

THE BANNER

May 15, 2007

Welcome or Not, Here Comes Bloomberg

BY MICHAEL COHEN
STAFF WRITER

Michael Bloomberg's subway commute to City Hall has generated much talk among New Yorkers, but when he comes to speak at CSI's Commencement Ceremony on May 31, will the mayor have enough New York nerve to ride the SI Ferry?

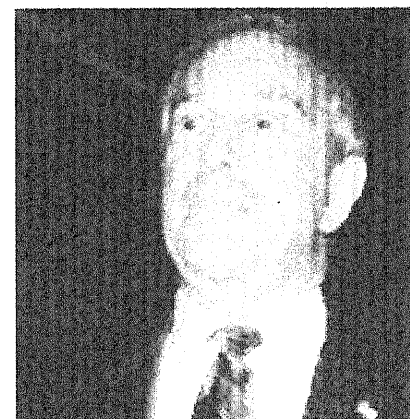
Will billionaire Bloomberg have enough gutter gall to use a Ferry bathroom? Nothing proves one's New York-ism more than urinating in a room that reeks of a cross between crack house and old folks home.

Thanks to the Mayor's initiatives, bathrooms in both the Manhattan and SI Ferry terminals have drastically improved. However, CSI maintains top-notch bathrooms.

This year's graduation will also be top notch as Mayor Bloomberg has the honor of giving the commencement speech.

"Traditionally, commencement speakers are selected by virtue of their achievements," said Bob Huber, CSI's director of marketing and public relations.

But no, the mayor won't ride the ferry. Men of his kind of prominence



can't waste million-dollar-minutes putting up with Staten Island's completely inadequate public transportation or its grimy bathrooms.

Mayor Bloomberg is an important figure in both political and business worlds and his personal philanthropy is

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Are They Made of Gold?

Proposed Housing Rent May Be Unaffordable

BY KEVIN S.P.MAMAKAS
CO-MANAGING EDITOR

Last Month, students were sent an online survey asking for their preferences concerning student housing at CSI. The survey is the second since September of 2004, when the investigation to see if the largest City College campus could be host to on-campus housing began.

The surveys revealed that each apartment could cost between \$2590 and \$4152 per month.

According to the surveys conducted by an outside consultant, Brailsford and Dunlay, "Rental rates are estimated in today's dollars for comparison purposes and will be adjusted for inflation when the units become available in Fall 2009."

The monthly rent for the three-bedroom apartment, which is the cheapest unit listed in the survey, is expected to range from \$813 to \$913 per person. Since one of the bedrooms is double occupancy, the apartment will cost up to \$3652 per apartment.

The most expensive apartment per student is listed in the survey as a two-bedroom single-occupancy apartment. The monthly rental rate is expected to range from \$1,195

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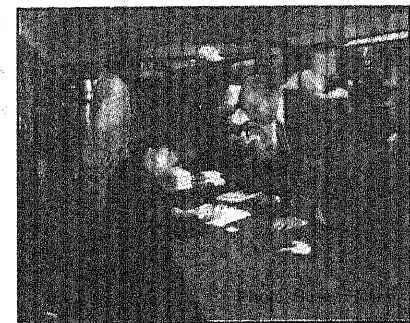
A Fifty-Year Old Secret

University Dean of the Macaulay Honors College Discusses Mother's Holocaust Story

BY STEFANIE PLUST
STAFF WRITER

After fifty years of silence Sala Garnarcz Kirschner gave her daughter, Dr. Ann Kirschner a box consisting of nearly 350 letters, photographs, and journal entries revealing her experiences in Nazi slave labor camps during WWII.

Sala hid these experiences from her children until 1991 when she was scheduled to have heart surgery. Through a fifteen year process of research and translation



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CSI Hosts Congressional Art Competition

BY ANNMAIRE COSTELLA
CO-MANAGING EDITOR

On April 30th the East Lounge of Building 1P was transformed into a mini gallery as CSI's Discovery Institute hosted The Congressional Art Competition for the third consecutive year. 26 high school students from Congressman Vito Fossella's district showcased their creative skill in an array of different mediums from oil paintings, watercolors, and pastels to photographic and computer generated images. The winning submissions from each of the 435 different congressional districts are displayed in the Capital building for one year.

"I know year after year Congressman Fossella is impressed with the quality of the work in this competition," said Mike Spencer, a



staff assistant from Fossella's office. "It is always very difficult to pick a winner."

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At the Drive-In

BY DARREN WEBER
CONTRIBUTOR

A giant widescreen illuminated a good portion of the drab Staten Island Ferry parking lot as the north shore of Staten Island housed a drive-in movie location for the month of May. Thousands of Islanders turned out to attend the unusual weekend fundraiser.

"When I think of drive-in movies, I think of heavy make-out

sessions and old cars," said Luli Kacaj, a CSI sophomore. "If I go to a movie, I want to actually watch the movie rather than be distracted by sounds of people and major groping."

Many students, especially ones in their late teens, usually go bar hopping near the Bay street area.



For those who can think outside the bottle, the St. George ferry parking can facilitate their enjoyment of classic movies.

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ADP The American Democracy Project

Bratz Breed Evil

JonAlex Asperti

On May 4th a Los Angeles judge sentenced Paris Hilton to 45 days in jail for driving on a suspended license. The popular socialite had her license suspended last year for driving under the influence. Sadly the media coverage of Ms. Hilton's latest social blunder is exaggerated beyond reason and further submits American society to the bad behavior of the female entertainment community.

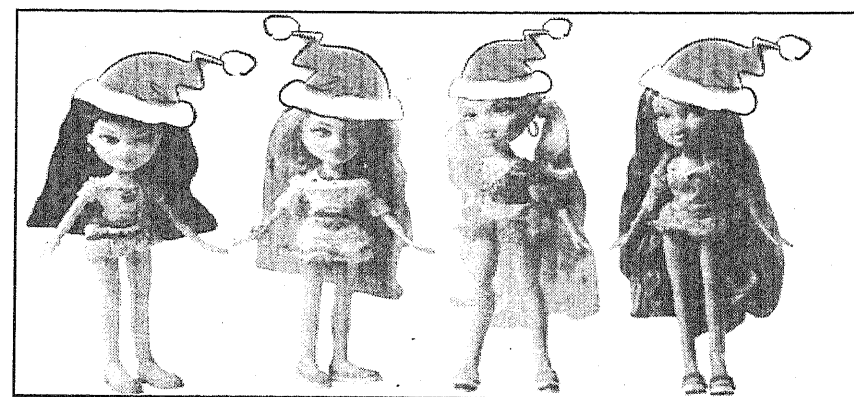
Prior to Ms. Hilton's latest media spectacle was the over-dramatized custody battle over Anna Nicole Smith's baby and the investigation of her untimely death.

As time progresses, it is inevitable that the public will feed on the humility of these entertainment vikens, but, in the same instance, the public is becoming dangerously close to mirroring humiliating acts outlined by pop-divas in tabloids.

Most in danger of following the negative example of these women is the female "teen" market. Defined as girls from the 8-13 age group, tweens are highly impressionable and contribute to one of the largest markets of consumers. The 8-13 grouping represents a crucial point in both the mental and physical growing stages of an individual. The tween years are crucial to the development of a person who is endangered by the vicious advertising. A specific role model usually presents a significantly older image than the one of the actual targeted group. Likewise, it instigates pressure for children to 'grow up' much faster than they

normally would.

Questionable idols such as Britney Spears, Lindsay Lohan, Hilary Duff, and Paris Hilton are representations at the figurehead of female tween self-image. Each making tabloid covers for committing socially negative acts, the list includes everything from allegations of anorexia to drug abuse; and finally, to become



ing established as a prominent sex symbol overnight via "1 Night in Paris." Paris Hilton's raunchy sex tape was conveniently leaked right before the debut of her reality show "The Simple Life," launching her into stardom overnight."

If harmful symbols of female self-image are perpetuated to tweens as they struggle to establish their own unique identity, is it unfair to assume that many young girls may start emulating the negative acts that American media has become so enthralled with? By continuing

the irresponsible habit of giving attention to unconstructive acts performed by women such as Britney Spears and Paris Hilton, society creates the perpetuation that by doing the wrong thing, one can bring attention to oneself. By dressing and acting provocatively, many young girls use their body as a vehicle of their femininity, when in reality, they only further contribute to a mass-marketed negative image for women.

The sexism of girls is beginning from an increasingly younger and younger age. Even

designed specifically for 4- to 8-year-olds are associated with an objectified adult sexuality."

Assuming that the next generation of females is doomed to copy their pop-diva idols, how can society preclude its own demise?

Britney Spears would not be a better female role model to an over-sexified generation. Initially a young virgin, who shocked society by debuting with simple sexual innuendos, Ms. Spears functioned as a Madonna for a new generation. "Hit me Baby One More Time, Oops, I Did it Again," etc." Eventually, after several years of shocking the world with numerous publicity stunts involving the removal of clothes only to reveal skimpier ones underneath, the lifestyle of this pop-diva is short lived and is burning out as she struggles while fighting off ex-husband Kevin Federline's child custody claims and visits a wide array of rehabilitation clinics.

Though, of course, this demise does not lie in wait for all, many girls have a well-established sense-of-self created from a balanced influence of friends, family, and community. The balance becomes tipped once those major benefactors in the development of children are replaced by elements such as Paris Hilton. Although negativity will always remain prevalent in the entertainment media, it is simpler for young girls to establish their self-image from role models that run on TV. Major multi-million dollar ad agencies are attempting to program a new generation of female consumers dictated by sex, but even the best marketing campaigns are no match for a young girl who chooses to look to a well-educated and respected female to help define her budding self-image.

the unrealistic physical proportions of Barbie have become discarded as Bratz Dolls skyrocketed in popularity because of their exotic body types that emphasize large lips and eyes. The incredible popularity of the dolls alerted members of The American Psychological Association which claims: "Bratz dolls come dressed in sexualized clothing such as miniskirts, fishnet stockings, and feather boas. Although these dolls may present no more sexualization of girls or women than is seen in MTV videos, it is worrisome when dolls

Iraq War Breeds Hatred

Houda Ghadban

As the Iraq war wages on, the negative perception of Arab-Muslims increases. Students within the CSI community have mixed views about the war in Iraq and Arab-Muslims as well. Many students are actually intellectual and understand the underlying motives behind the War on Iraq.

President Bush uses the Iraq War as a gateway into the Middle East in order to gain control of the oil while he has played on the emotions of the American people, trying to feed them lies and fabricated stories about Arab-Muslims to justify the U.S. military presence in Iraq. As naive as some people are, they actually believe these fabrications; and therefore, learn to associate terrorism with Arab-Muslims.

Arab-Muslims are not terrorists. This stereotype has been the cause for discrimination and racism towards a people who have neither wronged nor attempted to harm anyone. It needs to be erased from the mind of every human being.

Since Bush will unlikely come to his senses and drop his hateful propaganda, the American people should be those who make the effort and discover the truth

about Arab-Muslim culture and religion. The twisted perception of Arab-Muslims is guaranteed to change once the Americans find out more information on the origins and traditions of Arab-Muslim culture. People won't fear what they know.



Banner/ADP Op-Ed

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KEVIN S.P. MAMAKAS
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HOUDA GHADAN
MOHAMMAD HAMAD
DARREN WEBER

FACULTY ADVISER

FREDERICK KAUFMAN

Bloomberg

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extraordinary," Huber stated.

Bloomberg coming to CSI will also help the college get the publicity it deserves. "Wherever the mayor goes the media goes," said Arishna (AJ) Ramphal, student government president. "And I like the guy," AJ admitted.

Though AJ claims to "like" Bloomberg, he also expressed that he felt that the mayor could have "lobbied more for CUNY."

Huber disagrees. "Mayor Bloomberg has been a good friend to the City University and Staten Island," he claimed.

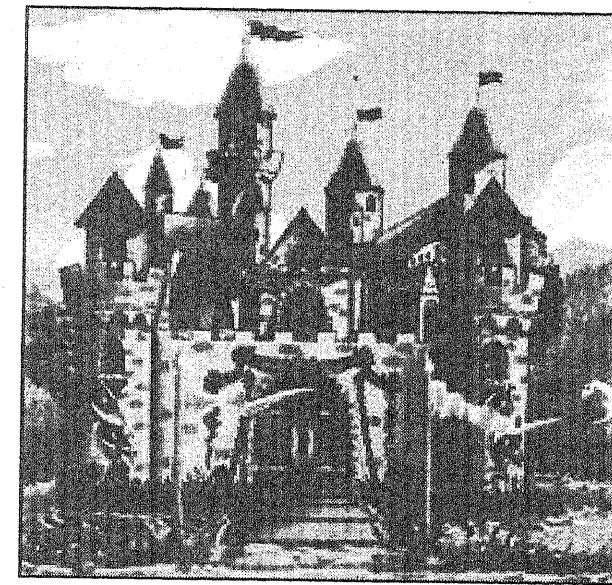
But not everyone will "like" Mayor Bloomberg or even agree with what he says during his commencement speech. Two years ago a near riot erupted when author Erica Jong dragged her commencement speech for over an hour. Jong endured boos and venomous outbursts from the enraged crowd. Due to Jong's virtual irrelevance in American society, the incident was not widely publicized, except on Staten Island.

The media tends to avoid CSI like civilized people avoid ferry boat bathrooms. With all the cameras that follow Mayor Bloomberg, another Jong-like incident has potential to ruin CSI's image in the public's view.

If the mayor can maintain his top-notch bowel control for the twenty minute boat ride and bumpy S62 trip to the campus, then he can enjoy the odorless bathrooms in the Campus Center. If he uses the lower level bathroom and the first stall on his right he can even get the random phone number scribbled on the wall beneath the caption that reads, "Lookin for a Bird."

Housing

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Students refuse to pay for on campus housing unless it looks like the castle above. Photo: Google Images.

and \$1,295 per student for a maximum total of \$2590 per apartment; however, the most expensive apartments, a three or four-bedroom single occupancy apartment, will be between \$938 and \$1,038 per person for a maximum total of \$4152.

The apartment prices jumped from \$545 per person/per month since the 2004 survey.

"You can get an apartment in Manhattan for the amount of money they are asking for," said student Brian Gonzalez.

Students are concerned that the apartments will not be worth the money, even if they are located on campus. The students who can afford the apartments will be able to afford an apartment anywhere else

on the island and anywhere in the five boroughs. People who need the apartments will be in the same situation as they are in now, living with parents or working a second job just to pay for the housing.

Vice President for Student Affairs Carol Jackson said, "We hope to provide quality housing that will help attract and retain good students and be an important asset in CSI's overall quality of life."

As The Banner reported in 2004, on-campus housing could bring about other changes for the better. The campus, including the CSI library, could be opened for longer hours. Longer hours of operation could increase the chances of real parties on campus, instead of the ones that currently happen which only collect an attendance of 20 people.

The rent includes electric allowances, Internet, basic cable, local phone, water/sewer, and trash removal; however, students believe it does not justify the high prices of the apartments.

"Are the apartments made of gold," asked student Ashley Hurwitz.

Movies

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"Well, at least you won't find little 14-year-olds going to a drive-in with mommy and daddy," said CSI Sophomore, Fran Parasole. "You will find the older crowd there, kids who'll probably stuff their trunks with...well, you could fill in that blank."

Dance Central New York, a group of professional dancers, performed before the showing of "Saturday Night Fever" on Saturday May 5th to warm a crowd clothed in comfortable sweats. The same type of pre-show entertainment will take place prior to the viewing of "Grease" next weekend.

Radio stations KTU and Jack FM became involved, as well, and KTU arrived at the movie site last week for a radio show called "Beat on the Street."



A family of four enjoys each other's company as they lounge in their car, comfortably watching Happy Feet. Photo: www.fineartfotos.com.

The Downtown Staten Island Council, a non-profit community and commercial development group, hosts the drive-in and hopes it add flavor to the borough.

"This event is successful every time we do it," said David Schwartz, Membership Director for the council. "We're here to revital-

ize the entire Bay Street corridor," added Schwartz. "We're the lead organization for the Renaissance of this downtown area and this event is one of those cool, fun things to do if you're going to have a Renaissance."



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EDITOR'S NOTE: A FINAL FAREWELL

At the end of my first day of Intro to Journalism I was in pain. Knots and numbness plagued every joint and muscle below my waist, but I wasn't alone. The rest of the class suffered too, as would anyone who sat Indian-style for two hours on a stage. I don't know if Professor Kaufman thought immediate torture was a good idea, but Dead Poets Society it was not. Strangely enough, my interest in journalism flourished.

That very semester, my first article ran in the Banner. It was not glamorous nor important, but I guess space needed to be filled. As with anyone who has ever seen their name in print, I was excited. However, despite the shared byline, I refused to break the typical apathetic CSI student shell, thus preventing any sort of commitment to the Banner. One year later and one budding friendship with then comics editor, Enrique Inocent, I joined. Somehow during the countless Student Government articles and other miscellaneous articles, I proved myself worthy of running this paper. And somehow, the Banner became more than a student publication to me.

I am supposed to reflect on my

time spent in this office, but it is hard. I can't help but to stare blankly at my screen as the cursor awaits my next thought. Space is limited, and I would probably write for days. But what's an editor to do during her final days? Write from the heart. It's not a gender issue, but the truth.

For the few who were crazy enough to last more than one year, we created a second home, but more importantly, we became a family. We fought, hugged, smack-talked each other, made inappropriate comments, and even played dodge ball in the office. It was a "Banner thing." We dedicated every other Friday night to putting the issue to bed. By the time 10:30pm crept up, we hated each other but couldn't wait to do it all over again. With our apathy gone, we became part of CSI. We did not give in, but we embraced.

The dedication shown by staff members of the past, and especially those now, built a newspaper where CSI mattered. Whether it was positive or negative, it was written about and published. There was, and still is, a desire to write about CSI. Believe it or not, a lot goes on at this college. This year alone the Banner published arti-

cles about cafeteria health violations, vending machine break-ins, the library sewage leaks, and WSIA's license renewal. But these articles would have never come to be without the best staff any college editor could ask for. Without Kevin S.P. Mamakas, the Banner would still have soiled sofas, zero promotional items, and endless print days without food. Nicole Bonelli's sex column exceeded all expectations, and Lucie Lauria (next year's editor-in-chief) didn't have to write every ADP article, although she wrote most of them. You couldn't pick up an issue without seeing at least two articles from AnnMarie Costella, and Jennifer Miller expanded the sports page to a sports section. Then there is the Banner's estranged brain-child, Enrique Inocent. If there's anyone who should be thanked the most, it's Enrique. He has been with the Banner for an incredible five years, and even though he quit at least once a month in the past two years (yes, he loves attention), this publication would not be what it is without him. From absolutely insane comics to awesome layouts to The Beacon, Enrique is irreplaceable.

The Banner isn't complete without

our very own, great and powerful Oz: Professor Fred Kaufman. If I had a hard time reflecting on my time spent at the paper then I might as well stop right here, but I won't. I learned a tremendous amount about journalism and what it means to be an editor from Kaufman. At least I hope I learned something or else those five journalism classes were a waste. Just kidding. I always took everything Kaufman said to heart. Why? As much as I hate to admit this, he was usually right (roughly 98% of the time) and he knew it. So in return, I'll plug his forthcoming book *A Short History of the American Stomach* available for your reading pleasure on February 4, 2008. Pre-order your copy on Amazon!

For those who know me, I can not go one day without making some sort of Bono/U2 reference. What can I say? I am not ashamed. So, I figured it would be fitting if I end with few simple words Bono uttered ten years ago: "I like the high life, I like the low life. It's just the bit in between I find boring." And the Banner was anything but that bit in between.

Melissa Seecharan

Holocaust Letters

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Dr Kirschner went public with the letters. "I felt like I was given the keys to a detective story that I was uniquely born to write," said Kirschner.

The letters first appeared in library exhibitions and have recently been collaborated into a book which expresses both Sala's war experiences as well as Dr Kirschner's experiences through the course of learning about them.

Kirschner's mother spent five years in seven different slave labor camps. Her efforts as a seamstress became her means for survival. When the Germans invaded, Sala and her family were living in Sosnowiec, Poland (an industrialized city in western Poland). Soon after the German occupation, western Poland was annexed and it became part of the Third Reich. These circumstances enabled many Jews to work in slave labor camps where some of which could receive mail. The governor of Sosnowiec, Moses Marin thought that by participating in the slave market more Jews would survive. Consequently, out of the 30,000 Jews that lived in Sosnowiec, fewer than 1,000 survived; this was still, however, a high survival rate.

Sala chose to go to a slave labor camp in place of her older sister Raizel. She believed that she would be able to bare the circumstances better than her sister

could. "Remember me but do not pity me, I got what I wanted— god help me," said Dr Kirschner while reading an excerpt from her mother's diary on that very day. Sala left at age 16 in 1940 believing that she would only be gone for six weeks. Six weeks turned into five years and although prohibited, Sala managed to keep letters of correspondence throughout this time period. "My mother saving the letters was her act of resistance," said Dr. Kirschner.

Sala's parents were killed in Auschwitz but her sisters survived. They were living in Sweden and Sala in Ansbach after the liberation in 1945. They reunited through letters and one letter in particular written to Sala from Raizel is now traditionally read at the Passover cedar in Dr. Kirschner's family. "Their finding each other is our family's true story of enslavement and liberation," said Dr. Kirschner.

"Silence may have saved some people. When you let something like that out, what do you do with it," said English Professor Maryann Feola during a lunch after the lecture. Some survivors speak of their experiences while others don't, each having their own method of continuing their survival. "My mother sees me as a historical agent and she's the vessel," said Dr. Kirschner.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: VA Tech Shooting

CSI did a fabulous job holding a ceremony for the lives lost on that gruesome April morning at VA Tech. It's good to know that our college cares and respects events that hit hard, even when its not home.

Thomas Bello

My heart goes out to all the victim's families. It is a scary thing to know that something as horrific as this can happen where students are supposed to feel safe. Every precaution should be taken to ensure that this never happens again.

Houda Ghabdan

My main question for Virginia Tech is: Why were classes being held two hours after someone was shot on campus? Did they really think that an e-mail was the most efficient way to notify students of an emergency?

Toniann Ferrara

I really like the photo spread created for the VT vigil. It is the first time I've ever seen the photo spread pages used for a "good" reason. I think it is important for everyone to be involved and to remember what happened. It can happen anywhere and we all hold the good people who died for no reason in our hearts. If we can keep reminding each other what has happened in the past, maybe history will stop repeating itself.

Katie LoGatto

I like that CSI held a memorial for the victims at Virginia Tech, I just wish there was more notification. I would have liked to attend the memorial. It showed that the school does care about students and their safety. I enjoyed this article because it reassures me that I am safe while pursuing my education, because loud bangs, especially cars backfiring, still give me the chills.

Amanda Erichsen

We need to stop harassing the Public Safety Officers. They are not only a "deterrent." This school is mostly safe and the reason you don't see their actions is because they do a good enough job already. If this were a "bad" school, I'm sure they would be regularly seen swinging their batons and dragging both students and faculty around in handcuffs.

Stasiu Tyburski

Whenever a tragic event, such as what happened April 16 at Virginia Tech occurs, it leaves students across the country feeling a bit uneasy. We often take things for granted, like feeling safe when we may in fact be in danger. It is a shame that Virginia Tech wasn't more prepared for such an event, my heart goes out to those at VT. I am glad, however, to see that CSI has assessed our own safety situation to prepare for such unforeseen events.

Alex Porto

I am thoroughly convinced that the shoot-

ings at Virginia Tech could have been avoided if students were allowed to carry weapons. If there had been just one person who was armed, they might have been able to stop Cho before he killed 33 people. If only psychos and the police carry guns, what are you going to do when you encounter a psycho and there are no police around? Allow yourself to be slaughtered like an animal?

Modelle Smith

This is a very interesting article. I agree that the security staff should be more noticed or seen. The public safety are a little too relaxed and unprofessional. If something like what happened at Virginia Tech happened here, it probably would take longer to get things under control. I think it is disgustingly horrible what took place with the Spanish professor.

Paul Sorr

People need to realize that School Safety doesn't mean, "I have a gun and I'm trained to use it." These officers are here to keep the campus safe to a certain extent, not as armed militia men! In Virginia, instead of pushing buttons on a keyboard to send out emails, they should have pushed the buttons 9-1-1.

Sunny Tate

What is described as one of the worst massacres in US history has sent shockwaves not just around the USA, but around the globe. Along with the CSI community, millions of colleges around the globe have paid their respects to the 33 lives lost. It is nice to see that there was a memorial service held by the CSI community. As Bonelli said, it allows us to reflect both on the tragic events, and on our lives.

Dhanish John Babu

It feels safe to know that the college has reviewed their crisis plan, but does it really take something so extreme as the Virginia Tech massacre to do so? These precautions should be a monthly routine in all schools worldwide.

Stephanie Palmeri

I thought that the contents of this article were informative and well written. However, there were a score of grammatical mistakes and discontinuities with both dates and structural errors. Whoever does the layout or copy-editing needs to be more meticulous or supervised. Otherwise, I enjoyed the article.

Ron Levy

The Virginia Tech Shooting was the ultimate nightmare of what is capable of happening on a college campus. The frightening part, is that these situations are totally unpredictable and unavoidable. There are no fingers to point, no one to blame for this tragedy. Public Safety and school officials at CSI and other campuses do what they can to

keep our campus safe. Sometimes this involves meeting students at night to walk them to their cars. We are grateful for that. My heart goes out to those who's hearts have been tarnished by this event.

Victoria Vaizburd

Re: Bloomberg Officially Confirmed

I am not sure how the choice is usually made, but I do think CSI officials should have consulted students before deciding who is going to speak at their graduation. I certainly don't want someone like Bloomberg to speak at my graduation. This is the Mayor who seems to care less about school tuition hikes.

Abdulaiia Bah

What will Mayor Bloomberg say? Hopefully he'll give a speech about honesty and trust to all the soon-to-be alumni. I hope he puts his money where his mouth is and donates funds to CSI.

Kelmonie Simon

I just hope that Bloomberg is not as long winded as he is deep pocketed.

Sunny Tate

Mayor Bloomberg making this year's commencement speech makes me happy that I am not graduating this year. With the high level of security that accompanies our mayor the graduation ceremony will probably look like a prison transfer. The amount of media should also the will be fun.

Donald Vroomer

I think Nicole's article is so true. I think everybody has encountered a Mr. Asshole and Mr. Sensitive. Women always say they want a sensitive guy, but when we get them; we say they are annoying or too nice. People always want what they can't have. I think that is what makes life a little more interesting. Remember don't make anybody your number one! You are your number one! I think men and women are equal when it comes to relationships.

Cristina Moccia

Re: Would you like a side of commitment with that order of "special sauce?"

I like your analysis on men. You educated women on the different types of men out there by using humor. I have dealt with commitment problems myself and lost my best friend because of it. Keep giving good advice.

Jackie Raco

Guys have it way too easy, that's why the idea of commitment seems absurd. Maybe, we women are to for blame making things too easy. I think we're losing idea of tradition and the idea marriage is slowly fading

Jihane Tamri

Re: Injury Bug Slows Dolphin

It has been a tough year for the men's

baseball team. They have had a deal with injuries and their pitching has struggled as well. I think because of their remaining schedule they will be able to get into the CUNY Tournament. Also, they are feeling very confident. Also I was broadcasting the game on WSIA Wednesday night here at CSI on Breast Cancer Awareness Night and the night was a huge success. They raised the most money they ever have. The last total I heard was \$4,900. Good job by everyone who participates.

Anthony Pierno

I was pleased to see this feature in the Banner because now with the help of the Banner more people will attend the event and help support a great cause. We really could use as much help as possible to raise money.

Mohammad Hamad

Re: Avril sells out and scores big
Avril Lavigne is a talentless hack that died her hair blonde to sell records. To say that she has gone pop is to defend that her first album wasn't? The cookie cutter pop crap will ruin her like it does to all the talentless stars. I wonder what she'll look like bald.

Kevin Brody

You pretty much hit this one on the head. It was time for a change with young Avril. The girl obviously had too many issues and its good to see her having better days. It reflects in her music. Girlfriend is such a pop hit, but pop music is usually not too deep. You still miss her old line since she was so good at it but at some point in your career you need to change. Its good to see artist finally realizing that. Now only if 50 cent could stop rapping about guns he doesn't have and hoods he doesn't live in, then the music industry would be a much better place.

Vincent Funaro

Re: Deep Depp, Shallow At Best
I feel that getting into Johnny Depp is indeed a hard task. His look is different every time you look at him and I think he intends it that way. Good actors shouldn't reveal their secrets but rather masquerade as various characters to upkeep their entertainment abilities. Depp does such a thing and I respect him as a phenomenal actor.

Darren Weber

Come on, you know you want to be like Johnny Depp. A total hottie, mysterious and of course lives in France. I don't know any woman that will resist him. That guy just wants to sell books, I wonder if he has ever met Mr. Depp, what a way to make a living. I'd rather watch Depp be "Chocolat" two hundred times then read Pomerance's book once.

Jihane Tamri

WTF?!

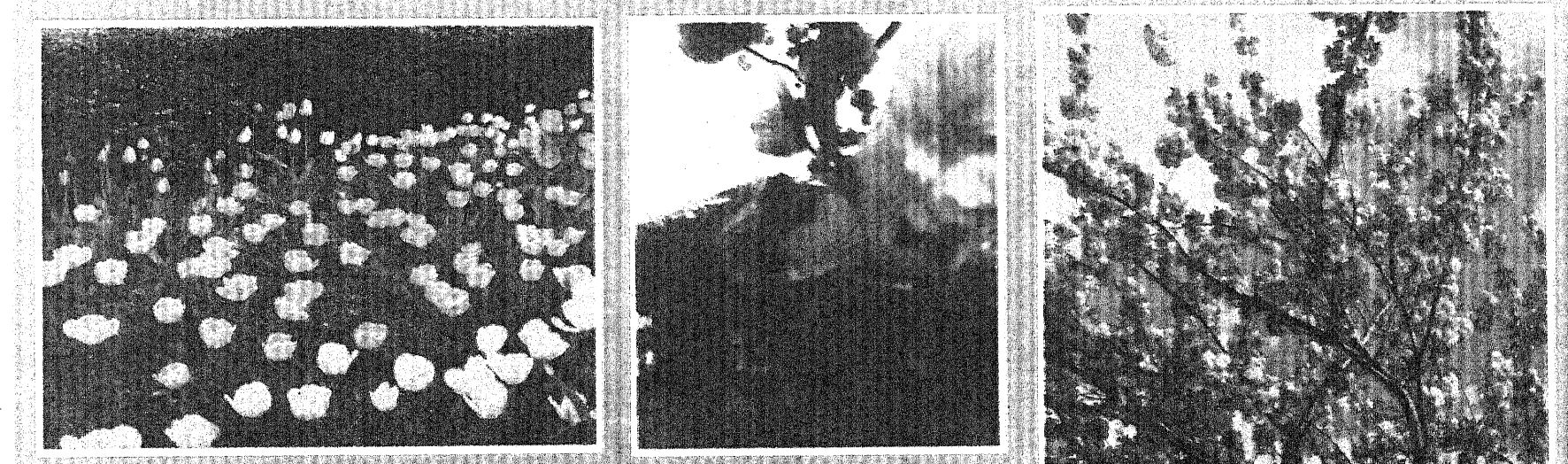
By Enrique Inocente

CSI: ADVENTURES

Part 5

CSI: ADVENTURES

Part 6



Brooklyn's Cherry Blossom Festival



The Beacon: Special Brief Edition

Bono On Personal Quest to Save African Bees

Beacon Exploitation Watch

The abrupt disappearance of the bees - which started in the US, then spread to continental Europe - has now struck Africa. As such, Bono has made it a cause to not only save the African people, but the African bees as well.

"This is the tipping point for African bees," said Bono, real name Paul David Hewson, at a news conference. "The African bees suffer from hunger, poverty and AIDS."

According to overblown statistics, every eight seconds an African bee dies from some bullshit. "It's up to the whole damn planet to come to their aid. I mean, where



will we get our bloody honey if they're all wiped out. Bono is the great white hope for African Bees and has made it his

see **BONO**, page 4



Tyra Banks Voted Most Annoying Fat Cow of the Year

"Mooo! So what?!" says Tyra Banks

FATTY, page 6E



True Life: I Got a Degree From CSI...

"And, baby, look at me now." Television, page 2B

Bumble Bee Man's Riveting Opinion On President Bush's Immigration Reform

Beacon Op-Ed

Ay, ay, ay!
No es bueno!



The Beacon Book Review

By Adolph Ochs
with additional reporting by Lincoln Steffens and some more reporting by Gay Talese

If you're into books with an uneasy mix of satire and poorly integrated literary themes then you can do no

better than *69 Days and Nights in Landro's Anus* by Freedick Mankauf. (Don't take the title literally because it's got a deep meaning. Think *Catcher in the Rye*, only not as clever). Yeah, the title is pretty bloated, but it fits the book well because the story itself is pretty bloated. Don't get me wrong, it's an alright read. *69 Days* is sort of like *Dead Poets Society* but instead of Robin Williams, we get a misogynis-

tic Spanish teacher named Landro. And instead of New England prep school kids, we get rich white Californian teens being guided around Spain by said Spanish teacher. And instead of deep, profound conversations about poetry that ties into the characters' developments, we get Landro and his students sitting around most of the time, eating and drinking in public, and conversing with the opposite sex. So, in essence, *69 Days* is nothing like *Dead Poets Society*, but you know the author wants it to be just as important.

If you're an Ernest Hemmingway fan, then you will be

immediately stricken by how much the author tries to imitate his distinctive writing style. The only thing is, Hemmingway knew what the hell he was doing. The legendary author's use of understatement filled with insightful meaning is poorly integrated here. Mankauf's Hemingway-esque writing style just makes the book read hollow and emotionless. Even incidents that should be exciting, such as the boys banging prostitutes, smoking hashish, and Landro being raped by a transvestite, is written in such a matter-of-fact manner that it's almost like reading the ingredient label on a bag of Doritos.

The Banner Family Album



Nicole Bonelli
Future Guest On Maury
"I tested 23 before you and I know you're the daddy."



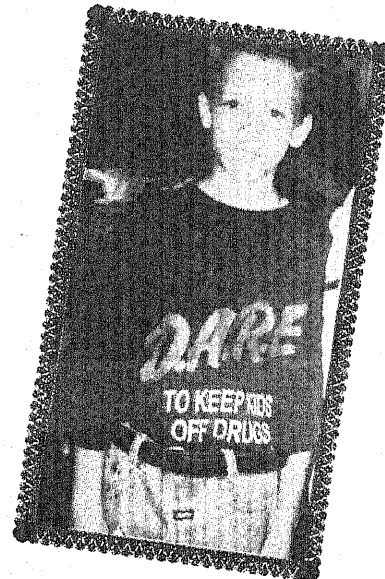
Michael Cohen
Future Prime Minister of Israel.
"Smoke it up."



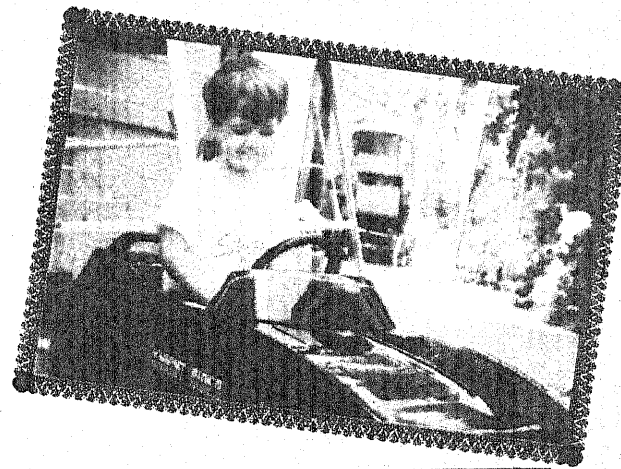
Enrique Inocente
Future Recluse
"Leave me alone."



AnnMarie Costella
Future Editor-in-Chief of *The Bay News*.
"Stop staring at my boobs!"



Kevin S.P. Mamakas
Future Charlie Brown
"Good grief!"



Dominic Fiduccia
Future Knight Rider.
"Team a go-go!"



Lucie Lauria
Once and Future Wife of Ed Lauria
"Chavez is dreamy."



Melissa Secharan
Future Trophy Wife.
"I'm in it for the money, honey."



Frederick Kaufman
Future *New York Times* Best-Seller
"I'm special, and, gosh darn it, people like me."

New on DVD: Documentary Revisits Jonestown Massacre

BY ANNMARIE COSTELLA
CO-MANAGING EDITOR

Nearly thirty years after the mass suicide in Jonestown, Guyana, where 909 members of the Peoples Temple drank cyanide spiked Kool-Aid at the request of their pastor Jim Jones, comes a new and powerful documentary from Director, Stanley Nelson. "Jonestown: The Life and Death of the People's Temple" follows the destructive journey of Jim Jones as he brain washes his followers with paranoid propaganda, forbids them to speak to one another, and convinces them that it is blasphemy to consider leaving him or the church.

"I think everything I tell you about Jim Jones is going to be a paradox," said his adopted son, Jim Jones Jr. "He had this vision to change the world, but he also had this undercurrent of dysfunction just beneath that vision."

The documentary is narrated entirely by former Peoples Temple members, many of whom lost their entire families in Jonestown. Hearing their voices made the film all the more chilling and powerful.

The documentary is broken up into four major sections. Here is a brief look at each piece of the puzzle:

Indiana 1931 - 1965

Jones grew up poor in the small town of Lynn, Indiana. His father was an unemployed alcoholic and his mother struggled to support the family. Jones was a strange child who used to conduct funerals for animals that had died. "He was obsessed with religion," said childhood friend, Chuck Wilmore. "He was obsessed with death."

Jones embraced the love and sense of community he felt at church. He decided to become a preacher. Jones implemented the revolutionary idea of having an interracial congregation.

Ukiah 1965 - 1974

Jones moved his congregation to California where they began a farming community in Redwood Valley. They grew crops and worked the land. Jones boasted with great pleasure that his community took people from all races and economic classes and brought them together. Every summer, Jones would take his congregation on a cross country tour spreading his message.

San Francisco 1974 - 1977

Jones wanted to gain more followers so he uprooted his congregation once again and moved them to San Francisco. At the same time, he was taking more and more drugs and becoming increasingly paranoid. He constantly told his followers

that outside forces (i.e. the government) were trying to destroy them. Jones bought land in the jungles of Guyana and had houses built. He intended it to be a utopia where his followers could live free from the oppression of the United States.

Jonestown 1977 - 1978

Several Peoples Temple members, who had left the church, decided to speak to the press about Jones and his abuse. Hours before the article was released, Jones moved his followers to Guyana. Relatives of Peoples Temple members wrote concerned letters to their local politicians which prompted an investigation into

Jonestown. When

Congressman, Leo Ryan, and his staff arrived in Guyana, everything appeared normal,

but soon he

was being hand notes that read "Help us get out of Jonestown." Once word got out that people trying to

leave, Jones gave

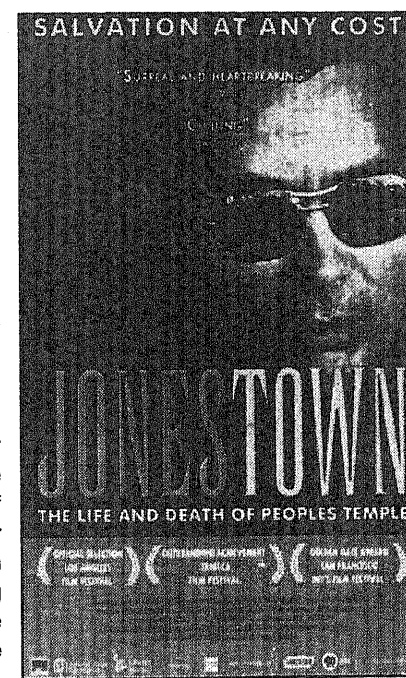
the order for his followers to drink poison laced punch. Children and infants had syringes of the cyanide injected into their mouths. Anyone who refused to kill themselves was shot. "On the night of the

17th it was still a vibrant community," said Jackie Speier, an aid to Congressman, Leo Ryan. "I would never have imagined that 24 hours later, they would all be dead."

The DVD contains a lot of wonderful bonus footage and material. The most revealing and interesting interview is with Rebecca Moore whose sisters Annie and Cayolyn were advisors to Jim Jones. "Of course, I don't want to believe that Annie was forcing people to take poison, but we have to remember that somebody planned this," she indicated. "Somebody ordered the poison. Somebody shipped it. Somebody stored it. Somebody mixed it up. Those people weren't Jim Jones. Those were people in Jonestown and I have to believe that my sisters were a part of that. They knew what the plan was and they helped implement the plan. So maybe its poetic justice that they died as well."

"Jonestown: The Life and Death of the People's Temple" is creepy, morbid, and fascinating. Its only flaw is that it leaves many unanswered questions like: What does Jonestown look like today? What happened to the rest of Jim Jones' children? and How did the members who escaped into the jungle survive? All in all it's a pretty good film.

Grade: B+



Playoffs and Finals

-continued from pg 12-

student who is not even a sports fan to be distracted by the professional sporting events coming up. Some students like to go out and have a good time with friends when a big game is on. A sports fan is going to go out and watch the game at a bar or any place with people and it is hard to turn down such an exciting time. When the Rangers won the Stanley Cup in 1994, it was the biggest bar day in New York City history.

Some students on the other hand could care less about either sport and would rather do well on their finals. They would sacrifice going out with their friends and possibly missing a great playoff moment so their education does not suffer.

"I like to hang out with my friends but I will not sacrifice a good grade to watch overpaid athletes," Frank Galati, a CSI student, said. "I get some pressure from my friends to go out with them and watch a game on a weeknight and I will if I do not have any work to do, but this time of the year it does not happen so often."

With technology today it is easy for students to be distracted even while in the classroom. Some cellular phones now have every minute updates of scores and highlights. It is no wonder why some students have trouble paying attention not only during finals time but also throughout the entire semester.

The NBA and NHL playoffs are not just one day but an event that lasts for almost two months. Like it or not it affects most students during their ride to the end of the semester. There is a chance of seeing something great during a game, whether it is the game itself or a special moment during the game. For some it is hard to risk the chance of missing it and having to stay up all night watching Sports Center just to catch the whole thing.

Preparing for final assignments and exams is hard enough and it should be taken seriously. Just make sure you get your studying and work done before the game comes on.

"I usually have to work right after class," Bongorni said. "When I get out of work the games are usually on and if I have the choice of going home and studying or going after the game."

Art Show

-continued from pg 1-

Frank Curran, a 17-year-old student from New Dorp High School, beamed with pride as he accepted the 1st place engraved plaque for his drawing entitled "Baby Face." The portrait of an African American woman, which captured with great detail, the emotion and innocence of its subject, took over 15 hours to complete. "It was my first charcoal drawing," said Curran. "It was new medium for me and I had some difficulties. It took long time but I didn't rush."

The judges included CSI art professors, the Director of CSI's Gallery, Craig Manister, staff members from the Discovery Institute, and representatives from Congressman Fossella's office. Each of the pieces were examined for clarity, creativity, and the ability to demonstrate the presence of an artistic journey.

Elizabeth Granatelli, an art teacher from Petrides High School, was pleased that five of her students participated, even though none of them won. "Art is about problem solving, risk taking, and the process of getting to the end result," she said. "I try to encourage my students to stay on the path and they will be happy with the results when they're finished."

All of the high schools in the Congressman's district were invited to participate in the competition, however only Port Richmond High School, Susan Wagner High School, Petrides High School, New Dorp High School, and McKee Technical High School submitted entries.



Tracey Jones, an Assistant Professor of Painting, in the Performing and Creative Arts Department, felt honored to be asked to judge the competition and hopes that it will encourage more CSI students to become interested in art. "It would be a terrible world if people stopped making art," she said. "We really need to encourage artists, especially in the public school system, where it seems to be the first program to get cut. An appreciation of art is something a person can take with them for the rest of their lives."

Winner - Frank Curran - New Dorp High School
Title of work - Baby Face
Medium - Pencil

2nd Place - Erin Kelli Kilbane - Susan Wagner High School
Title of Work - Sanguine
Medium - Charcoal

3rd Place - Julio Hernandez- Petrides High School
Title of Work - Calm Springs
Medium - Computer

Sex **Se X a n** Nicole Bonelli's **d top**

I CAME, I SAW, I HAD SEX

On September 5, 2006, I received an early birthday present... seeing my name in print for the very first time when I made my debut as the third Sex Columnist for The Banner: **A Single Girl's Guide to Living a Fabulous Life** flew off the CSI news stands, (only because I stole most of them to give to my friends.) Shortly after though, I came crashing down from my high when some random asshole that probably never even had sex torn myself and my article apart. Throwing a hissy fit in true Bonelli fashion, I was ready to throw in the towel along with my dreams. Since then my skin has become thicker, and I have learned the following lessons:

- 1) I'm not the only girl that wants to have sex on a plane before she dies.
 - 2) The only way of truly letting go of the past is by achieving closure, (and sleeping with your on and off again ex for a year doesn't constitute as closure.)
 - 3) Sex with an ex sucks 99% of the time.
 - 4) Even though I am suffering from "Puppy Love Syndrome" as a new relationship blossoms, I'm still an avid believer in the "Chick Before Dicks" theory.
 - 5) I am still "too shy" to ever make a sex tape with my boyfriend.
 - 6) A vibrator is a girl's best friend, but can never replace the real thing.
 - 7) Meaningless sex usually leads to meaningless feelings.
 - 8) Boy short underwear are the new thong, with the exception of two golden rules:
 - a) Thongs should be worn on the first night you have sex with your ex, booty call, best friend, boyfriend, ect, ect, ect.
 - b) When wearing something skin tight because there isn't anything sexy about panty lines.
 - 9) And on those hot summer days, it's all about going commando. (I only recommend doing this when wearing sweat pants; I have two words for skin to jean friction: YEAST INFECTION.)
 - 10) Never rely on anyone else to make you happy.
 - 11) For my lovely singles out there, flirt like crazy. You are fabulous, and somewhere out there... there is someone who thinks the same.
- Is that a Wookiee in your pants, or are you just glad to see me?** took me on a journey as I explored hair removal methods for the land down under that eventually lead me to Brazil. (Well not really, it lead me to Makeovers so I could let my "inner gymnast shine" as the pubic hair executioner poured hot wax on my "love box." The end results left me wanting to smoke some pot, and to never let any man see my vagina until the irritation bumps that looked like a bad case of Herpes subsided. Not like I was getting any to begin with, my vagina was just as dry as The Sahara Desert.
- It has been said that the true way to

a man's heart is through his stomach, but it's a little lower. So ladies, make sure you breathe through your noses and that there is no skin to teeth contact when you go bobbing for your man's penis. A blowjob is exactly what it's called... a job. I can say that up until now, the last time I went for a "job interview" was back in July. Moving on to a new "boss" can be scary, but it is important to remember that giving head is like riding a bike... you never forget how to do it. But hey, **They don't call it a job for nothing.**

A Case of Nikki Luck, is not the kind of luck you want when you are in Vegas, because it's the kind of luck that would most likely leave you broke within the first five minutes at a Texas Hold Em' table. Paul seemed to good to be true, and like most guys... he was. It turns out he had a girlfriend that must have slipped his mind as he slipped his tongue in my mouth. Since then, I can only hope that his girlfriend was smart enough to throw him out of her apartment.

When my mother read about how I lost my virginity, it's safe to say that I am the main reason why she has high blood pressure. But the fact that I've never had an orgasm from sex broke my heart. It took me two years, the back seat of a Chevy, a Durex Tingling Sensation condom, and an idiot to figure out how to reach the land of milk and honey. Still to this day, many girls, (including myself,) dread getting on top during sex. My advice is to put your insecurities aside, because this technique will be a better rush than any ride at Six Flags. Hop on top of his johnson, and as his gold member is penetrating inside of you, let his hand penetrate outside of you. Your clit is the powerhouse of the vagina, double penetration = double sensation.

You're an awesome girl, but... you are too awesome for me. From September until December of this past year I had that "butterflies in my stomach" feeling every time I was around my friend Greg. For months, we flirted, cuddled, and exchanged back massages. Finally, after countless mixed signals and trips to Starbucks... I kissed him. He obviously enjoyed it because he kissed me back, but it wasn't enough to spark a fire. Continuous fights lead to one final blow out that could have landed us as guests on Maury. But after an elongated time out, we came to terms that our friendship works best when we are just friends.

Ah, summer time... less clothes are worn, and sex becomes the number one sport of choice. **It's 2 A.M. Do you know where your booty call is?** If the answer is no, then you have a better chance of finding Waldo. The November 27, 2006 issue became the first issue in Banner history to get banned due to "inappropriate" material. I was scolded, and now know that using the word "f***" is totally uncalled for... even if my f*** buddy from this past

summer tried to make me act out the part of Julia Roberts in *Pretty Woman*. "We can have sex but we can't make out." This of course was right after he told me about the girl he was dating. So, in other words he wanted me as his dirty whore on the side that would be kept a secret. Well, Nicole Bonelli is nobody's dirty whore.

Winter break came and went, but unfortunately I couldn't permanently relocate to California with my hippie friends and unlimited supply of pot. Since September I've dealt with my "loyal fans" criticizing me and making false accusations about my sexual reputation. **Nikki, You're Such a Slut** gave me the opportunity to let my sense of humor shine as I poked fun at myself. To set the record straight for the last time, my "number" is the same. My parents agreed to never read my column again, and more importantly, they did not kick me out of the house. But they still probably think I'm a skank.

Heart shaped candies weren't the only thing giving single people cramps around this time of the year. The overrated holiday that consist of a baby wearing a diaper that he shit in, shoots people in the ass with arrows forcing them to surrender their money to Hallmark. Some people who read this article probably thought I was some bitter bitch who would end up alone in Miami with 50 cats. Knock on wood that my boyfriend doesn't get tired of me by next February, but I don't understand the concept of why girls want to get fat from eating pounds of candy, and why guys try so hard on one night out of the year to get laid. **Valentine's Day Feels Like Cramps.**

Tired of reading horoscopes that make broken promises about your luck with love and fortune... in bed? Look no further, **Screw Fortune Cookies**, was the alternative. Each month displayed something "comical" that happened in my life, but oddly enough there were a handful of readers who took them seriously. Who knows though, maybe if this college thing doesn't work out for me I'll become a psycho... eh, I mean psychic instead.

Sad but true, many women have suffered from B.O.S.E. (Bad Oral Sex Experiences,) and I hope the article **He Is What He Eats... And More!** gave the initiative for guys to eat out more often. (Especially while watching Maury.) Craving some lovin' from Lickidy Split on a hot summer's day? Treat your woman's vagina like a melting ice cream cone, and she will surely return the favor by treating your penis like a popsicle stick. This step by step guide is so simple to follow, even a caveman can do it. Remember: Practice makes perfect.

There was a time when I was pure an innocent. I know, try to contain your laughter. My streak of purity came to an end when I discovered porn in the sixth grade. Reaching downtown, this junkie's touch of

her hand has kept her out of a lot of trouble. I've stayed in school, don't use drugs, and will save the occasional cat that is stuck in a tree. Yes, porn is my anti drug. Catholic school tried to break me up with The Spice Channel with their failed attempts to brainwash my horny high school mind. Sex is not "dirty," and true love never dies. So, **Forgive Me Father For I Have Sex.**

You would think after years of dating disasters that healing a broken heart gets easier. But it doesn't, the pain is just as piercing at 20 as it was at 15. A guy tossed a steak knife at my heart when he didn't even give me the satisfaction of letting me know that we were no longer a "we" anymore... And to prove that you do not get smarter with age, we met up about six months later for coffee. Coffee soon lead to hot meaningless sex in the back seat of my car. By closure attempt number two, I found out that Hit and Run Booty Calls suck just as much as Hit and Run Relationships. But I bet he was the only one to have fun that night.

No one likes that "special sauce" on their face too soon into a relationship. And that is just what can happen when either of the sexes suffers from premature "we"ejaculation. When the other half of my "we" came into the picture about a month ago, I was terrified of a **Side of Commitment With That Order of "Special Sauce."** It took me a while to realize that two people who are dating can show up at the park, a restaurant, or a bar... TOGETHER. As much as I love spending time with my boyfriend, I know the only way to have a successful we is to make some time for me.

I may have been the master mind behind Sex and The Island, but this skank couldn't have done it on her own. It is now time to give thanks and appreciate the crappy reputation I have received.

Professor Durando, thank you for having enough faith in my journal entries to pass my name on to Mellissa.

Mellissa, we won't stop this insane eating binge until we can't squeeze into the booths at King Buffet. Thanks for not only being an editor, but for being an awesome friend.

Enrique, if anyone else ever called me Sugar Tits, I would probably slap them in the face. But always remember that Ass and Titties is OUR song.

To my fellow Banner staff writers, thanks for taking this crazy rollercoaster ride with me over the year.

Professor Kaufman, to be honest... you scared the shit out of me the first time I met you. Thank you for the tough love, and for pushing me to my full potential.

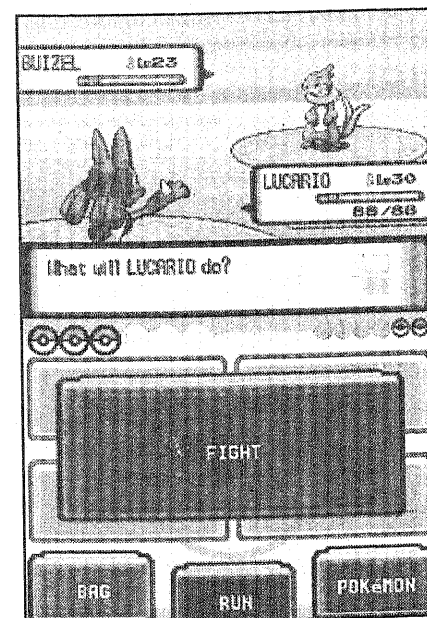
And finally, thank you to my fellow classmates who wrote me letters. Positive or negative, they always left a warm and fuzzy feeling in my stomach.

Gotta Catch'em All...Again

BY DOMINIC FIDUCCIA
STAFF WRITER

Pokémon fans the wait is finally over. That's because after four titles for the DS that involve racing (Pokémon Dash) to forest protecting (Pokémon Ranger). The real games are here the one's where you earn gym badges, battle other trainers and attempt to catch as many of Pikachu and his friends as you can. That's right, at long last, Pokémon Diamond and Pearl, the fourth generation of the Pokémon RPG series is finally here and on the Nintendo DS.

As far as storyline goes it's had little change from the first Pokémon games, Red and Blue for the original Game Boy back in 1998. You start off as a young boy/girl (you choose your gender in the beginning of the game) and live in a quiet town (this time called Twinleaf Town) and you decided to be become a Pokémon trainer and have to choose one of three different Pokémon (this time Turtwig, the Grass Turtle Pokémon, Chimchar, the Fire Monkey Pokémon and Piplup, the Water Penguin Pokémon) and head off on your Pokémon journey where you meet and battle other trainers, catch more Pokémon to expand your line-up, and eventually face a different Gym Leader in each town that you visit. In Pokémon, a Gym Leader acts as a boss battle in the game and each Gym Leader specializes in a specific Pokémon type (like the first Gym Leader Roark who uses Rock Pokémon). Defeat a Gym Leader and you earn a badge. Each gym badge will make you and your Pokémon stronger and be able to gain access to locations that were inaccessible before. If you earn all eight Gym badges then you will gain the privilege to battle the Elite Four. The Elite Four are the four most skilled Pokémon trainers around making them the most difficult to beat bosses in the game. If you manage to defeat the Elite Four then you be allowed to



battle the game's final boss, the Pokémon Regional League Champion. If you succeed then you and your Pokémon team will be in the Hall of Fame and you'll be declared as a Pokémon Master.

So, of course the question is if the story has remained almost the same for the past nine years then how can Pokémon have such lasting appeal? The thing is, if you never play these games it's hard to understand, but if you have then you know why. It's because in the Pokémon RPGs, the real draw isn't the story, but what you can do in the game themselves. The real fun of playing Pokémon is the chance to explore a large in-game world where you can catch and train different kinds of Pokémon. The opportunity to find and catch Pokémon and work with them to see which Pokémon will make-up your dream line-up has always been very applying when playing Pokémon and with the total number of Pokémon ballooning to 493. There are plenty of Pokémon to choose from especially when you think that originally their was only 151 to pick from.

While the gameplay remains solid, what about the graphics? Well, that all depends. The thing is Diamond and Pearl in-game Pokémon battle graphics remain virtually unchanged from the GBA games. The real differences in the graphics are the overworld. The character models and landscape have nice pseudo-3D look to them. While the graphics aren't the best you'll ever see in a DS game, the look works nicely for a Pokémon game.

One of the best features of the game that was included for Diamond and Pearl is the Wi-Fi functions. In Diamond and Pearl, you'll be able to battle with other trainers over the internet allowing for everyone to test their Pokémon skills against other human playing trainers from around the world. Another Wi-Fi feature besides battling is the Global Trade Station where you can trade for Pokémon with others from around the world. The biggest letdown of Pokémon Diamond and Pearl, though has to be the new evil organization that you face-off with called Team Galactic. The group and their boss, Cyrus want to capture Legendary Pokémon so that Cyrus can remake the universe into his own "personal universe" where he is the supreme ruler. The only problem is that Team Galactic plays such a minor role in the game compare to past Pokémon villains that you'll wonder why Team Galactic is even there.

Overall, Pokémon Diamond and Pearl is a great game for the Nintendo DS and will be enjoyed by Pokémon fans.

Oh What A Tangled Web They Weaved!

BY JOHN DEPETRO
STAFF WRITER

The scene was set. All the stars were aligned in order. Reviews from critics were positive - 3 stars from The Post, 3 _ from The Daily News. Even Howard Stern loudly acknowledged it as the best of the trilogy. Even "fanboy" sites like IMDB.com were praising the film after hundreds were able to see advanced screenings.

I was pumped up. I was ready for Spider-man 3

I had my tickets for the 11:59 PM showing on Thursday night. Tisk! There was no way I was going to wait until Friday to see this thing. I've been watching trailers and previews for this since November. Venom had been my PC wallpaper for the better part of the year now.

I was even more pumped up. So pumped in fact that I failed to notice that the early scenes, well, didn't look that great. Every few weeks I'd catch the newest preview and - wait a sec, was that ANOTHER villain? First the Sandman, then Harry Osborne riding a snowboard on steroids and now Venom is this too? Blinded by my own prejudices and love for the first two installments and everything else Spiderman, I couldn't see that Spider-man 3 had all the makings of a comic-book movie disaster the likes that haven't been seen since Joel Schumaker's 1997 schlock-fest Batman and Robin.

But alas, I had my hopes up anyway. And like most things in life, I was let down.

Much like Batman and Robin, there were too many villains. But that wasn't the only thing that reminded me of B&R in Spider-man 3.

It was corny. It wasn't written all that well. The special effects and fight sequences took a step down in quality from its predecessors. The characters were flat. There was an emotionless love-triangle (actually it was more of a love-pentagon). The villains (all three of them) were as menacing as a pair of pink bunny ears. The only thing missing was the Bat-nipples.

I was deflated.

What a disappointment. With the first two movies well in hand and inarguably excellent films, (I'd like to think of them as the *The Godfather I & II* of comic-book movies) the franchise has taken a giant step back (oh yeah, there was a *Godfather III* wasn't there? So I guess my analogy still works).

For some reason producers in Hollywood, when it comes to comic-book movies, insist on adding more and more villains to the script as the number of sequels increase. I guess they want to bulk up on the action but it only thins out character



development. Take for instance Venom (played by Topher Grace). Fans around the globe have been waiting for the ultimate Spidey villain to become immortalized on the big screen. But not for only 25 minutes of screen time. A villain like Venom deserves a movie of his own. Not to be thrown into a smorgasbord of characters old and new.

Spider-man 3 was billed as the darkest of the three. The struggle within Peter Parker (once again played by Tobey Maguire) was meant to reveal the selfish and cocky dark half of Parker's personality. But all that is revealed is that Maguire does one terrible Tony Manero strut impersonation. It was silly, not dark. We were looking for *The Empire Strikes Back* but all we got was *The Phantom Menace* (I swear I saw Jar-Jar Binks somewhere in the background).

Kirsten Dunst and James Franco are back again too. I'm still not sure why. Pete's love interest May Jane Watson (Dunst) whines about her slipping career and wonders why it's difficult begin involved with a superhero. Harry Osborne (Franco) continues to have daddy issues as he spews out dialogue that the audience can only roll its eyes to. Oh, and he suffers from a case of short term amnesia. Like that wouldn't make the story any less convoluted.

The Sandman (Thomas Hayden Church) also makes an appearance somewhere in there too. His daughter is sick so he needs to rob banks to pay for her medical bills. Then he falls into a particle accelerator where he gains his powers. Believe me, it's slightly less interesting than it sounds.

So it has now seemed that the Spider-franchise has officially jumped the shark. It's a good thing that Columbia Pictures has already announced Spider-man 4 will be released in May 2009 because man, I'm getting pumped.

SPORTS

May 15, 2007

Dolphins Earn Spot in CUNY Playoffs

BY MOHAMMAD HAMAD
CONTRIBUTOR

The Dolphins baseball team, looking to become a dynasty in CUNY athletics if they are not so already, have won the CUNY title four consecutive years. They are on the verge of making it five. With seven teams in the CUNY division, the top four teams make it to the playoffs. The round robin tournament began on May 10 at 4 p.m. and a winner will be crowned on May 12.

The Dolphins sit at the fourth seed, the lowest they have been in four years and are going to face their arch rivals John Jay, who the Dolphins beat last year in the championship. This rivalry usually compares to the Yankees-Boston games and all the drama that goes into that. CSI goes into the playoffs with a conference record of 9-9, but this does not faze Head Coach Bill Cali.

"We started off slow and that's the reason for our lopsided record," Cali said. He has coached the Dolphins for eleven years and knows that his men

will have to go out and win when it means most. "We have a young team who were thrown in the thick of things early and needed to get their feet wet. But lately my guys have been coming through and we need them more than ever going into the playoffs."

The Dolphins came out this year with a young team, their youngest since Cali can remember. Five of the eight starting positions consist of three freshmen and two sophomores. Freshman Thomas DeWaters, Matt Thompson, and Devon DiCasoli are the youngsters who have held their own throughout the season and came through for their team when it counts the most.

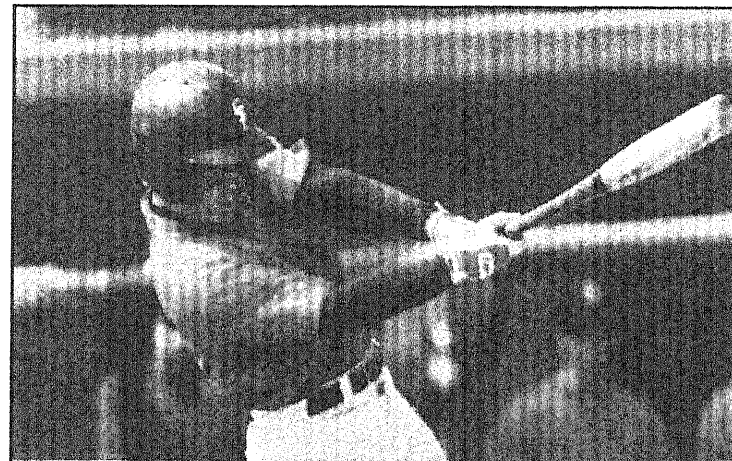
DeWaters, a St. Joseph by the Sea high school graduate, led all outfielders hitting .398 going into the playoffs. Thompson, who played for Tottenville High School and won two championships, finished the season hitting .304 with 18 RBI's and looks to continue to stay hot in the playoffs. DiCasoli, a graduate of Moore High School, finished his freshman campaign with a team best .435 while having a .423 on-base percentage.

The Dolphins' senior shortstop, Bobby Glennester, came off his best year, hitting .360 with 23 stolen bases. He currently holds the record for most stolen bases in Dolphins history at 56 and this year he placed third on CSI's all time hits list.

"I want to finish my year off with another championship," Glennester said smiling. "I saw some of the seniors

last year go out with a ring."

He knows that his team will need leadership more than ever, especially



Freshman Matt Thompson hopes to help the Dolphins on the verge of their fifth straight CUNY title. Photo: Mohammad Hamad

going into the playoffs as an underdog. "I wouldn't mind going out with some style," he said. "With the team we have this year I think we can pull it off because we are playing with a lot of heart."

The Dolphins finished their season off strong with a sweep of conference foe Yeshiva University, and have momentum to do damage in the playoffs. Mitchell College, CCNY, and John Jay also made the postseason and the Dolphins have a combined record of 2-7 against these teams.

Assistant Coach Neil Barbella, who has been with the team for six years,

knows this year won't be a walk in the park. "The teams we are playing this year are decent teams and might have

had our number during the season," he said with a sarcastic smile. "We are a lot stronger now and our team chemistry is where it

has to be. We are going to make some noise when we get out there."

The Dolphins starting pitchers have been shuffled around but Coach Cali plans to send out the pitcher he thinks gives his team the best chance to win.

"I'm going to rely on some of my younger guys to start for us," he said referring to pitchers such as Daniel Gonzalez (5-0, 3.57 ERA, 20 strikeouts) and Andrew DePaulo (2-1, 28 strikeouts). "From there I have my veteran guys like Waldhelm (3-2 and team high 29 strikeouts) to help close out games."

Seniors Sent Off in Style

BY MOHAMMAD HAMAD
CONTRIBUTOR

A special pre-game ceremony honored three Dolphins seniors before their last home game. The Athletic Department presented the players with framed jerseys and their numbers (15, 19 and 2) were spray painted behind home plate.

Jeff Applebaum, Bobby Glennester and Jason Vasquez were all part of the winning effort the Dolphins

put up against Yeshiva.

Applebaum took the mound for the Dolphins, threw a complete game and

earned a win. He allowed three runs and eight hits and struck out a season high ten batters.

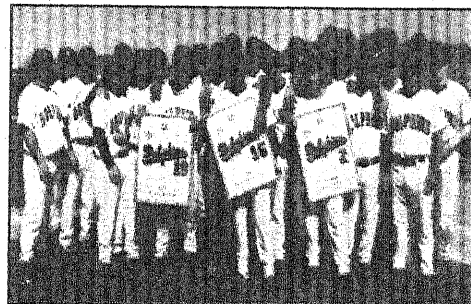
Applebaum received run support from his fellow seniors. Bob Glennester finished the day 3-for-5 with two runs scored and an RBI. Jason Vasquez fin-

ished his regular season off with a 2-for-5 effort while driving in two runs.

"Through the four years that I've been here, today is probably the most special to me,"

Applebaum said while holding his framed jersey. "I

know that I gave my best everyday I was here and it's been a pleasure being a part of something special."



The Dolphins honored their three seniors with framed jerseys. Photo: Mohammad Hamad

Mixing Finals and Playoffs

BY NORMAND SWEENEY
CONTRIBUTOR

As the end of May quickly approaches, CSI students cannot close their books and start looking forward to a summer with endless possibilities of fun and excitement until finals and papers are finished.

But completing final papers and studying hard for exams is hard enough on its own without distractions. For sports fans, this time also coincides with the beginning of NBA and NHL playoffs. A sports fan, and even a non-sports fan, can find these games distracting to their final assignments.

Even though both leagues are already a month into their playoff season, each game and round that passes makes it harder to miss. It is especially hard to skip a game because four local teams are in the playoffs. The New York Rangers, New Jersey

Devils and New York Islanders all made the NHL playoff race and the New Jersey Nets made it into the NBA playoffs. For a fan, it is hard to imagine not being able to watch the game.

Even though both the NBA and NHL don't crown a champion until mid-June, long after the last day of CSI finals, the entire playoff race has been going on when students usually start worrying about things they have to do to get ready for finals.

"It will be hard for me to do work during a Nets game," Steve Bongorri, a big time Nets fan, said. "With the first-round win against the Toronto Raptors and it being a good series, it is going to be fun to watch the Nets play the Cleveland Cavaliers in the second round."

It is also tempting for a college

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