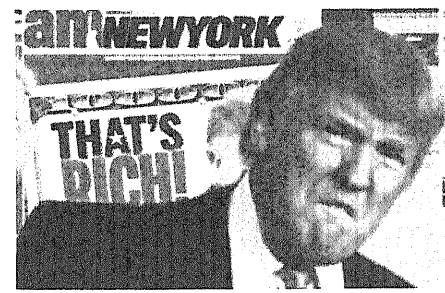


# THE BANNER

The Official Newspaper of the College of Staten Island  
March 9, 2017

Established 1993

Issue # 11



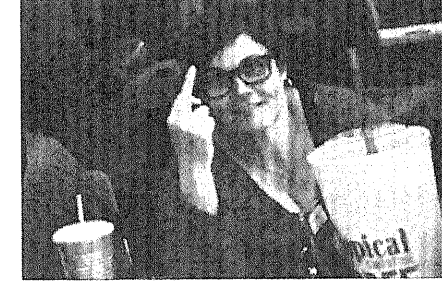
Trump v. Media - Page 3



Men's Fashion - Page 6

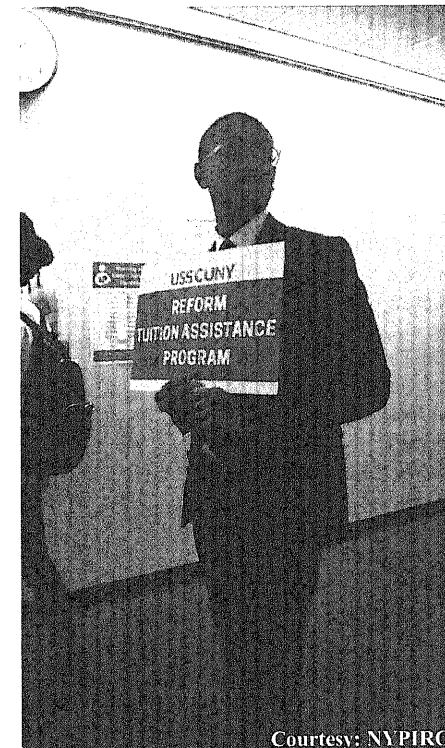


John Wick 2 - Page 9

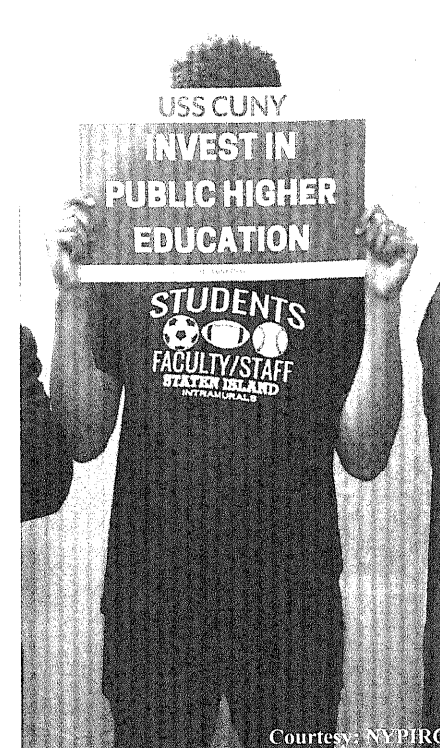


ASL Professor - Page 12

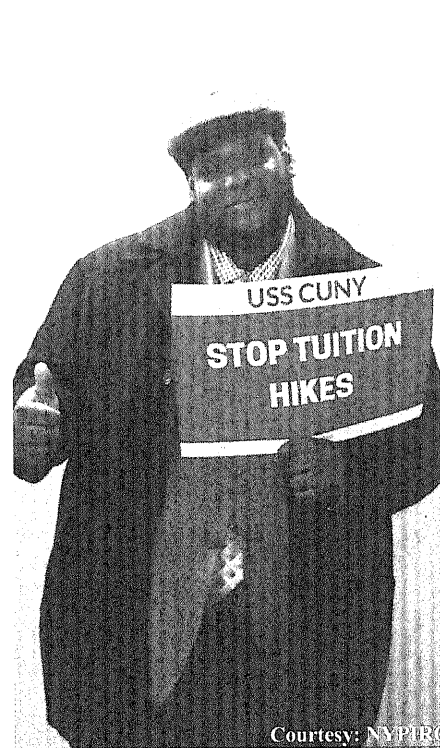
## To Fight Tuition Hikes, CSI Students Take to Albany



Courtesy: NYPIRG



Courtesy: NYPIRG



Courtesy: NYPIRG

CSI students holding up signs outside of legislative offices in Albany

BY MARCUS DEL VALLE

Student government members, student activists and professors rallied together in Albany on March 2 to demand that elected officials support and invest in CUNY and SUNY campuses.

The coalition spent the day conducting legislative visits—which were coordinated by the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG)—which focused on the

fight for lower tuition, improved infrastructure and increased overall investments across CUNY and SUNY

NYPIRG's CSI chapter brought students from the College of Staten Island and Brooklyn College on a bus to Albany to meet with elected officials to give students the chance to voice their concerns about the conditions surrounding their campuses.

Student tuition in SUNY and CUNY

campuses has increased by \$300 per student five times in the past six years. Recently the increases have ceased with the higher tuition being frozen in place. Students joined the front lines of the fight against current tuition prices. Many students spoke to legislators about their struggles to pay tuition.

Concerns about CUNY's tuition varied.

*Continued on Page 5*

## Summer Nights Turn into a Career in the Sex Industry

*Can the Sex Industry Pay for Your College Tuition?*

BY AUDREY VALENTI

College tuition weighed heavily on his mind after a weekend getaway with a few friends to Atlantic City. In three days Michael Maugeri lost fifteen thousand dollars. The fall semester started in less than two weeks and there was no way to pay for his classes or textbooks. While still in Atlantic City, Maugeri noticed the strip club inside his hotel was hiring.

"I was feeling self-destructive after a three year break up; we knew each other for ten years," said Maugeri. "To make things worse, I was laid off from my job."

Maugeri's ex-girlfriend had given him an ultimatum. He had to choose between his love for acting or her. She did not take him seriously as an actor, so he left.

Maugeri was awarded a severance pay, but blew it all. Stripping brought in hundreds of dollars a night. Within a month, Maugeri finally made enough money to afford college. Maugeri believed he could make more money after a friend suggested he try out camera modeling.

This would mean Maugeri would have to take his clothes off on the internet and take requests from strangers. More often

than not, most clients wanted to watch Maugeri masturbate. Maugeri admitted to faking ejaculation with a special machine on days he could not perform.

When working full time, Maugeri made one thousand dollars a week. Working part time he made anywhere between six hundred to eight hundred dollars a week. When Maugeri did not film he managed fake social media profiles.

"I spent twenty hours a week live streaming myself masturbating," said

*Continued on Page 4*

## The V in V-Day Stands For Vagina

*A GLOBAL MOVEMENT TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN*

BY BEREN SABUNCU

Every year on Valentine's Day, people from all over the world perform The Vagina Monologues as a global effort to help end violence against women. The money raised go to various organizations that help women in need. This year, The College of Staten Island's Bertha Harris Women's Center joined the cause by giving a reading of The Vagina Monologues in 1L.

Donations were collected on behalf of Staten Island's Safe Horizons, an organization that protects victims of domestic violence. The cast includes both students and staff; Alyson Bardsley, D. Belinsky, Krista Casale, Katie Cumiskey, Alyssa D'Agosto, Jane Marcus Delgado, Lucila Farfan-Narcisse, Catherine Lavender, Ashley Olivia, Rebecca Ritz and Janelle Yik.

The women received a standing ovation for their moving performances. The crowd laughed and cried, inspired by the spirit of V-Day. In this case, the V in V-day stands for Vagina.

The Vagina Monologues originally debuted in 1994, written by Eve Ensler, an American playwright and self-proclaimed feminist. Within the monologues, she tells stories inspired by the women she met throughout her travels.

For information about upcoming performances, please visit the Women's Center in Building 2N, Room 106.



# STAFF

**EDITOR IN CHIEFS:**  
CLIFFORD MICHEL  
LUCIA ROSSI

**COPY EDITOR:**  
JUSTINE CARUCCI

**BUSINESS MANAGER:**  
SIERRA HOWARD

**DEPUTY BUSINESS MANAGER:**  
BRENTON MITCHELL

**WEB EDITOR:**  
STEVEN MORRIS

**ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR:**  
RAMI TABARI

**LIFESTYLES EDITOR:**  
BRIELLE SPARACINO

**SEX & RELATIONSHIPS EDITOR:**  
ALISSA MANGIACAPRE

**OPINIONS EDITOR:**  
MARCUS DEL VALLE

**PRODUCTION EDITOR:**  
KINZA KHAN

**STAFF:**  
BEREN SABUNCU  
WILLIAM MORTON  
DECLAN KAASLER  
ANTHONY RUSSO  
ANTHONY CARBONARO  
STEVEN AIELLO

**CONTRIBUTORS:**  
VICTORIA PRIOLA

**FACULTY ADVISOR:**  
FREDERICK KAUFMAN

We're On The Web:



Facebook.com/TheBannerCSI

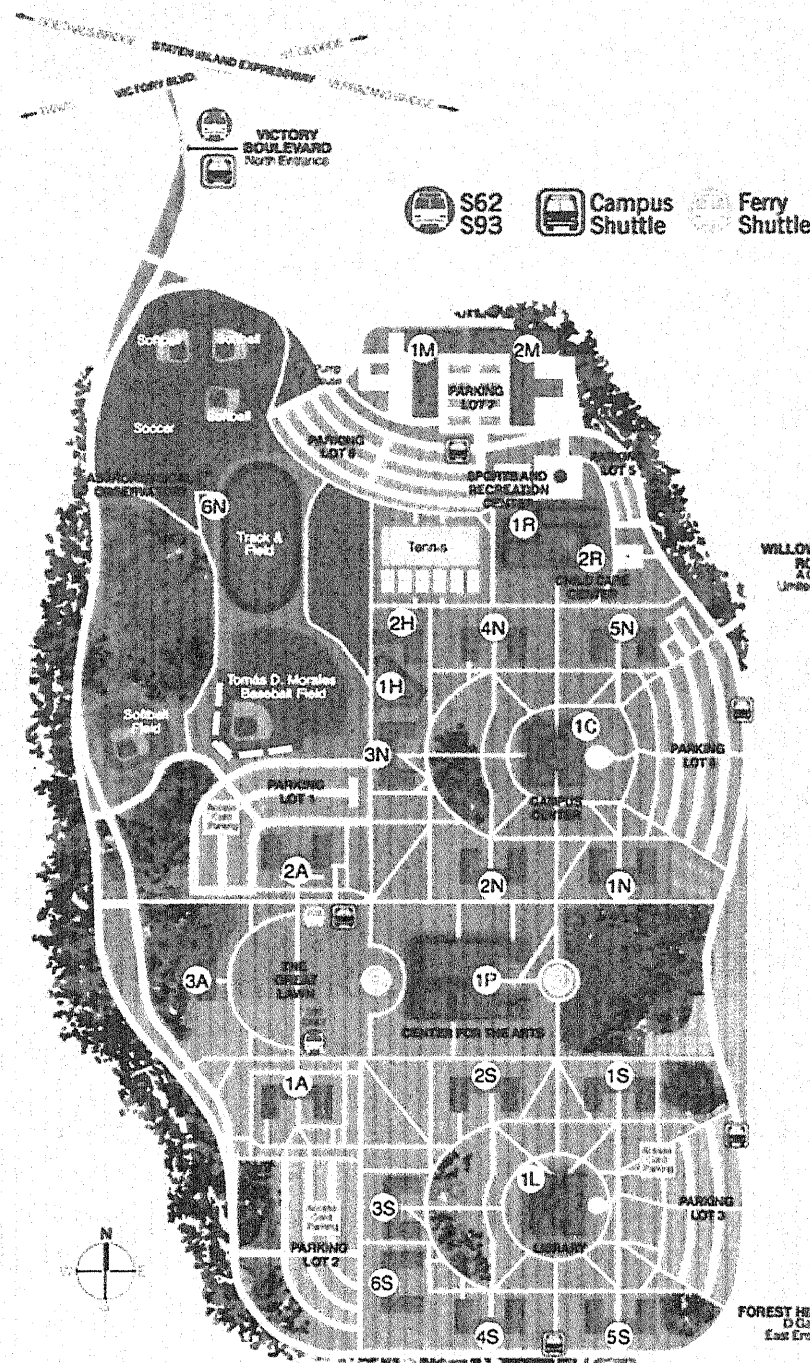


TheBannerCSI.com



@thebannercsi

## College of Staten Island



**North Campus**

- Astrophysical Observatory . . . . . 6N
- Business . . . . . 3N
- Campus Center . . . . . 1C
- Campus Services and Central Plant . . . . . 1M
- Children's Center . . . . . 2R
- Computer Science . . . . . 1N
- Engineering Science and Physics . . . . . 1N
- Engineering Technologies . . . . . 4N
- History . . . . . Marchi Hall, 2N
- Physical Therapy . . . . . 5N
- Political Science, Economics, and Philosophy . . . . . Marchi Hall, 2N
- Residence Halls . . . . . 1H, 2H
- Sports and Recreation Center . . . . . 1R
- Future Use . . . . . 2M

**South Campus**

- Biology . . . . . 6S
- Chemistry . . . . . 6S
- Education . . . . . 3S
- English . . . . . 2S
- Library . . . . . 1L
- Mathematics . . . . . 1S
- Media Culture . . . . . 1P
- Nursing . . . . . Marchi Hall, 5S
- Performing and Creative Arts . . . . . 1P
- Psychology . . . . . 4S
- Social Work . . . . . 1L
- Sociology and Anthropology . . . . . 4S
- World Languages and Literatures . . . . . 2S

**Administration Loop**

- Center for the Arts . . . . . 1P
- North Administration . . . . . 2A
- South Administration . . . . . 1A
- West Administration . . . . . 3A

2800 Victory Boulevard • Staten Island, NY 10314 • www.csi.cuny.edu



THE BANNER OFFERS INTERNSHIPS TO CSI STUDENTS. INTERNSHIPS LAST ONE SEMESTER AND GIVE STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT MEDIA. INTERNS WILL WORK A MINIMUM OF 12 HOURS PER WEEK, AND CAN FOCUS ON:

- BLOGGING • EDITING • PHOTOGRAPHY
  - GRAPHIC DESIGN • LAYOUT & PRODUCTION
  - REPORTING • WEB DESIGN • FACT-CHECKING
- VISIT US AND EAT FREE PIZZA ON THURSDAYS, 2:30-4:30, AT 1C-228  
OR CONTACT US: (718) 982-3116  
E-MAIL: THE.BANNER.CSI@GMAIL.COM

### College of Staten Island

THE BANNER IS PUBLISHED BY THE STUDENTS OF THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND. ALL WORKS CONTAINED WITHIN THIS PUBLICATION ARE THE PROPERTY OF THEIR CREATORS AND ARE PROTECTED BY COPYRIGHT LAW. NO MATERIALS WITHIN THIS PUBLICATION MAY BE REPRINTED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, IN ANY FORM, WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE EDITORS.

OUR OFFICE IS LOCATED AT 2800 VICTORY BLVD., BUILDING 1C, ROOM 228, STATEN ISLAND, NY, 10314. OUR NEWS BUREAU CAN BE REACHED AT (718) 982-3116 OR BY E-MAILING OUR EDITOR (THE.BANNER.CSI@GMAIL.COM) OR BY FAXING US AT 718-982-3087.

FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION DIAL 718-982-3116

OPINIONS EXPRESSED HEREIN ARE THOSE OF THE WRITERS AND ARE NOT NECESSARILY SHARED BY THE BANNER STAFF OR THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND. THE BANNER IS NOT A PUBLICATION OF THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND AND THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTENTS OF THE BANNER.

# BANNER POLITICS

## Commentary: Trump vs. "Fake News"

Recent Actions Taken by Trump Challenges Freedom of the Press

Source: Talking Points Memo

BY STEVEN MORRIS

The White House press corps has been a staple in the West Wing since the early 1900's.

The press corps stemmed from President Theodore Roosevelt, who noticed reporters stuck in the rain, looking for sources for their stories.

He invited the journalists into the White House and the rest is history.

A war of words between President Trump and what he considers "fake news" has been a long, continuing battle.

"The media here is the opposition party. They don't understand this country.

They still don't understand why Donald Trump is the President of the United States," said Steve Bannon, current White House Chief Strategist and founding member of Breitbart website.

On February 17, President Trump tweeted "The FAKE NEWS media (failing @nytimes, @NBCNews, @ABC, @CBS, @CNN) is not my enemy, it is the enemy of the American people!"

In previous press conferences, President Trump only took questions from right-sided media publications.

On February 24, The New York

Times, Politico, BuzzFeed News and CNN, were banned from a private press briefing by the Trump Administration.

During a visit to the U.S. Central Command Center, President Trump claimed that terrorist attacks in the United States and Europe have "gotten to a point where it's not even being reported."

According to the fact checking website, politifact.com, this statement by the President was "pants on fire" false.

A recent poll by the Wall Street Journal indicates that 51% percent of people believe the media is "too tough" on President Trump.

The media is not backing down. News anchor Jake Tapper of CNN is on the offense, questioning Trump's claims and policies.

Following the February 24 press briefing, Tapper said: "I don't want to spend too much time discussing this issue because we have a lot of news to cover today, but let's not make any mistake about what's happening here.

A White House that has had some difficulty telling the truth and that has seemed to have trouble getting up to speed on the basic competent function-



ing of government, and a president who seems particularly averse to any criticism and has called the press the enemies of the American people they are taking the next step in attempting to avoid checks and balances and accountability."

On February 27, in an interview with Matt Lauer of NBC's Today Show, Trump said that he considers the media

to be "indispensable to democracy" and that "we need an independent media to hold people like me to account."

For over a century, The White House press corps has held the President accountable for views and policies.

All media outlets have the right of access to accurately report the news.

## Russia May Send Back Snowden For Trump

BY ANTHONY RUSSO

Just a few years ago, Edward Snowden worked for the CIA, until he leaked classified files that were disclosed to the NSA.

In June of 2013, it was publicly found that Snowden gave leaked NSA files to journalists, Glenn Greenwald and Laura Poitras, who were investigating invasion of privacy imposed by our government.

Shortly after handing over the leaked NSA documents, Snowden fled to Russia, where he has remained still today. To some, Snowden is seen as a hero, to others, he's seen as a traitor.

Either way, according to the Espionage Act, he faces three charges that could put him in prison for a minimum of 30 years.

In November of 2016, Snowden tried to convince President Obama to pardon him just before his final term in office ended.

President Obama responded to Snowden's plea for a pardon in an exclusive interview with German public broadcaster, Der Spiegel, and said, "I can't pardon somebody who hasn't gone before a court and presented themselves, so that's not something

that I would comment on at this point." Although President Obama denied his pardon, he has responded differently in the past concerning other pardons before the end of his term, specifically with Chelsea Manning.

Manning was sentenced to 35 years in prison because of similar charges to Snowden, which would both be under violation of the Espionage Act.

The reason Manning received a pardon is because she did face a trial and a sentencing on American soil, while Snowden hasn't and remains in Russia.

To make matters more challenging for Snowden, current President Donald Trump has not been on his side.

Trump on multiple accounts has ripped Snowden by insulting him with terms such as "traitor" and "disgrace" in various interviews, as well as his official Twitter account.

On July 9 2015, journalist Anderson Cooper of CNN sat down with Trump to discuss Snowden. As Trump has emphasized through his presidential campaign, he's made it clear that he would like to ease tensions with Rus-

sia, by having Vladimir Putin becoming his potential ally.

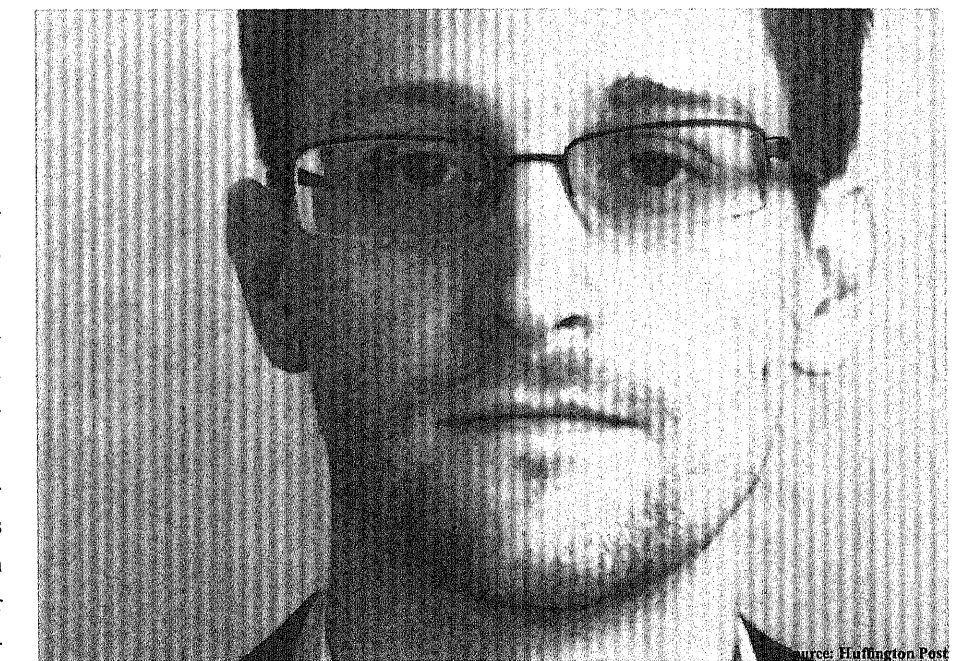
In Trump's interview with Cooper, he said that because Putin has no respect for Obama, Putin is letting Snowden stay in Russia in spite.

Trump followed up by saying, "If I'm president, Putin says, 'Hey, boom you're gone.'" when referring to sending back to the

United States.

On February 10 2017, just weeks into Trump's presidency, NBC confirmed that Russia will consider sending over Snowden to the United States as a gift to Trump.

It's hard to say if Trump will ease down on his demands for Snowden, but if Russia agrees to send him back over, it could help ease tensions between Russia and the U.S.





## BANNER NEWS

### "Adult Film Star"

#### Continued from Front Page

Maugeri. "I was offered thousands of dollars just to take my clothes off."

Maugeri's agent promised that members of the website who lived on the East coast could not see him, prompting him to show his face. Maugeri said when he first started live streaming, he felt embarrassed. He would open up to people and make him feel ashamed.

"I never worried about Mike's safety, but I was curious," said Lisa Bauso, a friend of Maugeri. "I wanted to know what site he was on and how he was being promoted."

Maugeri was often given strange requests from clients. One client asked Mike if he could impregnate her for fifty thousand dollars. Her husband left her due to a

double vasectomy and hair loss. Because of chemotherapy she had conceiving difficulties. She said she would fly to him from Denver while she was fertile and "sex slave" for two weeks.

Maugeri also worked for "Rent-a-Gent." He offered himself to women aged forty-eight to fifty-five. His services included massages, sex, and therapy sessions.

Maugeri said he would only reconsider camera modeling if he was in a serious relationship with a woman, but he still offers out his services to anyone who is willing to pay. He said that he feels that he might have a sex addiction after working in the industry for quite some time.

"I've been with more women than I'm willing to say," said Maugeri. "Well over three hundred."

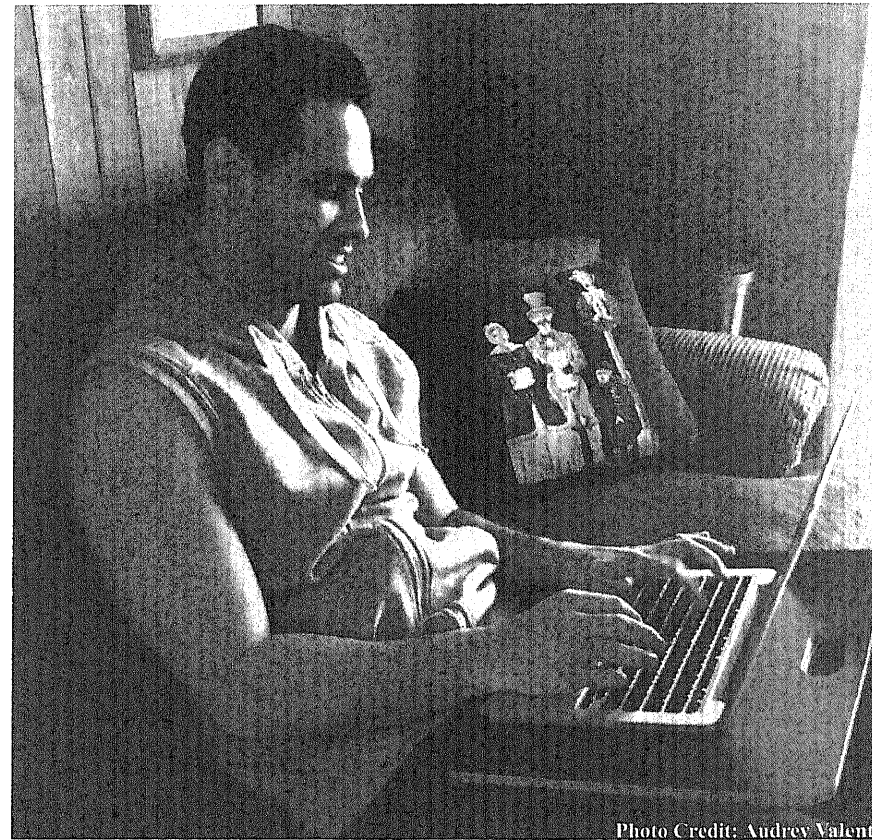


Photo Credit: Audrey Valenti

The Department of Social Work at the College of Staten Island is proud to announce the Master of Social Work (MSW) Program has been granted full initial accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), the national accrediting organization for social work education in the United States. Applications accepted in February and March for fall.

60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND  
1956-2016

THE CITY UNIVERSITY  
OF NEW YORK  
College of  
Staten Island

## BANNER NEWS

### "NYPIRG"

#### Continued from Front Page

Testimonies came in the form of short snippets of personal experiences and questions on how to affect change. Elected officials resoundingly agreed: "by affecting local governments."

The Dream Act was also a priority for many during conversations with elected officials. Assemblymen and Senators had split feelings on the act and veered away from the conversation quickly, according to students in the meeting.

Many CUNY and SUNY colleges have been experiencing intense issues with infrastructure on some of the more sprawling campuses.

CSI students mentioned the potholes on the loop road and parking lots and the lack of accessibility to buildings for disabled students. Students told legislators about broken bathroom stalls and napkin dispensers, walkways prone to flooding and roads that force drivers into unsatisfactory conditions.

In Albany, a coalition of fired up student government representatives and professors from all over CUNY and SUNY rallied attendees with positive banter and call and response cheers before releasing students to state their demands. Students were divided into several groups and lead to the offices of Senators and Assemblymen to voice these demands.

While there was much support coming from the CUNY and SUNY constituents – professors and the combined student governments – responses varied amongst the elected officials depending on the issue. Some legislators weren't in their office and conversations were held with legislative aides whom, for the most part, could not make any official comments on behalf of their leaders.

A group, led by Chidi Duke of the CSI NYPIRG chapter, had four meetings scheduled where they advocated for their demands and told legislators about their personal narratives. The group met with Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther, Senator Kathleen Marchi-

one, Assemblyman Matthew Titone, and finally Senator Andrew Lanza.

Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther, a Democrat, had nothing but praise for student activists and resounding support for all issues and student concerns. She is in support of lower tuition by \$225 per student and creating more investments for student work opportunities and class variation. As well, she supports student teaching hospitals and the Dream Act.

On the other hand, State Senator Kathleen Marchione had nothing to say to students. Her assistant, Patrick, who greeted NYPIRG and students because of the Senator's absence, expressed that she would be out for too long to answer questions. Midway through the meeting the Senator walked into the room, passed the students and into her private study without saying a word to NYPIRG or any of the students in her office.

Assemblyman Matthew Titone was also not available and the intern, who has been working there for several months, said that

he has never met him. He advised that a Google search of his local Staten Island office, followed by a knock on the door, would be the most effective way of getting to him.

Senator Andrew Lanza was in a meeting when students first approached and his Chief of Staff spoke with students until Senator Lanza could step out of the meeting. Lanza expressed that he was also in support of most issues spoken about. He stated however that he does not believe in the Dream Act.

"Why should anyone here illegally get benefits that some of our own citizens cannot?" Lanza said.

Upon arriving in Albany at the rally to fire up students before making their demands, there was much talk about the importance of students understanding their power and what kind of change they can make when they come together. At the end of the rally before students were off to fight the good fight this was said:

"The change you seek is you. The change you seek is us."

## The Other Side: Three questions to ask on your next job interview

Want the Job of Your Dreams? Make Sure They Can Answer These Three Questions

BY VICTORIA PRIOLA

Victoria Priola, former Lifestyle's editor at The Banner has decided to join the team once again! As a 2016 graduate, Priola has seen a slice of life from the "other side," if you will. Her goal is to attempt to prove that in some way, somehow, CSI might actually prepare you for real life.

As you peruse LinkedIn and Indeed for your post-grad profession, you'll be hit with millions of links to sell yourself to. Sending out application upon application is enough for even the most sane to go crazy.

Until you finally get a response.

Then comes the fun part: the interview. You put on your Sunday best, mentally prep yourself to give the post PR, bullshit answer your mind can formulate and walk in to impress the pants of your potential employer.

After giving it your best shot, the interviewer will, and should, ask if you have any questions.

This is the time for you to shine. Millennials are often so eager to get out into the working world, they will take anything that is over the measly \$9 per hour they made at their last gig. We hear so much about the wage gap between men

and women, but what is the wage gap between millennials and baby boomer workers?

There's no monetary proof of a wage gap between the two generations but Mark Szytko of Salary.com might have the reason behind the madness.

Millennial workers, born between 1981 and 2000, are typically new employees, said Szytko, according to Forbes.

Here are some questions to ask so employers won't mistake your fresh face for someone who could be played.

### What is the room for growth in this company?

This may seem like the easiest thing to remember but believe it or not, most people forget or are afraid to ask if they could move up from the position they are going for.

### What are the benefits of this position?

Follow the money here, people. You're allowed to ask how much you'll be paid and you don't need to settle for the "competitive rate" answer you might get.

Feel free to ask about what you're

entitled to as far as medical coverage. If they're not willing to cover you to get new glasses once a year, you might want to think twice about the job.

### Let's talk sick/vacation time.

OK, make sure this is not the first question you ask. But definitely ask at some point. If you want to start a family ever in life, you might be interested in how they handle maternity leave. Once

you're in the job, those questions might get buried under the new rules and regulations you have to follow.

Some companies might want to play with that number or sweep it under the rug so they can squeeze the most work out of you as possible. In short— stay woke.

Go into any job interview confident and humble. Always remember, the best brand you can build on is yourself.



Source: Huffington Post

# BANNER LIFESTYLES

## An Introduction to Men's Fashion: Proper Fit

*The Key to Being Well Dressed isn't What You Wear, but How You Wear It*

BY BRENTON MITCHELL

For many men, the concept of fashion isn't something that comes forth with much importance or interest. This isn't to say that these men dress poorly, but rather the basis behind why something looks good is trumped by the end result.

This isn't necessarily a critique on a man's ability to dress himself, but instead an unfortunate side-effect of the gender norms that formulate an idea that fashion is a topic reserved for women, for whom clothing is more of an art than a tool.

Now of course this idea isn't universally true, in fact there has been a noticeable shift in the way young men handle their style. The evolution of streetwear and influence by hip-hop artists such as Kanye West have evoked a response in many, which falls hand in hand with sneaker-heads of young and old.

There are many "schools" of men's fashion, whether it be the aforementioned street-wear scene, which encompasses a wide range of styles frequented by staple brands such as Supreme or Bathing Ape.

But when it comes down to it, grouping style into specific categories such as street-wear detracts from what clothing is meant to

be, which is an extension of the self.

As such, the focus should be less on what a person chooses to wear, and more on how they wear it. Every piece of clothing has a specific "Fit", which is the way the piece is meant to fit on the body and achieve the desired look.

Before we begin, it goes without saying that clothes definitely look best on a body that is in shape. This isn't to say that those whose body types fall farther away from the average can't make their clothing look good, but rather that the options available will undoubtedly decrease.

The first step to improving Fit is to know your measurements. Sizing of clothes varies from brand to brand, and the only reliable way to know how an item fits is to either try it on in person or compare your measurements to those listed on the given website.

In regards to sizing, it's definitely a more common mistake for people to wear a larger size than they should rather than the reverse. In these cases it may take some getting used to wearing something more form-fitting, but the end result is well worth the adjustment.

Though the way a specific item fits is different depending on what type of item it

is, for example a T-Shirt should fit relatively snug in the chest, getting slightly looser with the hem sitting comfortably at the waist. A T-Shirt that is too long or baggy creates a look that is sloppy and unappealing. Another thing to watch out for are "wings" that are formed when the short sleeves fit improperly, this is easily noticeable as there will be a distinct space formed between the arm and the sleeve when held at the sides.

For pants, Jeans remain king for both flexibility and comfort. It's hard to go wrong with jeans, as most styles look good as long as the sizing is correct. The big thing to avoid however is boot-cut jeans, as they are almost always unflattering and don't go well with other items.

In general though, skinnier fits are usually more appealing than baggier ones. Refer to the visual aid for a frame of reference.

Throughout this journey, sizing will be the easiest part to master. The hard part is developing and working towards defining personal style. The key word that should never be forgotten here is "personal", as clothing is a means for self expression and should be treated as such.

If a band T-Shirt and ripped jeans is your

style, make that work by making sure both those items fit well and look good. This same principle counts for every variation under the sun, and through focusing on improving the fit of your clothing you'll achieve a noticeable effect in the way you look and (hopefully) feel.



Source: CD

## The Wondrous, Painful, Amazing Journey Of Pregnancy

*A Brief Salute to Mothers During Women's History Month*

BY BEREN SABUNCU

Pregnancy is an amazing process during which the female body undergoes drastic changes. Whether it be weight gain, hormonal imbalances, or simply swollen feet, no-one can say that pregnancy is one of the easier challenges life has to offer.

That being said, it truly is beautiful. Creating a human, quite literally creating a being from scratch, must be magical. Yet, one also has to remember that the decisions mothers make during their pregnancy affect the baby tremendously.

Any unhealthy decision, whether it be overtly and extravagantly unhealthy (such as drinking or doing drugs), or subtly unhealthy (such as eating McDonalds), affects the baby.

The baby's health deteriorates correlating to the severity of the unhealthy decision. It is an understandably stressful time for the mother and father, and demands an ambitious approach to life.

If one can have a positive mindset while overcoming the adversities of pregnancy, there really is little they can't do. In that sense pregnancy becomes a test, a positive challenge (perhaps an oxymoron but accurate), during which a person changes indescribably and irrevocably.

Of course, as is the case with all somewhat stressful situations, some handle it with more ease than others. Regardless, the

journey all pregnant women go through is beautiful and all pregnant women are beautiful, simply because pregnancy is a beautiful notion.

Sadly, some mothers-to-be are troubled with mental health problems. Experts say that women are prone to becoming mentally ill during pregnancy or in the first year after giving birth more than at other times in their lives.

If someone has had mental strain in their lifetime, they're more than likely to exhibit those symptoms during pregnancy. These mental health problems include but aren't limited to bipolar affective disorder, severe depression and psychosis.

Knowing this does indeed make one see motherhood in a completely different light. The stylish moms, and the moms who work out do so with an unfathomable amount of stress they haven't previously experienced.

It is twice as hard, maybe even thrice as hard, to keep up their pre-pregnancy lifestyle. Mothers have way bigger fish to fry, and that is simply a scientific fact. This makes one appreciate the mothers and ponder in amazement at the strength of their psyche.

In that light, pregnant performers are near goddesses. There have been, and continues to be, a myriad of pregnant performers wowing crowds all over the world.

The more recent one is Beyonce, at the

59th Annual Grammy Awards. She put on a spectacular show, involving one potentially dangerous trick in which she leaned back in a mechanically secure chair.

She has lived up the 'pregnant performer' conversation, one that lives up after any pregnant artist's performance. People have argued whether it's healthy or dangerous for the baby.

Some say it is inconsiderate of the baby while some rightfully appreciate and support the performance fully. Nonetheless, performing while pregnant could be considered a powerful example of womanhood.

It is in a way ridding the mainstream audience of the wrongful assumption that pregnant women are weak. Beyonce is one of the most talked-about female performers today, and as such, might've performed the most talked-about pregnant performance of all time.

Yet, there have been many pregnant performances worthy of noting and knowing. The stage of the 51st Grammy Awards was adorned with a 9 months pregnant M.I.A. who rapped alongside Jay-Z, and Kanye West.

The amazingly funny and sweet Amy Poehler performed on SNL, on October 18, 2008 while being pregnant herself. Poehler gave birth to her baby just one week after that performance!

The aforementioned artists are only a few and more mainstream amongst the myriad of pregnant performers. It is truly amazing to see pregnancy being acknowledged, lately more than ever, as the powerful state that it is, because it is quite empowering.

So a brief nod of respect is due, to all mothers-to-be and to your own, for all the hardships and challenges they face and have faced.

Also, a brief thank you to my editors, because to be writing this article during Women's History Month is very gratifying.



Source: Kfir Khan

# BANNER LIFESTYLES

## The Beautyblender VS. The Silisponge

*The Boob-Implant Beauty Tool That Will Change the Game*

BY LUCIA ROSSI

For beauty lovers, enthusiasts and avid makeup artists, keeping up with hot trends is a must. That means finding out why people are blending their foundation with a booby-cutlet.

Korean beauty brand, Molly Cosmetics, has set the bar high with its new and innovative product, the Silisponge. So much so, it's getting Americans to question their loyalty to the Beautyblender.

I decided to invest in the product to see what the hype was about and if any of the claims were true through a few trials.

All in all, the Silisponge works and I would say it is on par, if not better, than the Beautyblender. There are pros and cons to every product. The Silisponge and Beautyblender are no exception.

Let's start with price. The Silisponge wins by a landslide with a sale price tag of \$9.90, original price \$12.00, which is still better than the \$20 Beautyblender.

I was able to get free shipping on my Molly Cosmetics order too, but the downside is because the company is from Hong Kong, it took over a month

for the product to arrive.

However, it proved to be worth the wait because the product was quite surprising.

I expected the product to be a complete fail because I don't trust anything but the Beautyblender. My skepticism was tested as I blended but I became more and more shook with the results.

Firstly, the product is smaller than how it looks in its picture; it seems to be about the size of a Beautyblender. This is fine, but I'm still practicing how exactly it is to be held in order to blend properly with the most coverage.

The feeling of the silicone could easily make this product double as a stress ball. Squeezing and rubbing it can become addictive, but be careful not to tear it.

For some reason, the Silisponge just smells utterly sweet. It's like it's coated in some floral perfume that never goes away.

The smell is comforting, so I don't mind it, I just hope it has no effect on the skin for people with sensitivity.

Unlike the Beautyblender, where you can use any edge of the sponge, the Sili-

sponge is only meant to be used on one side, it seems, because it has a thin plastic-y seal going around the edge, which doesn't exactly give a smooth finish.

The Beautyblender may be easier to apply with because you bounce it on the skin and it applies effortlessly and flaw-

lessly.

The Silisponge requires more elbow grease and patience but with the promise of saving product, which may be well worth it given how much money you might spend on concealer and foundation.



## The Perks of Being a Quitter

*Why Removing Yourself From a Situation isn't Necessarily a Bad Thing*

BY BRIELLE SPARACINO

Hi, my name is Bree, and I am a serial quitter.

Most of the time, I just can't help it. There are so many things I've ended up quitting throughout my twenty years on this Earth that it's nearly impossible for me to remember them all; however, I'll give you a few prominent examples.

One of the first times I ever quit anything was gymnastics at the age of 10.

I had started back in kindergarten, and after about five years of struggling with the balance beam, the bars, the vault and various floor routines, I had decided that I wasn't really interested and continuing with the sport was ultimately pointless.

Of course right after I quit the team, I ran into one of my former teammates who told me that our coaches promoted her to the next level, and they planned on doing the same with me.

A more recent example is when I failed my driving test for the first time at the age of 17.

I remember telling my mother that I

just wouldn't learn how to drive and instead would take public transportation everywhere (thank God she forced me to learn though, or my freedom would be extremely limited).

An example as recent as last semester would be when I decided to quit writing for an extracurricular writing platform because I had so many other things on my plate at the time.

While these examples are much more significant, there have been more miniscule instances in which I've quit DIY projects, potential business ventures, preparing a meal halfway through, finishing the laundry, etc.

Quitting things just seems to be my "thing". Sometimes, I feel really bad about it if I dwell on it for too long, especially since my mother loves pointing out the fact that I quit things before I give them a legitimate chance, but then I remember there are so many people like me and quitting lots of things doesn't have to be a bad thing.

I've found that one of the best reasons for quitting something is the amount

of unnecessary stress it can take off of your shoulders.

Many of us here at CSI are full-time college students, so there's an incredibly high chance that most of us also manage either part-time or full-time jobs as well as families.

A project you might have been really psyched to start a few months ago and confidently believed you'd be able to handle might end up getting in the way of your daily routine, and if you feel you need to cut it out of your life, that's okay. There shouldn't be shame in quitting something if it doesn't feel like a priority to you, and it soon becomes one less thing on your mind to worry about.

Another valid reason for quitting something is if a better opportunity takes its place (based on what your personal definition of what "better" is).

Sure, you love your part-time job because the people you work with make your time with the company more bearable, but at the end of the day, you've got to do what's best for you.

If you find a more impressive job op-

portunity with higher pay, flexible hours, and other added benefits, quit the job that is hurting you more than it's helping you.

The third (and in my personal opinion, the most important) reason for quitting something is if you simply don't enjoy it anymore.

Whether it be a sport, a job, a relationship, etc., if it's not making you want to wake up every morning and be a better version of yourself, it's not worth putting your time into.

In life we have limitless possibilities, and everything happens for a reason, even when you're the one who's initiating the change.

Even if you're afraid to quit something, or begin having doubts about eliminating it from your life, you have to believe that happier times are ahead and good things will come along when you least expect them to.

Being a quitter may not be accepted, but maybe it should be.

Sometimes quitting just one thing could open the door to a million other things that are just as great, if not greater.



## BANNER ARTS

### X-Men's "Legion" Blows Minds (and Reads Them) on FX

Comic-Book Antihero Gets Reinvented as Mentally Ill Superhero

BY LUCIA ROSSI

Superheroes from comic books are coming alive on television and it's gaining some serious attention.

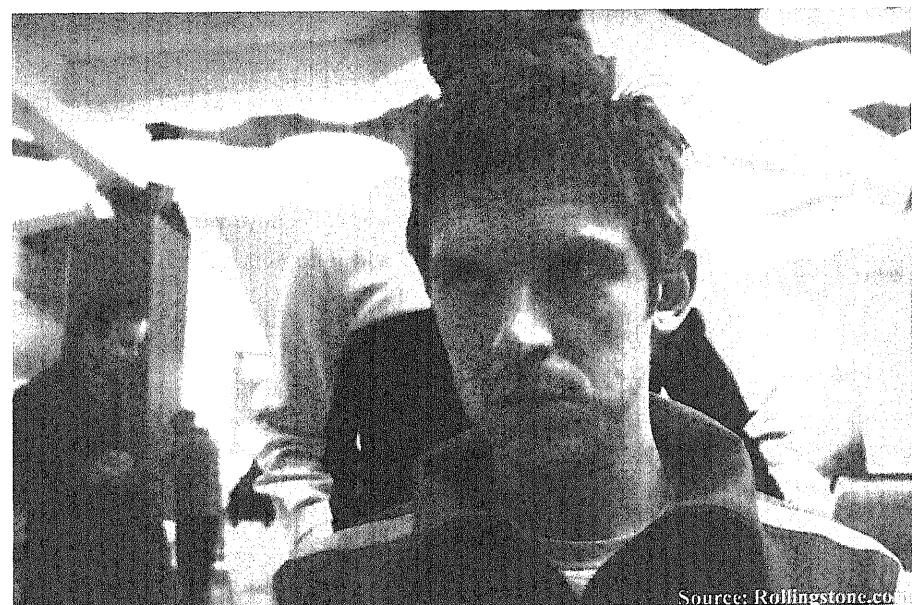
Rather than just falling in line with the trend, Noah Hawley, showrunner of "Fargo," decided to take this approach in a whole new direction.

Legion, an X-Men character from Marvel Comics, known to be the son of Charles Xavier or Professor X, has gotten his own television series on FX that premiered on February 8.

Although it doesn't follow the comic book storyline, it has caused quite a stir because of its re-imagining of the main character, the beautiful aesthetics of the setting and special effects, the unreliability of the narrator, commentary on mental illness, and diverse supporting characters. It's no surprise why it received such high acclaim in critical outlets, like Rotten Tomatoes.

The story centers around David Haller, played by Dan Stevens, known for his role in "Downton Abbey" and will also be playing the Beast in Disney's upcoming "Beauty and the Beast." Haller is a mutant with seemingly telekinetic and telepathic powers, but is diagnosed with Schizophrenia and placed in a mental health facility. He is also in this facility with his drug-addict, androgynous, friend Lenny "Cornflakes" Busker, played by Aubrey Plaza.

One day, a new patient, Sydney "Syd" Barrett, played by Rachel Keller from "Fargo," arrives and Haller and she immediately fall in love. However, she cannot be touched due to her mutant powers. Things escalate



Source: Rollins.com

quickly as two different factions, one that accepts mutants, and one that destroys mutants that are potentially too dangerous, go to war over Haller because of his immense power that he cannot control. Haller must learn to accept himself, and journey deep within his mind with the help of other mutants, in order to recover old secrets from his childhood and relinquish dark parts of his mind.

This show is suspenseful on so many levels with its action sequences, the explosions caused by one of Haller's telekinetic outbursts, and random switches to flashbacks or inside Haller's mind where there are creepy, malevolent entities that are not explained.

Realities within this are constantly changed and it's surprisingly not confusing.

I can't say there is a concrete time period in which this show takes place because it mixes the old with the new. It has the set-

to do whatever it takes to be better mutants and people.

There is a slow pace in developing the characters which is favorable because, like normal people, they have to deal with their personal issues first before doing anything really impactful. They're not superheroes with suits, capes, or leather outfits. Yet, since this is completely new, there's no telling where it can go.

If you're not familiar with Legion in the comics, Haller is known to have dissociative identity disorder, where his many alternate personas have different physical mutant powers.

His background is that Charles Xavier and Gabrielle Haller had an affair in an Israeli psychiatric hospital, but she did not tell him she was pregnant. Don't worry, he finds out much later.

Haller's gifts came to light when he had a traumatic experience which then caused his personality to splinter. He also is able to absorb and trap other people's personalities if they die near him, which has caused him to have the personas of both terrorists and innocent people.

He becomes this type of anti-hero because of this mix of dark and light inside him, which is then controlled by a Neural Switchboard Wristband that allows him to pick and choose personalities and powers.

The possibilities with this character are endless because he is "Legion," he is many, although that hasn't quite been established in the show yet.

For now, let's just hope he gets the insanely voluminous and tall hairstyle.

### "Afraid of the Dark" Breaks Cultural Barriers Through Comedy

Trevor Noah Pokes Fun at Our Differences and Shows Us That Borders Don't Separate Us

BY WILLIAM MORTON

Trevor Noah, host of "The Daily Show" on Comedy Central recently had the honor of airing a special on Netflix titled "Afraid of the Dark" and if you're a fan of Noah's anticon Twitter or love his comedy brand of journalism on television, his comedy special doesn't disappoint in the least bit.

"Afraid of the Dark" contained Trevor Noah's view of American politics, his experience as a foreigner in a country that he is continually trying to understand and his expertly crafted parody of accents.

The content is basically his success story in trying to chase the American dream yet he manages to suggest that people should travel to other countries to experience variety.

Trevor Noah has some sort of comfort with residing in New York as his occupation as the host of "The Daily Show" grants him the privilege to experience the festivity of The Big Apple.

As a result he was obliged to make a joke about city traffic lights, stating that in New York, they are extremely obeyed but in Africa, they are used as a suggestion. The anecdote he spoke of that reiterated the conformity of citizens to traffic lights was how he was following a group of pedestrians and

they had confidence to not slow down when near oncoming traffic.

What adhered and endeared him nationally to the public was his connectivity to African-Americans.

Noah elaborated on how he did stand up routines in places like Compton and the reception of his presence was comforting.

His light complexion and youthful exuberance naturally made him valid to caucasians. Noah wasn't shy to poke fun at the British for how they colonized a majority of countries yet have an anti-immigration policy.

In his own words, he stated that "traveling is the antidote for ignorance." Another comically textured segment that he did was pondering if James Bond, who is often portrayed by white actors and conducts his operations in places like Scotland and the United Kingdom, could be portrayed by the visible darker skinned actor, Idris Elba.

The fact that James Bond is a spy that has to blend in with his surroundings could be problematic for the plot of the movie if Idris Elba was given the role.

"Afraid of the Dark" is truthfully honest about things that are regularly overlooked. The special itself is a humbling experience.

Trevor Noah makes viewers have the realization that no one looks sexy when they vomit after they binge drink.

The way he analyzed language and pointed out that accents have certain connotations about them, makes him the poster-child for linguistic conglomeration.

Trevor Noah was somewhat hesitant to explain that he had a pathological fear of the dark.

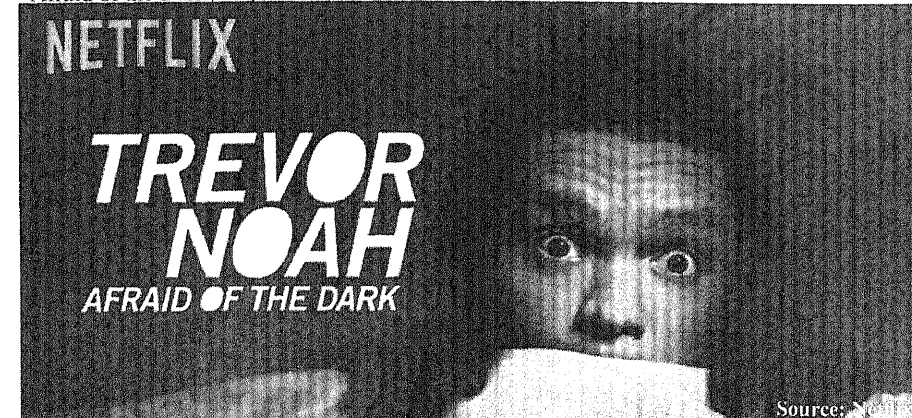
That fear, commonly known in psychology as achluophobia, is something that he capitalized on his special and sculpted it into humor.

If there is something to learn from "Afraid of the Dark," it probably would be to

laugh at what is different because only then can you realize that language barriers are insignificant and there is only one way to love.

Netflix has shows and movies that are perfect for cuddling with your significant other, but I don't recommend doing that with this particular stand-up special as you're most likely going to experience feelings that will make you feel some type of way, but not the romantic type of way.

The feeling resembles more that of emptiness from you laughing hysterically and from your bladder not controlling bodily fluids, but hey, if you and your significant other can endure that, then enjoy your chilling session.



Source: Netflix

## BANNER ARTS

### "John Wick 2" Brings New Life to the Action Genre

Keanu Reeves Delivers an Outstanding Performance, Creating a Film Rife With Skill, Substance, and Style.

BY BRENTON MITCHELL

Over the past decade the quality of action films have degraded into a mosh of ill conceived plots filled with explosions, cliches, and forced sequels. But in 2014, "John Wick" released to not only box office success, but garnered a cult following due to its delicious cinematography, world building, and glorious action.

"John Wick 2," directed by Chad Stahelski takes us back to that world. Giving us another look into a secret society of assassins, and the trials of a man who just wants to walk away.

The film picks up right where its predecessor left off, with John finishing his quest to get back what was taken from him: his car.

With his mission complete, John packs up his weapons and enters back into retirement - or so he thinks. An unpaid debt forces him back into the world he had worked so hard to leave, and to complete his quest for peace he'll have to fight his way out.

Like the first movie, the plot of "John Wick 2" is deceptively simple, used merely as a way to direct the story and provide a foundation for the visuals that craft its true substance.

This isn't to say that the film is shallow, rather that the real excitement and intrigue lies in the details given throughout the film such as the inner workings of the secret society of assassins. The culture and code of ethics these contract killers adhere to, the way they interact with each other, and how John himself fits into this world.

Here lies the first example of Chad Stahelski's genius, as he uses film elements to parallel the main concepts of the story itself. Specifically, the same way that John Wick

himself is a weapon, the cinematographic elements Stahelski uses are treated with the same skill and dexterity.

A weapon is a tool meant to be used at the appropriate time in the appropriate way, where overuse only serves to weaken the desired effect. As such, Stahelski uses music, exposition, and dialogue only when absolutely necessary.

A main reason behind the cult following John Wick has garnered is due to Stahelski's intelligent directing. Especially his trust in the intelligence of the audience, for he detracts from the usual ham-fisted action movie explanations and instead lets the audience figure out the workings of the world for themselves.

This is an excellent way for developing John Wick as a character, as the audience understands his status in the world purely due to the way other characters refer to him. The epic main character should never have to awkwardly explain what makes them so revered, the way they appear on screen should say everything that needs to be said.

While in regards to box office appeal John Wick wasn't a blockbuster success, it quickly gathered cult fandom through its refreshing take on action and gunplay. The glue holding it together being Keanu Reeves' perfect performance, which isn't surprising since the role itself was specifically tailored to fit him.

Most action movies are hampered not by story, but by skill of the lead actors themselves. Quick frequent cuts are routinely used to hide the parts where stunt doubles are substituted in, creating action that feels disjointed and impactful.

This doesn't apply to Reeves, who exten-



Source: IGN.com

sively trained his body and skills to be able to perform the majority of the action he does on screen, allowing Stahelski to keep the camera steady and the scenes clear.

This is a visual treat for the audience, who don't have to play a game of fill in the blanks every time the main character throws a punch.

The lighting throughout the film is a real treat to see, fitting the tone of each scene perfectly and really increasing the immersion. Even better is the use of sound, or rather the lack thereof, as Stahelski routinely cuts the music to increase the impact of every punch, stab, or gunshot.

The film's tone was handled in a very interesting manner, as it manages to retain the "serious" action film vibe, while also seamlessly interspersing comedic elements to great effect. There were multiple scenes that transitioned from an intense fight into a hilarious moment without breaking immersion.

In the end, "John Wick 2" is an incredibly strong film with great action and comedic elements that will leave audiences in multiple stages of awe. Keanu Reeves is at his best here, portraying a character that blurs the lines between fiction and reality, while also providing depth and intrigue into his dark world.

### Moonlight: A Movie About People Who Don't Live in La La Land

New Reasons to Love Moonlight

BY BEREN SABUNCU

It's hard to believe that there is any mainstream positivity for LGBTQ individuals nowadays. Trans individuals are now unprotected by the Trump Administration. Vice President Mike Pence, Trump's right hand man, called being gay a choice and said keeping gays from marrying should not be construed as discrimination, but an enforcement of "God's idea."

It's more than easy for any member of the LGBTQ family to internalize the values that are sadly ever so dominant.

It's easy to feel like something is askew, wrong within. The Oscar winning 2016 American drama film directed by Barry Jenkins, Moonlight, is about internalized oppression of the LGBTQ individual.

Moonlight defies any labels, it is also a look at the effects of socioeconomic position on one's psyche, and also a personal tale of love and finding it in the nuances of body language. It is a movie about love and loss. It is a movie about self discovery and preservation even in the toughest of situations. It is about

rebellion, and acceptance: "It is what it is," says Black, the main character.

This article won't be a political one, rather, it will be one about love.

It will be one about "forbidden" love and it will be about the moonlight illuminating the darkest of nights. "Moonlight" is based on the play "In Moonlight Black Boys Look Blue" by Tarell Alvin McCraney, who actually co-wrote the script alongside Barry Jenkins.

The film has a cast full of talented actors such as Trevante Rhodes, André Holland, Janelle Monáe, Ashton Sanders, Naomie Harris, and Mahershala Ali. Ali won an Oscar for his performance as "Juan" in "Moonlight."

That definitely wasn't the only Oscar "Moonlight" won.

The film received an impressive eight Oscar nominations at the 89th Academy Awards, and won three: Best Picture, Best Supporting Actor (Ali) and Best Adapted Screenplay. The Oscars were not the only

award ceremony "Moonlight" dominated, the film won Best Motion Picture (Drama) in the 74th Golden Globe Awards, and was nominated in five other categories.

Rightfully so, because it was a movie so well done.

Every little detail is perfectly arranged. The movie poster in itself is a work of art.

The movie poster is of Chiron, the main character, and is a collage from his three different major stages of life. The first picture is that of Alex Hibbert who plays Chiron as a child, the second is Ashton Sanders as he depicts Chiron as a teenager, and the third is Trevante Rhodes.

For those three stages, three colors are chosen; blue, purple and black. Blue is chosen for Chiron as child because of the name of the play it was inspired by, "In Moonlight Black Boys Look Blue."

Purple was chosen for him as a teenager, as during these years he discovers his sexuality. Black is chosen for the latter stage, as his nickname is so and his outlook on life is

a dark one.

Moonlight also aims to shed some light on how socio-economic position can hinder one's ability to fully discover themselves. Jenkins actually mentioned this in his acceptance speech. Due to a mix-up a la Steve Harvey, "La La Land" was announced winner of the Best Picture Oscar.

Due to the mix-up Jenkins couldn't give the full acceptance speech, but then released it. In his speech, he talks about how and why Moonlight is so personal for him: "Tarell [Alvin McCraney] and I are Chiron. We are that boy. And when you watch Moonlight, you don't assume a boy who grew up how and where we did would grow up and make a piece of art that wins an Academy Award. I've said that a lot, and what I've had to admit is that I placed those limitations on myself, I denied myself that dream. Not you, not anyone else — me."

It is certainly a good movie to watch if you enjoy good acting, and a great storyline. Let's be honest, who doesn't?



## BANNER OPINIONS

### ASL Professor with an Easy to Translate Attitude

*What's Worse, a Difficult Subject or an Impossible professor?*

BY JUSTINE CARUCCI

Studying a language is difficult enough; imagine the added strain of the professor hating you? In the spring of 2016, I was registered for my third level of Sign Language, fulfilling my major requirement.

The course was hard and unfortunately, it did not come easy to me.

I put the time and effort into the subject so my GPA wouldn't suffer. This term my character would be tested alongside my signing skills.

The class didn't start on time; the professor was chronically 15 minutes late. That first day began with a speech about how tough she is and we better not try to cross her.

She spoke to the class like a group of convicted criminals; it was strange.

She divulged her childhood, an inappropriate and unnecessary part of the speech that didn't benefit the course teachings whatsoever.

I recall being appalled by what she was sharing and her anger as she did.

Soon into the semester I realized that this woman didn't like me.

I was a diligent student: always on time, participated constantly and kept on top of my assignments.

I also met with her during office hours to study. One thing was clear; I couldn't push her. I knew I had to stay quiet and accept being humiliated in class, which she often did in her subtle ways, or my grade would suffer.

I recall one incident when she was assigning partners for our midterm videos. She called students by name and paired them with someone.

When she got to me she said "UGH, Carucci," clearly disgusted as she partnered me with someone. A friend I made in the class turned and looked at me with an, I know, I caught that-face.

By that incident I already began documenting my struggles with this professor, as I urge any student do when faced with a similar situation.

I was late to class exactly one time and since we were given the professor's phone number, I texted her pictures of the traffic that stretched from Totterville, passed the Victory exit on the highway. I decided to get off the highway and take the streets, already in a panic that I was late, but the traffic was even heavier that route. Those pictures were also included in a text that

apparently didn't warrant a response.

Keeping unanswered texts and a copy of my grades was a smart way to document my side of this story if my professor decided to mess with my grade.

Sure enough, the last day of the semester came and we each received a text with our grade.

I calculated that I was ending with a B+.

I received my text saying I earned a B+, immediately followed by a retraction, she was giving me a B.

After what I endured, knowing I bit my tongue for months when I really wanted to tell this woman where to go, I decided to fighting the half-grade difference.

I texted her back and messaged her superior, telling him every last detail over the last few month and attaching my proof.

I was shocked to find my friend, the woman who witnessed this professor's behavior, received a higher grade than me.

This former CSI student admitted to me that she missed many homework assignments, missed more than the allowed absences and the final LCT evaluation that is mandated by the department. She was also constantly late to class without being reprimanded.

When I told my girlfriend about the grade situation, she gave me permission to mention the facts of her case to the professor to prove that she was grading me unfairly.

This only resulted in a FaceTime meeting between the professor and my friend, where my friend was told she had to complete the LCT at that moment because I was challenging her grade.

Not only was that comment unprofessional, it was a lie.

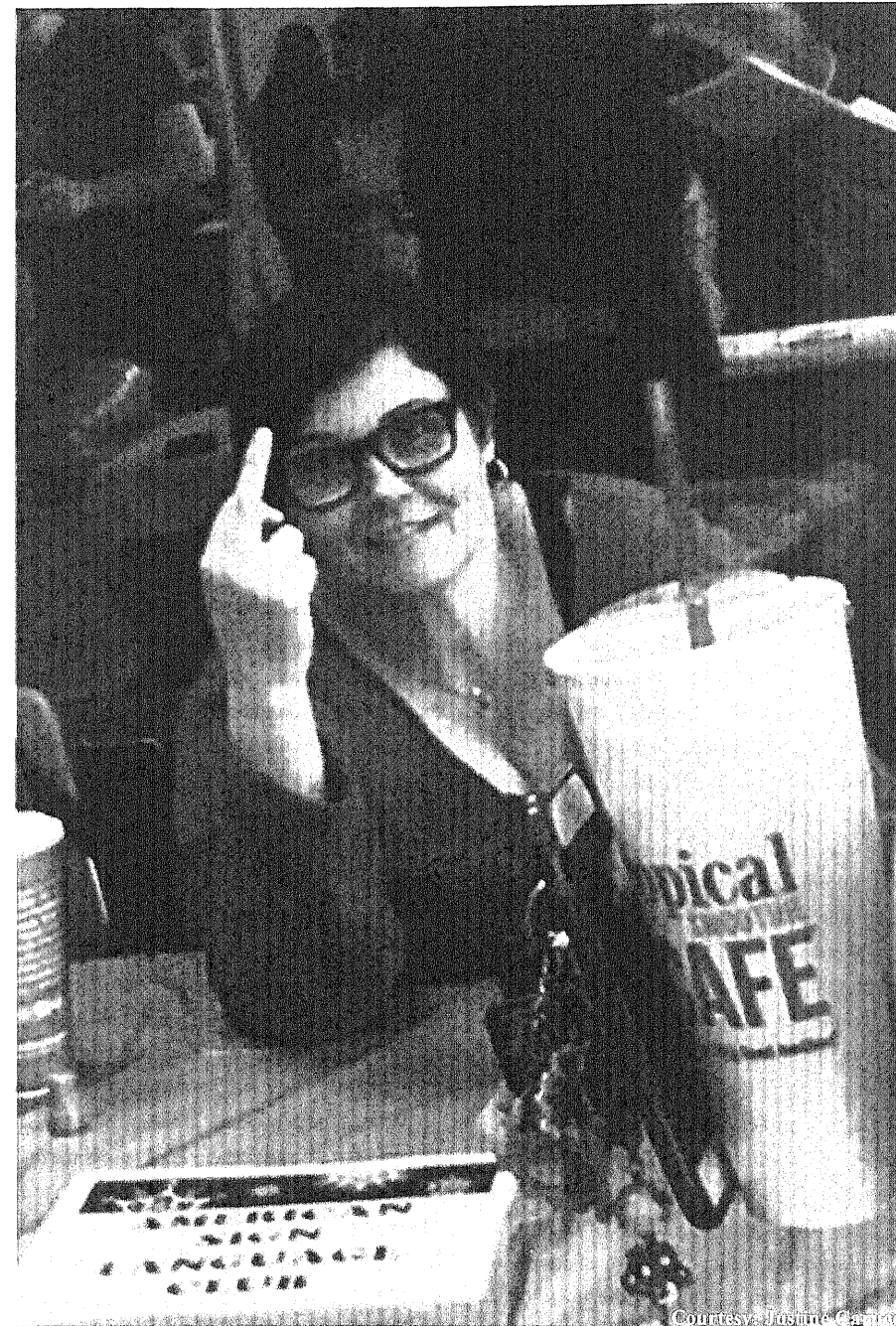
Speaking via e-mail to the department head, I realized I would have to file an appeal.

The professor was claiming I was "late and often on phone," two claims that would be difficult for me to prove but I know contacting other students would clear my name.

I decided to go higher and speak to the Dean of Students, Christopher Giordano.

I presented him with the text messages, grades and promise of a written account by my friend from the class. He assured me this matter would be resolved in my favor.

The semester was over and I did very



*"Remember: if a teacher tells you to 'Make the world a better place' sometimes that means reporting their misconduct."*

well in all my classes.

The weather was warm and I was in a great place, mostly relieved to be out of that ASL class.

My friend and I spoke and she assured me that I could count on her, any time, to rehash this situation if needed but I ultimately decided to let it go.

I was mentally drained and I didn't want to work to pursue the next step.

I felt confident that I informed enough people in the department of the professor's actions and if another student ever came forward, they would remember my complaints as well.

Sharing this story isn't about revenge, rather awareness.

We tend to put professors on a pedestal, sometimes forgetting that they can be unfair and unprofessional.

It is vital that all students know this kind of behavior is more common than they'd think and documenting every step of the way is a must when they are faced with a situation like mine.

Never be afraid to speak to the head of the department and have a paper trail for every interaction. The Dean of Students is in place to be an advocate for you, never shy away from that.

Remember: if a teacher tells you to "Make the world a better place," sometimes that means reporting their misconduct.

## SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS

### Make Friendships Great Again

*De-friend, Unfollow and Block—Deleting Friends Over Political Views*

BY ALISSA MANGIACAPRE

Facebook and Twitter feeds were overflowing with political debates during the 2016 presidential election. Opinions were shared, heated arguments "broke out" and tempers were lost.

For Jennifer and Katie, the results are in and they have discovered which of their companions will not be running for another friendship term.

In a study conducted by Monmouth University, polling 802 American voters by phone, 70% believed the presidential election "has brought out the worst in people," according to the university's website.

The poll also found that: "7% of voters report having lost or ended a friendship because of this year's presidential race."

A reporter from The Banner spoke with two people who agree with Monmouth's findings while wholeheartedly disagreeing with each other's political stance.

A local DJ in the New York City techno scene has been receiving an enormous amount of backlash from her friends on social media after she began tweeting her political opinions.

Jennifer, the Staten Island based musician, has asked that we change her name in

order to maintain privacy.

Jen spins tribal, deep-tech, techno and afro-house at various spots throughout the Brooklyn-Manhattan area.

Music and dance have always been passions of hers while growing up in New York.

The dark haired, bright-eyed, headstrong woman dedicates all her free time to perfecting her craft and making a name for herself in the fast-paced industry. "I'm trying. This industry is tough, but so am I. So I definitely belong," Jen proclaimed.

Thick skin was needed to combat the negative responses she received from her fellow music fans and longtime friends.

Jen claims to have lost over a dozen friendships after she began to show support for President Trump via her social media platform. "I got blocked by like twenty people," she laughed. "Political views should have zero reflection on [my] work."

It is unclear whether her political stance had a significant impact on her music career, but it has undoubtedly put a strain on her personal relationships off the dance floor.

She has been called "arrogant" for expressing her support for Trump and had to defend her views on many occasions. Jen believes that Trump's plans are exactly what

this country needs and her view of his campaign "in no way merits name-calling," she expressed.

She claims to be unaffected by those who have blocked her, denying having ever said anything offensive.

She maintains that, "They're just sore losers who cannot face reality," stating that "unless [I am] a threat to society, then they're just weak [minded]."

Music is often a medium used to bring people together. Jen finds it disappointing that friendships within the scene have been torn apart because of politics.

Like Jen, Katie is also a techno/house music fan with a bubbly personality and a big heart.

Katie is a cocktail waitress in Queens and an outspoken Democrat.

After months of increasingly hostile exchanges, Katie has chosen to block and unfollow a handful of friends on social media. The slim-figured, dark-haired beauty explained, "I have had to block people because of a difference in political views and I've had to de-friend many for just being ignorant."

Not everyone decides to end friendships in "real life" over Facebook tiffs, but in some cases the debates become increasingly stress-

ful.

As a liberal voter, Katie is said to have found Trump's "harsh rhetoric" offensive, whereas Jen found his campaign "tough and honest." Jen is not alone in her views, "Nearly half of Trump voters (47%) say that the campaign's harsh language is justified, compared to only 17% of Clinton voters," according to Monmouth University's study.

Jen and Katie were interviewed separately and were not questioned about one another. Both women exude the same type of confidence when discussing politics and stand by their convictions whenever challenged.

Though these women find themselves on opposing sides, Jen and Katie both expressed common interests.

They value friendship and believe that music creates connections and long-lasting bonds between people. They both answered, "No regrets!" when asked about losing friends due to opposing political views.

The 2016 presidential election tore apart friendships while also highlighting the similarities between strong-willed people who do not agree on a political standpoint.

Katie wishes that her former friends "were more well-informed." Jen believes that we ought to: "Make friendships great again!"

### Does Size Matter?

*Quit Having Nightmares and Learn to Become Her Fantasy*

BY WILLIAM MORTON AND ALISSA MANGIACAPRE

Your third date with a smoking hot girl is coming to an end. Your vibe is on point and sparks are flying.

You're kissing her neck and she's biting her lip. You both want it and it's about that time for you to take it to the next level.

You start undressing her and she begins to remove your jeans. Your heart begins to race. All of the sudden—fear strikes and nightmarish thoughts begin to loom.

Dark thoughts! Hideous visions of this gorgeous woman pointing and laughing, shrieking and cackling—at you!

One look at your member and she's on the floor, doubled over in hysterics. You haven't even pulled your pants up before she's hailing a cab! She didn't even wait for an Uber!

This nightmare scenario is not uncommon among men, but let's not let our wild imaginations get the best of us—unless we are trying out some Kama Sutra

moves.

It's no secret that men sometimes feel insecure about what they're working with and who could blame us? We grow up hearing sexual innuendos and in some cases, taught how to use condoms in Sex-Ed by slipping a Durex over a banana.

Not even one of those small plantains, nope—perfectly ripe and well-endowed bananas.

It is no wonder that so many of us feel inadequate when it comes to size.

No thanks to America's favorite breakfast fruit, there is still hope for average Joe's. According to a study by The British Journal of Urology Research, a panel of experts revealed, when it comes to a women's sexual satisfaction: Size does not matter!

The study found that the average penis ranges from 3.5 to 5.7 inches, nowhere near the size of your average banana!

Approximately 85% of women surveyed reported being pleased with inter-

course regardless of their partner's size.

It might come as a surprise that women want intimacy, a mind blowing, pillow grabbing, can't-even-think-straight climax—and it doesn't matter if it's your "member" that gets her there.

Foreplay is key. Tease her. Take your time to caress every inch of her body, don't be lazy. Glide the tips of your fingers across the nape of her neck.

Run your tongue along her inner thigh. Tug at her panties with your teeth. There is nothing sexier than the anticipation of what's to come. Be gentle.

She wants you and that's all that matters. Besides, women never show up to the bedroom carrying a tape measure—unless they're about to hang curtains.

Get her in the mood. Porn is often a good tool to help create a sexy vibe, but can also be hazardous to a man's self esteem. Sexologist and author, Lou Paget, occasionally gives lectures about whether or not size really matters and he explains that men tend to view porn stars

as a template and "[haven't] seen another [average] man's penis."

Sexually active women on the other hand, have had the privilege of "observing a cornucopia of sizes."

While you're watching a dirty flick, remember it's not the size of the leading man's package that's getting your girl aroused, rather the naughty cinematic experience you're sharing.

The doggy-style position is a fool-proof way of making sure your average stature is reaching its full potential.

While missionary is great for achieving the perfect amount of clitoral stimulation, granting direct pelvic-to-pelvic rubbing, the angle of doggy-style allows for maximum penetration to occur. This is a great way for you to show off all you've got while enjoying a sexy view.

Always get consent and make sure she's comfortable. Playfully pull hair and stick to a smooth rhythmic pace. If you always aim to please, you will never be plagued with nightmares again.



## SPORTS

## Possible Scenarios for The Rangers as The Trade Deadline Looms

BY ANTHONY CARBONARO

*Gleyber Torres, Infield Prospect*

According to MLB.com, Gleyber Torres is ranked third by MLB.com amongst all other prospects in baseball.

The 20-80 scale has been used by MLB.com gave the 20 year old Torres a favorable rating via its scouting scores, which ranges from 20 to 80.

Scouting grades: Hit: 65 | Power: 55 | Run: 50 | Arm: 60 | Field: 55 | Overall: 65

Torres is the highest rated shortstop in all of baseball and the Yankees are excited. His ability to flash the leather and a knack for hitting his way on the base pads, makes him a special player.

Back in December, Torres made the most of his playing time in the Arizona Fall League (AFL) where he ended up being rewarded the Most Valuable Player award.

His .403 batting average and on base percentage .513 stood out to Yankees manager, Joe Girardi.

"I heard everything he did, and we've been very excited about this young kid ever since we've had him," Joe Girardi said on December 25. "He went out and played at a very, very high level -

with kids that are older than him, with kids that played at a higher level than him. He was one of the kids that really shined. I think that really bodes well for us, and I look forward to seeing him."

Torres has been making the most out of his opportunities and have put the Yankees and the rest of the baseball world on notice that he has the talent to be a star.

*Clint Frazier, Outfield Prospect*

Clint Frazier is ranked 24th by MLB.com amongst all of major league baseball's prospects this season.

Here are the ratings for the 22-year-old Frazier.

Scouting grades: Hit: 50 | Power: 60 | Run: 55 | Arm: 55 | Field: 55 | Overall: 55

The Yankees obtained Frazier when the team traded away their best reliever, Andrew Miller, to the Cleveland Indians in 2016.

Frazier was sent down to the Yankees minor league system and had a disappointing .228 AVG in a very small sample size of 101 at bats.

Yankees General Manager Brian Cashman said, "His bat speed is already legendary. He's got

all the tools --he can run, he can hit, he can hit with power, he can play all three outfield positions. A very exciting, high-energy guy that shows up for the National Anthem in a dirty uniform."

Frazier has shown various tools during his time in the minors that the Yankees want to continue to see.

His strong, accurate arm has glaring speed, which gives the Yankees the chance to put him anywhere in the outfield.

In the offseason, there were many trade rumors concerning Brett Gardner, an outfielder for the Yankees. If Gardner has another year with an lacking bat, Clint Frazier could have an opportunity to shine.

*Blake Rutherford, Outfield Prospect*

Blake Rutherford is ranked #37 by MLB.com amongst all of major league baseball's prospects this season.

Here are the ratings for the 19-year-old Rutherford.

Scouting grades: Hit: 55 | Power: 55 | Run: 50 | Arm: 50 | Field: 50 | Overall: 55

In the 2016 MLB draft, Rutherford was cho-

sen as the 18th pick overall. According to multiple news outlets, the Yankees were hoping to pick Rutherford in the first round and were ecstatic when he went unpicked by the 17 other teams who made their picks before the Yankees.

Rutherford was the most consistent hitter for the 18-and-under national team, Rutherford batting .351 and won the World Cup by hitting a clutch home run in the final game in Japan in 2015.

Unlike the other prospects, Rutherford has had less time with the Yankees because he's coming out of rookie ball and got drafted right out of Chaminade Prep High School.

Damon Oppenheimer, the Yankees' Vice President for Domestic Amateur Scouting was on the record about his top guy.

"He has above-average speed," Oppenheimer added. "The guy's made quality contact versus the best high school competition out there, plus the best international (competition.)

He's been consistent. He was good as a junior. He plays the game hard. There's a lot to like about him. He's really athletic. It feels good to get a guy who can stay in the middle of the field and hit for power."

## Super Bowl LI: The Best Championship Ever?

BY STEVEN AIELLO

Another NFL season has come and gone, and there is almost no doubt that this year ended in one of the most memorable ways possible. Against all odds, the New England Patriots overcame a 25 point deficit to best the Atlanta Falcons in overtime 34-28 to win Super Bowl LI.

New England's 25 point comeback is the biggest of any kind in a Super Bowl, not to mention Patriots history, and has given this game a considerable amount of attention. Many have lauded this game as the best Super Bowl, if not game, in NFL history thus far, which brings up into light two questions: is this game deserving of the title "best ever," and what does it mean for the NFL, especially the Patriots and Falcons?

Although this game was rife with thrills and a countless number of intense moments, it isn't the absolute greatest Super Bowl ever played, if only because it lacked a competitive feel for the first three plus quarters. Up until New England's fumble recovery late in the fourth quarter, the game was a decisively one-sided affair in which it appeared that Atlanta would be victorious.

From that point onward, however, the game became an enjoyable and even thrilling competi-

tion in which either team could have prospered. Had Super Bowl LI retained this kind of feel throughout the entire game instead of the final six or so minutes, it would most definitely be deserving of the title of "best Super Bowl ever."

Regardless, Super Bowl LI proved to be an enjoyable affair, as well as a much needed form of relief in regards to the playoffs.

Almost every prior playoff game was either a blowout or a highly decisive victory, which made for a less enthralling viewing experience.

To see that standard ultimately be subverted in the final game of the year made for a memorable send off to the 2016 season.

With that being said, the question of what this game meant for Atlanta and New England still remains.

In regards to the Patriots, this game only serves to further affirm their dominance over the past decade. There is no denying that the Patriots are one of, if not, the best teams in recent memory, and this game demonstrates that fully.

With some much needed assistance from his defense, Tom Brady guided his team to their fifth Lombardi trophy, not to mention a fifth ring for himself and Belichick. New England's monumental comeback shows just how dangerous Brady

and Belichick can be, especially when all odds are against them.

Brady and Belichick have played vital roles in virtually all of New England's accomplishments during the 21st century, and without their combined efforts New England wouldn't have attained nearly as much success as they have.

Regardless, this win shows why the Patriots are the most successful team of this generation, and Brady and Belichick have more than earned their right to be in the Hall of Fame with this victory.

Meanwhile, the same cannot be said for the Falcons.

While the Patriots have achieved unfathomable levels of success over the years, the Falcons haven't come relatively close to New England's levels of success. In fact, the Falcons have essentially achieved the complete opposite result throughout their history.

Coming into Super Bowl LI the Falcons had just one other appearance in said game, which was a largely disappointing 34-19 loss, while the Patriots had won four out of their eight appearances in the big game. In fact, the Patriots alone held more championship victories (4) than Atlanta did altogether (1).

Ultimately this game meant more to the Fal-

cons, not to mention Atlanta as a sports city, than it did to the Patriots. Win or lose, New England still would have had years of success to fall back on, and Tom Brady and Bill Belichick had more than earned their place in the Hall of Fame.

The Falcons, however, had a chance to prove themselves as a legitimate contender with a win, and could have even used their victory as a form of momentum to achieve more success in future years, especially with how many young and potentially upcoming players there are on the team.

A win also would have provided Atlanta with a long awaited championship, essentially a form of respite after years of failure.

Instead the Falcons squandered what was a perfect opportunity to bring the city that respite, leaving Atlanta as hapless of a sports city as it's ever been. To quote former Falcons receiver Roddy White, "The city of Atlanta needed that championship".

This loss is almost undeniably the most heart-breaking kind of loss in NFL history, further reinforced by Atlanta's mediocre history as a sports city.

Given their current predicament, it's anybody's guess as to how Atlanta will rebound from such a dismal loss.

## The Tony Romo Drama Continues

BY ANTHONY RUSSO

Ever since Dallas Cowboys Quarterback Tony Romo suffered yet another long term injury in a preseason game in the summer of 2016, rumors have hinted that the 2016 season would be his last with the Cowboys. Cowboys 4th round pick out of Mississippi State University, Dak Prescott, was named the starting quarterback at the beginning of the season. But after losing his first game, he helped the Cowboys win eight straight games.

Despite Romo getting medical clearance to play, the Cowboys chose to ride the hot hand and stick with Prescott as their starting Quarterback. Romo publicly admitted before the Cowboys matchup against the Baltimore Ravens on Sunday November 20 that "Dak

has earned a right to be our Quarterback, as hard as that is for me to say."

Prescott finished the regular season with a 13-3 record, 3,667 passing yards, 23 touchdowns, only four interceptions and won the Offensive Rookie Player of the Year award. Now that free agency is looming for the Cowboys, they have a decision to make on Romo, which is to keep him, trade him or release him.

Romo, if he is under a comparable contract, which will have \$24.7 million cap charge in 2017, a \$25.2 million cap charge in 2018 and a \$23.7 million cap charge in 2019. Prescott, on the other hand, is a cheap option that will have a have a cap hit of under a \$1 million for the each of the next three years.

Financially, keeping Romo doesn't make much sense for Dallas. But Cowboys owner

Jerry Jones has had a good relationship with Romo for many years, which could make things interesting.

Jones defended Romo back in January after the Cowboys were eliminated by the Green Bay Packers and he said that he believes Romo can play 5 more years and win a Super Bowl.

According to Ed Werder of ESPN, Romo is expecting to be released rather than being traded and Romo also believes that he can play in the NFL for at least two or three more years despite his major injury concerns.

Teams that could be a fit for Romo and draw significant interest are the New York Jets and the Denver Broncos.

The Jets, who have been searching for a Quarterback for quite some time could offer Romo a lot of money, as they've just cleared

nearly \$30 million in cap space by cutting multiple players.

Even though the Jets are looking to get younger and cut the ties with their older players, the Jets just less than a decade ago traded for Brett Favre who was late in his 30s and may go that direction again, because of their desperate need of a quarterback.

As for the Broncos they might be the favorite to land Romo, as he could make them a legitimate Super Bowl contender.

The Broncos have one of the best ranked defenses in the NFL, and it helped them win the Super Bowl in 2015-2016 season. The Broncos also have over \$40 million in cap space.

Both teams have the money to invest in Romo, it will just depend if either one wants to take a risk on an injury prone quarterback.