

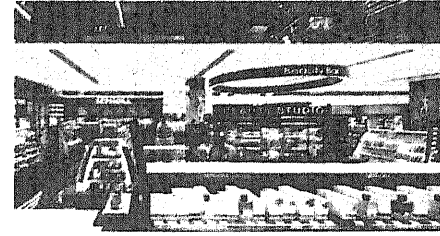
THE BANNER

The Official Newspaper of the College of Staten Island

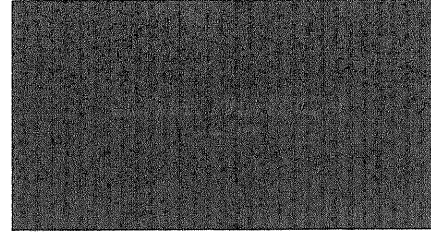
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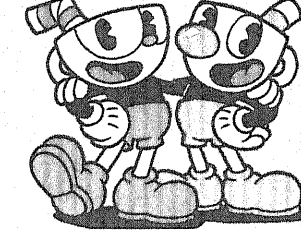
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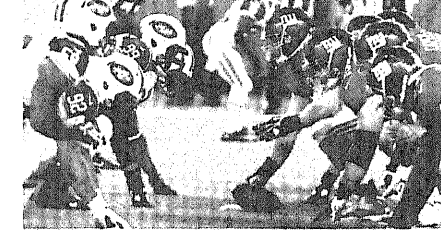
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Hate Crimes On The Rise

CSI Panel Discusses Policy Dealing With Hate Crimes

BY: HAZIQ NAEEM

Hate crimes in certain American cities have spiked twenty percent last year. With most of that rise attributed to the divisive and inflammatory rhetoric used in the recent election cycle, hate crimes across college campuses have also increased.

The definition of a hate crime is one that target someone's identity.

In New York, an individual's identity falls under protected classes for purposes of the law, and according to Section 485.05 of New York State Penal Law the protected classes are "race, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, religion, religious practice, age, disability or sexual orientation."

On October 17, an event designed to raise awareness about what constitutes a hate crime and why they occur was held from 2:30pm to 4:00pm in the Williamson Theater.

The panelists were Professor Jay Arena, Professor Mayra Humphreys, a representative from the NYPD hate crimes unit and Mark Palladino from Richmond County

District Attorney's Office.

According to the captain from the NYPD hate crimes unit, in order for someone to be prosecuted for a hate crime, there are three important components that they look for: intent, imminence and plausibility.

If someone is yelling hateful slurs or targeting an aspect of your identity, it is not considered a hate crime. It must be a threat, and in order to be considered a threat it must contain all three previously listed components.

Essentially, if hate speech is followed by a plausible, imminent

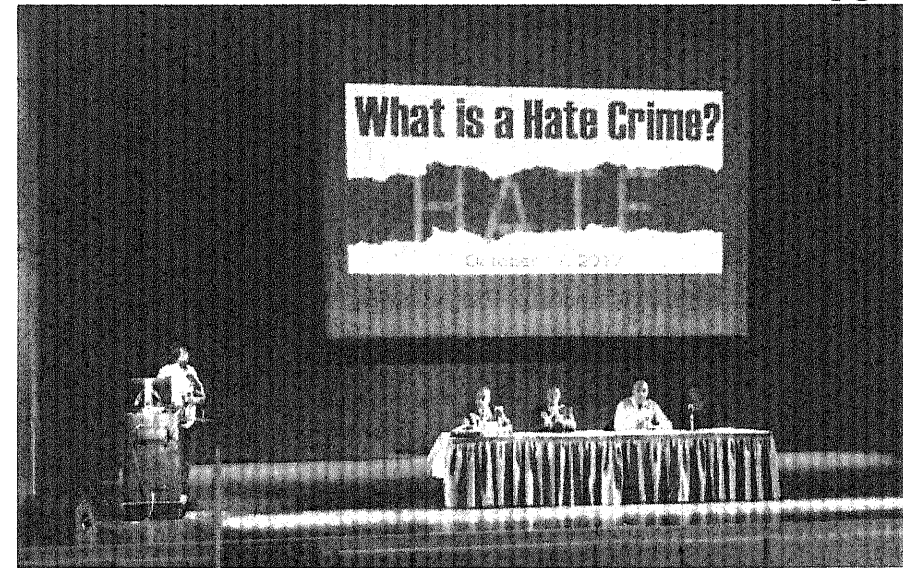
and true threat, it is a criminal offense.

Mark Palladino, Chief Prosecutor of hate crimes on Staten Island, explained his policy dealing with hate crime offenses.

His policy states that the status of hate crimes will always be elevated. For example, an assault is considered a misdemeanor, however, if that same assault is motivated due to the victim's identity, hence constituting a hate crime, then that misdemeanor is upgraded to a felony.

Mr. Palladino does not subject

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Friendsgiving Inspiration For All Levels

How to Master Your Appetizers, Main Course and Dessert

BY: JANE PASTRANA

It's that time of year again for the ever popular #friendsgiving.

Hosting a dinner party for any amount of people can be a bit stressful, but with the proper planning, and understanding your own culinary skill set, it can be a very fun process.

My friends and I have a rule—the person who hosts will provide the turkey. This is something that had intimidated me for a long time until I decided to adjust to my comfort level of cooking.

Instead, I had decided to serve chicken breast my first year and then graduated to a roast chicken the next.

I've noticed that most people don't even care about the bird, and typically get more excited for the side dishes anyway.

My goal is not to give you a list of recipes but to help inspire your own menu with your cooking skills in mind while preserving the level of deliciousness served.

Appetizers are extremely easy to pull something impressive off without much effort.

By simply arranging a few cheeses on a wooden board, instead of a plastic tray or white dish, it's instantly transformed to a fall rustic look.

Slice up some cured meat or maybe even a few loaves of prosciutto bread to introduce something for the carnivores at your party.

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Domestic Violence Awareness is Spread at CSI

Resources and Agencies Available for You

BY: VICTORIA IFATUSIN & LUCIA ROSSI

October is the month of Breast Cancer Awareness, but it's also the month for domestic violence.

On October 19, CSI held a special event to spread awareness and resources for students at the Campus Center.

Although you would assume representatives of these agencies would be forthcoming about information on their services, some were not so and it was strangely suspicious.

One agency for domestic violence responded with, "I can't tell you that. You'll have to call the Mayor's office and speak to them," when asked about the services they offer.

Even with the secretive responses, information was still given to students.

Many of the agencies provided statistical information, as well as services, to broaden people's perspectives on the prevalence of domestic violence.

Jennifer Hernandez-Baniqued, Staten Island community director of Safe Horizon – the largest victim service agency – stated that "one out of four females will discuss or report incidents of domestic violence as well as one out of seven men."

The chances of experiencing domestic violence are even higher for the hispanic population. According to Hernandez-Baniqued, it is one out of three.

The reason for this could be because of their undocumented immigration status which causes

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BANNER POLITICS

Staten Island's Grimm Possibility *Former Congressman And Felon Runs For Re-Election*

BY: STEVEN MORRIS

Michael Grimm, fresh out from seven months in prison for tax fraud, is running against current congressman, Dan Donovan, for the Republican nomination to represent Staten Island and Brooklyn in Congress.

This would make a great redemption story for Michael Grimm-- if he gets re-elected.

Though Dan Donovan seems to have the backing of the New York Republican party and other national Republican politicians, Grimm entering the race shakes things up a bit.

If you were to ask Donovan's team if were they worried, they would likely laugh in your face.

A spokeswoman for Dan Donovan, Jessica Proud, had this to say about the candidacy of Grimm: "We're not really concerned about a challenge from a convicted felon who was rated one of the most liberal Republicans in Congress."

Grimm is on record criticizing Dan Donovan, saying that Donovan's "no" vote on Obamacare's repeal, undermines Trump's agenda and that he (Grimm) wouldn't do that.

Proud also told the Staten Island Advance, "It's hard to tell what's worse: the fact that Michael Grimm lied to his constituents, then quit and left them in the lurch with no representation under President Obama, or that he had one of the most liberal voting records of all Congressional Republicans."

She continued, "Either way, voters can't trust Michael Grimm and we're trying to drain the swamp, not make it murkier. Dan is focused on doing the people's business and helping the president enact an agenda that will lead to an American renaissance."

This meeting holds some significance because of what happened in Alabama.

It was there on September 26 that Roy Moore, a very right-leaning conservative, beat out Senator Luther Strange, an incumbent in a special Republican primary race.



However, the Donovan campaign could be a little worried.

On October 4, Grimm met with former President Trump's chief strategist, Steve Bannon, to help coordinate with his campaign.

Michael Caputo, Grimm's spokesman and former Trump campaign aid, was asked if Bannon had endorsed Grimm, he answered "Everything is on the table."

Even with Donovan's strong backing, there is still a possibility Grimm will run as a third-party candidate, worrying some Republicans that with Donovan and Grimm on the same ballot, it would increase the chances of a Democrat being voted in.

Caputo had this to say about Grimm possibly running as a third-party candidate: "He's keeping all of his options open."

Being convicted and serving time for tax fraud isn't the only trouble Michael Grimm has gotten into.

Early in 2014, after the State of the Union address was presented by then President Obama, he had threatened to throw a NY1 reporter over the balcony.

"I'll break you in half. Like a boy," said Michael Grimm, as he was being asked by the NY1 reporter about the federal investigation into his tax fraud.

The election for Donovan's seat isn't until next year, but the race is starting to heat up, as it will be a race to watch in next year's election cycle.

Grimm had a sizable turnout to his announcement that he was running again, and it

Donald Trump's Tax Plan

Glimpse Of The Billionaire Presidential Mind

BY: JOSIAH AKHTAB

Donald Trump proposed a tax plan on September 27, which presented a detailed overview of how to improve individual, international and corporate tax rates to create an increase in revenue and job creation.

His first order is to simplify tax brackets, reducing it to three percentages: 12, 25 and 35, double the standard deduction to \$12,000 for individuals and \$24,000 for married couples, increase child tax credit, and cut itemized deductions except for charitable donations and mortgage interest.

These are but some of the proposals made for individual income tax.

He also plans to repeal estate and generation-skipping transfer tax (aka the "Death Tax").

This means there will no longer be taxes for people who die with substantial wealth to pass onto their descendants.

Trump also plans to cut personal and dependent exemptions, add \$500 credit for non-child dependents and repeal the AMT (Alternative Minimum Tax).

Observations from Crowe Horwath, local tax site, state the framework doesn't show anything regarding capital gains and dividends, indicating that favorable stipulations will remain intact.

Crowe Horwath also observes deductions from local and state taxes to be eliminated, suggesting individuals pay fourth quarter payments and itemized deductions before the end of 2017.

Crowe Horwath's last point states individuals will benefit from itemized deductions in 2017, but those who are subjected to AMT can possibly benefit from deferring charitable deductions in 2018.

When it comes to businesses, Trump plans to reduce corporate taxes from 35 percent to 20 percent, cut alternative corporate minimum tax, and provide low-income housing credit, with all other credit being evaluated by Congress as part of the reform.

This bodes well for small and large businesses alike, as pressure from government taxes will be reduced by a sizeable portion, allowing them to reinvest more of their earnings toward corporate expenses and ventures.

For international affairs, Trump proposes to have tax exemptions from dividends if the U.S. parent owns ten percent of foreign subsidiary, deemed returns of deferred foreign profits with accumulated illiquid assets (stocks, bonds, etc.) receiving lower taxes than cash or cash equivalents, tax payments and rates haven't been decided.

His last point imposes a Global Minimum Tax on foreign profits for U.S. corporations, as an attempt to level the spectrum for both U.S and foreign corporations; the rates and application of this tax have yet to be decided.

Though this is only a proposed framework, the aim is to make the current tax system simpler and easier to understand for the American public.

The increase of standard deduction and elimination of itemized deductions makes it easier for people to keep more money in their pockets.

Businesses have pressure relieved to increase job creation, which will in turn increase U.S. revenue, reduce unemployment rates and potentially reduce the national deficit.

U.S. corporations that venture internationally receive lower taxes on foreign profits, allowing them to reinvest their earnings as well--so long as the profits aren't liquid.

The GMT aims to relieve pressure from U.S. and foreign companies who are now subjected to higher tax rates, incentivizing them to bring some of the money back into the country to increase circulation.

Overall, Trump's tax plan coincides with what he promised in his presidential campaigns, election and inauguration.

Should this frame work become legislation, many corporations and mom and pop businesses will sing his praises.

The individual, however, will most likely have mixed feelings about some of the changes with the cutting of certain exemptions.

Regardless, the increase in standard deductions will sit well.

TRUMP TAX PLAN

BANNER NEWS

"Hate Crimes"
Continued from Front Page

hate crimes to plea bargains. Plea bargains are an agreement between the defendant and prosecutor where the defendant is given the opportunity to confess and in return is offered a lessened sentence or another concession.

Meaning, the accused must either confess and face the full penalty or face prosecution.

An important distinction between a hate crime and one that is not considered as such is that the crime must be initiated due to the victim's identity. If the

crime was initiated due to some other reason, but slurs targeting another's identity were used during the act of the crime, it is not considered a hate crime.

Professor Mayra Humphreys and Jay Arena talked about the socioeconomic reasons for why hate crimes occur.

"Implicit biases are stereotypical thoughts and feelings, these are involuntary and we consciously reject them when we notice them in punctuated ways," Professor Mayra Humphreys said.

Millions of people hold implicit biases about people dif-

ferent than themselves, and these are harder to root out since they do not reside in the conscious parts of our mind.

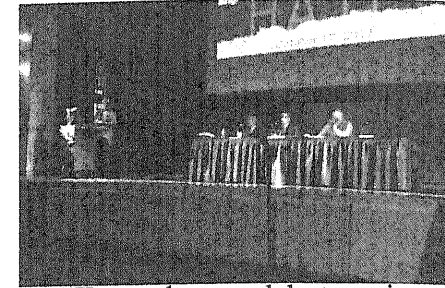
An example of implicit bias is getting uneasy or nervous when seeing a Muslim at an airport or African American on the street.

To challenge these biases created by our mind, three methods were suggested.

The first was that we question the stereotypes that arise and replace them instead with a positive view of the group.

The second is to practice perspective by taking and learning from what other people tell you about themselves rather than continuing to believe the pre-conceived stereotypical notions you have.

Lastly, increasing opportunity for contact with individuals from different groups challenges the brains assumptions of those groups.



"To understand hate crimes on campus we must look at broader society," Professor Jay Arena said.

According to FBI statistics, over half of hate crimes committed are racially motivated.

Racism depends on a structure to survive, and according to Professor Jay Arena, "we still have deep institutionalized racism in our society."

The panel raised the notion that in order to reduce the number of hate crimes committed, we must tackle the institutional problems that give rise to hate.



While race hate crime has been steadily rising

"Domestic Violence"
Continued from Front Page

a fear of deportation when reporting a crime, and not being able to communicate well because English is usually their second language.

She also mentioned that Safe Horizon helps victims through programs, family court, health clinics and a hotline that people can call if they have experienced domestic violence.

Organizations for South Asian women (Sakhi) and Arabs (Arab-American Family Support Center) were also present at the event to remind students that domestic violence occurs in every culture.

A representative for Sakhi for South Asian Women stated that "Sakhi works to empower South Asian women for domestic violence and sexual assaults."

According to their website, "2 in 5 South Asian immigrant women in the U.S. are survivors of domestic violence."

The process for helping clients of domestic violence starts with accessing the initial crisis they are in, checking if they are able to stay with their spouse or partner and asking about the conditions of living in the household.

After acquiring this background knowledge about the client, the agency then provides them with options for financial assistance through economic programs, empowerment through youth programs and help for children who are affected by the violence as well.

Michelle Arias from the Safe Passage Program shed light on her duty as the economic empowerment specialist.

"We offer domestic violence counselling; we have economic empowerment, safety planning, housing assistance for domestic violence survivors," she said. They also provide therapy and basic assets that have been taken by abusers.

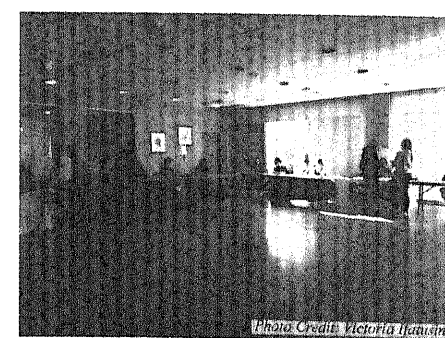
Natalie Serra and Melissa

Paquette, attorneys for Safe Horizon, believe it is important to have this type of event at colleges.

"With students, there's definitely domestic violence in the college setting, maybe not well known," said Serra. "But it is important for students to know that organizations like this are here." This is why the event took place.

Arias from Safe Passage also mentioned that because this happens at home, there are not that many people who want to talk about it.

Safe Passage, like the other agencies, want to give those who are silent a voice.



Above: various associations displaying their programs.

Arias also wanted to remind us that abuse "is not always physical, but it can also be financial and psychological."

Even if you are not experiencing the violence yourself, it is good to know what resources are available on Staten Island so you can refer someone you know who could be in danger.

The Office of the District Attorney of Richmond County, refused to comment and recommended to speak with a higher authority to obtain answers.

The goal of this event was clear.

It was as Sakhi noted, there are not that many resources on Staten Island, which is why it's so important to reach out and "connect them with resources; connect them to that so as to empower them."

If you have ever experienced violence with a partner, know there is help out there for you and people will listen.

BANNER NEWS

Trump Dismisses Puerto Rico

CSI Students Worry for Their Families After Hurricane

BY: BEREN SABUNCU

On September 20, category 4 Hurricane Maria, caused quite a catastrophe in Puerto Rico just after category 5, Hurricane Irma, passed on Sept 7.

The island, shaken by Irma, was still on the mend when Maria hit.

The latter hurricane had immense detrimental effects on the island's infrastructure.

Eighty-percent of the island's power is down and people are running out of clean water, food and fuel.

The fact that 3.4 million U.S. citizens inhabit Puerto Rico should emphasize that Puerto Rico deserves the same treatment that other states would receive if hit by a devastating hurricane.

President Trump, however, who seems to think otherwise, has received strong backlash for what many deem as lack of compassion and proper attention to this catastrophe.

The Washington Post article titled "U.S. response in Puerto Rico pales next to actions after Haiti quake" states, "Within two weeks, 33 U.S. military ships and 22,000 troops had arrived. More than 300 military helicopters buzzed overhead, delivering millions of pounds of food and water."

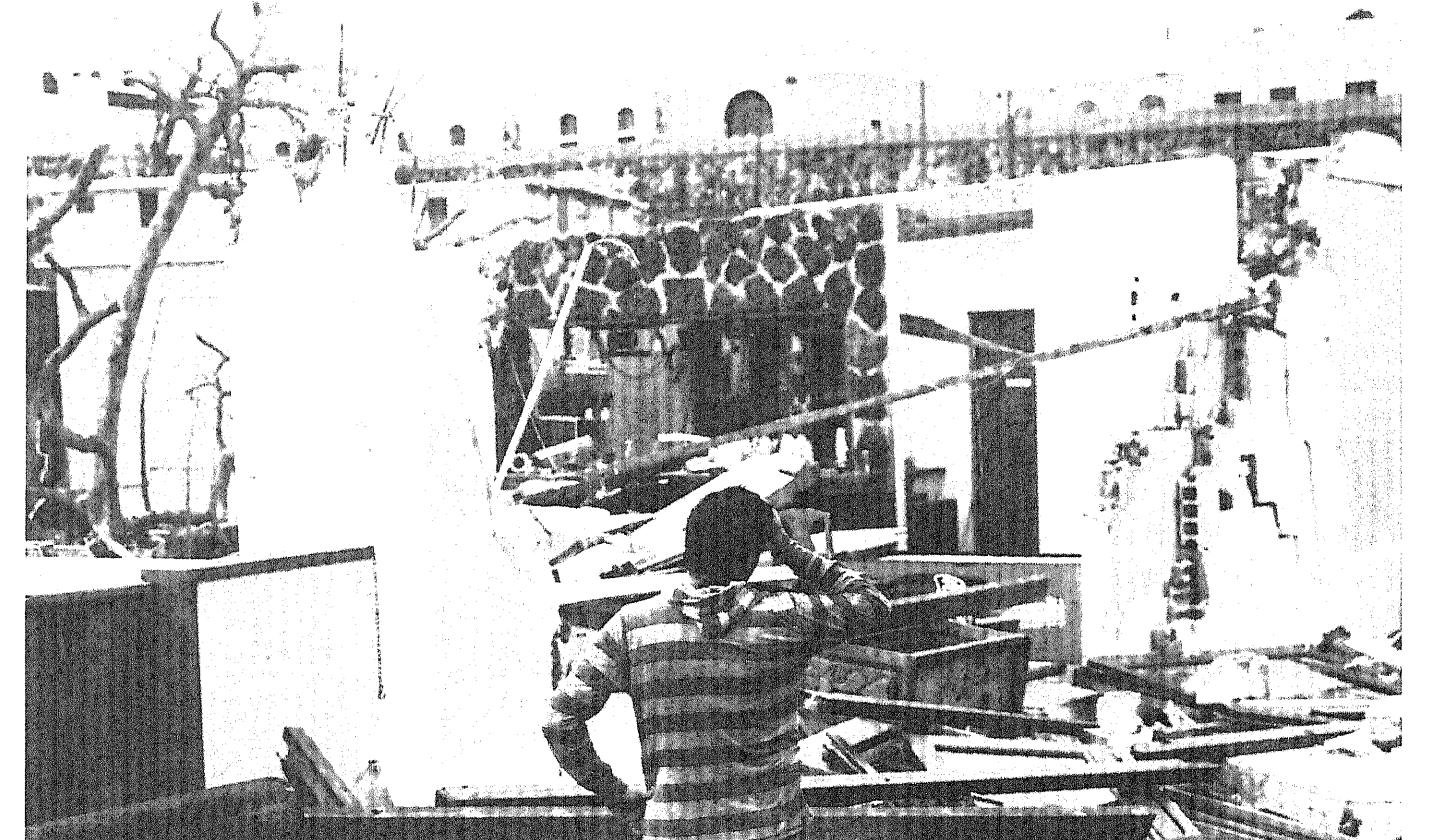
The article continues comparing the response to that of President Trump's,

"Eight days after Hurricane Maria ripped across neighboring Puerto Rico, just 4,400 service members were participating in federal operations ... About 40 U.S. military helicopters were helping to deliver food and water to the 3.4 million residents of the U.S. territory, along with 10 Coast Guard helicopters."

Even when the initial stage of recuperation is over, Puerto Rico's economy and infrastructure will suffer the blow for many years to come.

There are a myriad of ways to donate, such as the Red Cross, UNICEF and Direct Relief.

All in all, the island can surely



use some help.

The following Q&A is with Xavier M. and Emily B. who are Puerto Rican students at CSI with family still there during this difficult time.

Xavier M. answered these questions.

Q: How did the tragedy affect you and your family?

A: My whole family has been on edge, the first few weeks were tense because there were no ways to see if everyone was okay. Just news reports of large-scale devastation and flooding. Things got a little better when the calls came in, there are still a few relatives unaccounted for, but most of them seem to have made it through the storm okay.

Q: What has your family said about the state of the island?

A: Now they're worried about supplies. Everyone on the island is old and retired, many are diabetics, and they have no way to access food or insulin. And many are talking about going there in person, but who knows when that'll be.

Many of their homes are damaged, and while they're insured, it's inevitable that insurance companies will try to worm their way out of covering such extensive damage; and since they're retired

and live on a fixed income.

It may take years to even get things back to looking normal. Maybe it never will again. It's weird seeing the looks on my family's faces when they see streets they used to play on, and towns they once lived in almost completely wiped out.

They're an old generation, most of them are dead or will be dead in 10 years or so, and they see the world they knew washed away in salt, water and wind. Every day feels like a funeral, nobody talks about it, but everyone feels it. And there's nothing we can do.

Q: What are your thoughts on Trump's actions to aid Puerto Rico?

A: I'm not fond of the President or anyone in his administration. He talks as if FEMA and the army have completely solved the problem and they're just about ready to pack up.

But letting the Jones Act waiver expire, spending one day in San Juan throwing out paper towels and cracking jokes, and then letting FEMA's late response go unanswered before stating they "can't stay there forever" it's clear he, like all the Presidents before him, couldn't care less about the island.

The following interview is with Emily B.

Q: How did the tragedy affect you and your family?

A: My family, especially my Tio [uncle] Victor, loves Puerto Rico and I know it would break their hearts to leave, but they may have to.

Q: What has your family said about the state of the island?

A: In PR, 80% of the island is without electricity and 10% is relying on generators. Only 8% - I think - of the roads are operational.

Q: What are your thoughts on Trump's actions to aid Puerto Rico?

A: I feel insulted and extremely angry at Trump but I can't say I'm surprised at his response. I feel that he is simply fulfilling the promise he made during his campaign - which was to put the interest of white Americans first. I know he has hinted at withdrawing federal support from PR and that scares me because I know what horrible shape it's in right now.

LIFESTYLES

Look Beyond the Label & Create Your Own Success

How Women Need to Break the Constraints of the Workforce

BY: VERONICA PISTEK

There is so much talk about “following your passion,” but what if your passion cannot immediately lead to a viable career, or what if you don’t know how to find the job that equates to something you feel deeply in your soul?

Well, sometimes, you have to follow your intuition and be ready to go with the flow.

Maureen Chaquet, author of “Beyond the Label”, and former global Chief Executive of Chanel, helped me realize that one small thing that you love can change your entire path in life.

For instance, if you possess a profound love for speaking a foreign language, but you don’t know how to lead that into a career, you might consider ditching this passion to go down a route that may not be your first desired.

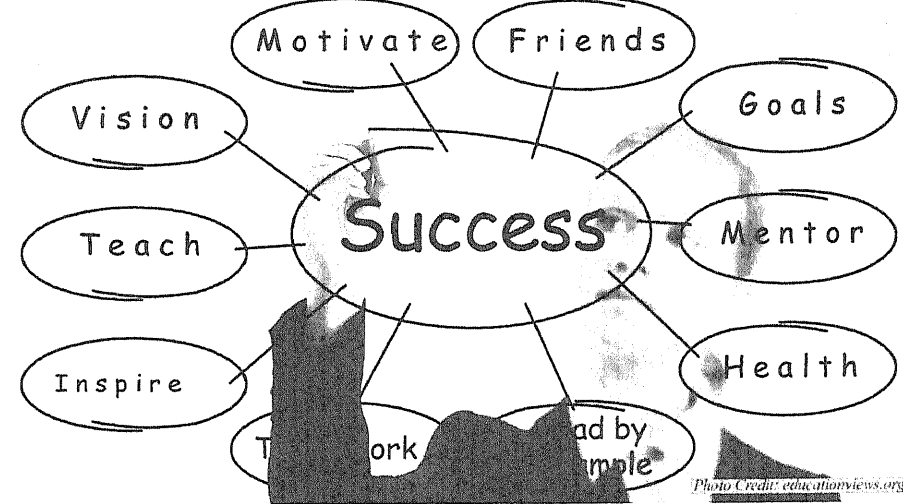
Why settle for a job behind a desk, where every shift is spent counting down the hours and praying for the weekend to finally come?

I get it, it’s inevitable to feel that we all must strive for money, to have a “comfortable”, “normal”, and “easy” life.

That’s how most people are raised—we work to be able to one day provide for a family and also have valuable time to spend with our family.

Unfortunately, this allows for so many young adults to just settle.

Maybe it’s your artistic impulse that makes you lose sleep at night, or scientific discoveries that drive you to look at the world



with inquiry.

Whatever your “passion” is, do not let the goal of money or comfortability drown out your voice.

It is as Maureen Chaquet says, “why should we have to separate art from business, our feelings from logic, intuition from judgement?”

Ultimately, we should strive for wholeness with everything that we do, even if that means embracing paradox in all aspects of our life.

Whether or not our future becomes a nonlinear road-map of stumbling moments, we can surely expect to immerse ourselves in a fresh identity, natural growth, and irreplaceable wisdom.

Constraining ourselves into societal-set categories has been an ongoing pattern since

we were in diapers.

It all starts with our nursery being pink or blue depending on our gender, then joining the soccer team and girl scouts because every little kid has to be involved in extracurriculars.

As we get older, we place ourselves in cliques based on our labels defined by the judgment of others.

Most importantly, we take all of these repressed labels since our youth and degrade our full potential to be an empowering leader in the workforce and world as a whole.

As expressed widely across western culture and many countries around the world, men are more likely to be the CEOs and bosses—representing “successful” leadership based on integrity, strength, and confidence.

What if I said women could be all of

that? If a woman harvests a pulsing passion that rushes through her veins, she more than likely will dedicate herself to being the best that she can be.

The “glass ceiling” that exists in the workforce is just one boundary that many women and minorities have to surpass to become what they desire.

If we focused on the human and their outstanding strengths, allowing their striking ideas to drive a company, then there would be no reason to conform to the “norm” of an opinionated male dominant society.

Rather than force people to conform to the standards of a leader, allow their authenticity to guide change for the benefit of the whole.

The concept of leadership shouldn’t be constricted inside of its masculine suit and tie; rather, we should allow for the fresh ideas of femininity to lead the pack, implementing new questions, novel ideas, and a balanced perspective.

Not only in a withstanding career, but also in life, one must not let a label define who they are.

By letting go of these definitions others might place upon us, as well as the idealized images we create for ourselves, we completely immerse ourselves in the inevitable paradoxes—happiness and sadness, gains and losses, and disappointment and self-fulfillment.

Without these restrictions, our innate passions help create our own means of success.

Working at Sephora: Nightmare or Daydream?

This is What a Job With the Company is Really Like

BY: BRIELLE SPARACINO

If you were to type “the truth about working at Sephora” in Youtube’s search bar, you’d get a surprising number of results.

Sephora is not just a high-end, luxury makeup store; it’s the high-end luxury makeup store.

At Sephora, clients are treated with the best customer service and are subjected to a variety of makeup and skincare, such as newcomers like Fenty Beauty, and old favorites like Urban Decay and Clinique.

The Sephora cast, which is another name for the staff, is required to always put their clients first.

However, the needs of each individual cast member go unnoticed; take it from someone who worked there for two years.

Sephora is the place that nearly every teenage girl dreams of working in.

The discounts are sweet, and the amount of makeup you get to play with is unlimited.

When you apply to this store, you’re praying with every bone in your body that you’ll receive a call for an interview, and in that interview, you are promised the world.

Management will sell the position the way a car salesman ropes you into buying a brand new BMW: it’s shiny, it’s new and it’s

worth your investment.

The bottom line is, however, that their delivery on those aforementioned promises will typically come up empty.



Once you’re officially a cast member, you feel like you’re part of an exclusive club, a club everyone wants to be in.

You are free to express your creativity through your chosen makeup looks, but only to an extent, since management requires you to wear a minimum of five cosmetics on your face during every shift.

If you don’t wear the “right” shade of red lipstick or have an eye look that’s too neutral, you’ll be warned to change the look or be written up.

When it comes to elevating your position, that’s even more of a disappointment.

A common theme in Sephora is after you’ve been in the cashier position for a significant amount of time, you are supposed to

let the managers know you want to move into one of three “worlds” in the store as part of your Plan for Development.

“Color,” “Skincare” and “Fragrance” make up these “worlds,” and “Color” is usually the most popular, where you’re able to walk the floor and perform makeovers on clients as opposed to being restricted to ringing people up for their purchases for your entire shift.

Transitioning to a new “world” is an exhausting uphill battle. It’s where you’re constantly reminding management that you’re not supposed to be on register anymore and you should have received your own personal brush belt to perform makeovers, but have to wait months to attain.

It takes even longer to become certified as an official Sephora Color Artist.

This certification is something essential to being part of the “Color” world, but your needs are almost always either forgotten or put on the backburner for other, more pressing issues.

As far as management goes, every store is different.

You will always have at least one manager you don’t like as much as the rest, but some stores are luckier than others.

Nonetheless, certain members of management act completely unprofessional.

For example, they will humiliate you on the sales floor in front of paying clients, or they’ll play favorites with certain cast members.

Even resigning from the job is difficult; there’s nothing like your manager using manipulation tactics to get you to keep a position you no longer have a passion for.

The situation gets even worse when they imply you wouldn’t be welcome back as an employee if you ever decided to apply to the store again in the future.

When you work for a retail cosmetics store owned by LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, one of the most prestigious luxury companies in the world, you expect to be treated much better than you are.

This isn’t to say that all cast members are treated terribly because everyone has their own experience, but there is obviously a flaw in the system if young women from various places and backgrounds are speaking out on similar, if not the exact same issues of mistreatment.

Sephora may be a great place to shop, but you might want to think twice about filling out that job application.

LIFESTYLES

Jennifer Romolini and Being the Weird One Out

How to Get Conventional Success Unconventionally

BY: BEREN SABUNCU

The prospect of finding a job is terrifying. It’s a big world out there. Though a book won’t get me a job, it is reassuring to hear, especially in a world where everyone would rather you forget, that you’re not the only one confused.

After reading Jennifer Romolini’s book “Weird in a World That’s Not: A Career Guide for Misfits, F*ckups, and Failures” it seems that although similar books try to be quirky and relatable, Romolini’s did not.

It becomes easier to understand why after reading her book. She has an interesting, tumultuous and unique backstory. Though I don’t want to reiterate and ruin the book for those who might be interested, I will say this, her life has not been easy. She admits to “f*cking up” the first 28 years of her life.

She admits to pretending, dropping out of college to marry her first husband, unhappily working as a waitress, divorcing him at 24, and trying to build her life back up. The book is about not giving up on your life, whatever dreams you might have.

Not only was it refreshing, but also gratifying to read that, half of the time, a successful woman like Romolini doesn’t even know if she is doing the right things. In her book, there are

many insightful remarks about the business world.

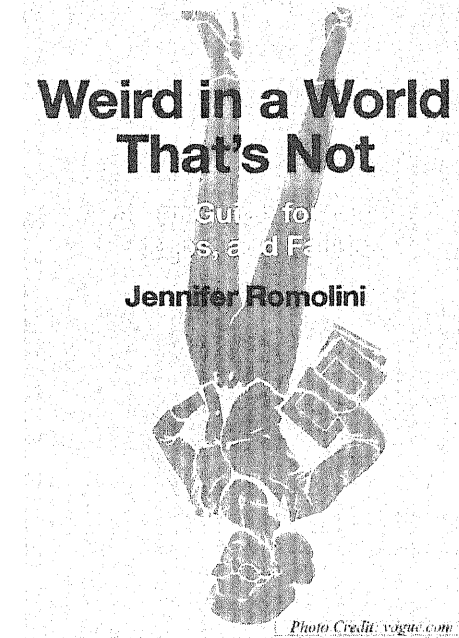
The business world can be cruel and pretentious. You will feel out of place, and she explains why perfectly, “Because you are weird and will always be weird no matter what level of conventional success you reach. Most people are.”

The phrase “conventional success” struck a chord. Conventional success is the success you’re being told to chase. It is the success you post on social media, and what your parents tell their friends. Conventional success is money; it is power and social commodity. It is one of the primary forces pushing you and I alike.

Jennifer Romolini does not hold back and she is not ashamed of her story. It is commendable, especially in the era of social media. There is nothing wrong with messing up; there is also nothing wrong with not knowing where you’re going.

Romolini’s book is a must-read because of many reasons. Firstly, it is refreshing to read the professional memoir of someone that did not embark in a successful professional career when they were 17. Also, though she enjoys “conventional success,” the only thing she’s chasing is a better version of herself.

Romolini inspired me in a similar



way to Amoroso’s “#GirlBoss.” The book reminded me that there is absolutely nothing wrong with being the odd one out. Although there is an underlying theme of girl power, I feel as though this book would give everyone something to think about.

No matter what your age is, no matter your stature and no matter what success you reach, it is simply humane to feel lost; we all feel lost sometimes. It is also very easy to give into despair.

People on social media aren’t perfect, they don’t usually display the dif-

ficult moments of their life, yet their lives always seem so glamorous.

The nice clothes they wear, the food they eat, and the myriad of accomplishments they seem to have, taunt you as you’re looking at the mellow blue light of your screen, eating ramen noodles in your pajamas.

It is not only “them.” You yourself post the nice outfits and the good nights out on your account. Though you do have those good nights, amazing outfits, and though you do eat out every once in awhile, there are an equal amount of nights when you’re watching “Downton Abbey” and eating ramen noodles in your pajamas.

We pretend to enjoy the artichoke dip Betsy brought to the work party—seriously, how is it so oily and dry? We pretend to love our bosses—one more sexist joke please. We pretend because it is easier and you don’t care enough not to, because in your opinion your boss doesn’t deserve your honesty or attention. We all pretend.

Though it is the way of the world and we have been doing such a stellar job of pretending, deep down we feel weird about it. It makes you feel as though you don’t fit in. That you have to pretend to.

As Romolini says, “Find your weird.” Find it, and let it shine.

“Friendsgiving”

Continued from Front Page

Crudit  is another simple thing to arrange in a fun and artistic way, just check out Pinterest! Now it’s a good idea to throw in about two or three other appetizers for a well-rounded first course.

Shrimp arranged around a pumpkin shaped bowl of cocktail sauce or some seasonal flatbreads cut up in bite-size pieces are a great addition.

You don’t want people to fill up too much on the appetizers that no one will touch the main course, which after years of Friendsgivings behind me is a lesson learned the hard way.

Now it’s time for the main event! As mentioned earlier, I’m a big fan of switching out the turkey

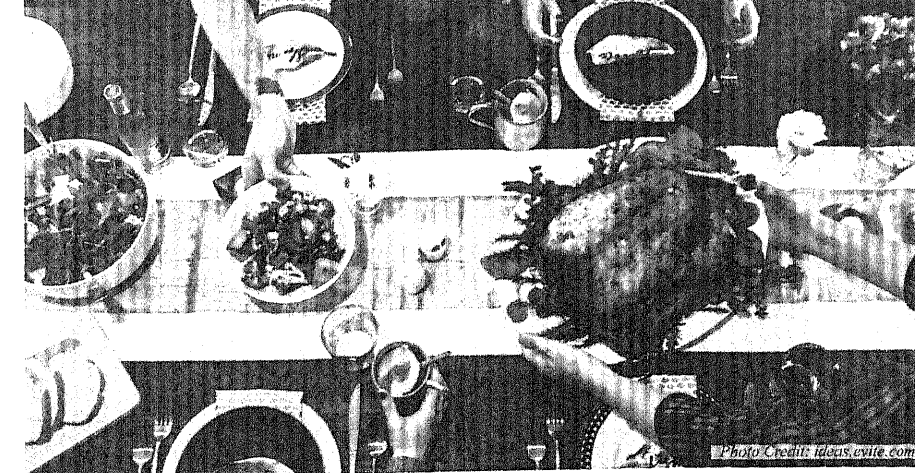
for something a little more manageable, but that’s completely up to your preference.

Have fun with your side dishes, the stuffing has become my signature over the past few years.

I make my own sourdough bread based stuffing with spinach and artichoke hearts, but I do have friends that prefer the old school classic Stove Top.

Whichever your preference is, bake the stuffing in a muffin tin and then display them as a savory cupcake tower to help create levels to your table.

Growing up in an Italian American household, lasagna was always included in our Thanksgiving meal



and the same goes for Friendsgiving, so feel free to include something particular to your household.

So, we have your turkey—or chicken, stuffing muffins and, if you come over to my house, lasagna on the table. Let’s finish off the meal with some veggie options.

Stuffed peppers can help introduce some color to the table and are easy to prepare in a big or small batch. You can either stuff them with quinoa and ground turkey breast or keep it all vegetarian friendly.

Mashed potatoes are always a given when you think about Friendsgiving sides, as well as, green bean casserole or sweet potato pie.

Giving these dishes a new twist can also be an easy way to dress up the table.

To enhance or differentiate your meal, finish the mashed potatoes off in the oven with some mozzarella sprinkled into the dish and, instead of adding a casserole, serve a green bean salad.

Dessert is probably the easiest course to cheat your way through with the wide variety of bakeries we have here on Staten Island, as well as delivery services like Fresh Direct.

I decided last year that I wanted to try my hand at making cheesecake

which was way easier than I thought. By adding fall colored sprinkles to the top, it instantly gave it a seasonal upgrade.

You can wrap up the rest of the stuffing muffins—assuming there were leftovers—and use the cupcake stand for some sweet cupcakes.

Leave them blank or frosted and set aside the decorations for a cupcake decorating station.

When it comes to dessert, there’s no limit to the inspiration sweets can bring.

Also with the addition of pumpkin flavored everything, that automatically doubles the dessert options.

Another idea is to abandon the traditional Thanksgiving menu completely and go for your favorite American dishes—trade out the turkey for fried chicken, make a grilled cheese platter and serve tater tots.

It doesn’t matter if you and your friends cook up a gourmet feast or order a bunch of pizzas, the only requirement is to set aside the time to enjoy a meal with your favorite people.

Maybe even throw a pumpkin on the table just for effect.

BANNER ARTS

"Blade Runner 2049" Delivers on All Fronts

Ryan Gosling Leads a Proper Sequel to the Original Sci-fi Classic

BY: STEVEN AIELLO

"Blade Runner" is one of the most beloved science fiction films for a reason.

The 1982 classic combined detailed visuals with deep thought provoking themes, forming a movie that was rich in substance and style.

Initially held in low regard, the film has since gained a vast following and positive responses from critics.

Given the high standards and avid fan base, a sequel seemed difficult to pull off in this day and age.

Fortunately, director Denis Villeneuve managed to create a film that lives up to its expectations.

Rather than being a generic action movie or halfhearted copy of the original, Villeneuve delivers a refreshing take on the series while making a self-contained movie.

Like the original film, "Blade Runner 2049" is heavy on world building, detail and complex themes, though the plot itself is easy to follow.

The story is about K (Ryan Gosling), a replicant working for the LAPD as a Blade Runner, tasked to track down and "retire" older replicants that have gone rogue.

A routine mission goes awry when K uncovers a hidden box containing the remains of a replicant that was once pregnant, something believed to be impossible.

To prevent chaos in society, K is ordered to find and destroy all evidence related to the child at any cost.

The story is very straightforward, but makes up for that simplicity with the themes



Photo Credit: wallpaper.com

and concepts presented.

The film contains an atmosphere and feeling that is bleak and depressing, giving the appearance of a world that is dystopian and somewhat hopeless.

This is assisted by many themes ranging from oppression and slavery, to existentialism and deceit.

The movie has a sad tone, which perfectly suits the overall design of the film and doesn't feel unnecessary or unfitting.

This is enhanced further by the world the film takes place in, which captures the feeling of a dystopian society.

The visuals are dark in tone, public areas are cluttered and cramped, which gives the overall impression of a mundane and awful society.

The size and scale of the world clash with these notions, suggesting a world that

his reprisal fits the tone of the movie and is a welcome touch.

The supporting cast also does a fine job, with a slew of nuanced performances that for the most part are unique from one another.

The script also makes everything feel more believable, with dialogue that expresses many of the aforementioned themes in complex and developed detail.

The movie is big on these details, as well as run time, clocking in at 2 hours and 43 minutes, which presents a lot of information to be digested.

A great deal of concentration is required to understand what's happening in the movie, which may be off-putting to some moviegoers.

It isn't too much of a detriment to the film, but is still noticeable.

Regardless, "Blade Runner 2049" is still a standout film, taking what made the original memorable and using it to great effect, while being its own narrative.

This is definitely a film worth watching, providing a change of pace with thought provoking ideas and strong writing.

Just be prepared for an intense experience that benefits from strong attention to detail and keen eyes above all else.

is grand in its scope but ultimately hollow in what it actually offers.

All of these aspects create what is arguably the best looking movie of the year.

The acting is nowhere near as impressive, but is understandable, considering how impressive the world itself is.

At the very least the acting helps everything feel believable, keeping the viewer invested in what's happening.

Ryan Gosling performance as K is serviceable enough. Gosling may appear emotionless and cold at times, but he does convey the emotions K is feeling when it matters most, which fits well for a man trying to discover his purpose in life.

Harrison Ford briefly reprises his role as Deckard, the original Blade Runner, and

"Grey's Anatomy" is Back At It With Season 14

A Re-Cap of the Hit Show's Intense Four New Episodes

BY: JESSICA SCARIMBOLO

On September 28, "Grey's Anatomy" returned for its 14th season with a bombshell. Let's re-cap but beware, there are spoilers ahead.

The premiere episode was a two-hour special, filled with every aspect a fan could hope for to tie up last season's loose ends.

Season 13 ended with resident Stephanie Edwards setting Grey Sloan Memorial Hospital on fire to save a patient.

Though successful, she leaves the hospital due to the trauma of her experience.

The new season picks up where we left off where Miranda Bailey, Chief of General Surgery, is explaining the cosmetic changes coming to the hospital as a result of the damages.

Another plot twist that left audiences reeling at the end of the last season was the discovery of Megan Hunt, Owen Hunt's sister.

Owen is the head of the trauma surgery staff, and previously served as a Major in the United States Army along with his sister. 10 years prior, Megan had disappeared, and it has since been revealed that Megan had been held captive, contrary to beliefs that she died a decade ago.

Season 14 has Megan being treated in Grey Sloan for the damage she endured during captivity.

Though we wish that show creator Shonda Rhimes would surprise fans and tell us

Derek Shepherd is also not actually dead, we are happy for Owen and his excitement, although with disbelief, regarding his sister's status.

"Jolex" fans will be happy to know that surgical resident Jo Wilson, and Head of Pediatrics Alex Karev, shared some steamy kisses in the most recent episodes, including falling asleep together at the end of episode four.

However, "Japril" fans will not be as satisfied as "Jolex" fans.

April shares her feelings with Jackson that she feels uncomfortable with their casual sex. After getting emotional, she tells Jackson that she thinks it would be best to move out of their house.

Head of Fetal Surgery, Arizona Robbins, was briefly dating Eliza Minnick, a

doctor hired to monitor the hospital surgical program. When Bailey realized things were not going completely well under Minnick's supervision, she was fired, and after which stopped answering Arizona's calls.

Season 14, however, shows hope for a new relationship, this time between Arizona Robbins and a new doctor at the hospital Carina DeLuca.

Though the season has only just begun, Arizona and Carina's relationship seems to be escalating quickly.

Meredith Grey spent the majority of season 13 being secretly intimate with Nathan Riggs, a cardiothoracic surgeon at the hospital.

Nathan was in love with Megan before she disappeared. After accepting her death and moving on, Riggs felt confident starting a

new relationship with Meredith who had lost her husband a few years prior.

When Megan returns, the three become caught in a love triangle, though Meredith eventually convinces Megan that she no longer has feelings for Nathan, and that they are free to reignite their relationship.

Perhaps the most shocking part of the premiere was discovering that Amelia Shepherd, Head of Neurosurgery, had a massive brain tumor.

In her time on the show, Amelia has proven to be strong and brave, and this situation proves no different.

After keeping it from her friends and co-workers at the hospital, she seeks the help of her former professor Dr. Koracik.

Ultimately, her treatment seems to have successfully removed the tumor, despite Amelia's brief confusion after waking.

Shonda Rhimes never fails to constantly keep the audience at the edge of their seats.

Though only four episodes into this season, it has already been packed with exciting, jaw-dropping scenes.

This season will undoubtedly leave audience members anxious to see what the rest of the season brings and all the emotions that come with it.



Photo Credit: wallpaper.com

BANNER ARTS

Indie Game "Cuphead" Shatters Expectations

Has Incredible Old-Time Visuals Mixed with Modern-Day Mechanics

BY: BRENTON MITCHELL

Difficulty isn't dead in the gaming world. "Cuphead", a run-and-gun action sidescroller, has revitalized the genre with 1930's cartoon-inspired visuals layered over incredibly difficult gameplay.

Developed by StudioMDHR Entertainment, players control Cuphead on his journey to erase a debt with the devil by clearing his list of runaway souls.

The game's plot is thin to the point of nonexistence, the premise only providing a backdrop to contain the gameplay.

Though instead of detracting from game quality, the lack of narrative bolsters the appeal by being both genre appropriate and allowing for the truly excellent elements to shine.

The most attractive aspect of "Cuphead" is the art and sound design.

With its old-time 1930's cartoon style, the game drew massive attention when it was announced at the Electronics Entertainment Expo in 2014.

The finished product that released to Xbox and PC on September 29 of this year clearly shows that three years of development were well spent.

"Cuphead" is visually stunning, with art that is colorful and stylized.

Enemies are unique and varied throughout the stages, often appearing as if watching an old Disney cartoon on psychedelics.

Beautiful art is backed by strong gameplay, with crisp responsive controls that are intuitive and completely remappable for player comfort.

Except for a few pure run-and-gun lev-

els that play out as spiritual successors to hits like the "Metal Slug" series, "Cuphead" is a game made entirely of boss fights.

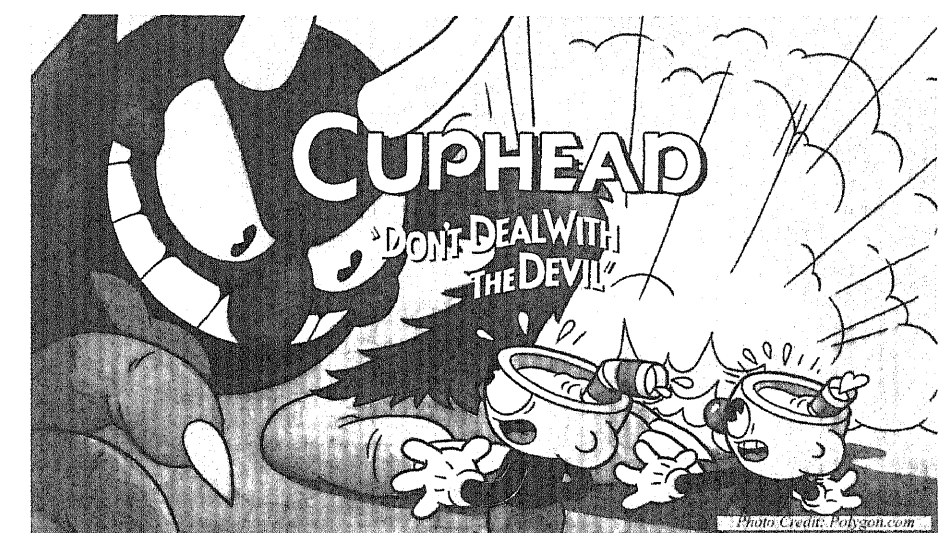
In addition, each fight stands on its own within the larger scope of the game, allowing for unique gameplay elements to be presented independently instead of tied to an interconnected narrative.

A large part of the game's hype relates to its difficulty, which captured the attention of

mentioned "Dark Souls" games legends of their genre.

"Cuphead" is difficult but fair. Each boss has various stages that they transition to after taking a certain amount of damage, each stage having its own obstacle to overcome and manage to achieve success.

While many of these stages have different variations, overall, the difference between attempts is incredibly minimal.



gamers thirsting for an experience that will put their skills to the test.

After comparisons arose to the immensely popular "Dark Souls" series, fans took notice of the newest way to feed their masochistic desire for trials and tribulation.

However designing a good game takes more than throwing difficulty at the player and hoping they find enjoyment along the way.

What keeps "Cuphead" afloat are the same design principles that made the afore-

The result is a game that allows players to learn from their mistakes through trial and error, eventually functioning off of muscle memory and game knowledge instead of pure mechanics and reaction time.

As such, some players may find themselves finishing the game with a logged total of 100 deaths, while others may accrue over 500 before reclaiming Cuphead's soul.

The glory of the game is in the feeling of accomplishment that comes with a hard-fought victory, and mastery of the mistakes

that kept the player down in the past.

Though there is more to the difficulty than catering to the player experience. With a total of only 19 bosses throughout the game, many of which can be finished in less than two minutes of game time, "Cuphead" is relatively scarce regarding overall content.

While the difficulty of each fight artificially inflates time spent due to repeat attempts, once levels are mastered the entire game could theoretically be cleared in less than two hours.

Carefully crafted boss fights are difficult and rewarding, but the level of detail comes with the sacrifice of quantity for quality.

It is a strange but welcome choice in a market where the trend is to create as many gameplay hours as possible to justify a \$60 price point.

This "lack" of quantity works in the game's favor with the incredibly smart price of \$20, providing reasonable value for an excellently crafted game from top to bottom.

Cuphead may not be for everybody, but is as near-perfect as one could hope for from an independent studio. It is proof that there is success to be found in the quality of work, and the importance of understanding the limits of the product you produce.

Cuphead is successful by not being more than it needed to be, achieving all its goals in a way that inspires the player to challenge themselves and to push further.

It is fun found in frustration, and success celebrated with a sip from the cup of glory.

Netflix's "Gerald's Game" Proves Horrifyingly Real

Psychological Horror Reveals The Darkest Demons

BY: JOSIAH AKHTAB

American psychological horror film "Gerald's Game" released on September 29, directed by Mike Flanagan and adapted from author Stephen King's novel of the same name, presents a cerebral yet uncannily relatable concept—facing your demons.

"Gerald's Game" revolves around Jessie Burlingame (Carla Gugino), whose husband Gerald (Bruce Greenwood) suffers a heart attack during a kinky sex game. While handcuffed to the bed, Jessie becomes increasingly disoriented from lack of food and water. In her weakened state, she begins hearing voices and having strange, unnerving visions.

Throughout the movie, the visions of Gerald and herself ask probing questions that force her to open up and admit the dark truths she suppressed for so long.

Jessie's consciousness drudged up reasons why her life has gone the way it has.

It brought about questions of her relationship with her father, and the striking similarities that has to her relationship with Gerald. It forced her to address issues she knows, but is too afraid to admit.

The horror aspects of the movie are well done, as it eschews the usual concepts related to the genre by basing itself in reality.

There are many things people will take to their graves, and the movie tackles that idea by using a life or death situation to force a confrontation of past demons.

"Gerald's Game" uses its characters as a means to inspire the audience to look deeper at themselves, to evaluate their dark secrets and the parts of their pasts they aren't proud of.

This movie takes the base fear of being alone in the dark, and accentuates that by placing Jessie in an extremely dire situation.

That's not the scariest part however, there is also what Gerald calls "The Moonlight Man".

The Moonlight Man represents death, the entity that haunts you in your dreams as well as reality.

He appears in Jessie's dreams of the past as well as her waking nightmares, for monsters of the night have nothing on the demons that haunt her every day.

The acting in "Gerald's Game" is very convincing; Carla Gugino does an ex-

cellent job of representing how someone would act in such a dramatic and terrifying situation.

The dialogue, along with the acting, brought out another concept that was integral to the story: that it literally took her husband dying right in front of her for Jessie's marital issues to be addressed.

Jessie recalled disgusting situations like when Gerald alluded to a joke he told at a Christmas party, referring to women as "life support for a cunt."

The concept of bondage comes into play both literally and figuratively.

Jessie's handcuffs on the bed parallel the figurative handcuffs placed by her father and the silence he evoked when he masterbated behind her when she was 12.

The heavy motifs of the movie were isolation, hallucination, and nightmares.

All of them accentuated the horror of being alone, doing very well to capture the cause and effect of mental strain.

The tone of the movie is very sinister, making it a perfect choice for a late night thrill.

The movie pays for those who pay at-

attention and listen to dialogue, allowing for thoughts to swirl and the psychology of the movie to be internalized.

If you're searching for something that plays with the mind, makes you question your beliefs or inner demons and forces some deep introspection, then "Gerald's Game" is definitely worth a watch.



Photo Credit: wallpaper.com

BANNER OPINIONS

Careers: An Advanced Degree is No Guarantee

College Graduate Unemployment is Stacking Up

BY: Clara Perez

Unemployment by Major Graph- University of Georgetown Center on Education and Workforce

Unemployment by Degree Graph- Public Policy Institute of California

While many believe an advanced degree is their meal ticket to life, the employment statistics for college graduates tells a different story.

For many graduate students pursuing master's degrees and PhDs, the hope for landing a stellar career when it's all said and done is still high.

Pursuing an advanced degree in this modern era still seems like the best course of action for any college student looking for a stable and rewarding career.

However, statistics show that many college graduates, even with advanced degrees, have difficulty landing that perfect job.

According to GradStaff, Inc., during a 2016 survey of recent college graduates including those with master's degrees, 70% were unemployed or were holding full-time non-professional jobs in order to pay bills.

Another 20% had full-time professional jobs but were already seeking new employment that would be better suited to their degree.

Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce has also reported

that graduating degree-holding millennials are lacking in the workplace.

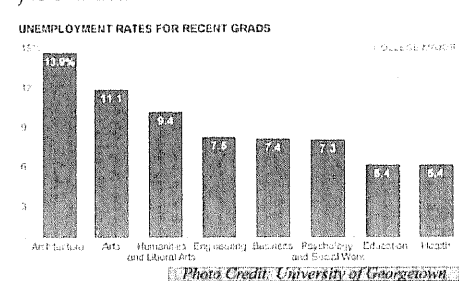
Accounting for about 40% of total U.S. unemployment, recently matriculated millennials employment rates, while up from past years, is still quite underwhelming.

An unexplainable amount of work, time and effort goes into earning a degree, especially more than one, so to have it result in unemployment or undesired employment is quite discouraging.

However, the issue may not be with the degree or your major.

GradStaff, Inc. has also divulged what they believe is the biggest driver of degree holder unemployment- the colleges.

Many colleges have job fairs and career offices in order to service students and alumni seeking employment but what they don't have is a fair representation of the real-world job market.



For the most part, large companies dominate on-campus recruitment efforts and they target STEM oriented majors or liberal arts majors at the top 10 percentiles of their class.

There are quite a few issues with this approach by colleges using large companies to recruit.

Firstly, small and medium companies are driving the workforce.

According to Automatic Data Processing (ADP), nearly 75% of jobs filled in 2014 were with companies containing 500 employees or less.

Secondly, the associated cost with on-campus recruiting is too high for small-to-medium businesses to become involved so, students never get the proper exposure to these job market heavy movers and shakers.

Thirdly, there is a lack of inclusion of opportunities for all different types of majors aside from just STEM.

This can lead to thousands of students and graduates feeling unsatisfied with their college career services and leave them feeling generally hopeless.

The solution to the problem of colleges not being diversified enough in their presented career guidance must start with the same colleges.

Many universities have not updated their

quality of career services for the new era of job searching.

The historic approach of guiding a student on a job search and catering to big businesses who want to recruit is not only outdated but also harmful to new cohorts of graduates.

Colleges must revamp their career services and on-campus recruitment to reflect modern job search engines and employment affairs.

Learning to navigate websites like LinkedIn, Indeed and Glassdoor would be far more useful than just directing student to these sites.

Also, reaching out to smaller companies who may have plenty of job openings instead of just large ones with only a few cut-throat chances can help steer students and alumni in better directions.

Lastly, incorporating staff career services with professionals, who are aware of the current ins and outs of the job market, can help keep all parties well informed and well prepared for the journey to the job ahead.

Gun Control: More or Less?

How Gun Control and Gun Violence Should Be Handled

BY: STEVEN AIELLO

The recent mass shooting in Las Vegas is an event that needs no introduction.

The impact and subsequent aftermath is one of sorrow that will most certainly be felt for years on end.

In total, 58 people were killed and over 500 were injured, with this shooting attaining the distinction of being the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history.

Many questions have risen regarding what happened, with the most important being how to prevent another similar incident from happening again.

Chief among these questions is how the US should handle its gun control laws and how gun violence should be dealt with.

One thing that should be noted immediately is that gun violence, and for that matter any and all forms of violence, cannot be solved, at least completely.

There is an innumerable amount of arguments that can be made for said case, but one fact is near inescapable. The fact is that as long as guns, evidence of guns and hatred exist in society, people will find ways to commit horrible acts using these weapons.

Gun violence is undoubtedly horrible and the fact that it puts people's lives in jeopardy, knowingly or unknowingly, only makes that knowledge even worse.

However, the problem lies not in preventing what can't be stopped but how to manage it, which is gun control.

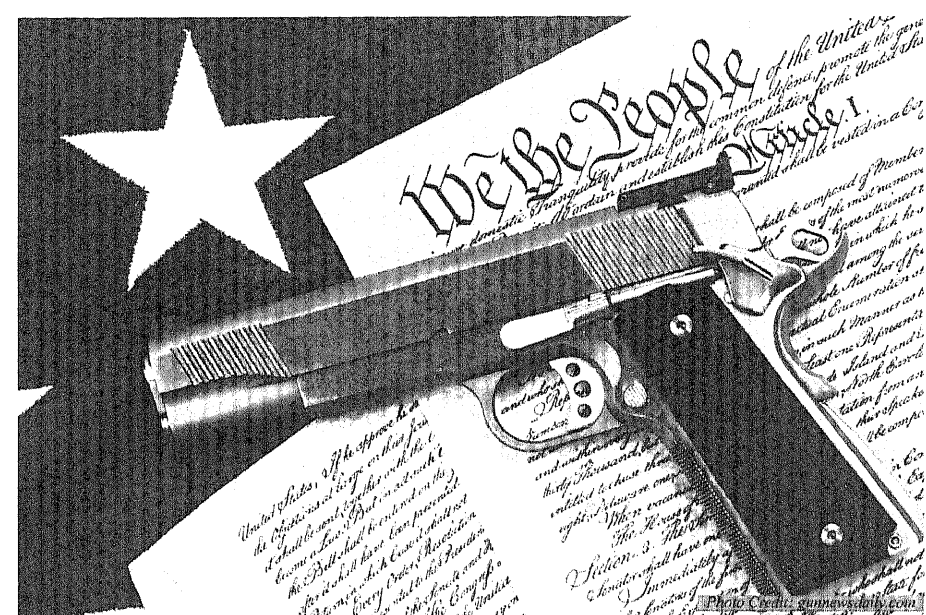
Obviously, the biggest issue here is whether the US should enact more laws for or against gun control and ownership.

Starting with the former case, many peo-

ple point to the Second Amendment, which grants citizens the right "to keep and bear arms", as a reason for gun ownership.

Although the amendment seems relatively straightforward in what it describes, the context of those words offers a much different story.

The amendment was enacted as a way of maintaining a "well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a Free State".



The amendment appears to have initially been created as a way for citizens to fight for the well-being of the United States and not necessarily a way for people to own any number of guns.

The amendment was modified in 1992, but even still, the origins and true meaning are rather questionable.

Almost any person being able to possess whatever legal firearm they please is argu-

ably a poor solution to solving gun violence because it could increase the frequency of these weapons, leading to reckless and inadvertent damage.

On the other hand, more gun laws could be equally as dangerous.

Websites like Security Degree Hub provide evidence that most of the recent mass shootings in the US (up to 2013) were done using legally obtained firearms.

Procedures such as a background check, which most states do not require, is a step in the right direction mainly because it gives the seller context on the buyer.

The inclusion of a test to determine mental health could also be of great benefit if used properly.

In addition to information on firearms sales, Security Degree Hub provides the information that almost all mass shootings are committed by people with mental health issues.

A test to determine the condition of one's mental health or psychology could lessen said problem, though the tests should be tailor-made with the buyer in mind.

Structuring them that way would allow for more creative approaches to determine mental capacity and make the tests more difficult to cheat or abuse.

The end goal of these tests is to let people defend themselves, and potentially others, if they are deserving enough of said right.

Another solution would be to improve security measures, especially in populated or crowded areas.

The mass shooting in Vegas could have been even more severe if it hadn't been for

weapons, while preventing people who follow the law from obtaining weapons to potentially defend themselves.

This is further compounded by the number of guns in the US, which totals in at roughly 300 million, almost one for each citizen.

Ultimately, too many or too few laws for gun control are detrimental to people. If anything, stronger regulations towards gun ownership are needed.

Procedures such as a background check, which most states do not require, is a step in the right direction mainly because it gives the seller context on the buyer.

The inclusion of a test to determine mental health could also be of great benefit if used properly.

In addition to information on firearms sales, Security Degree Hub provides the information that almost all mass shootings are committed by people with mental health issues.

A test to determine the condition of one's mental health or psychology could lessen said problem, though the tests should be tailor-made with the buyer in mind.

Structuring them that way would allow for more creative approaches to determine mental capacity and make the tests more difficult to cheat or abuse.

The end goal of these tests is to let people defend themselves, and potentially others, if they are deserving enough of said right.

Another solution would be to improve security measures, especially in populated or crowded areas.

The mass shooting in Vegas could have been even more severe if it hadn't been for

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS

Me Too: An Online Sexual Violence Movement

Harvey Weinstein Scandal Inspires Women to Speak Up

BY: BEREN SABUNCU

There have been recent allegations against Harvey Weinstein, a then very powerful producer, by a large group of actresses and models, in which the main topic of discussion was sexual harassment.

It is this sexual that should make people more aware of just how common sexual violence is and just how important it is that this topic isn't taboo anymore.

The victims of this type of violence tend to internalize what happened to them, and refuse to acknowledge or talk about what happened because of the shame perpetuated by social and rape culture.

The stigmatization of victims isn't new. Indeed, perpetrators of these sort of crimes thrive off of the victims being silenced by these stigmas.

Weinstein is a great example to prove this phenomenon.

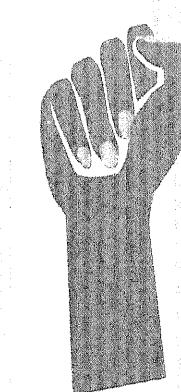
Harvey and his brother Bob Weinstein created Miramax in the late 1970's.

About 48 women came forward, one after the other, stating that Harvey Weinstein sexually harassed or assaulted them.

Amongst the victims are hugely influential actresses such as Lupita Nyong'o, Gwyneth Paltrow, and Angelina Jolie.

We are talking about one of the biggest producers in Hollywood. It is likely that there are other women out there, with similar allegations, who are not coming forward because they're afraid.

Indeed, in a New Yorker article by Ronan Farrow titled, "From Extreme Overtures To



Sexual Assault: Harvey Weinstein's Accusers Tell Their Stories" the extent of Weinstein's power is revealed.

"Virtually all of the people I spoke with told me that they were frightened of retaliation. "If Harvey were to discover my identity, I'm worried that he could ruin my life," one former employee told me."

After the allegations against Weinstein multiplied successively, the media's attention intensified.

On October 15, came the tweet that launched one of the more successful social media campaigns against sexual violence.

Alyssa Milano, a very acclaimed widely-known actress, tweeted, "If you've been harassed or assaulted write me too as a reply to this tweet".

The tweet got 68K comments, 25K

retweets and 53K likes. People started putting "#MeToo" on their Facebook pages.

The "#MeToo" campaign also helped inform those who are oblivious of the extent of sexual assault and violence.

Milano then tweeted again, informing her followers that the "#MeToo" campaign wasn't her creation, but of activist Tarana Burke's.

Burke now is the Program Director of "Girls for Gender Equity". The story behind the movement is a very upsetting one.

Burke describes the events on the Just Be site: "The me too Movement™ started in the deepest, darkest place in my soul. As a youth worker, dealing predominately with children of color, I had seen and heard my share of heartbreaking stories from broken homes to abusive or neglectful parents when I met Heaven."

She then talked about how the girls often sought help or guidance from counselors, and that she was Heaven's favorite.

When the young girl approached her, Burke immediately realized that a deep confession was about to be made and tried to avoid the dark pain in the young girl's eyes.

When Heaven finally convinced her to listen, Burke was shocked, "For the next several minutes this child, Heaven, struggled to tell me about her "stepdaddy" or rather her mother's boyfriend who was doing all sorts of monstrous things to her developing body...I was horrified by her words, the emotions welling inside of me ran the gamut, and I listened until I literally could not take it

anymore...which turned out to be less than 5 minutes."

Burke was obviously horrified, and yet still, what she did next stuck with her for over 10 years.

She admitted to not being able to take it anymore.

"Then, right in the middle of her sharing her pain with me, I cut her off and immediately directed her to another female counselor who could "help her better."

Burke described the look in Heaven's eyes that indicated her "shock of being rejected, the pain of opening a wound only to have it abruptly forced closed again."

Burke was terribly guilt-ridden, especially because she did not have the courage she does now.

The last line of Burke's story hits readers with full force.

"I watched her walk away from me as she tried to recapture her secrets and tuck them back into their hiding place. I watched her put her mask back on and go back into the world like she was all alone and I couldn't even bring myself to whisper...me too."

In cases of sexual assault, the victim is never the one to blame.

No means no, not a "maybe". They are not playing "hard to get", they are not "too drunk to remember".

If you are a victim, speak up. Chances are, as proven by Weinstein, you are not the only one.

Get up, and without shame, say "Me Too".

Why Relationship Virgins Are On The Rise

They're Young, Single and Maybe Ready to Mingle

BY: JENNIFER WEEKS & LUCIA ROSSI

Over the course of the last few years, there has been an uprising of single adults, primarily in their 20's, who have never been in a romantic relationship.

These adults are called "relationship virgins".

Men and women who are relationship virgins have several reasons for being single, as well as never taking the commitment plunge in the past.

One common reason there are relationship virgins is simply because they may not have found someone worth dating.

It's difficult to find someone who has the qualities you're looking for.

Someone could be a relationship virgin because their standards and expectations are so high that no one has been able to reach them.

One can always dream, and no one says you're undeserving of your prince or princess charming, but let's be realistic, people aren't perfect.

Someone could also be a relationship virgin because they're young and aren't ready to settle down.

This could be true for the majority of young adults, both men and women, because in our modern time period, people are getting married and having children

at older ages.

Another reason people are relationship virgins is because some people enjoy sex more than commitment and romance.

Commitment can be frightening, and it's often easier to avoid it by just focusing on the physical aspect of a relationship without actually having one. This doesn't last for long because someone usually, and eventually, wants more.

People could also be relationship virgins because of insecurity. When you're insecure, you think the worst about yourself and believe that you're not worthy of love, when you are.

That lack of confidence isn't sexy and shouldn't stop you from being happy with someone. Insecurity can close you off to people which could give them the impression you're unavailable.

Similar to insecurity, fear is another reason why people have never been in relationships.

Fear is a normal feeling when you have never been in or experienced love or a relationship. New things in general are scary.

It is also understandable if a person is afraid of relationships because they fear their heart will be broken. That's just a risk you have to take.

whether by choice or not.

Certain cultures or religions still allow arranged marriages or encourage the female to stay "pure". In which case, they would not enter a relationship beforehand to put themselves at risk for all sorts of social issues.

Relationship virgins exist for good reasons and there's nothing wrong with it.

If you haven't experienced a real relationship yet, know that it's okay and that your time will come.



SPORTS

Unexpected Seasons for the Jets and Giants

Giants Now in Position to Select a Quarterback

BY: ANTHONY RUSSO

It wasn't expected back in August that the New York Giants would have just one win, while the New York Jets would stand at 3-3.

In fact, Las Vegas released odds last August that gave the Jets 200-1 odds, and the Giants 22-1 odds to win the Super Bowl.

The Jets were given these chances due to their finish last season, a 5-11 record, and their offseason moves, in which they cut ties with most of their veteran players.

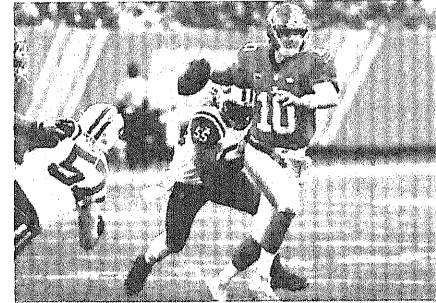
For the Giants, they signed former Jets top wide receiver Brandon Marshall, who played for Gang Green from 2015-2016.

The Giants, who entered week five at home against the San Diego Chargers at 0-4, lost not just Marshall to a season-ending injury, but arguably the NFL's best receiver, Odell Beckham Jr., for the year as well, all in the same game.

Last season, when the Giants qualified for the playoffs, they had a strong defense, ranking 3rd against the run and 7th in points allowed in 2016.

Marshall was expected to be a key addition that would bolster a Giants passing attack that ranked only 17th in 2016.

Marshall finished his 2017 campaign with just 18 receptions for 154 yards in five games.



The Giants were expected to contend for the playoffs again and perhaps the Super Bowl, while the Jets were presumed to be historically bad.

According to NFL Network analyst Daniel Jeremiah, an NFL executive said in June that "the Jets might have the worst roster I've seen in a decade."

Even with the Jets top wide receiver target, Quincy Enunwa, still healthy at the time, Enunwa suffered a season-ending neck injury just prior to the preseason, and from there,

the Jets were expected to be even worse.

With the Enunwa injury, the Jets were left with Robbie Anderson, who signed as an undrafted free agent in 2016, and Jermaine Kearse, who they acquired from the Seattle Seahawks along with a 2nd round draft pick in the upcoming 2018 NFL draft.

The Jets had traded one of their top defensive linemen in Sheldon Richardson and appeared to be focused on the 2018 draft.

Once the season started, acquiring a top-five pick and drafting a quarterback seemed possible, as the Jets started out 0-2, losing to the Buffalo Bills and Oakland Raiders.

The Jets would then win 3 straight games, essentially taking themselves out of position to draft a top-five quarterback.

While the Jets find themselves in possible playoff contention, the Giants remain at the bottom of the pack with the Cleveland Browns and the San Francisco 49ers.

Giants quarterback, Eli Manning, will turn 37 in January, and if the losing continues, the Giants will be able

to acquire a top pick in the draft and choose their quarterback.

By most experts, the upcoming NFL draft class has strong depth at the quarterback position, a class which features Sam Darnold, Josh Rosen, Josh Allen and Lamar Jackson.

Though the Giants failures this season may not all lie on Manning's shoulders, finding a franchise quarterback could be difficult.

Manning is 36, and maybe has a few years left, but he hasn't given any indication on when he plans to retire.

If the Jets want to select a top quarterback in the draft, they may have to trade up, much like how they traded up in 2009 to select Mark Sanchez.

The more games the Jets win, the less of a chance they have at selecting a franchise quarterback- and the Giants will instead be the team in position to take one.

TJ Tibbs Comes Full Circle

Head Coach TJ Tibbs Takes on His Newest Challenge

BY: ERIC RANSOM

Coach Tibbs has known since birth that basketball was his calling.

TJ Tibbs, 29, a born and raised Staten Islander, has been named the new head basketball coach for the CSI Men's Basketball team, an honor the alumnus Tibbs is tremendously proud of.

After Coach Tony Petosa stepped down, Tibbs got the news that he is next to lead the squad, just five years after being a player on the very same team.

Only seven people have been in Tibbs' place before, and the return home for the CSI alum is a fresh start in a familiar surrounding.

Tibbs sits in his office every morning, overlooking a kid's playground, a testament to when Tibbs began his basketball endeavor as a boy, some 20 years ago.

"I've been playing basketball since I was walking. I really started to realize that I loved basketball probably as early as the first grade," said Tibbs, dressed in his NY Jayhawks shirt.

Even at an early age, and new to the sport, basketball to Tibbs became more than just recreation and staying active, but a passion taken very seriously.

Tibbs would cry after his team lost a game, even when the score wasn't counted.

This is one of the early steps in his basketball journey that he remembers quite fondly.

Tibbs cites his parents as being his biggest influences, especially his father, who enrolled him in the Catholic Youth Organization basketball league, leading him to eventually play for the Saint Peter's High School

basketball team.

His love for the game only grew, until his freshman year in college at Monmouth University, where basketball became a much tougher reality.

Being a redshirt freshmen on a sub-par team, Tibbs never played in any games that season, and proceeded to transfer to CSI,

man boys' basketball team at Curtis High School.

He also coached with Baruch University, and recently was head coach at the College of Mount Saint Vincent before stepping in here at his alma mater.

For Tibbs, fitting in is far from an issue at CSI, from the many greetings given by other

a senior guard.

Edin Bracic, another senior guard/forward, explained how Coach Tibbs wants his players to "be loud, have energy, and be tough."

With this, the off court mentality is just as important to Tibbs, expressing to each individual player to "be a gentleman," and to not be "just basketball players," as answered by Savage.

Bracic mirrored this sentiment, saying that Coach Tibbs "wants us to be a community."

Coach Tibbs looks to instill strong, trustworthy relationships with not only his players, but the CSI community alike.

He values "heavy practices", allowing his players to grow together, preparing them as much as possible for the season ahead.

Tibbs shines as a positive, eager and fiery leader with a wonderful outlook for an institution he cares deeply for, excited for the season to begin.

He hopes to show that basketball and life can be synonymous, that the discipline, as well as the fun of playing the sport, can resonate in the lives of the young men he will lead on the court.

As for the future, Tibbs remains humble in his handling of what is to come.

"I don't have goals. I always feel like no matter what the result is at the end that I underachieve. There's always something to get better at. There hasn't been one year that I've been involved in basketball where I felt like... I did everything thing I possibly could, and the time I feel that is when I should probably stop coaching."



worried if he would ever play basketball again.

Overcoming the low points of that year, Tibbs remained steadfast in his push to play his favorite sport, not letting failure block his path.

"That was the time... that I realized failure didn't really detract me from playing, that I definitely wanted to do this," he said.

Tibbs played from 2010 to 2012 for CSI, and became an assistant coach with the fresh-

student athletes and coaches passing through, to the required dancing in his office before leaving. Luckily, the dancing wasn't required this time.

The messages Coach Tibbs relays to his team resonates with his players, and in quite a short amount of time, has his team believing in his tutelage.

"[Coach Tibbs wants us to] communicate together, always have each other's backs, [and] pick each other up," said Ray Savage,