

THE BANNER

Holes Belong In Swiss Cheese Not Roads

BY MARISSA PESSOLANO & JAMES KINGSLEY

Staten Island is home to some of the biggest, most damaging potholes around. It is almost impossible to drive leisurely down a street without feeling like you are on an amusement park ride you didn't ask to be on. Mayor Bloomberg's administration recently celebrated the filling of their 2 millionth pothole.

The Department of Transportation has filled 42,915 potholes this fiscal year according to www.silive.com. When most residents heard of this, they wondered, "where exactly are these holes they filled?" There seems to have been no improvements to the conditions on the roads as potholes just continue to get bigger. Some of these potholes are so large that it looks like they were caused by large meteorites colliding with the earth's surface.

When it rains, these potholes become filled with water making it feel like your car just landed in a small pond. There have been sightings of

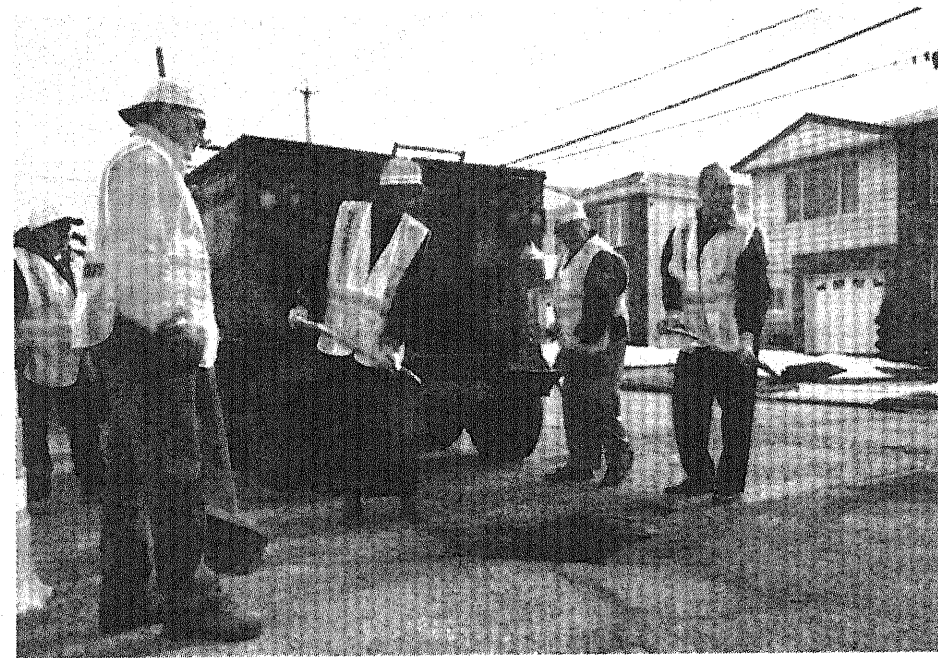


Photo from: gothamist.com

construction crews trying to fill potholes in the snow and the rain. Jack Graziano from Hollywood Garage in Pleasant Plains explains that "it is like putting a band-aid on something that needs stitches," on a video found on silive.com. Staten Islanders want these potholes to be filled, but they want it to be done effectively. One of the worst things they do is put a metal plate over the potholes. Driving over one of those is just as bad, if not worse.

Some of the hardest hit areas, where the menacing potholes have been considered to be the worst, are

Hylan Blvd, Richmond Avenue, Arthur Kill, Victory Blvd, and Clove Road, all of which are main streets. Up until recently, the West Shore expressway heading towards Victory has been a death sentence to many vehicles. They were so bad that you had to keep both hands firmly gripping the steering wheel at all times, or else your car would be sailing into the next lane due to these horrendous bumps. Luckily, this area has just been paved, finally making some sort of progress. Local repair shops have reported that customers suffered from numerous

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New York Legislature Approves 1-Day Furloughs

BY NICHOLAS CONFESSORE
NYTIMES.COM

The Legislature approved an emergency budget bill on Monday that would authorize Gov. David A. Paterson to furlough about 100,000 state employees, roughly half the state's work force, without pay for one day.

Public employee unions contended that the furloughs, which officials said would be the first for state workers in New York, would be illegal, and they said they would seek a temporary restraining order in Federal District Court here to block Mr. Paterson's plan.

While some lawmakers, including many who voted for the bill, also questioned the legality of the furloughs, they said they had little choice but to approve the legislation because failing to do so would have effectively shut down the state government. The furlough plan, which would require each affected worker to take one day off next week, was included in the emergency spending bill needed to keep money flowing to state agencies.

"We're not stopping government," said Sheldon Silver, the Assembly speaker. "I think that ultimately the courts will overturn it."

The Senate Democratic leader, John L. Sampson, suggested that lawmakers would welcome a court challenge by the unions.

"The executive furlough plan is a potentially unlawful breach of contract, and we will be supportive of challenges to preserve the rights of hard-working families," Mr. Sampson said in a statement.

Battered by the recession and short on revenue, officials in at least 11 states have sought to furlough workers to save money. But in some cases, courts have sided with the unions that represent government workers, blocking the furloughs on the ground that forcing workers to take an unpaid leave violates collective bargaining agreements.

"This action on the part of the governor is clearly illegal," said Kenneth Brynien, the president of the Public Employees Federation, one of several unions that represent state workers in New York. "We have a contract that says that we work all year and make a certain amount of money."

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Crew Did All It Could to Slow Ferry Before Crash at Pier, Officials Say

BY MICHAEL M. GRYNBAUM AND NATE SCHWEBER
NYTIMES.COM

The mammoth orange ferry was less than 700 feet away from docking at the Staten Island ferry terminal on Saturday when its crew realized that something was very wrong: It was not slowing down.

At the helm stood Donald Russell, 27, a five-year veteran of the ferry system who was working on his second day as a full captain. He did not feel the usual vibrations that occur when the ferry, the Andrew J. Barberi, begins to slow.

Mr. Russell, acting on his training, ordered "full astern": the signal for his crew to completely engage the reverse thrust. He then sounded five short blasts on the ferry's horn, the signal for danger, and the crew began warning passengers to brace for impact.

The account was released on Monday by federal investigators after they had interviewed crew members and reviewed surveillance footage of the pilothouse in the moments before the Barberi rammed into a St. George pier, injuring nearly three dozen riders.

Officials said it appeared the captain and his crew followed proper protocol after it became apparent that a crash was imminent.

"It appears they did everything they could to slow the vessel down," said Robert L. Sumwalt, a board member of the National Transportation Safety Board, which is in the midst of a week-long investigation into the crash.

The findings seemed to buttress the initial theory, proffered by officials from the city's Department of Transportation, that a mechanical error was to blame.

The assistant captain, Maqbool

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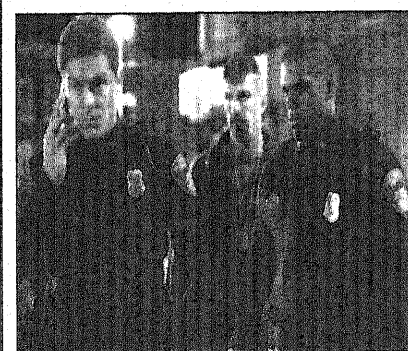


Photo from: guardian.co.uk

American Democracy Project

U.S. Urges Action in Pakistan After Failed Bombing

BY JANE PERLEZ
NYTIMES.COM

The Obama administration has delivered new and stiff warnings to Pakistan after the failed Times Square car bombing that it must urgently move against the nexus of Islamic militancy in the country's lawless tribal regions, American and Pakistani officials said.

The American military commander in Afghanistan, Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, met with the Pakistani military chief, Gen. Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, at his headquarters here on Friday and urged Pakistan to move more quickly in beginning a military offensive against the Pakistani Taliban and Al Qaeda in North Waziristan, Americans and Pakistanis familiar with the visit said. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the delicacy of continuing diplomatic efforts here.

The Pakistani-American man who admitted to the Times Square attack, Faisal Shahzad, 30, told American investigators that he had received training in North Waziristan, the main base for the Pakistani Taliban, Al Qaeda and other militant groups.

The new pressure from Washington was characterized by both the Pakistani and American officials as a sharp turnaround from the relatively polite encouragement adopted by the Obama administration in recent months. And it comes amid increasing debate within the administration about how to expand the American military's influence — and even

a boots-on-the-ground presence — on Pakistani soil.

Though the bombing in Times Square failed, Mr. Shahzad's ability to move back and forth between the United States and Pakistan has heightened fears in the Obama administration that another attempt at a terrorist attack could succeed.

"We are saying, 'Sorry, if there is a successful attack, we will have to act' within Pakistan, one of the American officials said.

That issue has been a source of growing tension between the countries. Pakistani officials, already alarmed by the increase in American drone aircraft attacks against militants in northwestern Pakistan, have been extremely sensitive about any hint that American ground troops could become involved in the fight. And attempts by the United States to increase the presence of Special Operations forces there even in an advisory or training role have been met with great resistance by the Pakistanis.

The Pakistani military has stepped up its campaigns against militants in the past year, including an offensive in South Waziristan that has been praised by American officials. It has said that it is preparing to take up the fight against militants in North Waziristan. But Pakistani officials have insisted that the expanded campaign will happen completely on their own terms, and they have warned the Obama administration not to push so hard that it uses up the good will it has tried to foster here.

But the Americans' urgency has been increasing on multiple fronts. With an intensified American military campaign raging against the Taliban next door in Afghanistan, and now with the renewed evidence of Pakistani sources for plots to attack on American soil, it was clear the Pakistani government had to do more, and more urgently, a senior American official said Saturday.

General Kayani, with whom General McChrystal has forged a positive relationship, was essentially told, "You can't pretend any longer that this is not going on," another American official said. "We are saying you have got to go into North Waziristan."

The American ambassador to Pakistan, Anne Patterson, met Pakistan's president, Asif Ali Zardari, after the failed bombing and used "forceful" language to convey the American point that the Pakistanis had to move more assertively against the militants threaded through the society, a Pakistani official said.

"The element of threat is definitely different from the last few months," said Tariq Fatemi, a former Pakistani ambassador who also served in the United States.

The Obama administration was planning to use the failed terrorist attack to impress on the Pakistanis of the urgency of getting American development aid in place in the tribal areas where militancy thrives, and into Karachi, the biggest city, where radical religious schools, known as madrasas, are popular.

"Last week's incident makes it more urgent and more true" of the need to bring stability and security to these areas where the militants have multiplied, an American official said.

About \$150 million was appropriated by Congress for assistance to the tribal areas in the coming period for reconstruction and other projects. But a host of problems, including American insistence on being able to monitor the money being spent, has made it a slow process.

Since Mr. Shahzad's arrest in the Times Square attack, each country has, to some extent, blamed the other. Many Pakistanis insist that Mr. Shahzad is an American citizen who was radicalized in the United States by the difficulties he found living there as a Muslim. The Americans stress that Mr. Shahzad has traveled more than a dozen times back to Pakistan from the United States since 1999, and appeared to have received his military training in the epicenter of militancy, North Waziristan.

Mr. Shahzad's background as the son of a senior Pakistani military officer has embarrassed the Pakistani Army, the most powerful institution in the country, and which receives generous financing from the United States. Mr. Shahzad's father was a vice marshal in the Pakistani Air Force, and it appears that Mr. Shahzad grew up around senior military officers.

After Mr. Shahzad told American investigators that he was trained in bomb making in North Waziristan, the Pakistani Army tried to play down that claim, portraying it as unlikely.

The Pakistani Taliban took initial responsibility for the bombing attempt. Days later, though, their spokesman denied any involvement, a statement that may have been prompted by fears that their early claim of ownership of Mr. Shahzad might result in a direct attack on the North Waziristan enclave by the Americans, or the Pakistanis.

Mr. Braga said prosecutors had evidently decided they could not prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Mr. Jackson had committed perjury.

The former housing secretary, who now teaches at Hampton University, a historically black college in Virginia, was "very happy" about the outcome of the investigation, Mr. Cousins said.

Mr. Jackson had also attracted attention after he said at a public forum in Dallas in 2006 that he had canceled a government contract to a business run by a man who said he disliked President George W. Bush. Mr. Jackson later claimed that he had made that story up.

The department also investigated Mr. Jackson for perjury over his testimony to Congress that he never "touched" department contracts, Mr. Braga said, but that allegation was undermined by competing interpretations about what Mr. Jackson had meant.

Investigators argued that because Mr. Jackson's office had recommended that certain businesses receive contracts, he had misled Congress. But his lawyers argued that Mr. Jackson had meant only that he never rescinded any contracts for political reasons.

Given that there were two plausible interpretations of Mr. Jackson's remark,

No Charges for Ex-Head of Housing Under Bush

BY CHARLIE SAVAGE
NYTIMES.COM

The Justice Department has decided not to file charges against Alphonso R. Jackson, the former secretary of housing and urban development in the Bush administration, over allegations that he improperly steered federal contracts to friends, his lawyers said Monday.

Mr. Jackson's lawyers said that Peter Koski, a lawyer at the Justice Department's public integrity unit, informed them late last week that it was closing its investigation into Mr. Jackson, who resigned under pressure in 2008.

"We presume that after a full, fair and comprehensive investigation that spanned over a three-year period, they came to the conclusion that their allegations were without support," said one of

the lawyers, Steve Cousins.

A Justice Department spokeswoman declined to comment. But Mr. Jackson's lawyers said they had argued to prosecutors that rather than improperly steering contracts to friends, Mr. Jackson had been seeking to increase minority participation in Department of Housing and Urban Development contracts.

"He's been involved in the housing industry for so long that he knew almost everybody within the housing industry, so you can't have a HUD contract that doesn't sometimes go to people he knows and has a relationship with," said Jim Martin, another of Mr. Jackson's lawyers.

A third lawyer, Stephen Braga, said that the Justice Department had been unable to find evidence that Mr. Jackson received any benefit in exchange for his office's recommendation that certain

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Sometimes A Helping Hand Is What We Need

BY BRIAN GONZALEZ
EDITOR IN CHIEF

"An education that ends with a college degree is your goal and ours. Don't let the economy stop you from achieving your dreams." This is something that hits home for some of us. There is no argument that times are tough especially now. So how does one get by in such tough times?

The truth is that there is no easy answer. While there are programs that offer assistance such as the food stamp program, unemployment benefits, welfare, etc. It seems that many people overlook these programs. For some people they're not sure how to apply and feel lost in the system. For other people it's an issue of pride. However if you think about it your ignorance and/or your pride, whatever the case may be will not help your current situation. Here's where CSI's 'Looking Out

for Our Own' program comes into play.

The program which is funded through a grant from the Hunger and Homelessness Initiative, offers assistance by means of providing food, housing, etc. The goal is to help you meet your daily basic needs. Let's face it you can't study if you don't have a place to study outside the college, you can't concentrate on your studies if you're hungry, and you can't learn anything if you don't show up to class. Times are tough but the lesson here is that you shouldn't lose out on your investment of an education because these tough times can become the least of your worries if left alone.

For more information:
Visit either the Office of Student Life in (1C-201) or the Health and Wellness Center in (1C-112)

Internship Opportunities @ The Banner

The Banner is now offering internships to CSI students. Internships take place for one semester and offer opportunities to learn about Journalism and New Media. Through these internships students will become involved in the operation and production of The Banner. Interns will work a minimum of (10) hours per week. Depending on the type of internship students will learn about and assist in blogging, correspondence, editing, fact-checking, graphic design, layout & production, photography, reporting, web design, etc.

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"New York Legislature Approves 1-Day Furloughs"
Continued from the front page

Mr. Paterson announced last week that he would pursue the furloughs after the unions refused other concessions to save the state money, like giving up a 4 percent raise or delaying employees' paychecks by several days. The one-day furlough is expected to save the state about \$30 million, and the governor has said he would seek additional furloughs every week until the Legislature reaches a deal with him on the state budget, which is now nearly six weeks late.

The furloughs will exclude most public safety and health workers like State Police troopers, correction officers and nurses.

"I recognize that these furloughs represent a difficult sacrifice for many of the state's public employees," Mr. Paterson said in a statement issued moments after the final vote. "That sacrifice is only necessary because their union leadership has rejected all other reasonable attempts at compromise."

"In the days ahead," he added, "the special interests will use every tool at their disposal to try and prevent me from doing what is necessary to put our state's fiscal house in order. My only objective is to help New York turn the corner on this fiscal crisis, and that goal guides every decision I make as governor."

Many legislators expressed their anguish during debate about having to choose between furloughs or a government shutdown. And Republicans attacked Democrats, who control both chambers, for failing to close a budget deal.

The Senate unanimously approved a nonbinding resolution sponsored by Neil D. Breslin, a Democrat from the Albany area, that declared the furloughs illegal and asked Mr. Paterson to resubmit his emergency bill without the furlough language. The governor, who is also a Democrat, had said he would refuse to do so.

"This is a unilateral decision by the governor to force us to vote against the extender bill," Senator Breslin said. "If we voted against that extender bill and it failed, everyone would be without health insurance. Motor vehicle departments would be closed down."

The measure passed in both chambers along party lines. The Senate vote was 32 to 29, with all Republicans voting against the bill, and the Assembly voted

82 to 56, with some Democrats joining the Republicans in opposition.

"We were told as soon as they blew by the April 1 budget deadline that negotiations were continuing and that weekly emergency extenders were necessary to keep government functioning," Dean G. Skelos, the Republican Senate leader, said in a statement. "By voting against the budget extender, Senate Republicans are delivering a message that enough is enough."

As lawmakers prepared to vote, about 2,000 state employees rallied outside the Capitol, heckling and even cursing Mr. Paterson in a show of emotion that underscored his low standing with lawmakers and the public.

"We know the governor is furloughed at the end of the year," said Danny Donahue, the president of the Civil Service Employees Association, referring to Mr. Paterson's decision to abandon plans to run for election this fall. "If we could get rid of him now, we would."

Gesturing to a large inflatable rat, which unions typically deploy outside nonunion work sites, that was tethered to the lawn, Mr. Donahue added: "Some say the rat is a good symbol for our governor. I say that's an insult to rodents."

Union leaders said Mr. Paterson and his staff did not try to negotiate concessions until after the budget deadline and had refused to consider their suggestions for saving money, like replacing independent contractors with unionized workers.

Protesters waved signs reading "Cut the waste, not the workers," "I Love N.Y., It's Gov. Paterson I Can't Stand" and "Where Is Your 20% Pay Cut, Governor?" (Mr. Paterson voluntarily gave back 10 percent of his salary last year.)

Joe Fox, the vice president of the Public Employees Federation, issued a blunt warning to state lawmakers. "Do the right thing, and we'll remember you in November," Mr. Fox said. "Do the wrong thing, and we'll remember you in November."

Workers said it was unfair for Mr. Paterson to blame them for the state's cash problems.

"I live paycheck to paycheck," said Paula Sheahan, 59, who said she has worked in state data-entry jobs for 17 years. "I can't lose 20 percent of every paycheck."

Those feelings were echoed by Andrew L. King, 62, who works for the

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BANNER BRIEFS

A Roundup of CSI News

CSI STEP Student Wins Statewide Honors

Shreya Jain, an eighth grader from St. Joseph Hill Academy and a participant in CSI's Science and Technology Entry (STEP) program, one of 61 STEP programs statewide, has recently won top honors in the biological life sciences competition in the Middle Division at STEP's 12th Annual Statewide Science Conference in Albany. Shreya's research project was entitled "Growing Crystals."

CSITODAY.NET

McMahon Announces \$450K NSF Grant for CSI

Rep. Michael E. McMahon announced today that the College of Staten Island (CSI) is the recipient of another federal grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The \$450,000 grant, which is called a CAREER award and began on May 1, 2010, will support research aimed at further developing our understanding of the electronic properties of various materials.

CSITODAY.NET

CSI Voted One of the Best Companies to Work for on SI

The results are in and the College of Staten Island has been voted one of the best companies to work for on Staten Island among companies with more than 100 employees. The voting was sponsored by the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation (SIEDC), and presented by SIEDC Ambassadors. Other winners in the 100+ employees category were Con Edison and Eden II. According to SIEDC Comptroller Karen Sanicola, the SIEDC distributed the ballots to all SIEDC members and emailed to the organization's 2,500+ database of businesses last fall with a voting deadline of February 2010. All of the Best Companies will be honored at an Awards Ceremony today at the SIEDC's 12th Annual SI Conference. Regarding the SIEDC Ambassadors, Sanicola noted that they "serve as the co-chairs for SIEDC's most highly visible programs. As co-chairs, each Ambassador becomes the public face for a specific program, getting involved in all aspects of planning. Through the Ambassador Program, members not only gain public exposure, but also the ability to cultivate effective relationships with other members of the SIEDC." CSI President Dr. Tomás Morales serves as an SIEDC Ambassador.

CSITODAY.NET

College Community to Celebrate 34th Annual Commencement

BY TERRY MARES
CSITODAY.NET

The College of Staten Island will recognize the Class of 2010's 2,106 degree candidates on Thursday, May 27 at 10:00am on the College's Great Lawn.

Commencement will begin with welcoming remarks from College President Dr. Tomás Morales, as well as greetings from CUNY Trustee Kay Pesile '73 and CUNY Senior Vice Chancellor for University Relations and Secretary of the Board of Trustees, Jay Hershenson, on behalf of CUNY Chancellor Dr. Matthew Goldstein.

This year's honorary degree recipient will be Richmond College alumna and President of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), Dr. Muriel Howard '71, who will receive a Doctor of Humane Letters degree. Prior to her current post at AASCU, Dr. Howard served as president of Buffalo State

College from 1996 to 2009. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology with a minor in Elementary Education from Richmond College and a Master's degree in Education and a PhD in Educational Organization, Administration, and Policy from the University of Buffalo.

CSI President Dr. Tomás Morales will also recognize the recent recipients of the President's Award, Dr. Gordon Di Paolo, Lorraine Di Paolo, Robert Scamardella, and Zane Tankel, as well as other dignitaries in the audience.

The focus of the ceremony will then turn to the 2010 graduates with greetings on behalf of the faculty from Professor Marianne Jeffreys and induction of the new alumni by CSI Alumni Association President Vullnet Kolari '98.

Kolari will also introduce student speaker Michael Young, who will be graduating Magna Cum Laude from the Macaulay Honors College at CSI, where

he majored in American Studies with minors in Studio Art and Spanish. Michael received the Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship in 2008 and he has also studied abroad in Florence, Italy and Tokyo, Japan. Beyond his academic achievements, Michael is the founder and Editor-in-Chief of the Operation Three-Legged Dolphin humor magazine on campus. He is the recipient of the Student Government Service Award and the CSI Alumni Association Outstanding Student Leadership Award.

This year's class of degree candidates will then be presented by Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. William Fritz to Dr. Morales, who will confer their degrees.

Immediately following the Commencement ceremony, Departmental Exercises will be held at various locations on campus. A reception for graduates and guests will follow in the Campus Center at 12:30pm.

Smiles from 7,400 Miles Away in Shanghai Funded by Gilman Program Scholarships, CUNY Travel Grants, and Presidential Awards

BY RUSSELL DAVIS
CSITODAY.NET

The benefits for a student to study abroad and take advantage of the international education opportunities at CSI are many. Students earn credit toward their degrees while gaining an international dimension and global perspective in their studies. Not only do students have life-affirming, life-changing experiences but they also differentiate themselves from their peers. Study abroad alumni excel in their careers after graduation due to the cross-cultural skills and experience that they gain abroad. In addition, CSI students can use financial aid and take advantage of many scholarship opportunities to make study abroad a reality. Study abroad can be an exciting and integral part of a wonderful education at CSI, even if a student has a goal to graduate in four years with exactly 120 credits.

Walter Rozenfeld, a CSI sophomore from Tottenville, was interviewed via text message while on a program-led field trip to Beijing. He wrote "Beijing was nice, it's like New York to me really the big city and all. But I miss my home town Nanjing. I just wanna say that this has been the best idea I have ever come up with. Coming to

China has been a dream come true. The teachers are great. They are like mothers to all of us. We all learned more Chinese here than ever before..."

While there is no Chinese language requirement to join the program, both Rozenfeld and Ain Richardson studied Chinese at CSI prior to flying to China in February. Matt Greger, however, had no prior knowledge of Chinese and is being introduced to the language in China. Students also attend classes taught in English on such topics as Chinese culture and society, history, and political science.

Both Ain and Matt applied for and received generous scholarships (CSI Presidential Awards to Study in China and CUNY China Travel Grants), which are administered by the Center for International Service. In addition, Ain successfully competed for and received a prestigious national scholarship from the Gilmarogram, which funds worthy PELL grant recipients to study lesser-studied languages, like Mandarin Chinese, abroad. All students in the program are now back in Nanjing after a one-week field program field trip to Beijing where they visited the Forbidden City and climbed the Great Wall.

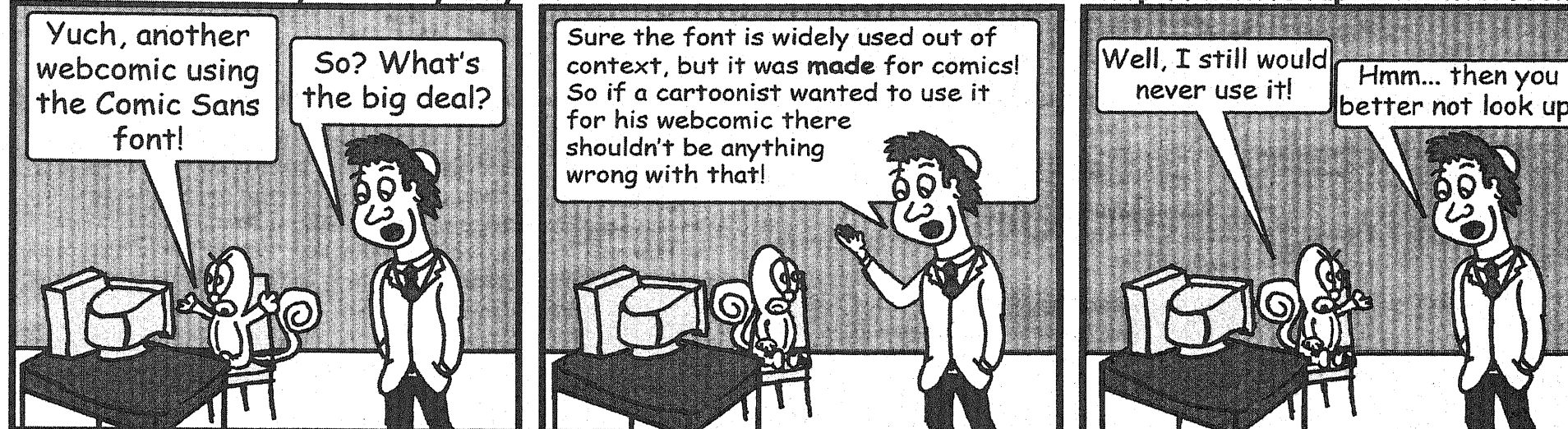
CSI, long known for its study

abroad programs in China, currently has seven students studying in the semester program at Nanjing University; among that group are three CSI students. A recent highlight of their experience included a visit from CSI President Dr. Tomás Morales and Ann Helm, the Executive Director of the Center for International Service, who recently completed a visit to China where they met with CSI partners from Shanghai and Nanjing Universities, Shanghai Normal University and affiliated high schools.

While in China, they met with the three CSI students who are now studying at Nanjing University. Each of the students is enjoying learning about and exploring China this spring.

To find out more about programs in China and other study abroad opportunities, visit the Center for International Service in Building 2A, Room 206 or contact the office at studyab@csi.cuny.edu.

Stupid Inventor by Zachary Snyder



"Holes Belong In Swiss Cheese Not Roads"
Continued from the front page

damages to their vehicles including shocks, struts, rims, and various forms of tire damage. Many of these types of repairs cost drivers between \$700-\$3300...that is, if they are lucky. Many drivers complain that there are no enjoyable roads to drive down, thus making this damage inevitable.

Staten Island driver, Frank Delegro, suffered costly repairs when he hit one too many of these infamous villains. "My car experienced damage with my struts, and it took around 5 hours to repair, costing me \$778," he claimed. Another driver, Nicole Sullivan, added, "We are giving our tax money to pay for these roads to be fixed. We should not have to pay for what they are supposedly fixing in

addition the damages they are incurring." There is even a fan page on the popular networking site Facebook.com entitled, "Staten Island- home of the largest potholes."

Although DOT has been working to fill these potholes, it is still a major problem, as it seems like no progress is being made because the number of them are still countless. We can all only hope that more major repairs get

done in the near future in a quicker manner than it is already being done. If not, then we can expect even more angry drivers with major car damage.

<http://www.StupidInventor.com>

"Crew Did All It Could to Slow Ferry Before Crash at Pief, Officials Say"
Continued from the front page

Ahmed, 47, who was piloting the craft, appeared to have pulled back the lever used to bring the boat to a stop, investigators said, which was consistent with the captain's order.

The 310-foot long Barberi was about two boat lengths away from Staten Island when the crew began its effort to slow it down. Mr. Sumwalt said the boat's sophisticated propulsion system was capable of stopping within that distance.

Both the captain and assistant captain had performed thousands of previous dockings at the terminal, Mr. Sumwalt said, including hundreds of dockings aboard the Barberi or its sister ship, the Samuel I. Newhouse, which uses the same propulsion mechanism.

Mr. Russell, a 2005 graduate of the SUNY Maritime College, completed a six-week training course in April to complete his promotion to full captain, Mr. Sumwalt said.

It was the first time that the crew, which also included a 47-year-old deckhand and a 23-year old mate who began working at the ferry this year, had worked together, officials said. Mr. Ahmed, in his interview with investigators, said there was no tension among the crew members.

Mr. Ahmed is a 1982 graduate from a merchant marine academy in Pakistan who worked in the American marine industry for 12 years before being hired by the Staten Island Ferry as a deckhand in 2004.

The safety board is now planning to examine the ferry's electrical and mechanical system, a process that may take several days. The full investigation could last up to 18 months. Investigators said they had found no

CUNY Trustees Approve New Master Plan For College of Staten Island

BY CUNY.EDU

The Board of Trustees of The City University of New York has unanimously approved a new master plan for The College of Staten Island—the first major revision in more than 20 years—designed to address the college's anticipated growth over the next 10 years, modernize campus facilities and meet the needs for additional research and classroom space, student support services and sustainable infrastructure.

The plan will provide an estimated \$257 million in building projects, including the innovative Interdisciplinary High Performance Computational Center; a much needed expansion of the library; new campus housing; mixed use research and academic buildings; and the enhancement of the Central Campus with an expanded Student Service Center, new Welcome and Transit Centers.

"The college serves as the cultural and intellectual center of the borough," said President Tomás Morales. "The campus provides world class learning opportunities for students ranging from doctoral to associate degree education. The potential to develop a world-class residential and commuter campus is captured in this master plan."

CSI is the largest college campus in New York City, comprising 204 acres, 25 buildings, athletic fields, a tennis structure and park-like open space. These facilities serve nearly 14,000 degree students enrolled. Total student enrollment by 2019 is estimated to be 18,000. To

accommodate this growth and the college's projected space needs, the Master Plan calls for an additional 477, 735 gross square feet in new construction and renovation of existing facilities.

Vice Chancellor of Facilities, Planning, and Construction Management Iris Weinsall noted that the new master plan is a comprehensive document that "that can lead us into the next century."

The Board unanimously appointed the new master plan at its April 26th meeting.

The plan, led by the New York City-based architectural and urban design consulting firm, Cooper, Robertson & Partners, emerged from a three-year process that included wide participation from the University facilities planning offices as well faculty, students and staff at CSI.

"The college has been well-served by the collaborative nature of this process," Morales said.

Overall, the Master Plan "rebalances the campus by having more development in north," said Cooper, Robertson Partner William MacIntosh. North Campus development includes the 175,000-square-foot IHPC, which will house a computer center, interdisciplinary research space, classrooms, faculty offices, a café and areas for student study and services.

Elements of sustainability will be integrated throughout the plan, noted MacIntosh. New construction will meet LEED green-building standards. Current buildings will receive energy efficiency upgrades while new buildings will house

geothermal systems. Rain gardens will be created to manage storm water runoff. No-mow grass will replace high-maintenance turf in selected areas. In addition, while many current buildings are relatively new, the underlying infrastructure of much of the campus is 70 years old and needs substantial upgrading, including \$85 million in electrical, water, heating/air conditioning, sewer and fire services.

The plan also includes several features to improve access and transportation to the college, as well as circulation within the campus. A new Transit Center will provide open shelter for 60 people and help support MTA bus service to the campus interior. Entrances and campus loop roads will be reconfigured to ease bottlenecks and calm traffic. And bicycle and pedestrian routes will be marked throughout the campus.

Other planned building projects include:

- A 50,000-square-foot expansion of the library

- An 8,000-square-foot imaging center to enhance biology and chemistry research

- A 68,000-square-foot building renovation for instructional space, support areas and expanded child-care center

- A 4,000-square-foot addition to the Welcome Center, providing a new "front door" to the campus.

- A 2,100-square-foot greenhouse to support teaching, research and community outreach.

Understanding Facebook's privacy aftershocks

BY CAROLINE MCCARTHY
CNET.COM

It's been a long time since it got in the way of the World Series, but the threat of seismic tumult still hangs over Silicon Valley. When earthquakes elsewhere in the world dominate the news, people get a little more sensitive to their own vulnerability in the Bay Area. The ground might really have just given a twitch. Is it moving?

Comparing Facebook's latest product modifications to deadly natural disasters is probably a little bit inappropriate, but the psychological reaction doesn't seem all that different. The social network modified its policies for handling user data once again as part of its F8 conference and release of the Open Graph API, and ever since it became clear that more information is being set as public by default and more is being shared with third parties, concerned Facebook users have been on jittery alert, perhaps prone to overreaction, concerned that something even bigger may be about to change.

They might be freaking out a little too much. Still, the lesson to be learned from this bizarre analogy is that dealing with social media is more like disaster preparedness than you would think.

On Wednesday, one small but alarming security hole was found in Facebook; the company attributed it to an engineering bug, and patched it. On Thursday, PC World detailed that Facebook was "secretly adding" third-party applications to user profiles, something that the com-

pany once again attributed to a bug and said that it had been fixed. Investor-pundit Paul Kedrosky and fanboy idol Peter Rojas, former editor of Engadget and co-founder of GDGT, both announced on Thursday that they were deactivating their Facebook profiles.

Basically, Facebook is the Pacific Ring of the Web. In its six-year history the company has radically changed its product by implementing one small, step-by-step move after another. Recently published excerpts from David Kirkpatrick's forthcoming book "The Facebook Effect" recall small Facebook features and quirks that were quietly snuffed from the site, like the random placement of the "Wedding Crashers" quote "I don't even know what a quail looks like" under its search query field. Cue a few thousand early Facebook users saying, "Oh, yeah, I remember that!"

How do you bust up a giant landmass into seven pieces without anybody noticing? Slowly. How do you turn an uptight, closed-off Web business built by a few college students into a sprawling creature that seems capable of sharing anything with anyone anywhere? Very, very slowly. But when something big happens, people start to notice the small stuff that they wish they'd seen earlier. Concerned Facebook members are now acting like the social network has grown into something beyond their control, that even lawmakers might not be able to do much good, that the company is acting more like an unpredictable force of nature than a business run by, well, humans. Which is funny, because these days Facebook is playing up its human

side, its fallibility.

After Wednesday's privacy glitch caused Facebook to temporarily disable its chat feature while all the bugs were fixed, The New York Times quoted the company's vice president of public policy, Elliot Schrage, as saying, "Are we perfect? Of course not." We should be getting used to the fact that an "iterative" product model, the sort of practice that's become commonplace now that pushing out new features no longer requires waiting for the next release of a shrink-wrapped software package, will mean imperfections. It will mean screw-ups. It will mean bugs that are quickly patched and poorly thought-out features that are pulled in due time, but they were there in the first place, and user data may have been affected in the process. These are Facebook's tectonic plates, and we are just riding around on them.

This is disconcerting, and perhaps unethical. It's provoked concern among lawmakers, anger among activist groups, and fear among Facebook members. But, for better or for worse, this is how Facebook has been working for the past six years, and the Web at large may finally be coming to that sort of understanding.

The ground is moving at Facebook, and it always has been. The social network can credit a big portion of its success to this ability and willingness to keep changing while some of its industry brethren—MySpace, Digg—kept products relatively static and are now suffering the consequences. This doesn't mean that Facebook's unstoppable by any means, though. Maybe the coalition of U.S. senators petitioning the Federal Trade Commission to rein in social networks' handling of user data a bit will be effective, and Facebook will be forced to stabi-

lize the iteration of its service a bit; this, in turn, could mean that its lightning-speed innovation could be curbed as red tape and roadblocks go up, making it more likely that another service could race in and start chewing at its market share.

Or members could, of course, just leave—and Facebook's business model is only as good as the 400 million people who inhabit it. But people choose to live in areas prone to deadly natural disasters, too. Living your life (or a portion of it) on the Web and entrusting personal data to social-media services like Facebook means that you're agreeing to colonize a product that's subject to change and unexpected error. This is true for many services besides Facebook, too. Twitter's shown hints of major expansion plans. Location-based networking start-ups have an appetite for marketing partnership dollars and a whole lot of private data in their coffers. Then there's Blippy, the new, edgy purchase-sharing start-up that accidentally exposed several users' credit card numbers last month.

You could choose to err on the side of paranoia, assume that Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg is greedily dreaming of how awesome it will be when he sells everyone's data to marketers and uses the profits to buy himself a private island, and delete your Facebook account. Or you could just be aware, be cautious, and figure that maybe your credit card data is something you want to keep off of Facebook for now.

Because while Facebook is the company it is today—subject to constant and frequent volatility, eager to tread into new marketing and networking territory—this is how it's going to be.

"NBA Playoffs Mega Edition"
Continued from the page 11

an all star just a season ago. In round 1 against the Bobcats, Nelson torched Charlotte to the tune of 24 points per game. Against the Hawks, Nelson put up an impressive 17 points per game to go along with 6 assists and 57% shooting from the field in limited minutes (due to several blowouts). To go along with Nelson's impressive play, Rashard Lewis and Vince Carter have both stepped up big time (especially against the Hawks).

Put those 3 guys together along with defensive extraordinaire Mickael Pietrus and superstar Dwight Howard (21/13 and shot 84% from the field against the Hawks) and you have an extremely potent lineup who can beat anybody in a 7 game series.

Over in the Western

Conference, the Suns shockingly swept the Spurs who have been the roadblock in Phoenix's way for the longest time. Phoenix's victory over an aging Spurs team isn't shocking. However, the fact that they only needed 4 games (albeit tough games) to do it is astounding. Nash, Amare, Richardson, and even Dragic are really doing their thing and should prove to be a very tough test for the Lakers in the conference finals. It will be interesting to see how the Lakers and Suns match up with each other.

Phoenix has a very small, quick lineup whereas the Lakers sport a pair of 7 footers (Pau Gasol and Andrew Bynum) in their frontcourt and can stick Lamar Odom (6 foot 10) at the small forward spot to go along with Kobe and Derek Fisher. The Lakers looked very impressive in their sweep of the Jazz in round 2 after struggling with a young, upstart

Oklahoma City team in round 1. The Suns need to take a cue from the Thunder and run up and down the court (they always do anyway) and not try to match size with them. Pau Gasol is going to get his numbers regardless, so the Suns might as well just try to outscore the Lakers and not worry so much about defending the Lakers' big men.

- This past weekend, Tiger Woods pulled out of a golf tournament with a neck injury. Since his impressive re-emergence at the Masters, Tiger has missed a cut (only the sixth time this has happened in his illustrious career) and quit during the middle of a tournament. Despite his philandering and rampant adultery, it would be a shame to see Tiger's career come crashing down like this just because we as fans would miss the chance to see a truly historical ath-

lete in his prime. If you don't like Tiger, that's fine.

However, you can root for him for one selfish reason – we want to see the best to ever play. One of the funniest things to come out of the weekend was when a female reporter for the golf channel accidentally referred to Tiger's bulging disk as a bulging d*ck. Hilarious.

- Honest question: Has anybody ever seen Phillie outfielder Jayson Werth and wrestler Edge in the same place at the same time? I didn't think so.

SEND YOUR OPINIONS OR
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Goldman Sachs Under Fire on all Fronts

BY THOMAS BRIGANDI
CO-MANAGING EDITOR

Goldman Sachs, the New York-based investment bank has been under scrutiny for activities it engaged in leading up to the recent financial meltdown. According to Reuters, "Goldman Sachs Group Inc was charged with fraud by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission over its marketing of a sub-prime mortgage product, igniting a battle between Wall Street's most powerful bank and the nation's top securities regulator." (Jonathan Stempel and Steve Eder Fri Apr 16, 2010)

Goldman Sachs has been at the center of the populist outrage against Wall Street firms since the Troubled Asset Relief Program, or TARP, was passed in 2008. TARP bailed out the financial services sector by giving banks immediate liquidity when the credit markets were frozen and accessing capital was nearly impossible.

Since then, there has been an outcry against Wall Street firms who are seen as the financial meltdown's provocateurs as well as the bailout's main beneficiaries. Many Americans believe that the effort to help the financial industry while the average American was, and is still

suffering with high unemployment rates, was not equitable.

Recently, the controversy has come to a tipping point, with the Securities and Exchange Commission filing civil charges against Goldman Sachs on April 16 and the Department of Justice opening a criminal case only weeks later. The SEC alleges that Goldman Sachs misled investors by selling securities it deemed to be bad investments and actually bet against in some cases.

The security in question is a Collateralized Debt Obligation, or CDO linked to the performance of the mortgage market. Its price reflects the strength of the residential mortgage market. When the housing market took a turn for the worst in 2007, so did the security's value; with those betting against it making a lot of money and those betting for it losing a lot of money.

According to Reuters, "Fabrice Tourre, a Goldman vice president whom the SEC said was mainly responsible for creating the questionable mortgage product, known as ABACUS, was charged with fraud." (Stempel, Eder) Moreover, Goldman disclosed email correspondences that Mr. Tourre had with one of his friends in which he explicitly stated how

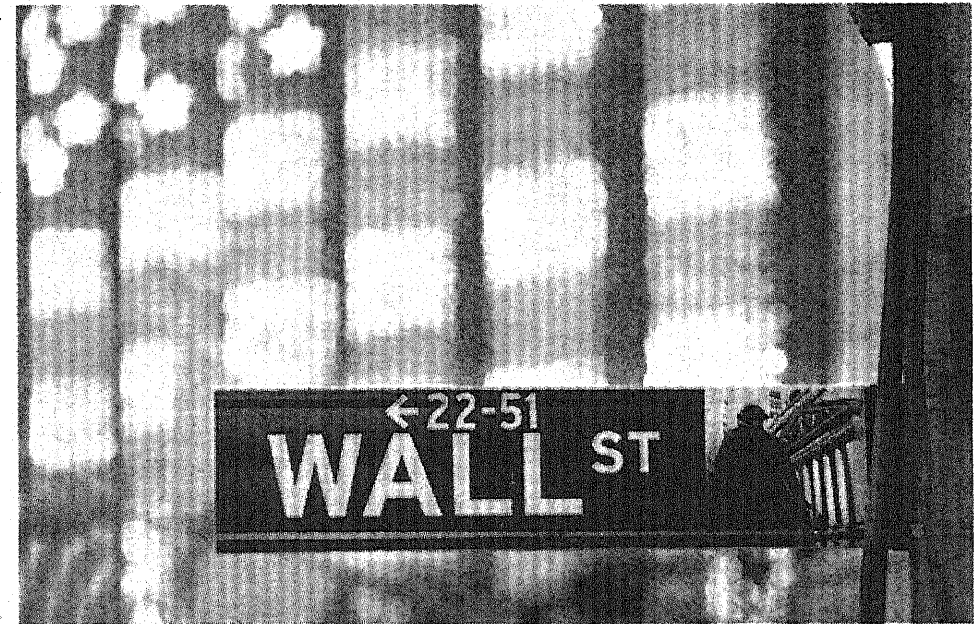


Photo from: images.businessweek.com

bad the securities he was selling to investors actually were.

"It [the SEC] quoted a January 23, 2007, e-mail from Tourre to a friend as saying: 'The whole building is about to collapse anytime now ... Only potential survivor, the fabulous Fab ... standing in the middle of all these complex, highly leveraged, exotic trades he created without necessarily understanding all of the implications of those monstrosities!!!" (Stempel, Eder)

This quote depicts just how intricate these security products were and how a conflict of interest may have existed on Goldman's part. According to industry insiders, these products were very hard to

grasp conceptually and quantitatively and even though Goldman says their clients are sophisticated investors including hedge funds, banks and insurance companies, they may have been purposefully misled by Goldman Sachs. Barring a settlement, the case will further increase the outrage against Goldman Sachs and other banks as it drags on into the future.

Thomas Brigandi is a Macaulay Honors student and is majoring in Finance and Accounting. He also is a Registered Securities Representative. He currently holds the Series 7 and Series 63 Securities Licenses.

Gulf oil spill 'five times' larger than estimated

US coastguard says 5,000 barrels a day of oil are spewing from a well beneath site of the Deepwater Horizon rig explosion

BY ADAM GABBATT
GUARDIAN.CO.UK

Five times more oil a day than previously believed is spewing into the Gulf of Mexico from the blown-out well of the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig, the US coastguard has said.

Coastguard Rear Admiral Mary Landry said National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) experts now estimate that 5,000 barrels a day of oil are spilling into the gulf – far more than the previous estimate of 1,000 barrels a day. Robot submarines have so far failed to shut off the flow, 1,500m (5,000ft) below the surface, but the coastguard said a test burn on an isolated area of the spill was successful.

The revision came after a new leak was discovered and strong winds were forecast which NOAA said would push the oil towards the US shoreline.

However Doug Suttle, chief operating officer for BP, disputed the new estimates yesterday, pointing to a diagram that plotted the leaks and saying he did not believe the amount of oil spilling into the water was higher than earlier approximations.

Landry stuck to the NOAA estimate and said it was based on aerial surveys, study of the trajectory of the oil slick and other factors.

Landry added that the US president, Barack Obama, had been briefed on the revised estimate, and said the government had offered to have the defence department help contain the spill and protect the US shoreline and wildlife.

Both Landry and BP said the first test burn had been successful, although neither gave any indication as to when further burns were planned.

Crews had planned to use a 150m fire-resistant boom to collect several thousand gallons of the thickest oil on the surface, tow it to a remote area, set it on fire, and allow it to burn for about an hour. When the flames go out hardened tar is left in the water, which can be removed using nets or skimmers.

BP said more than 30,000m of boom had so far been assigned to contain the spill, with an additional 87,000m available and 97,000m on order.

The oil spill response team had recovered 16,311 barrels (2.5m litres) of an oil-water mix, and 69 response vessels were being used, the company added.

"We are attacking this spill on all fronts, bringing into play all and any resources and advanced technologies we believe can help," said Tony Hayward, BP chief executive.

"Our action plan is safety-focused, multi-layered and has the full resources of the BP Group behind it."

He added: "The scale of the surface response is truly unprecedented, both for BP and for the oil industry."

BP said it had begun preparations to drill a relief well, approximately half a mile from the main well, however NOAA said this would not be complete for several months.

NOAA said workers had finished fabricating the containment chamber of a "collection dome" which would be used to collect oil as it escaped from the well.

"Work will now begin on the piping system that brings the oil to the surface for collection; this method has never been tried at this depth before," the organisation said.

It said evaluations were under way to assess the damage caused by the oil to fish, marine mammals and sensitive resources, and warned the spill was on the move.

Winds are forecast to become strong (20+ knots) and blow from the south-east starting tomorrow and continuing through the weekend, which will continue to push surface oil towards shore," NOAA said.

BP said costs for containing the spill were running at \$6m (£3.9m) a day, and it would spend a further \$100m drilling the relief well. Industry officials say replacing the Deepwater Horizon, which was owned by Transocean Ltd but operated by BP, would cost up to \$700m.

Two Steps Behind Mom and Dad and Not Complaining

BY WILLIAM PONCIANO
STAFF WRITER

I'm 20 years old, I live at home with my mother, I'm single with no prospects to be married, and I am definitely not following in the footsteps of my parents.

By the time my father was 20, she was already married to my father (his second wife) and was taking care of their 3-year-old daughter, my older sister Wilendy. Both of my parents were already married with one child by the time they were my age. That's the last thing on my mind right now.

In 1978, my father, Hugo A. Ponciano was 20 years old. His wife, Sandra, was pregnant with their first child. They were getting ready to come to the United States to start a new life and have a better life for their son. They felt that neither of their home countries of Guatemala or

El Salvador would be a good place to raise their family.

It's now 1987 in New York City. My mother, Aracelis is sitting in apartment with her 3-year-old daughter. She doesn't work. Instead, she stays home with her daughter, cleans the house, cooks, and watches her Spanish programs as she waits for my father to come home. She doesn't go out either. I mean, where is she going to go? She came to the United States from the Dominican Republic when she was only 15 years old. She had no friends either. All she knew was work and then being a house wife when she married my father. Not exactly the life you expect a 20-year-old woman to have, especially when she used to be a model.

Fast forward 23 years. It's 2010 in Brooklyn, New York. I'm 20 years old. My father hasn't been in my life in about 3 or 4 years now. That's what happens when daddy dearest fines himself a new woman to be his new wife (although he's

still technically married to my mom, even though they've been separated for 10 years now) and completely forgets all about his four kids. Granted these "kids" are now 30, 29, 25, and 20 respectively but that's neither here nor there.

If I were trying to follow in my parents' footsteps or anyone 20-30 years ago, I would be far behind. I should be living far from home, married, at least one kid, and working full time. Instead, I still live with my mom and sister in our two-bedroom apartment in Gravesend, Brooklyn. The longest relationship I've ever had lasted me a year and a half and I just ended that two months ago. Thankfully, I don't have any kinds and I only work two days a week.

Honestly, I think that if you ask around, you'll probably find the same situations all over campus. Perhaps it's a cultural thing or just a paradigm shift. Whatever the case may be, more people are waiting to get married and have kids and start a family than before. I am proud to say that I am one of those people. The way I see it, my brother got the right idea. He's 30 years old, with a one-year-old son, and engaged. I think I'll get married before I have the kid though. Babies can really get in the way of a good honeymoon.

satisfaction I think a night out with a girl just surpasses food. I mean what's better than a "Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich?" I might be able to think of one. But, that's not the point, because people live and learn. A person shouldn't be afraid to tell a girl how they feel, because if you don't seize that opportunity you will start playing the "what if game," and guys you know what I mean. This feeling of love I felt with this girl has since been a part of my life. Nevertheless, I have been experiencing other feelings throughout the years, and I know the same sentiment I felt for her will eventually come back. It may feel different seeing how I don't really know what I felt, but I know it was beyond words.

Do you have something to write about? Has any of the stories written in the Banner helped to inform you? Or has it not informed you? Let us know what you think. You can send your comments and concerns to us by sending an e-mail to:
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Or you can drop off a copy in our mailbox on campus in 1C-207.

The Book of Countless Faces

BY SUNDAS NAZIR
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Surely, it is interesting to hear from your muscular cousin who, while listening to Lady Gaga, zestfully smokes the hookah pipe. You might also, never know your best friend suffered from depression until after you notice a pattern in his or her status updates. I avoid Facebook because I find that it is a truly addictive and unpredictable way of communicating as well as a waste of time. I feel that it is odd to see people practically living on it, avoiding connecting with loved ones who live minutes away from their homes as well as those who live on the other end of the world.

One day during my very intense photography course, a friend of mine had left me a voicemail at around 9:00 pm. "Please call me, it is an emergency," Apprehensive and startled, I called her. Crying, she begged me to harvest her crops in Farmville within the next few hours or she'll "suffer greatly". This was because she did not have access to the Internet. Speechless, I hung up.

In addition to Farmville there are numerous other addictive applications that keep users hooked. One of the worst offenders the "Gifts" application clearly does not work. This is because it is more irritating to see merely pictures of things like Chanel accessories rather than actually have them. However it would be unjust of me to not to credit the creators' artistic nature and sense of humor. Another application "Bumper Stickers" might be offensive to some but other times it funny such as "I love you in a non lesbian but still kinda sexual, burning, fiery, passionate way." Or, "No one here understands my weirdness like you do".

The sporadically changing layout seems to invite stalkers as well. It is altered every so often to make it easier for the user. However, after the alteration, one's account develops a mind of its own, defaulting all the privacy settings.

As the depth of friendships seem to become shallower, I have concluded that those who have Facebook accounts begin to depend on it as the only mode of communicating. "It is cutting into out social lives," says Annie, "we're more concerned about face book status updates than actual face time with one another."

NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET CLAWS AND BLOOD: THE REVIEW

BY JAMES KINGSLEY
STAFF WRITER

"Why mess with something that was a classic?" Is a phrase many people are wondering right now. The new Nightmare on Elm Street film came out recently to successful and surprisingly large gross revenue of 32 million dollars. This remake, reboot or a reimaging, depending on what term you prefer, of the original classic "slasher" film was very different. However, it kept many of the same elements. Many people may not have even seen or heard of the original Nightmare on Elm Street that starred Heather Langenkamp and Robert Englund. If this is the case, then chances are they thought highly of this film since they had nothing to compare it to. This was true in the case of high school student Theresa who commented on the new film saying, "Since I've never seen the original I can't really say there is a difference, but I think that this one was a really good movie, plus I LOVE guts and blood all over the place." Her statement was true as the movie was very gory and much more bloody than the original. In the 2010 Nightmare on Elm Street remake, the starring role of

Freddy Kreuger doesn't belong to the man that made the role famous Robert Englund. Actor Jackie Earle Haley plays Freddy. He has been in the films Little Children, where he played a pedophile, and also played the character Rorschach in The 2009 film Watchmen. He has also portrayed a patient in the 2010-film Shutter Island. It was shocking that Englund wasn't reprising his role as Freddy Kreuger since fans of the movies know Freddy Kreuger and Robert Englund are synonymous. Regardless of who the actors are, no one can argue the fact this film is much darker than the original.

There are some similarities between the films, such as both versions of Freddy are more sadistic and creepy, rather than being funny and a jokester than in the other films in the franchise. Although, some may find the wise cracking comedic Freddy Kreuger more enjoyable because he wasn't boring and dull, like a mute Michael Myers from Halloween and Jason Voorhees from Friday the 13th. Some other similarities are that Nancy is still the heroine. Despite not being played by Heather Langenkamp, Rooney Mara did an admirable job as Nancy.

Other obvious similarities are Nancy's friends being killed.

Despite the similarities, there are a lot of differences between the remake and original Nightmare on Elm Street films. One of the major differences is the names of the characters. In the original film, there is Tina, Glen, Rod, Marge, Fred Kreuger, and Nancy Thompson. In the remake the names are very different, with Kris, Quentin, Jesse, Gwen, Freddy Kreuger, and Nancy Holbrook.

However, the concepts are the same, with Freddy being burned and killed by angry parents thus leading him to seek revenge in the dreams of his victims, the children that told on him. With the murders for the most part being the same, it wasn't completely on cue since a character wasn't in one of the MOST famous murder scenes in horror movie history. This scene is when Johnny Depp's character is sucked into his bed with a giant geyser of blood spewing out of it. Another thing that was different in this film is the burns on Freddy's face are much more charred, making him even scarier than Englund's version, which looked like a 3rd degree burn victim. The film also had more jump scenes compared

to the original, which isn't a bad thing. Some of the scenes were indeed creepy, especially since they took you deeper into how Kreuger became a demon. They make it known he was in fact a pedophile and child molester in this film, however in the original, he was child murderer.

Due to the similarities and differences there has been a mixed reaction from hardcore horror movie fans opinions about the new film. Chris a student in Nevada stated, "I was bored," when asked his opinion on the film. Melissa, a student at Wagner thought, "it was pretty good actually. I mean I only saw 2 and 4 but I think they did a good job with this one." Others had a rather hostile but clearly stated opinion such as a student, Nicole, whose reply was "I refuse to see this movie, because it's not Robert Englund as Freddy, it's a stupid remake, and this is a B.S. version that never should've been made as it will ruin the legend of the original."

Overall, the changes were not very drastic as it kept pretty true to the original, even taking some exact lines from it, as well as from other Freddy movies. So I have to say even though it isn't as good as the original, this movie in and of itself wasn't bad. I think if they make a sequel it will do well.

Recovering That Feeling

BY ABRAHAM HAMDAN
STAFF WRITER

I used to wake up every morning for school wanting to dress my best for the day that was ahead. I would walk through the entrance of my high school thinking about the same thing I thought about the previous day: "Where is she, I hope she's here." I loathed going to school when she was absent, because I felt it was a waste of a day if I didn't get to see her. She was on my mind all the time and all I wanted was her. Every time I laid eyes on her the universe slowed down and I felt the same sensation from the last time I saw her. I couldn't comprehend the emotion, but I could still remember the feeling.

If this feeling wasn't love, I don't know what it was. I have not felt that way since, and it must be the closest I have gotten to what we know as love. I didn't know how to tell her how I felt, and every day that passed I would grow more attached. I would fight myself to share my feelings with her everyday and the wrong side would always prevail. I was shy growing up and people always used to ask if I spoke, because how quiet I used to be. However, today people can't fathom how loud and hyper I've become. Unfortunately, it took me sometime to burst out my bubble. I loved this girl, and I spent too much time thinking than act-

ing. When the opportunity presented itself for me to share my feelings I found myself procrastinating. Though, after all the procrastination I finally made the leap forward, and told her how I felt.

We eventually got to be together, and it was the best feeling in the world. I felt so relieved from keeping my feelings to myself for as long as I did. And in the end she felt the same way, but I was too blind to see it. I loved everything about this girl. I loved the way she smelt, I loved her smile that would always light up the room. I loved her body, and her sweet strawberry lips. I adored her laugh and I loved the way she kissed me, but most of all I loved who she was as a person. She was everything to me, and I would only grow and become more knowledgeable since then. I changed the way I approached specific situation, and I do something's differently. But, I learned a lot from that experience, and it definitely changes my approach today for the better. I still try to keep in touch with her, but it's not the same. Yet, I will always feel some sort of connection with her, regardless, of where our lives take us. That moment in my life helped me look at things differently, and if it wasn't for that my approach with woman wouldn't be the same. Today it's not about love, but about satisfying my needs and I have to say a woman does it best. Even though food is very high up there on the list of

Dr. Steel Strikes Again

BY SPENCER BOLLETTIERI
STAFF WRITER

For sometime now I've heard of the infamous self proclaimed musician, visionary and evil genius Dr. Steel and his army of followers known as the Toy Soldiers. I've seen his propaganda spread about cyberspace, I've heard some of his eerie lyrics played through car radios and ipod speakers and I even got some rare glimpses of his live performances at the Key Club. And when I finally discovered the secret island lair of the supposed mad man on doctorsteel.com and saw some of his "Audio propaganda" for sale, I couldn't help but download one of his albums with a morbid curiosity about him and his band of robotic minions. So for this issue of the Banner instead of my usual movie or video game reviews, I will be critiquing Dr. Steel's "People of Earth", his third installation in his series of albums.

For those who are not familiar with Dr. Steel, he's an industrial/rock musician in the tradition of Dr. Horrible and his popular online sing-

a-long blog. Using a mix of retro recordings and old sounds he mixes them with modern music creating a defined and unique sound which is often acclaimed for its Steampunk-esque charm. And using a series of jovial lyrics that reflect the insane ideals of his on-stage persona, he has managed to build up a small cult following, which he deems his "toy soldiers". So far he has published five albums and has quite a few in development including "Dr. Steel: The Musical" and in the past has appeared alongside famous faces such as Jay Leno. To this day his albums are widely popular and his online series "The Dr. Steel Show" is a worldwide internet sensation.

"People of Earth" as previously mentioned was the third album in the doctor's series. First released in 2001, it seems to stand out as one of his more distinguished and promises "12 astonishing tracks". However can lighting strike thrice? And can it really be ranked with some of the previous albums that his followers love so much? Well let me start off by saying

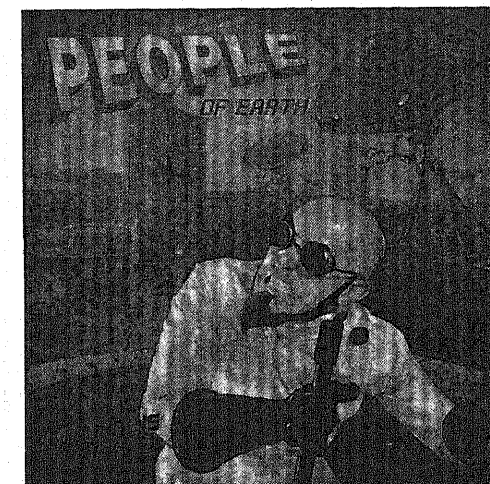


Photo from: fam3.static.flickr.com

customers certainly get what they paid for, 12 astonishing tracks that combine that old world sound with modern rock and naturally those jovial lyrics that people love so much with topics ranging from Godzilla ("Atomic Superstar") to science and mathematics ("Fibonacci Sequence") and even the joke that humanity has become ("Planet X Marks the Spot"). But is it any good? Well though this may be my personal opinion, I felt that though a lot of the tracks were pretty good, there were still a few that lacked the charm some of his other songs have. For example "Ode to Revenge" was not exactly up to par with some of his previous works and

"Winky in C Minor" was way too short to be appreciated. And I must say that I'm disappointed that "Inspector Gadget" or "Land of the Lost" was not included on this album. But overall I feel it was a good buy, because when added together the good tracks outweigh the disappointing ones and with favorite Dr. Steel classics like "Back and Forth" and "Boogeyman Boogey", it makes for a perfect gift for that certain mad scientist in your life. Overall I'd recommend it for steampunk fans, sci-fi enthusiasts and naturally all you Toy Soldiers out there. And for samples of some of the tracks mentioned, I encourage you to check out doctorsteel.com where they're readily available to the curious. So enjoy and long live Dr. Steel.

Serenade Presents Vincent Craig and Valerie Quinlan



Serenade is pleased to present a violin-piano recital featuring Vincent Craig, piano, and Valerie Quinlan, violin. Their concert will take place on Sunday, Sunday, May 23rd at 3:00 P.M., in Christ Church New Brighton, 76 Franklin Avenue. A meet-the-artist reception follows the concert. All spaces are hand-capped accessible. The concert is free to the public. In addition to street parking there is a parking lot behind the church.

The program will include works by Mozart, Caesar Franck, and Maurice Ravel. The Mozart sonata in B-flat, K454, is arguably his finest work for violin and piano. Franck's sonata in A Major is one of the masterpieces of the late romantic repertoire. In addition to the violin-piano duos, Mr. Craig will play Ravel's exquisite Sonatine for piano solo.

For info call 718-273-3668 or visit Serenade's web site: www.SerenadeConcerts.org

This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council. Additional support was provided by former City Councilman Kenneth Mitchell, and Northfield Savings Foundation.

Why Are The Brit's So Obsessed?

BY STEPHANIE WHELAN
STAFF WRITER

The Wire depicts all aspects of life within the City of Baltimore, from hustlers to politics and the police to the media. After becoming a hit over here in the states, the show started to air in Britain, and it seems to have become more popular there than here. The British audience has become fascinated with the show, so much so that the University of York has added a class to its curriculum, based solely on studying it. Why is it that the Brit's are so obsessed?

Some have suggested that the answer to this question is because life on the Baltimore streets, is very similar to that of life in bad neighborhoods across the U. K. I beg to differ. I am not saying that life on the British streets is a walk in the park, yet it's a very different walk to that of the streets of Baltimore, and other American cities. And it's not only street life that is different. Police force, politics, schools and the media have extreme differences on both sides of the pond. I could sit here and reel off a million differences between the two, but I'm not here to write a compare and contrast essay. I want to get to the bottom of why the Brit's are so intrigued by The Wire, more so than Americans, when it offers absolutely nothing for them to relate to.

The people who seem to think that there is a reality in the wire that can be compared to "Broken-Britain" tend to be politicians and journalists. But what do the working class people of Britain think? Being British myself, I had a list of working class friends to make calls

to. First on my list were my friends Sarah and Leon. Both of working class who live in a not so nice neighborhood in the city of Birmingham. Sarah isn't the biggest fan of the show but I knew Leon never missed it and Sarah was forced into partaking as they only have one television in their house.

I called Sarah and she really didn't seem too excited over The Wire. I asked to speak to Leon and he was more than willing to talk to me. "The Wire does have a connection to people over here" was the first thing he said to me. "Just not how these politician folk are suggesting."

Leon is black, and grew up with a single mother and no father, in a rough area of Birmingham, where drugs and street crime are prevalent. However, the life that he has had cannot be compared to someone with them same circumstances living in the United States. Leon went on to explain to me that the Wire gives him an insight into the lives of people with his exact same circumstances, living in another western capitalist, country, where everything's made out to be wonderful. "It shows me that the supposedly greatest country in the world has their fair share of problems too, within government, and different aspects of society. The show actually makes me grateful, because as hard as I had it, I never had it as hard as these brothers."

After I had talked to Leon I started to think back about television in Britain. I have only been living over here for four years, and The Wire had started there shortly after I had left. Before that, British television had shows such as Shameless and Skins that depicted hard life and reality in Britain. The

deposition of the United States through British television was one that was made out to be a wonderful life. And even if you had been to the States on vacation, your idea of the great country was even more wonderful as it was very likely you had visited Disney, Las Vegas or New York. Spending 2 weeks in one of these places, makes it seem absolutely fabulous, especially if you have a working class English background. Of course we have seen American movies depicting hard life on the streets and corrupt government, but no two hour movie brings the harsh reality, that David Simon brings us with the five seasons of The Wire.

I had never given this a thought before, and now I was starting to realize why we Brits were so intrigued with The Wire. I couldn't use my own opinion to understand this because I was living in New York, after growing up in Britain. My vision and understanding socially as a Brit was blurred. After starting to get it I next decided to call my friend, Vikki, whose boyfriend Dean, I was sure watched the show. When I asked Dean why he felt a connection to The Wire, his words were almost identical to those of Leon. Our conversation led to British television and the American shows we watched growing up as kids, Fresh Prince, The Simpsons, Friends, Saved by the Bell, just to name a few. We watched South Park too, but we just thought it was funny, we had no idea that it poked fun at political opinions and socioeconomic status of the country.

It occurred to me that The Wire had brought something to British television that had never before been seen. For the average working class Briton, most of which have never travelled outside of Europe, The Wire brings them a wide awakening in to another world. Dean informed me that the hotspot for Britons to vacate to now is Baltimore. "You can go on a Wire vacation" were his exact words. "They have a tour of the school,

the Baltimore Sun, the precincts, City Hall. You drive through the neighborhoods, and get to eat fried chicken in the ghetto."

After reading blogs, I had known that the British were obsessed with the show, but I had no clue that it was to the extent of taking vacations to visit the real, living, breathing set of The Wire, where the things we see in the show are really occurring. My initial thought was that these people were a little off. I'm a fan of the show, but a vacation in Baltimore is not exactly on my agenda this summer. I couldn't quite get my head around this at first, but then I tried to look at it from their point of view. Maybe they are just so shocked by this reality; they need to see it with their own eyes. I have become more and more immune to these realities the longer I have lived here. I was slowly introduced to it for what it was. I wasn't living in Britain anymore thinking everything on the other side was peachy.

I started out being curious as to why The Wire was so intriguing to its British audience, and I learned more than I bargained for. I'm not quite sure what I was expecting to find out but I didn't expect to learn that The Wire has had and will continue to have a huge impact on Britain. This show has changed American programming on British television on a sociological level. It will go on to be taught about in classrooms and be in the text books of communications and sociology students for years to come. To the British, The Wire is much more than just a TV show, it's a discovery of real life, and an new appreciation of their own.

BANNER SPORTS

I'm Just Sayin'...

BY DAVID GINSBERG
STAFF WRITER

- The Celtics will win the NBA championship this year. Sure, the prediction might not be as bold now as it was before the playoffs started, but Boston is looking like the team to beat right now. After easily handling the Miami Wades in round one, Boston went on to thoroughly outplay the heavily favored Cavaliers in round two. LeBron James received little help from his teammates, but he didn't play too well himself. LeBron apologists will blame his elbow injury, but the Celtics' defense also deserves some recognition as well. They forced James into uncomfortable situations all series along and played a strong defensive series.

- Boston is up 2-0 on Orlando right now, taking the first two games on the road. Boston has a smart strategy - they're forcing Dwight Howard to beat them. Unlike other teams who leave the Magic's perimeter shooters to double team Howard in the post, Boston has decided to let Kendrick Perkins go one-on-one with Howard. Howard struggled in game one, scoring just 13 points on 3-10 shooting (which by the way, was more misses than Howard had in the entire series against the Hawks). In game two, Howard went off for 30 points but due to nobody double teaming him, the rest of the Magic players were left out in the cold. Vince Carter and JJ Redick each chipped in with 16 points apiece, but they struggled from the field (5-15 and 3-

9, respectively). It looks like Boston has figured out how to beat the Magic. Orlando looked amazing in the first two rounds of the playoffs, but apparently it was an aberration and a direct result of the quality of the teams they played.

- In the Western Conference, the Lakers played a flawless game one and dismantled the Suns. Don't be duped. The Lakers will probably win the series but Phoenix will give them a tough matchup. The odds of Kobe going for 40 and Lamar Odom scoring 19 points and pulling down 19 rebounds in the same game again are slim. On the other side, Steve Nash only had 13 points, Grant Hill and Channing Frye combined for 10 points on 2-13 shooting from the field, and Jared Dudley played one of his worst games in the last few weeks. Expect the series to go at least six games with Phoenix looking to play small and push the pace, leading to a few very high scoring back-and-forth games.

- Speaking of the Los Angeles Lakers, does it bother all of you other basketball fans how soft Pau Gasol is? The guy has all of the skills and talent to take over a game whenever he wants, yet he never seems to. If I was a Lakers fan, I'd be pulling my hair out when looking at the box scores and continuously seeing: Gasol - 22 points, 9-13 FG, 4-6 FT. Gasol has to start demanding the ball more, especially when facing smaller teams like the Suns. There is absolutely no excuse for Pau Gasol not to average 30 points and 15 rebounds this series.

- The Washington Wizards won the NBA lottery tonight. John Wall will be lucky

enough to play alongside Gilbert Arenas... as long as Arenas doesn't shoot him first. Unfortunately for the New Jersey Nets, their pathetic play and complete ineptitude which led to them having the worst record only resulted in them getting the 3rd pick of the draft. That means that they will be missing out on the clear top 2 prospects - John Wall and Evan Turner. Despite the money-spending reputation of their new billionaire owner, Nets fans should get used to at least a few more years of disappointment before their team becomes anything remotely resembling a contender.

- In Mixed Martial Arts, Mauricio 'Shogun' Rua proved that his first fight against previously undefeated champion Lyoto Machida wasn't a fluke. After losing a very controversial decision to Machida in their first bout, 'Shogun' came away with a first round stoppage victory after connecting with an overhand right followed by some brutal ground and pound that rendered the champ unconscious. For MMA fans, justice was served with Rua winning the belt that he should have had in his possession since last year.

- Floyd Mayweather predictably defeated "Sugar" Shane Mosely in a lopsided decision. Manny Pacquiao, coming fresh off his own one-sided decision win over Joshua Clottey, is signed on to fight in the new Cowboys Stadium in early November. There are no other marketable fights out there for either fighter and frankly, this fight is boxing's last hope at salvation. Pacquiao is already starting to become more lenient in terms of Mayweather's hardnosed request on drug testing throughout the boxers'

respective training periods. Floyd claims that he's all about money and fighting for that check - meeting Manny halfway would go a long way not only for the sport, but for Floyd's pockets as well. This fight has the potential to completely shatter the record for most Pay Per Views sold and will easily break the record for most fans in an arena for a boxing event.

- Hanley Ramirez has a lot of nerve. Ramirez is an amazing player, but his attitude is awful. Ramirez made an error in the field, lazily jogged toward the ball after accidentally kicking it, and then reamed his manager, Fredi Gonzalez, for benching him.

Not only did Ramirez call out the manager saying that he lost all respect for him, he also called out his teammates by saying "we got a lot of people dogging it after groundballs, they don't apologize." Hanley's a great player, but he has to start acting mature and taking the blame for his own actions.

- While watching golf (yes, I was that bored), an announcer actually asked Arnold Palmer if "going to the Kentucky Derby was on his bucket list." I don't need to say anything - the awkward silence that followed said it all.

- Finally, congratulations to all of the graduates. I wish you all the best of luck in

your future endeavors.

... I'm just sayin'

NBA Playoffs Mega Edition

BY DAVID GINSBERG
STAFF WRITER

- The Boston Celtics just crushed the Cleveland Cavaliers in a pivotal game 5 where LeBron James pulled a no-show. James' body language, post game speech ("when you have 3 bad games in 7 years, it's easy to point them out..."), and what just seemingly looked like a general lack of interest has the city of Cleveland in a potential code red meltdown state of mind. If the Cavs end up dropping this series to the Celtics, the chances that LeBron leaves Cleveland for New York (or possibly even Chicago) increase exponentially. LeBron will have his built-in excuse for wanting a new start because of the lack

of help he had in Cleveland. New York fans hardly ever root for Boston sports teams in any situation, however, you better believe that millions of Knicks fans are praying in unison that the Cavs get shellacked by the Celtics in game 6 on Thursday night. If they do, you can expect a Yankees-esque tickertape parade on Saturday. Even better news for Knicks fans is that even if Cleveland manages to win the last 2 games against Boston and they make it to the conference finals, the Magic have looked nearly unstoppable and they would probably be the favorite over the Cavs. If Cleveland doesn't make the finals - and right now that's looking like a real legit possibility - LeBron will feel that he has every right to leave Cleveland for greener

(\$) pastures. James has said that he wants to have his own billion dollar industry; he's clearly looking past just being a basketball player. New York is the biggest market and the perfect place for LeBron to come to in order for him to fulfill his goals of being more than just a basketball player. As interesting and groundbreaking as this upcoming free agency crop was going to be already, an early exit for the Cavs would make it infinitely more fascinating. By the way, if you don't think that the NBA is praying as much as Knick fans are that LeBron signs with New York, you're out of your mind. The best player in the biggest market means mega bucks for the NBA. Plus, if LeBron signs with New York, another big free agent (Wade, Bosh, Joe Johnson, Boozer, etc.) would be a lock to sign as well, along with a bunch of solid vets (Ray Allen, anyone?). The sky is the limit for the Knicks... it all hinges on 1 person though.

- The rest of the 2nd round playoff series have been surprisingly suspenseless (I believe I just created a new word). Aside from the Cavs-Celtics series, the other 3 series are all over and all resulted in 4-0 sweeps. The Orlando Magic plowed through the Atlanta Hawks, winning by an average of 25 points per game. Despite the Hawks' sub par play in their 7 game series against the Bucks in round 1, nobody could have saw this coming. Free agent to be Joe Johnson didn't do much in the series to help his cause. He all but disappeared and didn't have any type of impact in any game of the series. Then again, when your team loses by 43 points in game 1, maybe you come to the realization that you're just not going to win. For the Magic, Jameer Nelson is showing why he was

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BANNER SPORTS

The Road to Success?

BY MARISSA PESSOLANO
STAFF WRITER

As of May 1st, the New York Mets are in first place. Yes, I said the New York Mets. This comes as a shock due to last year's performance as well as a rocky April this season. Met fans have been shaking their heads, yelling at the television, and perhaps even flinging nearby items across the room in disgust for quite sometime. Right now the question at hand is, how did the Mets get to the top of the NL East, and how long will it last?

Opening day put smiles on Met fans faces as they defeated the Florida Marlins 7-1. This smile however, quickly faded as they lost the remainder of that series and proceeded to win only three of their next nine games. Perhaps this was because management sat on their hands during the off-season acquiring only left-fielder Jason

Bay, who has yet to prove himself. The Mets decided to stay with their same pitching rotation from last year and kept pretty much the same game plan.

After losing their fourth series to the St. Louis Cardinals, their only win coming after a grueling 20-inning game, first baseman Ike Davis was brought up from the minors. This came after Met fans were already desperate for his presence, especially after he was not included in the team's roster in early April. After this new addition, The Mets seemed to wake up with better pitching, bullpen efforts, and offense. Mike Pelfrey has greatly improved from last year, currently having a 4-1 record. He has also managed to keep his feet planted firmly on the mound, unlike last year when he fell off of it several times. He has also been successful despite the new rule in the MLB, that you cannot lick your

hands on the mound, something he routinely did. The rest of the starters and the bullpen have been mirroring Pelfrey's successful pitching as of late. Manager Jerry Manuel is also rather impressed by their performance as he was quoted saying, "Our [bullpen] guys have come in and done very well. They way we're going right now, I could probably go in the game and get a few outs."

The offense took a turn for the better when Davis became a part of the line-up and Jose Reyes was inserted into the 3rd spot. The reasoning behind this was to allow Reyes more opportunities to drive in runs instead of having him lead off with the bases empty. This move has proved to be effective thus far as the Mets won 9 out of their last 10 games after the switch. This equals the best homestand in franchise history. The two other times this occurred was in 1969, the year they went on to win the World Series, and in 1988, when they went to the NL Championship Series. It is still early in

the season, but if the Mets continue what they have going, perhaps tickets to their games will not be seen selling on Stub Hub for 99 cents, as they were last season.

The Mets' numbers after the homestand are impressive as they outscored their opponents by more than double, 48-23. In addition to this, their pitching staff recorded an ERA of 2.09 over the 10 games. Many however are criticizing the Mets' success, pointing out that they have defeated teams that aren't playing the best baseball- The Cubs, Braves, and Dodgers. Bay commented on these criticisms by saying, "To be 9-1, it doesn't matter who you're playing, that's pretty impressive..."

Whether it is luck or talent, the Mets' are sitting on the top of the National League East just above The Nationals, another shocking occurrence. All Met fans can do right now is hope that their team has finally gotten their act together and this is not a fluke giving them false expectations. Only time will tell.

NHL 2009-10 Playoffs

BY JAMES KINGSLEY
STAFF WRITER

As the old saying goes, two series down and two series to go. The Eastern Conference semi-finals match up between the 4th seeded defending Stanley Cup Champion Pittsburgh Penguins and the 8th seeded Montreal Canadiens is over. In the thrilling seven game series, the Canadiens pulled out another upset by beating the Penguins. The Canadiens have been quite the spunky team as of late, defeating perhaps two of the top teams in the Conference, especially since one was the defending champs. In a recap of how these two teams met in the semi-finals, is the downfall of the top seeded Presidents Trophy winning Washington Capitals, being defeated by 8th seeded Montreal in seven games. Then the 4th seeded Pens beat the 5th seeded Ottawa in six games, hence the Penguins loss to the "Habs," the Canadiens nickname. Now the surprising Canadians, with a never say die attitude, will battle the winner of the Boston Bruins-Philadelphia vs. Flyers semi-finals match-up in the Eastern Conference Finals. It's worth noting that this will be the first time since 1993 that the Canadians are in the East Finals when they won it all.

Going back, further into a major comeback in this era, the semi-final match-up between the 6th seeded Boston Bruins and the 7th seeded Philadelphia

Flyers has finally ended. In the East's 3rd seven game series when the Bruins, who led the series once upon a time 3-0, let it slip as the Flyers came back to win it. The part that makes this series extraordinary is that there have only been two other teams to have ever come back from a 3-0 deficit in history. The 1st team to accomplish this feat was the 1942 Toronto Maple Leafs and the 2nd team was the 1975 New York Islanders. To recap how both teams made it to the semi-finals, the 6th seeded Bruins defeated the 3rd seeded Buffalo Sabres in six games, while the 7th seeded Flyers downed the 2nd seeded New Jersey Devils in five. This years set up a unique Conference Finals match-up as the Flyers return to the East Finals for the first time since 2008, when they lost to the Penguins.

Out West is turning out to be a fantastic conference drama. The 1st seeded San Jose Sharks, long called the playoff chokers, are headed to the Western Conference Finals for the first time since 2004. The Sharks, downed the 5th seeded and defending conference champion, Detroit Red Wings, in a shocking five game series. The Wings had hoped to make it to the Cup Finals for the 3rd straight year much like the Penguins, but alas it just was not meant to be. However, this year marks the second straight year that the 3rd seeded Vancouver Canucks have been eliminated in six games by the 2nd seeded

Chicago Blackhawks, also marking the Hawks second trip to the West Finals. With both the Blackhawks and Sharks victories they will meet in the Western Conference Finals. To recap how they both made it this far, the 1st seeded Sharks defeated the 8th seeded Colorado Avalanche in a six game series while the 2nd seeded Blackhawks downed the 7th seeded Nashville Predators. This meanwhile marks one of the few times, but yet in this era that two of the original six teams are in their respective Conference Finals (Canadians vs. Flyers and Sharks vs. Blackhawks). Yet this also marks the defeat of two original six clubs, the Red Wings and the Bruins.

In my opinion as a hockey fan I truly would've loved to have seen a rematch in the Western Finals between the Blackhawks and Red Wings, and to see the Bruins vs. Canadians in the East Finals. Now only would it have been fun to watch, but to also see four teams of the original six playing each other, and then to have one play the other for the Stanley Cup. Alas it won't happen, although the two Conference Finals that we have now are going to be very entertaining. It'll be interesting to see what will prevail in the East Finals. Will it be the physicality and toughness of the Philadelphia Flyers or will it be the never say die attitude of the Montreal Canadiens as they try what was deemed impossible, making it the Stanley Cup Finals. Then out West, will the Sharks be the determined team that has been expected of them the last few years to

finally make it to the Stanley Cup Finals after years of choking, or will it be the Blackhawks looking to ride a relative unknown goaltender to the promised land for the first time since 1992.

Prediction time In the West the Blackhawks defeat the Sharks in a seven game series, to make it the Cup Finals. Out East the Canadians complete their improbable run to the Cup Finals by beating the Flyers in six games.

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