

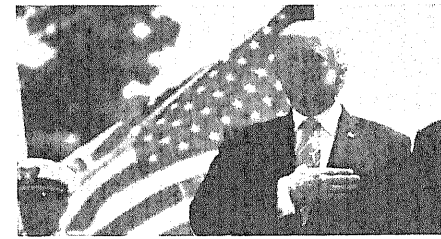
# THE BANNER

The Official Newspaper of the College of Staten Island

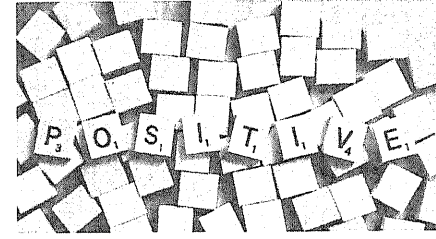
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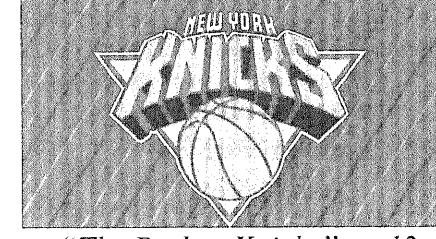
"Trump's Broken Promises" pg 3



"Three Keys to Positivity" pg 6



"Green Day Vs. Trump" pg 9



"The Broken Knicks" pg 12

## The True Story of Emily Beidel:

*A Young Woman Boldly Coming Out*

BY: JULIANNA ROMANO

Emily Beidel was born into a very strict Christian family.

Her father led the family as a pastor of the Christian Missionary Alliance Denomination. For the most part, Emily and her family are protestants.

Having a father as a pastor who always preached about faith, there were many restraints to remain a good, Protestant family.

Beidel happens to be a huge Harry Potter fan, but in the past, she and her three siblings were forbidden to watch the magical wizarding world due to its take on of witchcraft.

Being clever, she told her father that Harry Potter is simply an allegory of God and that it was tastefully appropriate to enjoy.

As she grew older, she noticed differences about herself growing stronger too. She wanted to tell her parents, but the family's Protestant faith kept her in the dark.

"I was closeted for a very long time," Beidel said, "I already got

rid of my overtly homophobic friends."

Beidel eventually felt more secure about her identity and mustered up some confidence to reveal her secret to her parents. They both refused to accept her, and came up with many ways to "straighten" their daughter out.

Her parents sent her to the

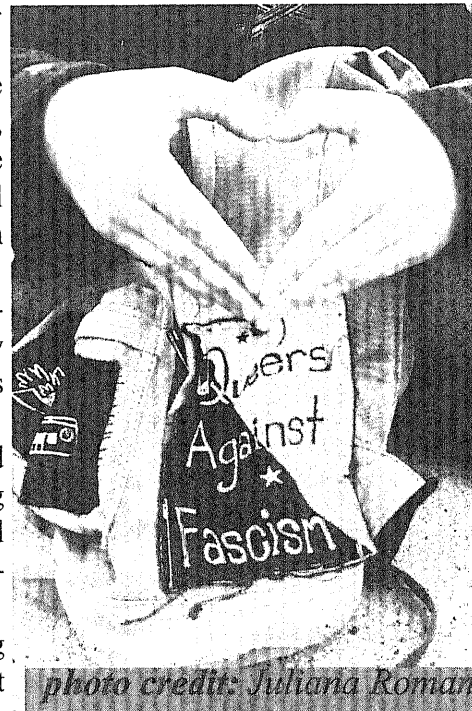


photo credit: Juliana Romano

Timothy Christian School, believing that this would solve everything. Her parents would make sure that her hair was perfect and her nails were always painted to look straight for school.

She recalled one day in school, where she and her peers were required to attend a seminar.

She then told of the message from the headmaster.

"Queers are the evils of the world. If you are a queer, you must keep it as a hush-hush scenario."

Knowing her true identity, Beidel walked out of the seminar, only to be confronted by the school's staff and her parents. She was immediately kicked out of the school, and was promptly homeschooled.

Beidel spent many days and nights alone in her own thoughts. Luckily her older sister Julianne, now 26, supported her for who she was no matter the circumstance.

*Continued on pg #4*

## International Student Talks CUNY Explorers and Academic Support

*How Jobs at CSI Can Make a Difference*

BY: LUCIA ROSSI

Being emotionally invested in your college and/or occupation is something special that may be lacking among many students at the College of Staten Island.

For Nicole Agu, however, a 20 year-old international student from Nigeria, school involvement has become a major part of her life and career.

She is currently a sophomore studying accounting and international business, with a minor in management, and works three positions on campus.

She is also Vice President of

the International Business Society club, and a member of the Emerging Leaders Program and International Student club at CSI.

Agu is a math and accounting tutor, a college assistant for the Office of Academic Support, and a tour guide for the CUNY Explorers program.

"As a college assistant, I serve as a front desk personnel; greeting students and staff and determining their needs," she said. "I provide other basic clerical support such as making phone calls, filing papers, sorting mail, and

helping students make tutoring appointments during the remedial program."

As a math tutor, Agu provides one-on-one tutoring sessions for students to help them understand homework and to assist in preparing for exams.

CUNY Explorers is a program created by the Mayor's College Access for All Initiative and is a particularly fulfilling job because it works to inspire young children into going to college.

*Continued on pg #4*

## CSI Cafeteria Wants to Hear From YOU!

*Dining Services Makes an Effort to Respond to Feedback*  
BY: LUCIA ROSSI

What is that delicious smell coming from the kitchen? That is the inviting and exciting stench of change.

CSI Student Affairs and Auxiliary Services has decided it is time to listen and address concerns of students in regards to the quality, pricing, and variety of foods available in our cafeteria.

It is their hope to create a more meaningful dialogue with the students.  
*Continued on pg #5*

**New Semester, Same Old Questions**  
- How Am I Going to Afford My Degree?

*Ensuring Aid for Looming College Expenses*

BY: JAYME FARBOWITZ

A new semester starts, but many of the same questions about how to afford a college degree remain.

For too many students, college is still far from free. Between rising tuition and fees, mounting textbook prices, rent, food, transportation,  
*Continued on pg #4*

**Paid Tuition in Place for Hard-Working CSI Students**

*NYPIRG Introduces the Excelsior Scholarship*

BY: VICTORIA IFATUSIN

A new scholarship has been presented to the College of Staten Island and the majority of CUNY schools.

The Excelsior Scholarship was implemented by New York State government officials, and NYPIRG began doing its research by asking students what they needed while they were in school, in the Spring of 2017.

Founded in 1973 by college students, the New York Public Interest Research Group, also

*Continued on pg #5*

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# BANNER POLITICS

## President Trump's First State of the Union Address

*What is in Store for the Future of America?*

BY: STEVEN MORRIS

President Trump, in his first State of the Union address as the President of the United States, declared in his speech "The state of our Union is strong because our people are strong."

His address to the nation was a speech that was intended to encourage unity in an ever-divided country.

"Over the last year, the world has seen what we always knew: that no people on Earth are so fearless, or daring, or determined as Americans. If there is a mountain, we climb it. If there is a frontier, we cross it. If there is a challenge, we tame it. If there is an opportunity, we seize it," said President Trump, after calling for unity among Americans.

The address was a different kind of speech than what the American people are accustomed to. The President's speeches are often unscripted and filled with divisive language.

However, this speech was scripted, in an effort to make the President look more like a politician and an elder statesman.

The message in his address to the nation was to bring the country into "a new chapter of American greatness."

Light on details, President Trump in his speech also shared his vision of the future and propositions for the United

States.

On infrastructure, President Trump called on Congress "to produce a bill that generates at least \$1.5 trillion for the new infrastructure investment we need."

On immigration, President Trump offered "four pillars."

The first pillar of President Trump's bipartisan immigration reform plan is

The second pillar, according to President Trump, is a "full secure of the border."

The third pillar would be to end the diversity visa lottery program, created as part of the Immigration Act of 1990 and began in 1995.

This program makes 50,000 visas available to immigrants from countries

President Trump also called on Congress to "fully fund" the military, rebuild the nuclear arsenal, and a commitment "to fighting the drug epidemic and helping get treatment for those in need."

As expected, democrats had numerous issues with the President's address.

Representative Joseph P. Kennedy III gave the official Democratic response to the State of the Union Address.

In this speech, Kennedy stated that "The state of our union is hopeful, resilient, (and) enduring," and that "Bullies may land a punch. They might leave a mark. But they have never, not once, in the history of our United States, managed to match the strength and spirit of a people united in defense of their future."

Also, in his speech, he spoke to "Dreamers" and promised those who were watching that "You are a part of our story. We will fight for you. We will not walk away."

Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, who ran against Hillary Clinton in the 2016 Democratic primary, had his own State of the Union response.

In it, Senator Sanders heavily criticized Trump, noting the differences between then presidential hopeful Trump versus President Trump, and highlighting "Trump's broken promises."



photo credit: latimes.com

to "offer a path to citizenship for 1.8 million illegal immigrants who were brought here by their parents at a young age... those who meet education and work requirements, and show good moral character, will be able to become full citizens."

with low rates of immigrants, in an effort to diversify immigrant population.

The fourth and final pillar to this plan is to put an end to "chain migration," a process in which immigrants are able to petition Immigration Service to bring over their relatives.

## Donald Trump: Tax Cuts and Jobs Act

*The President Gets Down To Business*

BY: JOSIAH AKHTAB

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was recently passed by the Senate, 51-49, after first being passed in the House, 227-205.

On December 2, President Trump gave praise to Republican lawmakers on Twitter, as Trump exclaimed, "Biggest Tax Bill and Tax Cuts in history just passed in the Senate. Now these great Republicans will be going for final passage. Thank you to House and Senate for your hard work and commitment!"

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act marked the first significant legislative victory since the Republicans took control of the Executive branch in 2017, after taking control of the legislative branch back in 2014. The high speed process and determination to overcome and disregard objections accentuates the pressure they have faced in getting the act approved.

The Republicans pitched the bill in favor of the middle class, stating the "overhaul" intended to cut taxes for about 70% of middle class families.

In turn, rather, would raise them for millions of other families, as the Senate plans to phase out tax breaks for state and local income as well as individuals by 2025.

New York Senator and Minority leader, Chuck Schumer, stated the Republican approach was "a process and a product no one can be proud of and ev-

erone should be ashamed of."

Senator Schumer also went on to say that the changes that were made "under the cover of darkness" would "stuff even more money into the pockets of the wealthy and the biggest corporations while raising taxes on millions in the middle class."

Democrats, along with Senator Schumer, opposed the bill, saying it was in favor of the wealthy and not the middle class. However, the bill's approval was made possible by the Republican idea that \$1.5 trillion in tax cuts would sort things out, producing enough economic growth and additional revenue to cancel out costs to the Treasury.

The New York Times reported this belief to be contradicted by several stud-

ies, including one from the economic scorekeeper, in which Republicans regarded as "overly pessimistic."

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, according to Congress, serves to "amend the Internal Revenue Code to reduce tax rates and modify policies, credits, and deductions for individuals and businesses."

The act, for individuals, serves as follows: to replace the seven tax brackets with four brackets of 12, 25, 35, and 39.6%, increase standard deductions, repeal deductions for personal exemptions, establish a 25% tax maximum on business income for individuals, increase child tax credit, and establish a new family tax credit.

It also serves to repeal limitations

on certain itemized deductions, repeal deduction for state and local income or sales tax not paid or made in business, and repeal deductions for medical expenses.

It will also consolidate and repeal several education related deductions and credits amongst other things.

From a business perspective, the bill serves to reduce corporate tax rate from 35 to 20%, allow increased price raising of certain properties, and limit deductibility of net interest expenses to 30% of business's adjusted taxable income.

Businesses also benefit from the elimination of the exclusion for interest on private activity bonds.

The bill also modifies or repeals energy-related deductions and credits, modifies taxation on foreign income and imposes excise tax on certain payments from domestic to foreign related corporations.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was signed by President Trump on December 22nd, with most of the bill, especially the new tax brackets, going into effect on January 1st, 2018.



# BANNER NEWS

*"The True Story of Emily Beidel"*  
Continued from Front Page

Her parents were still not pleased with their daughter's revelation, and sent Beidel to the Ywam Zion camp in New Zealand.

Ywam Zion is a program run by Christian enthusiasts to turn young people into good Christians. Beidel recalls many peculiar experiences during her trip to New Zealand for forced self-discovery.

She distinctly remembers young girls screams all day and night.

She spoke of a little boy who was always sick from the pressures of the camp, a child who, all of a sudden, became paralyzed, and three little girls that always sat in a circle, laughing devilishly.

Beidel's most prominent memory of the camp was of a young man who was homophobic and transphobic, who became outcasted, yet refused to read anything but the bible.

The kicker of the story was that this young gentleman was doing too many drugs and while impaired, wanted to convert to Christianity.



photo credit: Juliana Romano

Growing very weary of the camp, Beidel snuck out and hitchhiked to her cousin's house in New Zealand.

She then stayed with her cousin for the remainder of the trip and never looked back.

Now that Beidel is back home, she is still proud of who she is, and hopes that one day her parents will see that she is very happy with herself.

"If a young person was scared and asked about coming out. I would ask them to please make sure they are safe first and foremost. Mostly, I would tell them that they are beautiful, whole and deserving of love."

with other tour guides to create fun games and college topics that would help the students enjoy the tour and look forward to college."

With this position, Agu seeks to encourage young students to be persistent in their goals through middle school, onto high school and eventually through college.

"I find it interesting to tell the students what to expect in college, so they will be ready," she said.

"I hope to help students understand that college is becoming affordable through scholarships and financial



photo credit: Nicole Agu

*"New Semester, Same Old Questions"*  
Continued from Front Page

-sit, and even child care expenses, CSI students deserve a break!

Flat state funding has left the burden of paying for our expanding CUNY and SUNY institutions increasingly on the backs of students and their families. Tuition has gone up over 35% in just 7 years at New York's public universities.

The state has two tuition aid programs which are designed to provide free tuition to low and middle income students. Even so, the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and the Governor's new Excelsior Scholarship continue to box out too many students in need.

Flat state funding has also meant that campuses cannot invest in more classes or student resources. Insufficient course offerings and support services like advisement means that graduating on time is far from the norm.

Once more, this year's budget proposal includes millions

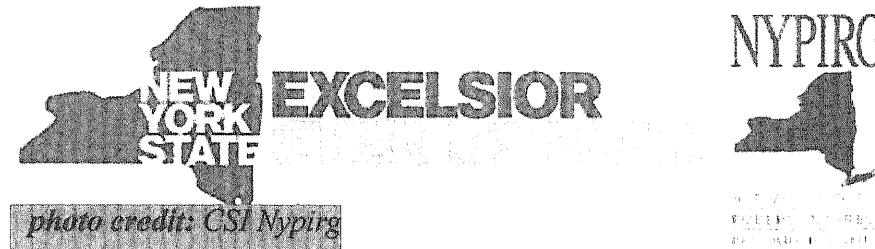


photo credit: CSI NyPIRG

aid. I also want to communicate to them the necessity of a college education to build a better life."

The program's main message to young students is that anyone can go to college, despite financial status or origin, and they should start thinking now about what they would like to do in the future and how they would like to get there.

This is important because middle schoolers don't know much about the reality of what college is actually like besides partying and masquerading student loans.

"Students are encour-

of dollars in cuts to Educational Opportunity Programs, ASAP, SEEK, College Discovery and campus child care centers. These are time-tested, successful services that support New York's most financially vulnerable students through to graduation.

They deserve more funding - not less.

In short, our state representatives are responsible for ensuring all New Yorkers have access to a degree, because higher education is a right. When students organize together, sending a message that students deserve more from their government, real change happens.

Team up with NYPIRG and hundreds of students across the state for Higher Education Action Day on February 28 in Albany, NY to share your story and fight for an accessible, affordable higher education. A cost free, debt free, public higher education is in New York's future!

Join us in the fight to get there. Stop by the NYPIRG office in 1C-218 to learn more!

aged to start their college plans by saving for tuition, studying harder and becoming more responsible," Agu said.

She believes it is imperative that students are aware of all the choices they have.

"I applied for this job because I like to work with children, and I saw it as an opportunity to share my college experiences with them so they could be motivated and learn from it," Agu said.

"I have worked as a tour guide for a year, and I believe I am constantly making a difference in the lives of the students."

# BANNER NEWS

*"CSI Cafeteria Wants to Hear From YOU!"*  
Continued from Front Page

-dent body in order to improve the campus community and enhance our dining experience.

According to the Director of Auxiliary Services, Mary-Jeanne Hennessy, this is important because, "All revenues generated in Auxiliary Services, which includes Dining, Bookstore and Parking Services, are returned back in support of the College in the form of student scholarships, support of activities, commencement, snow removal and facilities maintenance."

Students, clubs, organizations and faculty are therefore providing support for the college by buying from our cafeteria.

With a steady and reliable flow of revenue, the cafeteria could address their own concerns such as, "an infrastructure in much need of repairs, rising minimum wage costs, difficulty in keeping

prices competitive with some of the external vendors due to labor and food costs."

"A Dining Services Survey will be distributed this term, where feedback will be solicited. Student and campus feedback will contribute to the future strategic direction of Dining Services at CSI, including menu options, facility design and potential new vendor partnerships," said Hennessy.

However, according to Hennessy, the interest in feedback doesn't stop with the survey.

"A follow up to the survey will include the opportunity for students and staff alike to provide constructive feedback on service, menus, prices, and opportunity for fresh ideas," she said.

Dining and Auxiliary services would also like to create better communication through

speaking with CSI's student government more regularly to discuss issues they might not be aware of. This way, they could also provide their information about upcoming events, projects, and potential partnerships more clearly and directly.

Students will also be happy to know that the main dining facility in the Campus Center will finally be accepting credit cards this spring.

Furthermore, Hennessy disclosed that, "A new vending machine has been installed in Building 3A, with plans for 2 additional to be installed in the new 2M location."

Auxiliary Services has also been working towards having a better social media presence through Twitter and Instagram.

"[This] will allow quick and easy access to announcement, specials or new menu items,"

said Hennessy.

Auxiliary and Dining services have many goals that reflect the concerns of its patrons.

Hennessy named a few such as, "provide additional food options that respond to the requests and needs of a growing and diverse population," "renovation of the space, both back end and front, to accommodate the volume and needs of the growing student population," and "have the ability to provide nutritional information with ease, displayed on electronic menu boards or potentially a smartphone application."

In order to provide a more affordable and delicious dining experience at the college, they need to hear from its customers. So, if you have any helpful suggestions or even complaints about the food or services, don't be afraid to make them known.

*"Paid Tuition in Place"*  
Continued from Front Page

known as NYPIRG, is known as a "statewide, nonpartisan, non-profit organization" that has the main objective of engaging peers of all walks of life in civic society.

Of course, many students have experienced difficulties funding the costs of their education, from tuition and textbooks, to related costs like food and healthcare, according to the Excelsior scholarship testimony.

Thus, NYPIRG provided to solution for such students by presenting the new scholarship.

In a brief interview with Emily Skydel, the Higher Education Coordinator for NYPIRG, provided more information about this new "free money."

**Q:** What is the Excelsior Scholarship?

**A:** Excelsior is a scholarship program that would be available to students who, one, enroll in at least twelve credits per semester, but earn at least thirty credits each academic year; two, remain on track for on-time graduation; three, agree to live and work in the New York State upon graduation for a certain period of time; and four, sign a contract with Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) to have his/her scholarship converted to a loan if the student fails to fulfill this requirement. Tuition rates for Excelsior recipients would be frozen at the 2016-17 academic year levels until the 2021-22 academic year

and every four years thereafter, in which the tuition rate would be reset to equal the rate charged for the upcoming year.

**Q:** How do students of CSI benefit from this scholarship?

**A:** The program provides free tuition to students attending SUNY and CUNY two-year and four-year programs. When fully implemented, students with a family Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) equal to or less than \$125,000 would benefit from this program.

**Q:** What are the qualifications for the scholarship?

**A:** Eligibility will be phased in from up to \$100,000 in 2017-18 academic year, \$110,000 in 2018-19 academic year, and \$125,000 in 2019-2020 academic year and thereafter. But, the scholarship does not cover everyone and is designed to minimize costs for the state. The plan only applies to families whose income is less than \$125,000. And not everyone making less than \$125,000 a year would qualify. The Governor's plan is a "last dollar" program, meaning it will only apply once all other forms of government aid have been applied. New York's financial aid programs already offer tuition coverage for the poorest public college students. The program has credit and performance limitations as well; if a student doesn't obtain 30 credits in one year, for example, they lose the scholarship and would likely be forced to take out a loan to pay

for the credits they did receive.

**Q:** Is this scholarship available to transfer, out of state, international or graduate students?

**A:** The program is not available to international, graduate or out of state students. Transfer students are covered as long as they are in state.

**Q:** Will the scholarship have an effect on the Financial Aid package?

**A:** A student has to first fill out FAFSA and then whatever remaining tuition balance, if there is any, would be covered by the Excelsior Scholarship, if the students meets the qualifying criteria.

**Q:** For this academic year, is there a deadline?

**A:** The time to qualify in the Fall is June 7th to July 21st.

As mentioned in the Testimony, "A recipient of an Excelsior Scholarship may receive up to \$5,500."

In order for the amount to be determined for a CUNY student, the resident tuition - which is currently up to \$6,330 - "will be reduced by the amount of certain other student financial aid awards which an applicant has or will receive for the academic year, including a NYS Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) award and/or federal Pell grant," according to the Testimony.

Thus, the scholarship will fund the remaining amount of the tuition up to \$5,500. "Tuition

credit will cover any remaining tuition expenses not covered by the Excelsior Scholarship," according to the testimony.

Along with the research that was discovered by NYPIRG, "a third of CUNY students reported not being able to register for a course they needed for their major. Of those students, half couldn't register because there were not enough seats available."

Due to the inability to apply for the classes intended for their major, waiting to pick a major may delay the process of accumulating 30 credits for the academic year, causing rejection of funds for a student who applies for or obtains the scholarship.

NYPIRG thus testifies, "To ensure that students are able to hold onto their scholarships, more funding must go toward expanded course availability."

Following the inability to apply for classes, "textbooks, transit, food, and housing costs are barriers toward achieving a college degree," stated NYPIRG.

According to the Testimony, "an analysis by Politico found that 10,362 CUNY... received the scholarship. That comes out to less than 1% of the student population." This brought up the need for the scholarship to be "enhanced to offer more aid to needy students."

The organization then mentioned that it "urges the Governor and the Legislature to agree to extend the Excelsior Scholarship to undocumented students."



## BANNER ARTS

### Pop Goes Hip Hop? A Fresh Take on Boy Bands

*Brockhampton Goes on a "Love Your Parents" Tour*

BY: DOMINICK WOJTAS

Founded by a young creative from Texas that goes by the name of Kevin Abstract in 2015, Brockhampton is changing the dynamic of what most millennials dub as an American boy band.

The crew consists of 14 young men, in their early 20's, and it is finding its form as a creative agency with its members ranging from rappers to art directors.

They have grown exponentially since their humble beginnings over the web; currently having over a million monthly listeners on Spotify, and sold out shows in the U.S.

This creative powerhouse, dubbed "the internet's first boy band" was conceived while Kevin Abstract was in high school.

He met four of the future band members while the rest were spawned from a post reading, "Anybody want to make

a band?", on a Kanye West fan forum back in 2011.

The name "Brockhampton" is directly taken out of the street that Abstract grew up on.

The entire crew moved out and bought a house in North Hollywood, where their debut mixtape, "All American Trash" was formulated and then released, preceded by "Saturation I", "Saturation II", and "Saturation III"; three full feature albums all dropped within the course of 2017.

With that type of output, it is no surprise that they refer to their home as, "The Factory".

And what is it that makes Brockhampton so eccentrically tasteful? Perhaps it's the fact that their music is so genre weaving, including elements of down to earth, sometimes crude hip-hop, and sappy R&B, all the while maintaining a vivacious, adolescent

feel.

Although not so evident, one may even notice a "One Direction gone rogue" type of vibe in both their work and performances.

This connection is not without merit as they are extremely insistent on having the title of "boy band" and have even released merchandise with the quote "Best boy band since One Direction" plastered on it.

The importance of being known as a boy band is significant for the members, and for a few reasons.

They seek to redefine the term, the style and dynamic of their shows, and the genre merging music culture of today.

Instead of a group of polished performers who don't play "real" instruments and are more known for their matching outfits and choreography, the archetype for boy bands in the past,

Brockhampton has set out to incorporate some of these classic elements, such as the matching outfits, while altering others, such as the level of refinement, and genre stat-icness.

In a sense they're altering the pop music genre all-together.

"I don't look like Justin Timberlake, and I don't look like Harry Styles," said one of the group's members, rapper, Ameer Vann.

"But I would love to be them. We do the numbers you know what I mean? We sell out shows. We make pop music. What is pop music right now? It's hip-hop."

Despite this creative powerhouse's exponential rise to fame, their future is still young based on the notion of their past ambition defined by three successful full length albums released last year.

With that amount of work being put in, it is hard to believe that the clans flame will weaken just yet. And when they are not working on their next album, the clan is touring North America, for their "Love Your Parents" tour, set to end on the March 7.

The show will take you on an emotional roller-coaster, erupting feelings of both "blow the roof off" type of wildness and sticky-sweet, relatable melancholia.

Brockhampton's music would surely evoke emotion in even the most apathetic individual.



## BANNER ARTS

### Green Day Releases New Album

*Band Bashes Trump Again in New Song*

BY: ANTHONY RUSSO

Pop punk/punk rock band Green Day has released a new album called "Greatest Hits: God's Favorite Band", first made available on November 17.

Green Day's most popular albums, "American Idiot" (2004) and "Dookie" (1994) dominated the tracklist, as those albums consisted for nine of their 22 songs released. The album included 22 songs, a collection of their most popular songs, along with one new song and studio recorded duet with Miranda Lambert.

Controversial songs that missed out on Green Day's Greatest Hits album were "East Jesus Nowhere" ("21st Century Breakdown", 2009), "Let Yourself Go" ("Uno", 2012), "Waiting" ("Warning", 2000) and "Jesus of Suburbia" ("American Idiot", 2004).

The duet, which featured "Ordinary World" from Green Day's most recent album "Revolution Radio", is a revised song with some lyrics from Lambert. Originally "Ordinary World" was recorded as a solo song by Green Day's lead singer, Billie Joe Armstrong along with his acoustic guitar play.

"Ordinary World" was the final song on the track of "Revolution Radio" and was formed into a movie, Armstrong as the protagonist.

Green Day's Greatest

Hits album released a new song called "Back in the USA" that declared the band's displeasure toward President Donald Trump.

This wasn't the first time that Green Day publicly spoke out against President Trump. At the 2016 American Music Awards, just weeks after President Trump's election victory, Green Day performed "Bang Bang"



which was one of their singles from "Revolution Radio".

During the songs guitar solo Armstrong shouted to the top of his lungs 6 times "No Trump, no KKK, no Fascist USA!"

About a year later, Green Day released "Back in the USA," a song that bashes President Trump and mocks the political world in the United States. "Back in the USA" is designed

by Green Day to mock President Trump's manipulation tactics used on Americans.

Green Day also released a music video that depicts fake patriotism from certain people in the United States. Included in the music video is drummer Tre Cool and bass guitar player Mike Dirnt. Prominently represented in the music video are the black sunglasses

"American Idiot", the album that revived Green Day that's shaped them to what they are today, started their punk rock revolution towards political issues in the United States.

Though the album is considered a punk rock opera that tells the story of three Suburbia kids, Green Day attacked President George Bush's administration at the time. Green Day's attacks included issues pertaining alienation, speaking out against the government and revolting.

These issues in "American Idiot" are particularly prominent in songs like "Holiday", "Letterbomb", and the title track, "American Idiot".

Green Day hasn't released any news pertaining to a new album included with all news songs, but Armstrong told NME, "it's all systems go" on adapting their "American Idiot" album into a movie.

Green Day hasn't started shooting the movie just yet, but HBO has given them their approval.

Green Day's "Greatest Hits: God's Favorite Band" is available to be downloaded and listened to on Spotify and available on iTunes for \$12.99.

which symbolizes "reality."

When the sunglasses aren't worn in the video, the band can't see the truth, and instead see things such as "Presidential Address Tomorrow" on the cover of a newspaper. When either Cool, Dirnt or Armstrong puts on the sunglasses in the video, "Presidential Address Tomorrow" becomes "President to Lie to Nation Tonight."



## SPORTS

## Knicks Season Falls Completely Apart

Injuries, Poor Play Ruin Promising Start

BY: ERIC RANSOM

More of the same old ways haunt the New York Knicks yet again this season.

With an enthusiastic beginning to the season, the Knicks looked poised to abandon the Carmelo Anthony era and start anew.

The incredible start for Kristaps Porzingis, as well as additions like Enes Kanter and Tim Hardaway Jr. jolted the team to a brief high point in both energy and productivity not achieved in years.

Much like last year, though, the season has come crashing down to a halt, with key injuries and poor execution to blame.

Just to add salt to the Knicks wound, first time All-Star Kristaps Porzingis tore the ACL muscle in his left knee in a February 6 game against the Milwaukee Bucks, putting a cap on an aggravating year so far.

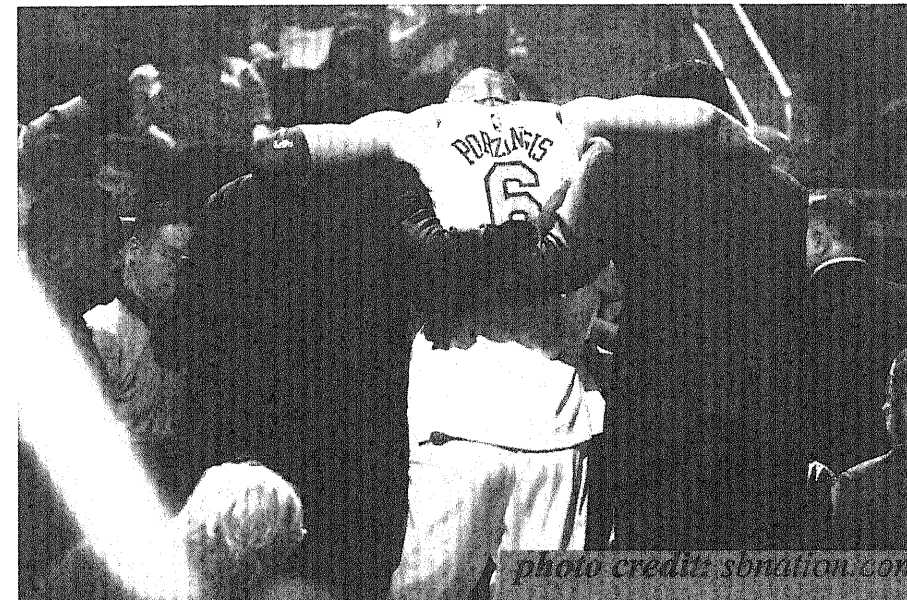
An injury such as this can take up to 12 months to recover from, the last thing the Knicks could have wanted during this rebuild period.

Porzingis was having a career year before the injury, being among the tops in the NBA in blocks-per-game and putting up career high offensive numbers while being selected to his first All-Star game.

Unfortunately, Porzingis will miss the festivities, just two weeks before the start of the All-Star break.

The Knicks as a team showed sparks of something special in the first twenty games of the season, but it was not meant to be.

Through 56 games, both the 2016 and 2017 team have identical records of 23-33.



A combination of lackluster defense, blowing 20+ point leads, and not securing victories while ahead in the fourth quarter all contributed to a lost season for the Knicks, now relegated to counting the days until the offseason begins.

Willy Hernangomez, an underused center, was pushed down the depth chart

and nearly forgotten about all season. This was enough for him to request a trade, eventually being dealt on the Charlotte Hornets.

The trade deadline also had the Knicks acquire French point guard Emmanuel Mudiay from the Denver Nug-

getters in a three team deal.

Knicks forward Doug McDermott was sent from the Knicks to the Dallas Mavericks, as well as point guard Devin Harris from Dallas to Denver to complete the deal.

Despite the negativity permeating from the Knicks, a few bright spots

shined through the darkness this year, especially in that of forward Michael Beasley.

The former second overall pick in the 2011 NBA Draft has provided a fantastic offensive spark off the bench for the Knicks, predominantly playing during Porzingis's absences this year.

As of February 10, Beasley has averaged an impressive 12.6 PPG playing in just 19.8 MPG, as well as shooting a staggering 51% from the field.

Beasley's playing time will surely increase with Porzingis now shelved for the rest of this season, and most probably a portion of next season as well.

Other players like Enes Kanter, Kyle O'Quinn and Courtney Lee have all had solid seasons, though their time in New York may be limited. Kanter, though, hopes this does not come to fruition for him.

"This is where I want to be, this is where I want to retire," said Kanter, still enthusiastic about his team despite the adversity.

Courtney Lee set the record for most consecutive free throws made with 46, beating out former record holder Chris Duhon and his 44 straight makes back in 2008.

For now, the Knicks will look to the future not just in acquiring new players, but for a positive rehab and anticipated return of Porzingis sometime in 2019.

## Giancarlo Stanton Traded to Yankees, Shohei Ohtani Chooses Angels

NL MVP Moves to Bronx, "Japanese Babe Ruth" Picks Los Angeles

BY: ERIC RANSOM

Christmas presents have arrived early for Yankees and Angels fans.

In the biggest move of the baseball offseason, the New York Yankees have acquired National League Most Valuable Player Giancarlo Stanton in a deal with the Miami Marlins.

Coming off a career year, the outfielder will now play in Yankee pinstripes alongside American League Rookie of the Year and near-twin, Aaron Judge.

In 2014, Stanton signed the richest contract in U.S. sports, inking a 13-year, 325 million-dollar extension to his existing contract with the Marlins.

Due to the Miami's poor play the last few years, and new management buying the team, the Marlins set out to free themselves of the massive contract, aiming to trade their superstar at some point this offseason.

Stanton also had discretion to veto a trade due to the no-trade clause in his contract. After declining a trade to both the Cardinals and Giants, the Yankees quickly jumped at the opportunity once Stanton listed the Yankees as a desired destination.

The Yankees agreed to pay 265 million of the 295 million-dollars left on his contract, as well as trade INF Starlin Castro and two prospects to complete the trade.

One of the new owners of the Marlins is Yankees legend Derek Jeter, who

was instrumental in the completing the sale.

Stanton, 28, is coming off a career year with the Marlins, leading Major League Baseball last year with 59 homers and 132 RBI, earning him his first MVP award.

Not since Alex Rodriguez in 2004



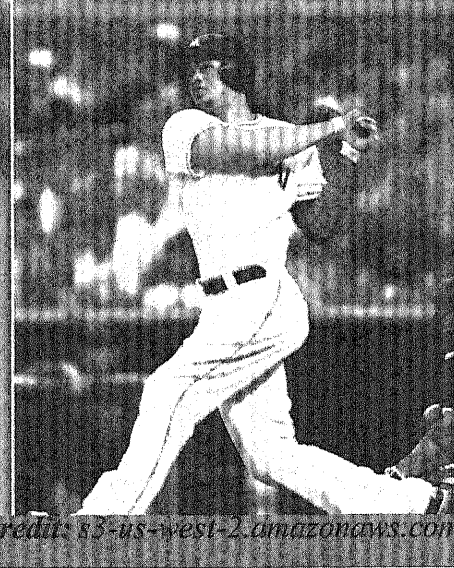
has a MVP been traded the following year- a player also acquired by the Yankees.

With Aaron Judge's rookie record of 52 homers, and catcher Gary Sanchez's 33 homers, a Yankee's lineup with Stanton could become the most dominant trio of hitters in baseball.

Now that both Stanton and Judge

are paired up, fans are deeming them the new "Murderer's Row", which featured Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris in 1961. The potential of this new duo may further add to the nickname that is the "Bronx Bombers".

Not even 24 hours before the trade, baseball received its next superstar in an



import from Japan.

In another huge offseason move, The "Japanese Babe Ruth" Shohei Ohtani has chosen to sign with the Los Angeles Angels after playing with Nippon Professional Baseball in Japan.

Ohtani is one of the most unique baseball talents in the world, capable of being both a starting pitcher and out-

fielder, netting him his nickname.

His coveted ability to both pitch and hit at an elite level drew massive interest by all 30 MLB teams, especially for his age, being only 23.

After carefully hearing pitches from all interested teams, it was up to Ohtani to sign wherever he wanted, eventually choosing the Angels.

Ohtani will join the best player in baseball, Mike Trout, and an Angels team that missed the playoffs last year but will now look to build off of the groundbreaking acquisition.

One of the biggest questions will be how the Angels handle his dual-threat capabilities, whether or not he will focus on only pitching, or attempting to accomplish both pitching and hitting.

His decision to leave Japan at his age was a surprise, as staying in Japan for three more years would have enabled him to earn much more money from MLB clubs under an agreement with the NPB.

Instead, Ohtani chose to join the MLB this year after getting permission to be posted, putting aside a potential bigger payday in the future to showcase his abilities right away.

The American League has certainly been gifted with two new dynamic superstar players in Stanton and Ohtani, and who knows, the two could possibly battle for an AL MVP one day.