 5th is the last "Marvel Cinematic Universe" movie for 2019

which is "Spider-Man: Far From Home" directed by "Spider-Man: Homecoming" director Jon Watts. The film stars Tom Holland as Spider-Man, Jake Gyllenhaal as the main antagonist Mysterio, Zendaya as Michelle, Samuel L. Jackson as Nick Fury and Cobie Smolders as Agent Hill. "Spider-Man: Far From Home" will be the first film after "Avengers 4" and show Peter Parker on a field trip to Europe while stopping Mysterio.

"The Lion King", which will be the live-action adaption of the 1994 Disney animated movie "The Lion King" will be released July 19th. "The Lion King" will be directed by Jon Favreau and the voice cast includes Donald Glover, Beyoncé Knowles-Carter, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Seth Rogen, Billy Eichner, and John Oliver, with James Earl Jones reprising his role from the 1994 original film as Mufasa.

Set to be released on July 26th is "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood" directed by "Pulp Fiction" director Quentin Tarantino starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Brad Pitt as an actor and stuntman trying to make it in film and Margot Robbie as the late Sharon Tate. The film will take place around the late 1960's around the time of the Charles Manson murders and is about an actor and stunt double trying to make themselves well known in Hollywood.

"It - Chapter Two" which is the sequel to the 2017 film "It" directed by Andy Muschietti and starring Bill Skarsgård as Pennywise the Clown will be coming out September 16th. The film will take place 27 years after "It" and will have the Losers' Club as adults trying to stop Pennywise.

"Joker" will be opening in theaters on October 4th. It is directed by Todd Phillips and will star Joaquin Phoenix as the popular "Batman" villain Joker. "Joker" will show how the popular clown prince of Gotham became the crazy clown everyone knows him to be.

Coming out November 1st is "Terminator 6" once again starring Arnold Schwarzenegger as the Terminator and Linda Hamilton as Sarah Connor. "Terminator 6" will be a direct sequel to "Terminator 2: Judgment Day" and will disregard the previous three "Terminator" movies.

To close out the year, on December 20th, "Star Wars: Episode IX" will be released. The film is directed by J. J. Abrams, who directed "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" and will once again star Daisy Ridley, John Boyega, Oscar Isaac, Adam Driver, and Mark Hamill. The film is set to be the last film in the "Star Wars" main series and sequel trilogy.

These films will be sure to end the year right and ensure an entertaining new year.

BANNER OPINIONS

Are PopSockets Just Another Lazy Gimmick?

A Closer Look Into Yet Another 21st Century Fad

BY: LUCIA ELMI

PopSockets. Their existence, in short, is pointless. They have one single basic function and that is to stick to the back of your phone and occasionally pop in and out for extra grip support when needed. That's it. If the function is so simple and can be easily replaced by other products, then why waste your money on a PopSocket?

Marketing has the answer to that. PopSocket companies for the most part know their product is too simple to even be considered a new great invention. They're plenty of other products on the market that have the same function as a PopSocket and do a better job at it.

One such product is the rubberized phone case. They come in all shapes and sizes, and are just as easily customizable as a PopSocket. If made well, they can even easily outlive the half-life of a PopSocket.

However, in today's world social media has become one of the biggest economic shifters of the 21st century, and companies know to make sure to take advantage of that.

PopSockets are no different. One of the biggest reasons PopSockets have become one of the top phone accessory sellers

worldwide is because of the audience they have been geared towards.

According to the Pew Research Center, about 71% of Instagram and Snapchat users are between the ages of 18 and 24. That's a big number that marketing companies just can't wait to sink their teeth into.



Don't get fooled by the pretty design. Save your money.

It is an all around known fact that the young adult population is one of the most gullible, if not the most gullible when it comes to product persuasion. If all their friends have a trending item, then that means that they must get one too.

For the sake of simplifying, trending items amongst the young adult and teen

populations are for the most part seen as a representation of status. It's a way for individuals to fit in with the rest of the group, which evolutionarily speaking, is a natural inclination of human nature.

When taking into consideration this social aspect and the natural impulsiveness

group are Fidget Spinners. The name says it all. As youth comes with an abundance of energy, a product that meets those needs is something that will sell. It is a handheld device, perfect for people who need something to do with their hands, and can be used in a number of fun and creative ways when playing with friends. It functions as a great interactive product that will be sure to keep young kids busy.

The material PopSockets are made of is also nothing to rave about. It's made of plastic and thin rubber, both of which can sustain damage easily. The cheap materials that make up a PopSocket should not be selling as high as \$20 in certain retail stores. It is not smart purchasing move, especially when the product is obviously doomed to break easily.

In the end, Popsockets are relatively useless. It's just another product that appeals to trend supporters and people that like small handheld trinkets to keep them occupied. If you know what's best for your wallet, please save your money and pass up a PopSocket when you're tempted to buy one.

of young people, it is no wonder marketing companies are so eager to create the next trending item for them.

Another tactic marketing strategists use when strategizing a new product is creating one that has a design fit for the consumer. A good example of a well-designed product that appeals to the desired age

Fortnite: Same Story, Different Day

A Relatively Tolerable Game with an Utterly Unbearable Phenomenon.

BY: STEVEN AIELLO

Although the concept is not new in the slightest, Battle Royale is unquestionably the biggest gaming phenomenon this past decade. Many games have achieved a meaningful form of notability or attention in this genre, but none have reached the levels of mainstream success that Fortnite has.

The reason for the unprecedented success of Fortnite arguably has less to do with the gameplay itself and more to do with its accessibility. At its core, the game is just like every other Battle Royale game where you look for players to defeat across an expansive map.

Apart from the building mechanics, Fortnite is incredibly standard as a game, which makes it something that's easy to pick up and play. Fortnite excelled against all competitors because it was, and still is an early access game, making it free to play.

The game is also more vibrant and cartoonish than other battle royale games, which helps in marketing the game to a wide audience. After all, parents won't have to worry about any disturbing or ma-



Photo Credit: YouTube.com
Fortnite's culture isn't the first of its kind, but it remains highly insufferable regardless.

ture content if the game is so light-hearted on the surface.

With all of the positive attention and exposure Fortnite has received, it makes sense that the game would also receive a good amount of negative attention. With all due respect to Fortnite, it's relatively harmless as a game in spite of its repetitive qualities.

The game seems relatively fun to play; it is well programmed with few game breaking glitches or exploits, but it suffers from the issue of dead time between fights, which has more to do with the genre itself.

The problems with Fortnite only become apparent, blatantly at that, when looking at the community and culture surrounding the game itself. Arguably, Fortnite is one of the worst cultural phenomenon to have occurred in recent memory.

Because Fortnite is so widespread and popular among gamers, it can be marketed with ease and turned into a cash cow of sorts. This can have a negative on both the property itself and the market surrounding the property.

By making something as consumer friendly and marketable as possible, de-

velopers run the risk of dumping down the idea too much, resulting in an overly simplistic or inoffensive product that only exists to appease a group of people.

The effect it can have on the surrounding market is that every other property tries copying the most popular one of the bunch, thus oversaturation happens and games stick out less.

This has happened as early as the 90's with the mascot platformer craze and as recently when first-person shooters attempted to replicate Call of Duty, which has ironically copied Fortnite with its Blackout game mode.

This attention has also drawn a more casual crowd of gamers towards the game, and more often than not these more casual gamers are focused almost entirely only on popular IPs. It trivializes other games and genres, which is reinforced further when companies only promote these popular games.

It's a vicious cycle of sorts that only assists in making it more difficult for smaller and more unique properties to receive attention. The game isn't going to appeal to everybody no matter what happens, and giving it all of this attention isn't going to convince people to play or like the game either.

However, the biggest problem with Fortnite and why it's reached its current status is the community and fandom. When a franchise becomes mainstream, it usually attracts a sizable number of reasonable fans as well as a sizable number of more unruly fans.

Fortnite's fan base isn't entirely new when it comes to its flaws, but it's arguably even worse than some of the most notorious internet fan bases out there. The

high number of children in the community doesn't help these matters, and it's mostly because of their naiveté.

Because kids are incredibly naïve, producers and other such people will try taking advantage of their trusting nature. Some of the ways this has already happened include YouTubers making mindless and/or click-bait-esque videos of Fortnite, people exaggerating events that happen in the game or even by inserting Fortnite into every situation possible for a cheap thrill.

This is most egregious with the Fortnite dances, which are ridiculously stupid and embarrassing. To most people, these dances would be considered obnoxious, but to kids they might seem hilarious or endearing because they are presented as such.

Thus kids could try replicating this kind of behavior, which makes for an annoying and unfavorable community. There are even older people in the community. Twitch streamer Ninja falls into this trap, be it due to his over the top reactions or poor sportsmanship, which was at its worst when he falsely reported somebody for "stream sniping."

Fortnite has a very toxic and unfavorable community, but ultimately it isn't anything new. Communities before Fortnite have come and gone before, and it is only this bad due to the levels of success the game has reached.

Fortnite as a game is not entirely noteworthy, but it has more than built up a reputation for itself because of its cultural status. Given developer Epic Game's lack of attention towards Fortnite's "Save the World" mode, which might very well fade into obscurity and be nothing more than a footnote in gaming, and one that shouldn't be copied at that.

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS

My True Love Gave To Me... Time Away?

Christmas as a Couple: Cliche or Okay?

BY: ALEXIS KATERIDGE

The end of the year is looming even closer and with it, the daunting shadow of Christmas and New Year's follows.

Christmas and New Year's is already stressful enough, especially with the added stress of family members constantly asking if you are still dating that nice boy or girl



Photo Credit: Flickr.com
Christmas as a couple isn't always what you expect.

from school and why they aren't accompanying you to your aunt's house for Christmas Eve dinner.

As a student living on campus, it is a major treat for me to go home and spend time with my family, and since I attend school with my significant other, I see him all the time. So, spending Christmas as a couple wasn't really something that either of us felt necessary.

But when the actual day swings around, I always get the inevitable question of, "Where is he?" It kind of makes me feel bad.

Now, ultimately it is my decision to spend Christmas with my family, and something both me and my significant other agreed on a long time ago was that, for now, it would be family before each other. However, I can't help but wonder every time when my family asks that perhaps, we are making a mistake.

There is a lot of pressure to spend the holidays together, whether it be from friends, family, or even just reading an article on the internet. But it can also be really nice to spend it apart.

First and foremost, family is so extremely important. Spending time with your family is even more important.

Everytime I think about having to tell my mom I won't be around for Christmas, I see her heartbroken face in my mind and I say, "Nope. Can't do it." And when I think about him telling his parents, it elicits the same response.

So, we're stuck. Sticking with family, it can be awkward enough to bring your significant other around on a normal day. Imagine having to bring them around when your uncle breaks out his too tight elf pajamas, or when your aunts suddenly start asking prying questions when they get drunk.

Not a good mix, I'm sure you can imagine. Holidays also bring on this pressure to be overly couple-y, which maybe isn't your scene. There shouldn't be pressure to be something you aren't, and if that means taking half of your equation out, then that is fine.

But every once in a while, you will see your friend post on Instagram about spending the holidays with their significant other and a small part of you will say, "Hey, I want that." But that is what works for them. Just because they have that doesn't mean you need or should want that too.

And if you look up on Google, "My

boyfriend doesn't want to spend Christmas with me" you will get 85,700,000 hits. Look up, "My girlfriend doesn't want to spend Christmas with me" you will get 268,000,000 results.

That's a lot of people concerned over this issue, and a lot of people weighing in on it as well. Many people even say that not spending the holidays together is a sign of an unhealthy relationship that won't last.

Yikes. But despite all of these outside opinions you need to internalize the issue. No one can make this decision except you and your significant other.

It's important to look inside yourself and ask, "Wait, do I want to spend Christmas with them?" Chances are—you don't.

It's easy to get caught up in the idea that yes, you should want to spend Christmas with one another because that's what your family does, that's what your friends do, heck, that is even what the people in Hallmark movies do.

But maybe, just maybe, that isn't what you should do.

Take some time away from your significant other to bask in the family atmosphere, it can do wonders for a relationship.

The Risks of Using Cat Fishing Dating Services

All That Glitters is Not Gold

BY: ROSEANNE CASSAR

For people who do everything on the computer, from browsing websites to paying bills online, using social media and websites to look for love is a unique alternative to a real-life dating search. Well, now there is a new trend on the Internet that is out there circulating but it is not as new on the Internet world as you might think. This trend is called catfishing.

Catfishing on the Internet should not be taken too lightly. Catfishing can be found on online dating websites and it can happen in person too if you're not careful in noticing the signs. These online dating websites are a, "playground for identity thieves, hackers and other nasty people."

What is a catfish? "A catfish – or someone online who's pretending to be someone they are not." This is something to think about long and hard before anyone makes the decision of trusting these dating websites.

Melissa Ferrari, who wrote the article called, "What Is Catfishing And How Can We Protect Ourselves" states, "Some catfish do so because they don't wish to reveal something they see as potentially negative about themselves, and some do it just for the fun of it." Ferrari mentions in her article, that catfishes are looking to, "coerce someone into doing something they wouldn't normally do – like

give money or send intimate photos – or are trying to gather enough information to commit fraud identity."

In Ferrari's article, she gives nine really good tips to follow if you're ever in a situation of a catfish. Here are some tips that can help you avoid being catfished. One is to, "never use the Internet for online dating while under the influence of alcohol or drugs."

"Block anyone suspicious. Do a background check – google a potential date if you have enough details. You can also use searches created for potential dates as well, thanks to the increase of online dating apps."

"Look for red flags, such as spelling mistakes and bad grammar on a profile when someone has stated they're college or university educated. One of the biggest indicators of catfishing is when a person makes excuses to not meet up, won't do a video call, and even avoids all conversation about when to meet up. So, if they're putting off a face-to-face date it could mean they have something to hide."

"If a profile photo looks like a Hollywood movie star or model and appears too good to be true, use Google images to check the profile photo. If it comes up on another site that makes you feel suspicious, or it's out rightly a magazine cover model, you are being potentially cat-

fished. You can also use Catfish reverse image search apps."

Ferrari gives us warning signs to look for while searching for love on these dating websites. She fills us in on all potential harm that a catfish could do to us without knowing.

Ferrari also mentions in her article that there is something else that we need to watch out for when exploring the dating websites online or the dating apps. Have you ever heard of kitten fishing? Ms. Ferrari states that this is, "a much lighter version of catfishing, it's when someone embellishes or improves their

profile to make themselves more appealing online – such as using a photo from ten years ago, adjusting their age, or lying about their education or profession."

In other words, while looking for love just be careful and mindful of who you pick and choose to become friendly with. Pay close attention to all the warning signs that were mentioned previously in the article. If you do, you will save yourself a lot of time and energy wasted on a person who might be a potential predator.

To find this article go to <https://beanstalkmums.com.au/catfishing-can-protect/>

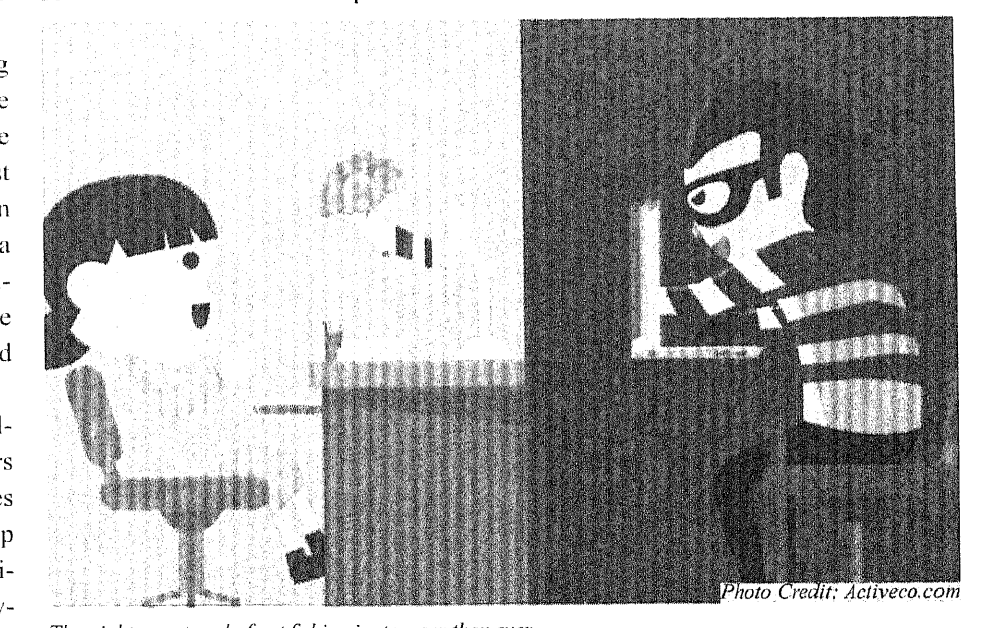


Photo Credit: Activeco.com
The nightmare trend of cat fishing is stronger than ever.

SPORTS

CSI Men's Basketball Denied Third Consecutive CUNYAC Title

BY: NATALIA SANDOR

For all the twitter fingers out there who are familiar with Barstool Sports, the College of Staten Island's men's basketball team is basically famous. The viral video consists of Baruch hitting a buzzer beater with 0.2 seconds left making CSI the lead supporting actor in their victory story.

But the glory attached to having a trending clip is beyond shorable as the CSI men's basketball team put up one of the best CUNYAC championship performances to date. "That was a serious college basketball game", says CSI men's basketball head coach T.J. Tibbs in reference to the close and thrilling nature of the game.

The number two seeded Dolphins faced the top seeded Bearcats in front of hundreds of fans at Hunter College on February 22nd. "From family members to friends to coaches and staff, Thursday at home and Friday at Hunter, makes me incredibly humbled by the support", says Coach Tibbs in appreciation of all the fanatics.

Not one but two sweaty escalator rides down to the basement court passed the non-existent snack stand was where the championship game ended with a close score of 76-74, leaving the crowd standing taller than Chamald Martin.

Chamald Martin, Animé the rapper's doppelganger, is a freshman on the team who displayed high levels of grit and character as he put in maximum effort to battle in the box during the game. "Chamald Martin definitely had one of his best games of the season", says Rignad Destime, a sophomore guard from Long Island.

Destime was the leading scorer for the

A Game that Ended in Heartbreak and a Buzzer Beater

Dolphins with 23 points, including 7 three-point makes. For Destime, this was a career high and a game he will never forget. With pride he states, "I played one of my best games of the season. It really was one of my best games in my college career. I just wanted to have my guy's back and my team's back."

CSI lead for most of the first half up until Baruch minimized the point gap when Andre Harris sunk a corner three beating



Rignad Destime dribbling at the CUNYAC Championship game

Photo Credit: CSIDolphins.com

the half-time buzzer and bringing Baruch to a 37-34 lead. In the second half the score bounced back and forth, no pun intended, until the energy was shattered by Adeola Latunji with a two-handed slam dunk off of a defensive steal.

"Baruch was a really good team they were the conference champs for a reason", says Destime. He sums up CSI's efforts perfectly as he states, "we all played our hearts out" which was reflected in every single millisecond of the matchup.

"I'm extremely proud of my guys",

says Coach Tibbs. With great humility he continued, "I knew it would be difficult playing two difficult teams back to back but even when my top players, we were still able to stay in it and that says a lot about my team".

The last minutes of the game felt like a movie or a scene from One Tree Hill, the kind of entertainment derived from sports that only comes once every few years. Following a turnover late in the game, a Ba-

three to tie the game at 74.

With 4.7 seconds remaining on the clock, the Bearcats ran a football-esque inbound play where Benjamin Boateng hit a buzzer-beating jump shot from the free throw line. Leaving .2 seconds for CSI to make something happen but the Dolphin's season ended in heartbreak.

CSI closed the season with a 17-10 record and had their third consecutive CUNYAC Championship taken from them. Latunji contributed 11 points and 11 rebounds while Martin performed with 13 points and 6 rebounds. MVP Andre Harris led Baruch with 29 points.

Boateng's jumper from the elbow with 0.2 seconds left was the game winner and the shot heard around the Burroughs. The Bearcats have now advanced to the NCAA Division III National Championship Tournament. "Even though the season ended we were still getting better", says coach Tibbs who draws attention to the fact that the team is continuing to move forward.

Destime adds to this when he states, "You just got to keep your head up and keep moving forward. It was a really tough loss but we fought our hardest. Stephen Flagg, one of our biggest pieces, is graduating but he is the only senior so everybody else is scheduled to return back. The off season is going to be big for all of us."

Moving forward, the College of Staten Island looks forward to seeing what this team will do with all of their talent and heart. The highest levels of both were brought to light during this face off and sometimes the buzzer beater falls the other way.

ruch inbound was stolen from the Dolphins as a result of high full court pressure.

The Dolphins then turned the ball over on a traveling violation with 14 seconds left where they were forced to foul, sending Andre Harris of Baruch to the line for two shots. After hitting both shots, Baruch was in the lead by three points.

Christian Taylor, a junior at CSI, has always been a keystone player for the Dolphins. Destime states, "Chris Tay stepped up as a leader" in reference to the fact that with only 20 seconds to go, Taylor hit a far

X-Treme Sports Event in...Buttermilk Mountain...?

Winter Games for Daredevils

BY: SAMMY QUARRATO

Did you ever have the desire to do daredevil sports or stunts that'll put you in constant danger? Many people don't either, but there are some out there that live for this sort of lifestyle.

There are your average "normies" or those who like to just spectate the build up, the drama, the celebrations, defeats, in general, experience the emotional part of sports, in general.

X-Games does all of the above, extreme daredevil events where multiple competitors will be facing off in winter games.

The X-Games are very similar in the theme of the Olympic Winter Games, but the actual concept is entirely different.

The Olympic Winter Games for the most part depends for the most part, on record time, except for a few exceptions with some sports, but it's just overall who can do this track, race, trick the quickest.

The X-Games however put more concept into the risk factor and the rate of how extreme and entertaining those stunts are.

They have events such as the ski slopestyle, snowboard slopestyle, knuckle huck, etc. and other events that the Winter Olympic Games has never even bothered to put as events or at the very least main events where people train for years to perfect

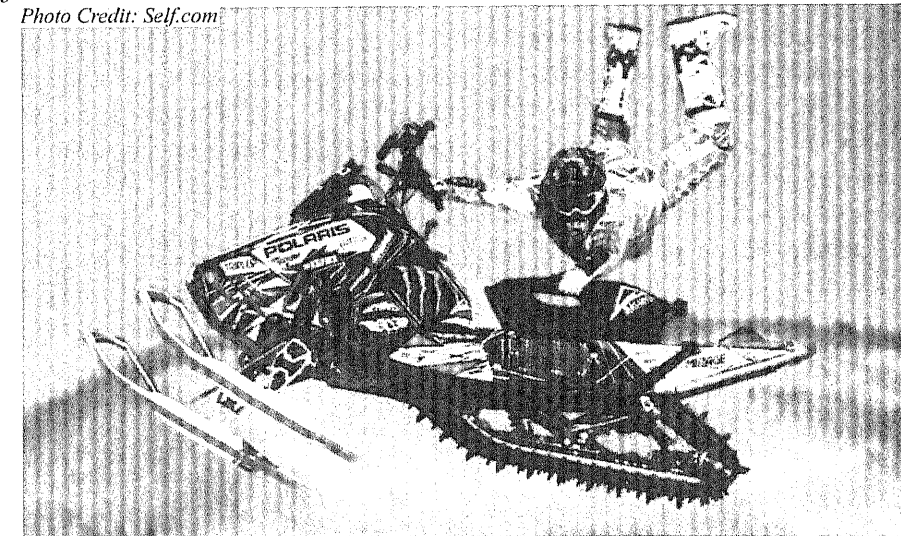
and to show the best of their ability to succeed in it.

X-Games also has a much more casual environment than the Olympic Winter Games, this has a more young crowd, more affordable, in America almost all the time, and they do the winter events every year alongside summer events.

X-Games is also a perfect way for younger people to start doing bigger events that can challenge their competence in sports in not just the physical sense, but also the emotional and spiritual parts of competing in events with the travel, crowds, anxiety of being recorded and an overall experience that not many individuals would even think about doing, it's the stepping stone for the intermediate to even some pro daredevils to compete in to get their name out their at the very least.

The X-Games is also a competition that, again, encourages young people to train and compete, even Disney XD featured X-Games in late nights to get kids to become more active and thrive to be healthier. If Disney out of all companies are aiding you by showing your events in their channel, when they can be seen in other channels such as ESPN and such, it has a unique charm that the industry is taking a good chance and advantage of in the X-Game's running time.

Photo Credit: Self.com



X-Games is underrated and should be given a chance as a platform for amateur/intermediate athletes.

Of course, safety has always been a priority within the X-Games despite the daredevil demeanor it enjoys to identify itself as but they probably do so because, yet again, Disney is partnered to show off their events and young talented people.

The improvements that the X-Games could make is more detailed commentary and overall background information discussing the events, specific stunts, athletes, area, etc.

Discussion creates ideas and ideas create content, and content is a must for anything that is entertainment related, if you don't have something new or a fresh idea,

people will find it bland and overall not fun to watch.

It's why the olympics is viewed as more emotional and overall brimming with content but when you have shows such as Wipeout which have high ratings because of entertainment, and just enough background on the competitors for you to care for them, that's content.

All in all, the X-Games is fun to watch for anyone interested into daredevils stunts or sports, but be aware that will probably be the most in-depth you'll get with it.