

THE BANNER



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Going Green

ANDREW OPPENHEIMER

CUNY as a whole is making great efforts to be more environmentally friendly, stemming from the CUNY Sustainability Project. The footnotes at the bottom of each of your emails ("Think green before printing this email,") the effort to reduce commuter waste (shuttle and loop bus services,) and even the influx of trash cans scattered across the campus all reflect some of the steps being made by administration to help CSI go green. However, it should never be up to administration to make a positive impact at the college level. Otherwise nothing would change. The real impact starts with the students, and the small ways that we can improve our campus and environment. Even as simple a gesture as shifting from purchasing bottled beverages to a reusable bottle can have a massive impact.

An empty plastic 20-ounce bottle weighs about 2 ounces, or one eighth of a pound. If one were to purchase one bottle a day, one would have nearly one pound of waste per week, or about five pounds of waste a month. At roughly 60 pounds a year, this number becomes astronomical when looking at a community even as small as CSI. Each bottle costs \$1.50, or \$10.50 a week, or \$547 annually. A buck-fifty might not seem like much on its own, but it does add up very quickly.

In contrast, an aluminum bottle with a screw-on cap costs between three and ten dollars, depending on where they are purchased from. Many come with stylized designs and clips to hang on a bag or belt. They can last for years (though realistically, they're inexpensive enough to replace annually), and weigh only a little more than their plastic siblings of similar volume. It would take an entire lifetime to produce as much waste using a refillable bottle as it would one year of purchasing plastic bottles daily.

If you're worried about taking the plunge into tree-hugger-dom, then consider purchasing only one bottle a week and refilling it with water from public fountains. Even on the CSI campus, most of the larger buildings have adequate or even good water from the fountains. One would cut their spending by nine dollars weekly, or \$468 annually. To put this in prospective, this equates to 42 packs of cigarettes, 154 gallons of gas, an Xbox 360 with the Kinect, or two biology text books at CSI Bookstore prices.

While it is true that these bottles are recyclable, and there is a five-cent deposit if they are returned, one would still only make

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New Italian Studies Major Greets The Students



Photo By: N.DeJulio

Professors of the Italian studies program who took part in CSI's "Meet the professors" event.

N. DEJULIO

From The Sopranos to Jersey Shore, Italian culture is becoming increasingly popular and CSI is now bringing Italy to its classrooms. The new Italian studies major, which was just introduced this semester has about twenty students enrolled. "We couldn't have asked for a better turnout," said Paola Ureni, one of the Italian studies professors.

CSI decided to celebrate the new major that took ten years to build in October coinciding with Italian heritage month. Students got the chance to "meet and greet" the professors of the program. There were a few students who were in attendance of which three were

already enrolled in the major and just came to hang out.

Staten Island is heavily populated with Italian-Americans and yet there is still a low turnout for the Italian Studies program, which is the first program of its type among Staten Island's colleges. Despite the attendance at the meet and greet being close to scarce, Paola Ureni, Giancarlo Lombardi, and Gerry Milligan, did not notice. They all presented themselves as eager and welcoming.

The program includes studies in Italian culture, language, and history. "I even tackle stereotypes in my classes involving modern Italian culture," said Giancarlo Lombardi,

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Learning To Love The Jewish Way

JAM Delivers Love Advice to Save Your Marriage

C.BENIS

Kosher ice cream was piled high and covered with kosher syrup, as the number of Yamika covered heads in the small, high school sized classroom continued to multiply. This week's topic of discussion was the truth about love and dating. But on a college campus, where dating and love can be unsure and unpredictable, the College of Staten Island's Jewish Awareness Movement (JAM), a nationwide Jewish organization, respond to the dilemma with faith and morals.

"If you are looking for something that

is lasting," said guest speaker Rabbi I.C Fingerer. "You need to look for someone with deeply imbedded morals." Rabbi Fingerer, author of Adults Only: Rated R For Mature Audiences Only, and Rabbi for ten years, claims that Judaism has found the secret to the perseverance and preservation of marriage.

According to the census information for 2010, in America the divorce rate is about fifty percent (half of all marriages ending in divorce), but among those who practice the Jewish faith, it is significantly lower, at about thirty percent. "A marriage based on superficial similarities, simply can't last as long," said Rabbi Dovid Winiarz, one of the coordinators of JAM at CSI. The message these spiritual

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MTA Fare Hikes Enrage Staten Islanders

MARISSA PESSOLANO

New Yorkers are facing fare hikes as the MTA is at it again, increasing the cost of monthly, weekly, and single ride MetroCards, in addition to raising the tolls on bridges and tunnels.

The MTA board members have approved an increase of the weekly MetroCard from \$27 to \$29, while monthly MetroCards climbs from \$89 to a whopping \$104. Talks of limiting the amount of rides allowed are also being discussed, although complete details have not yet been given. This is an effort to stop people from sharing their MetroCards. Single rides will be effected as well, as they will increase by a quarter, making the new fare \$2.50.

This increase is the third fare hike in three years and is coming only three months after massive service cuts. As if this wasn't enough, a MetroCard tax is being put into place. Riders that do not refill their old MetroCards and choose to purchase a new one will be charged \$1.00. This is an attempt to give riders an incentive to hold on to their MetroCards. This announcement sparked concerns in Staten Islanders as they argue that there are only three locations in the borough with MetroCard vending machines, therefore, refilling their card would become difficult. New developments however, would allow riders to catch a break on this new surcharge, as the tax would not apply to cards purchased from local merchants. Although Staten Islanders have been given a way out of this tax, many commuters still find this charge inconvenient.

"When I travel to the city, I usually purchase my MetroCard at the ferry terminal," explained student, Dana DePaola. "Often times, I misplace my MetroCard or forget to carry it along, thinking I could just get a new one. Now I will have to be more conscious about holding on to them as I do not want to go out of my way to purchase the card from a merchant. Whether you are effected by this or not, I think it is ridiculous. What are we paying for? It is a piece of plastic that doesn't cost a dollar to make. Ten cents would be the most they could reasonably charge," she continued on.

As for the monthly and weekly hikes, there are a countless number of students that are enraged as they take mass transit on a regular basis. Students that are already on a tight budget will have to reach deeper into their

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Hipster Upstart Celebrates Toppling Establishment Candidate

SABINA MAMEDOVA

The 26 year old mop-headed and bespectacled incumbent is the Vice-President of the New Kings Democratic Party, and has been elected into the seat of 50th District Assembly Leader. The youngest to hold the position to date.

When the Victory Party kicks off at 8 pm it is sparsely filled with what looks like Restler's aunts and uncles. A few Hasid men skirt the wall opposite the bar, and balloons hug the stage: all adding to its Bar Mitzvah-like allure. Fashionably late, the hip youth associated with the New Kings Democrats file in, shaking Restler's hand at the door before heading straight to the bar for a microbrew. The room now seems filled beyond its legal capacity.

"Lincoln's mom actually came up to me outside of the L train and told me to vote for him," said Sarah Lewman, 21, "I love who involved his family was in his campaign."

After acknowledging almost every guest individually, Restler steps to the stage shedding his school boy charm and speaks sincerely and oratorically, channeling the likes of Obama, whom he is often compared to, and the authoritativeness of FDR. "You're

the reason we won the fightin' 50th, and I am humbled and honored to be your voice on the Brooklyn Democratic State Committee" Restler said. "Together we are going to transform our local politics and we won't back down until we achieve transparency, accountability, and equality."

This was a big win for a relatively low ranking position. Restler beat the establishment candidate Warren Cohn who was backed by the Brooklyn Democratic Party boss Vito Lopez. He is currently being held under scrutiny for fraudulent activities that he was able to commit because of supportive District Leaders, which he had amassed in Brooklyn.

Restler, securing this position is a rung on the ladder to displacing Lopez, who has been elected for a 2nd term.

"Restler is the neighborhood liaison to our elected officials," said Michael Almeida, 22, "it matters greatly who holds this position."

District leaders are unpaid elected officials who give residents of their district a unified voice in the state and federal level. Although Restler won by a mere 120 votes it is fairly big win for the "hipster upstart", as he called in the *Village Voice*, because unlike



Lincoln Restler

Cohn he did not have a big party to support him. The New Kings Democrats hold just 200 members consisting of mostly 20-30 year olds.

The demographic of the 50th district is especially challenging in this regard because of its large Hispanic and Hasidic communities. Restler made sure to reach the entire populace, even taking care to consider the Sabbath when dealing with Hasidic families, according to a few of the Hasid men who are all smiles when talking about the young incumbent.

Fellow politicians, Councilwoman Letitia James and Congresswoman Nydia

Velázquez take to the stage to voice their congratulations and excitement for ousting Lopez's candidate. "This is the people's victory!" Councilwoman James shouts, "Reform has come to Brooklyn! You are the father of the revolution."

As the speeches and accolades wind down the Elias Meister Group, the house jazz combo, takes the stage and a small group of young Restler supporters jokingly chant "Restler for President!" "It's only the beginning for him," they assure all within earshot.

CSI Students Talk Politics With S.I. Candidate Hopefuls

EDUARDO HERNANDEZ

CSI students are not just concerned with their college careers but also with the politics of their hometown, and they want answers from their representatives in congress. That is what happened, at the Staten Island Candidates Forum that took place at the Recital Hall on the CSI campus. Students were given the opportunity to ask their representatives questions about the state of their hometown and nation.

"...students were not holding back their emotions and the lineup for the questions was one that could have competed with the line at the unemployment line. This was one of the major topics on the mind of students, along with healthcare reform."

One of the more popular candidates was Michael Grimm, a candidate for Congress who stated "It is important to serve our country" and "Our country is heading in a dangerous direction," he said. With a lack of interest in young voters for these elections it is

important for young voters to learn about the people who are campaigning for their votes.

One of the main concerns for the students were the economical trouble this state and country is in right now, as well as the war the nation is fighting overseas and in our own backyard- referring to the border problems with illegal immigrants.

One pleasant surprise for the CSI faculty at this event was the turnout of students. Even though some students admittedly said they were intrigued by this event and the opportunity to interact with politicians of the State of New York.

This event was originally scheduled to begin at 2 pm at the Recital Hall, but with many students still in class at this point, it seemed as the trend of college students not showing interest in voting was going to continue.

However, after classes ended for students, it started to get crowded in the hallway

One pleasant surprise for the CSI faculty at this event was the turnout of students. Even though some students admittedly said they were intrigued by this event and the opportunity to interact with politicians of the State of New York.

outside. It was like a scene from a bar, once happy hour begins it starts to get more crowded and more importantly, it gets louder. The students were able to mingle with the candidates, something that they don't usually get to do on a regular basis. Conversations included the following candidates: Michael Grimm, Michael Cusick, Sal Albanese, Danny Panzella, and John Clifton, plus several others.

Democratic Representative, Michael McMahon, was not able to attend due to prior commitments. However, he was being represented on this committee by a student who shared his interest in politics and his right to vote and also speaking for more students to vote in the elections.

"As college students, we are the ones who are likely going to feel the consequences of today's elections, it is important for us to know who is running. Who we vote for will make the decisions, hopefully keeping us in mind," said Jennifer Rammairone a student at CSI. One of the main concerns for

the students were the economical trouble this state and country is in right now, as well as the war the nation is fighting overseas and in our own backyard- referring to the border problems with illegal immigrants.

Once the forum began many students filled out the spacious hall, and started bombarding the candidates with questions. They were very interested in letting the candidates

It was like a scene from a bar, once happy hour begins it starts to get more crowded and more importantly, it gets louder. The students were able to mingle with the candidates, something that they don't usually get to do on a regular basis.

know how they felt about the topics that are being dealt with today.

The students were not holding back their emotions and the lineup for the questions was one that could have competed with the line at the unemployment line. This was one of the major topics on the mind of students, along with healthcare reform.

This was an event unfortunately cut too short for these students and hopefully this turnout will encourage more candidates to visit college, and for students to gain interest in politics and the voting process.

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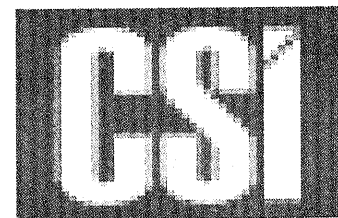
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: "Leave Your Comfort Zone"

I enjoyed reading this article. I thought it had a good sound and feel to it. Sarachik gives good advice for any upcoming musicians or writers. As I was reading this I felt as though the writer was talking to me one-on-one, and I like that because it shows that he made a connection with a reader!

Margaret Sexton

Re: "The Future of Newspapers In The Developing World"

Reading this article has led me to realize how technology and the internet has completely taken over. The fact that information is so readily available on the internet may seem like a positive thing but this article has shown me that jobs are affected by this. This article made me think about other jobs that the internet may affect and if this will cause the unemployment rate to increase even more.

Stephanie Velonis

Re: "How Safe Is CSI For Students"

After reading this article, there seems to be many changes to the CSI campus. Adding more lights for students taking classes at night seems beneficial. But something that still worries me, is that anyone can step onto the CSI campus. I usually go to the handball courts and play ball. But at times there are random people there. I ask if they were from this school and they weren't. Although its in the middle of the day, things can still happen such as theft. Security can't keep track of everyone coming onto campus. But at times I think they should go check id's. There's a plaque saying that you must have a valid student ID to play on the handball courts and they don't. Now how safe is that for the people walking and playing on the courts.

John Zhang

Re: "Down The Rabbit Hole, To Fall Or Not To Fall"

I really enjoyed reading "Down the Hole" because not only did the writer grab my attention but it is a relatable topic. Since society is slowly becoming more open about same sex relationships, it raises alot of questions these days for young adults which side of the fence they want to play on.

Teresa Triolo

Re: "Cash or Credit? It's A Job Not A Career"

"Cash or Credit? It's A Job Not A Career" shows readers that listening to your parents will pay off in the long run. Many teenagers start working while they are in high school, giving them a little taste of money. Some of these teens think because they make more than minimum wage they're making serious cash. In reality, if they try as hard in school as much

as they do at work, they can become doctors, lawyers and many more respected professionals.

Michael Sanchez

Re: "Is It A Dump Or A Park?"

I really enjoyed reading the article "Is it a dump or a park?" I live in Travis so "the dump" aka Freshkills is literally right in my backyard. I think it is nice that they are turning it into an actual park. It seems that tourists who come to New York always seem to know about Freshkills, always referring to it as "the dump." So it will be nice for a change to be able to correct them by saying, "no its not a dump, it's a park."

Patrick Serao

Re: "New Lounge Raises The Bar But Doesn't Clear It"

Very interesting article. I've been hearing about "Eve" recently, and hearing good things, however, I don't see myself ever going. Sadly, it's past reputation of places like L'Amour, Hush, and Shakers that will keep me away. Lastly kids enjoy the city because to them its, "different" even though all of S.I. is on that 10 PM Friday Night Ferry.

James Mardikos

Re: "How Safe Is CSI For Students"

This article was very interesting and informative. It makes students aware of what's going on, on the campus. That way students could be more careful. The CSI campus is very big and could be scary at night, especially in the empty areas with no lighting. This article deserved to be on the front page. It grabs the readers attention and makes them want to read the article, especially because it's about their safety.

Mona Michi

Re: "Down The Rabbit Hole, To Fall Or Not To Fall"

I found it funny how she actually had to kiss a girl to find out whether or not she wants to explore the other side. Something else I love and found funny is how she compares her favorite cousin bedroom to a Heineken keg at a frat party. I'm not against or for gay people but it seems good that people are not afraid to express their feelings.

Kevin Guevara

Re: "American Democracy Project"

It makes me nervous for the future because it just opens too many doors for further corruption. Besides, Bloomberg doesn't seem so special that he should get to hold office longer than Giuliani or any other mayor or elected officials. After reading this I completely agree with this because it seems to me that NYC will have a new mayor soon due to the work Bloomberg has been doing. I feel that

we need someone stronger who can lead NYC to a better future.

Tali Goon

Re: "How Safe Is CSI For Students"

I'm glad to know as a freshman that the campus is trying to improve security. I've experienced the same feeling as Niroshini Yoga. In the afternoon I went to see one of CSI's plays, when I was coming home I walked the same path as Niroshini Yoga. They are no lights on the path looks secluded, life threatening, as if something is gonna come out and attack you. I hope the campus keeps improving their security in CSI making it a safe place for everyone.

Anthony Gonzalez

Re: "Cash or Credit? It's A Job Not A Career"

I found this article to be inspirational, because a few weeks ago I had to choose between my 40+ hours of work or my career. My idea was to help my mother with our financial situation. Thanks to a group of people that advised me, I realized I would fail the both of us if I didn't work for a career. I chose to cut back to 30 hours a week and to try and catch up in school, so that I could get into the nursing program.

Kevin Gomez

Re: "Sex And The NFL, The Brett Farve Scandal"

I found this article to be very good. The author provided valid points and also information that came up as new to me. I liked how the author asked students and just regular football fans their opinions on the matter.

Matthew Paone

Re: "Down The Rabbit Hole, To Fall Or Not To Fall"

The article was very interesting. It's true that many students in college experiment with the same sex but not all the time. Some people do it for the attention and others do it for fun. Look at your cousin she was just having fun experimenting when it became clear to her, she really did like girls.

Michelle Selaro

Re: "American Democracy Project"

This was a fun article to read. Democrats and Republicans walking in a parade as they prepare for the election. It's great. I love the comments Paladino said. You can tell he's speaking his mind. Stephanie Culotta is stupid for thinking that Paladino doesn't hate gays.

Darryl Todman

"Italian Studies Major Greets The Students"
Continued from the front page

who hails from Rome, Italy himself. Stereotypes attacking Italian-Americans has been more visible recently with such shows as The Sopranos, it is the mafia type, and with the Jersey Shore its "guidos and guidettes." Professor Lombardi, who spear headed and coordinated the Italian studies major, writes many pieces discussing the representations of Italians in cinema. "I have even written about the last season of The Sopranos in a book called "Mafia Movies" coming out in April of 2011," he said. When the topic of Jersey Shore came up Professor Lombardi confessed to have watched it on occasion. "Vinny G was my student for twenty-six credits here at CSI," he said, "I love Vinny!"

Assistant Professor, Paola Ureni does not really pay attention to the negative stereotypes, such as Jersey Shore. Ureni grew up in Florence, Italy and has been teaching at CSI for a year. "I am very happy I came to New York because I get to know my Italian-American roots," she said, "and I deeply love all my students here."

One of the students who was truly inter-

ested in making Italian Studies her major, showed up to meet the professors and is not of Italian heritage. In a community filled with Italian pride and consumed by Italian pop culture you might assume more students would have shown up.

The Italian studies major is a bachelors degree program that is flexible and allows for other majors such as Business, Education, and even Liberal arts can all be combined with the Italian studies major. "Students can use this major to satisfy many different areas of interest such as fashion, art, architecture, business, and education," said Lombardi.

Professor Christina Tortora from the English department joined her colleagues in talking about the program. "It's wonderful to see what my colleagues created," she said. Tortora is also teaching an Italian Linguistics class this semester. The Italian studies major can even be an option to English majors.

The professors of the Italian Studies program are all very proud and hopeful. They want to see the program blossom over the next ten years, and with the level of excitement coming from the professors at their meet and greet it seems possible. "We hope to see it as a Masters program of course," said Ureni.

"MTA Fare Hikes Enrage Staten Islanders"
Continued from the front page

pockets to every month just to get to school. College Student, Irene O'Hare, is one of these students that has had enough with the MTA. "I am so annoyed at the raise in unlimited cards. I buy one for school and the point is to pay a flat fee and get as many rides as you want to save money. Instead they want me to pay a higher flat fee and then get a limited number of rides, where does that logic come from? I need public transit to get around, so I have no choice but to pay and the MTA knows that's the situation for most people," she explains.

New Yorkers have voiced complaints, and rightfully so. The fares keep increasing and service of transit is decreasing. The extra dollars of the riders are not providing them with any benefits. "Why must we pay more to use public transportation?" argues student Christina Ward "Every time you turn around trains are out of service and buses are delayed, that is, if their route hasn't been cut all together. We are paying extra money and getting the same horrible service."

Not only are mass transit commuters affected, but drivers are as well. The

Verrazano's cash toll will increase from \$11 to \$13, and the E-ZPass from \$9.14 to \$9.60. In addition, tolls for 8 other bridges and tunnels throughout New York will be increased. This includes the RFK, Throgs Neck and Whitestone bridges, as well as the Brooklyn-Battery and Queens Midtown tunnels going from \$5.50 to \$6.50 for cash and to \$4.80 for E-ZPass. The Henry Hudson Bridge will go from \$2-\$3 cash, and \$2.20 for E-ZPass, while the two Rockaway Bridges will go from \$2.75 to \$3.35 and E-ZPass up to \$1.80.

No matter how often one uses these bridges and tunnels, or purchases MetroCards, most people will be affected one way or another at some point in time. A rally was even held recently by the Transportation Alternatives in Union Square. Advocating for transit riders, the Transportation Alternative organization agrees, "Enough is enough." They will be standing besides the people of New York, fighting for their cause.

The MTA claims that this fare hike is necessary and that they will not increase the fares again for another two years. New Yorkers however, believe that there is little truth to this as they have "heard this before."

Internship Opportunities @ The Banner

The Banner is now offering internships to CSI students. Internships take place for one semester and offer opportunities to learn about Journalism and New Media. Interns will assist in blogging, correspondence, editing, fact-checking, graphic design, layout & production, photography, reporting, web design, etc. Through these internships students will become involved in the operation and production of The Banner. Interns will work a minimum of 12 hours per week.

For more information visit us in 1C-228 or contact us:
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A Call to Stop the Ignorance Towards Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, and Transgenders

Gender and sexuality is private and respectful not to be ridiculed

ERIKA VALDEZ

Professor Rafael De La Dehesa from the department of Sociology, anthropology and social work at CSI lectured on October 18th, 2010 about the intersections of Gender, Sexuality, and Latin American cultures. He emphasized the historical development of LGBT activism, such as the approval of gay marriages in Mexico in 2009. As well as the ruling law in Brazil that gives same-sex couples rights in cases such as inheritance, child custody, insurance benefits and pensions.

Professor De La Dehesa talks about the massive homophobia in the United States as well as in Latin America and how it affects a person physically and mentally. Professor De La Dehesa gives us an example of this by expressing the brutality and injustice that many activists would face daily. In Mexico cops will brutally hurt a person just for being gay. However the LGBT activists respond to that challenge by fighting and defending who and what they are. Through the years, activists have succeeded in some legislative advances such as the media. When referring to LGBT the media no longer refers to them as "faggots" or anything of that sort.

Amongst the few students who attended the event was Jerry Jean a former CSI student, he says that "the lecture was very enlightening." He describes LGBT as a kind of family diversity in which there are same sex household as well as a divided household. This is something that can create a conflict when raising children or just the portrayal of "machismo" in Latin America.

About 9 years ago when Professor Rafael De La Dehesa sat down to write Queering the Public Sphere in Mexico and Brazil: Sexual Rights Movements in Emerging Democracies, it was with a clear goal in mind. Throughout his book he mainly concentrates on the comparative analysis of LGBT activism in Mexico and Brazil. He decided Mexico because he is Mexican and it was his main interest. As for Brazil, he just loves Brazilian music and decided to further research the matter there. Though his main concentrations are in Mexico and Brazil, he briefly touches upon other Latin American countries such as; Argentina and how same sex marriage was approved last year.

Another CSI student was Jasmine Rodriguez she is of Mexican decent and considered the topic interesting. Her views on LGBT are that, no matter what privacy and respect should be established no matter who you are, where you come from or what you decide to be. "I think being gay/lesbian in Latin America as well as here in the U.S. is a kind of social construction. To some extent there is a kind of acceptance by many," she said.

Ms. Rodriguez said a key word- acceptance. Acceptance is a concept which many LGBT deal with on a regular basis. Being LGBT causes much controversy on discrimination nationally. In 2001 Mexico amended to prohibit discrimination on sexual orientation. As for Brazil, in 2003 discrimination of sexual orientation was prohibited. However there is a religious block in some parts of Brazil.

Throughout his book, Professor De La Dehesa not only expresses but also analysis the meaning of being Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender and says "Being that I'm gay I wanted to go in depth about my life experiences and began my research in graduate school.

Budget Update

A Message From CSI President Tomás D. Morales, PhD

Earlier this semester I wrote to you concerning the severe budget reductions faced by CUNY senior colleges and the College of Staten Island due to the State of New York's enacted budget for the current fiscal year. Recently, I sent you a message which provided a link to the College's initial budget allocations for 2010-2011.

I am now writing to advise you of the continuing deterioration of the State's fiscal environment, and to share what action we are taking at CSI to ensure that we are able to advance our core mission and strategic directions, and to assure effective stewardship of the College's resources.

To that end, a Resource and Budget Advisory Committee (RBAC) comprised of some members of the College-Wide Budget Committee, the P&B Budget

Sincerely,

Alcohol Awareness Campaign Reaches CSI Students

J.C. ALBANO

October 18th - October 21st was National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week at CSI. The program was held by the Wellness Center of CSI in partner with the New York City Department of Transportation's Anti-DWI campaign. The NYCDOT Anti-DWI unit started the "You the Man" college campaign this fall.

Visiting several colleges over the last two months, they have continued to spread awareness of the effects of alcohol poisoning and the prevention of alcohol poisoning. "A majority of people don't recognize an emergency and they need to be made aware," said Katrina Hannan. Ms. Hannan is a peer educator at CSI and has helped run the National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week for the past three years. Ms. Hannan, along with the help of a few volunteers and NYCDOT workers, stood aside posters bearing safety slogans, tables covered with stacks of fliers and handouts, and were giving students who were interested a survey on their knowledge of alcohol poisoning and what to do if ever in a situation where a friend was unconscious and intoxicated. The

advertisements are gimmicks in order to attract kids to the posters and tables so that any of the volunteers can engage in conversation and talk about alcohol awareness.

The survey had seven questions of which half were "Yes or No" and the other half were multiple choice. One female student who stopped at the table was unaware of the Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) level at which New York considers legally intoxicated. Although she didn't know the BAC, Ms. Hannan was glad to make her aware because that was the whole idea of having an entire week of spreading awareness. NYCDOT Safety Ed. Unit employee, Michelle Kaucic, was pleased with the campaign that took place at CSI as well as the other colleges she's been to. Other CUNY colleges and a few private colleges have partnered with the NYCDOT Anti-DWI campaign to participate in the National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week. "New York City has built designated drivers," Ms. Kaucic said, "and we hope that people can be responsible enough to plan ahead." These "designated drivers" that Ms. Kaucic referred to are trains, buses, car service, taxis, and subways.

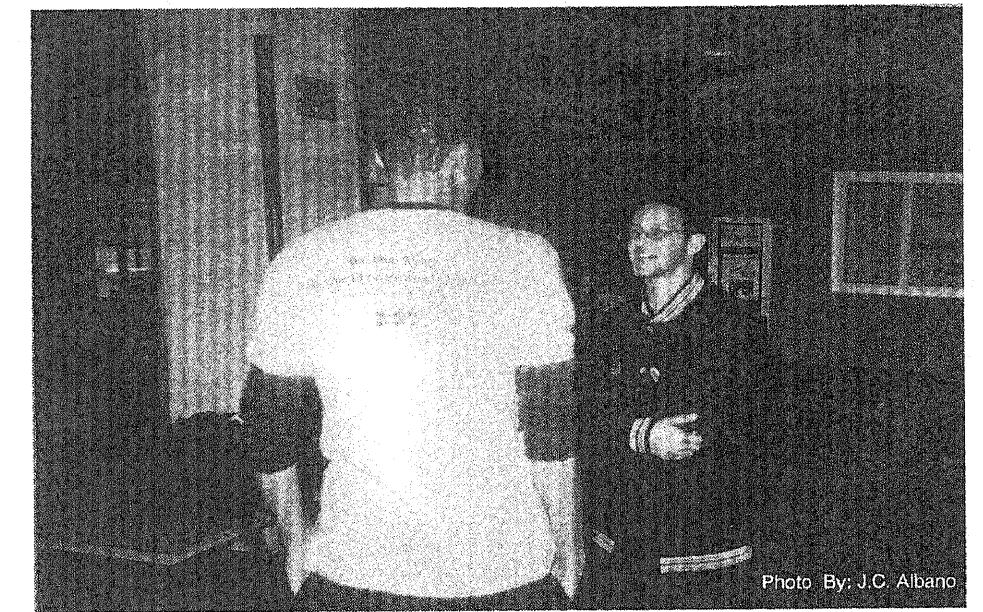


Photo By: J.C. Albano

The NYCDOT Anti-DWI started the "You the Man" campaign to target young men. Not to say that women aren't capable of getting into car accidents but according to a recent study, of car crashes are caused predominantly by males hence the clever slogan. Students visited Ms. Hannan and Ms. Kaucic at the tables to ask questions and receive t-shirts and other free hand outs. On the contrary to what most people might think, there is still more to know about reducing the risks of alcohol poisoning and how to respond in case of an emergency. Joanna Tepedino, a senior and education major, saw the event very beneficial for the

students at CSI. "I think it's great that the NYCDOT has a college campaign because there are so many incidents of drunk driving and alcohol poisoning on college campuses all across the country. I feel that people need to be informed about this kind of stuff," Joanna said.

The objective of this event was to make people aware of alcohol poisoning. This event also allowed CLUE credit for students. "We don't tell kids not to drink," Ms. Hannan said, "It's about letting people know about safety."

"Learning To Love The Jewish Way"
Continued from the front page

leaders of this tight knit community are trying to send, is not one of conversion, but as Rabbi Fingeres book suggests, one of "trendsetting spirituality for the 21st century."

After breaking the tension with a string of jokes, the fast-talking, charismatic Rabbi, who was raised in Brooklyn, read the introduction to his book. A short story about a Brooklyn man who confesses his love for a woman, but runs away when he finds his love laying on the bed, scorched and wrapped in gauze, at the burn unit of the Staten Island University

Hospital. According to Fingerer, the message is one that is meant to transcend the border of religion and show the inconsistencies within the ideas of love.

"I think you should be attracted to someone if you are going to spend a majority of your life looking at them," said Enza Maria Drago, a student at CSI. Rabbi Fingerer however, believes otherwise. "Looks are important," said the Rabbi. "But if you base your love on looks, someone more beautiful or handsome will come along, and guess what? You are not in love anymore." According to the Fingerer, the

foundation of the world and the stability of society revolve around the issue.

President JAM, Sophomore Amran Averick, agreed that attendance was high this week, and wasted no time in greeting new faces. "I think the strength of the Jewish community could be stronger here at the college," said Averick. "But we try to have interesting events to bring in Jewish and not Jewish students." Although there were only two non-Jewish students in attendance at last Thursdays meeting, Averick believes that it is events like this that help even the ratio. According to Rabbi Winiarz, the goal

of JAM is to create a healthy sense of Jewish culture.

Rabbi Winiarz touched on other topics that will be discussed in up and coming JAM meetings. Topics such as, "Does Judaism need saving?" and "Is there a God and why should I care?" But the club does not preach religion. Students of all faiths are not only welcome, but encouraged to come speak their mind and enrich the discussions through their differences. "Look at the trees," explained Winiarz. "Look at all the different colors. God wants u to enjoy this world."

Join The Banner!

The Banner is looking for writers, editors, photographers, designers and cartoonists for this, and future semesters. Newspaper and writing experience are not necessary.

If you are interested in writing about sports, hard news, the arts, movies, politics, music, sex, comedy, or just about anything else, join the Banner team!

Submit your articles to 1C-228, or email them to: The.BANNER.CSI@gmail.com

"Going Green"
Continued from the front page

back \$18.25 of the original \$547 sugar investment. More importantly outside of personal finances, most of those bottles will not go into recycling bins. Many times students will discard them with the rest of their regular waste, if they bother to discard them at all. Even then, the recycling process cannot reuse all plastic that is put through, and generally plastic cannot go through a recycling process more than once.

Many students would wonder why they should make this change, and how it would affect them directly. The benefits should be obvious. There is no drawback, except for the need to carry one's own bottle after it is empty. If even ten percent of students that buy drinks on campus daily made this change, the improvement would be obvious both in appearance and in the above ways. There would be far fewer bottle caps, wrappers, and bottles themselves strewn across our lawns, and some of them might seem suitable to "sit, read, or just enjoy."

The buildings at present with the best tasting water: 1P, 1C, 1L, and 1R.

WSIA Radio Personality: Jenna Lynn

JUSTIN SARACHIK

Jenna Lynn, a 21-year-old College of Staten Island student does a lot more than go to classes, she helps runs a radio station, 88.9 WSIA FM. Just think of her as a jack-of-all trades doing everything from production director, program director, and on air DJ, as well as studio mixing and production.

Jenna is also one of the co-founders of Drive Time radio, which are special blocks of music, weather, and traffic from the hours of 7am-10am and 4pm-7pm. Most importantly however, is the later Drive Time where WSIA plays unsigned and local talent. She takes great pride in being able to expose

bands music to the world for the first time. "A few years back, even before me, an unknown band named Paramore came in the

studio to record some demos. Now look at them."

Being a part of the station definitely has its perks, this summer she described being able to interview bands on the "Scream it Like You Mean it Tour" as one of her favorite moments. Her favorite times though, are when she has a band in the station for an interview, "You never really know what's going to happen," she says.

Overall Jenna Lynn has greatly enjoyed her time at WSIA, but she is on to bigger and better things. Jenna was recently scouted out by the Art Institute of Philadelphia where she can graduate with a Bachelors Degree in

Audio Production. "My ultimate goal is to be tour manager for a successful band, traveling and living out my dream."

CSI: A Place For Students To Rock

JUSTIN SARACHIK & ALEXA DIMAIO

Rock n' Roll seems to be in bloodlines of CSI ever since it was Richmond College when Gene Simmons was enrolled in classes. Flashing forward a few years, you can hear all about a little known station named WSIA that had its humble beginnings as a pirate radio station in a small closet. This "secret" location on the old campus would become our modern 88.9 FM, and one of the staples of this campus.

As the station became more established, so did the cliental. A pre-famous Paramore recorded some of their early demos in this studio, and many more have passed through for an interview or sweeper. But what WSIA does so gracefully is showcase the Island's local talent and aspiring bands as they experience being played over the radio for the first time. Here are some of the bands played on air, and some of the students who attend this college.

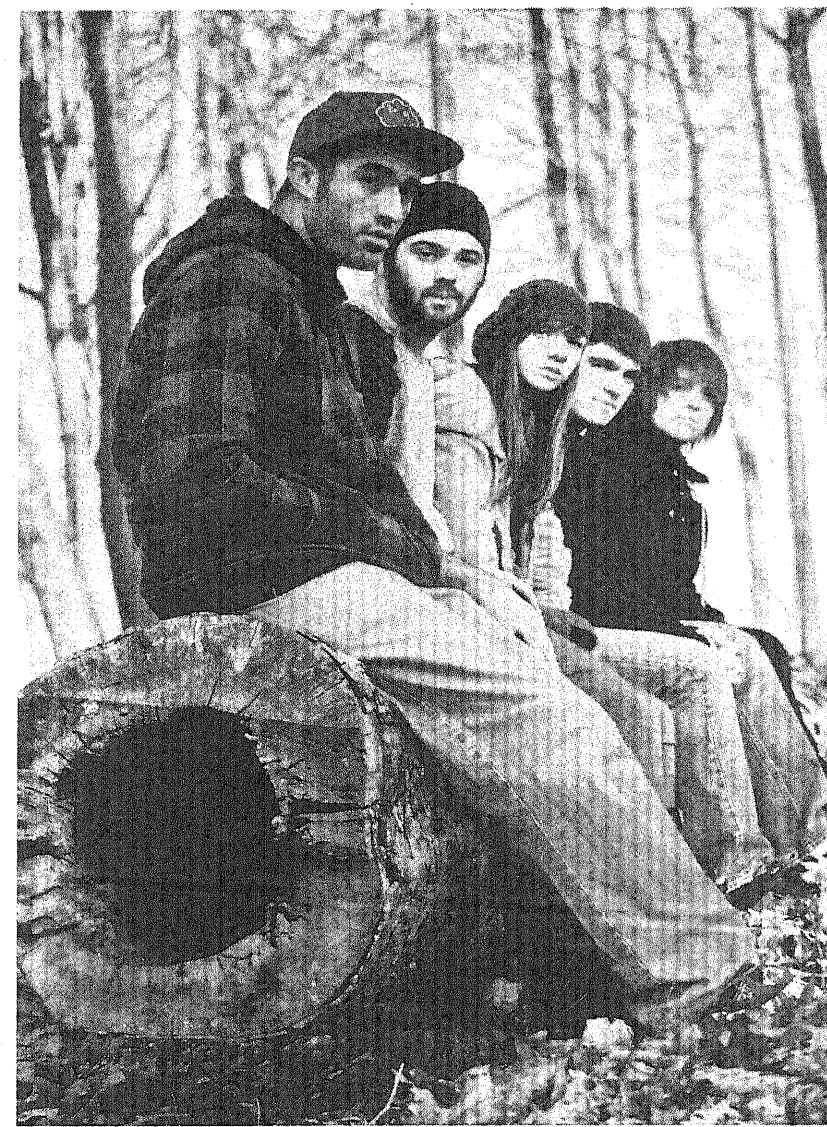
For more photos by Alexa DiMaio visit her Flickr page at- Flickr.com/Alexadimaio



Local band Kick on location at CSI's 1P building. (left to right: Steve Nelsno, Kyle Corman, William Saint Marie, and Todd Stein)



CSI's own Katie Fasulo with her band Spread the Rumor at a photo shoot. (left to right: Katie Fasulo, Hilary Davies, Valerie Bond, & Sabrian Fracchiolla)



Process of Fusion in the wooded area between 1P and the parking lot. (left to right: Justin Sarachik, Patrick Wakie, Rose Couchon, Dylan Klein, and Terri Caputo)



Journalism major at CSI and drummer for POF, Terri Caputo.



Katie rocking out at a Halloween show at Tappen Park. She is pursuing a degree in Biology at CSI.



Bass player and lead singer of Process of Fusion, Patrick Wakie, is currently in his 2nd year at CSI.



The Banner's own Managing Editor, is seen in front of a building he's come to know well as Journalism major & Cinema minor. Justin raps and sings back up vocals in POF.



Process of Fusion looking cool, calm, and collective in front of one of CSI's many trees.



Three of the four members of Kick attend CSI: William, Todd, and Steve.

BANNER BUSINESS

Rising Agricultural Commodity Prices May Result in Higher Prices at the Supermarket

THOMAS BRIGANDI

Recently, the prices of many agricultural commodities have been increasing dramatically. These agricultural commodities such as wheat, corn, and soybeans are the essential elements in many of the meals that we eat on a daily basis.

As the prices of these agricultural commodities rise, the price consumers pay for their bread, orange juice, or even pasta also increases. As a result, there has been increased attention called to the agricultural commodity markets recently as the prices of wheat and corn future contracts have skyrocketed over the past few months.

In fact, according to The Economist Online article, "Corn fed: Another agricultural commodity surges," "The US Department of Agriculture's unexpected warning that America's production of corn (elsewhere known as maize) would drop by 4% in 2010 has sent prices rocketing. They rose by 8.5% on October 11th, the biggest one-day rise in 37 years, and by mid-week corn was trading at \$5.88 a bushel."

It is staggering increases in agricultural commodity prices like this which have not only made the price of food increase for consumers on their trips to the supermarket, but also these food price jumps have played an instrumental role in literally taking food out

of people's mouths.

As recent as three years ago, consumers felt the effects associated with unusually high food prices. Many people were forced to make difficult choices about allocating more money to food while simultaneously cutting back on other products. In some households where money was really tight, starvation unfortunately occurred.

According to the Harpers article, "The Food Bubble" by College of Staten Island Journalism professor and my colleague at The Banner, Fredrick Kaufman:

"The wheat harvest of 2008 turned out to be the most bountiful the world had ever seen, so plentiful that even as hundreds of millions slowly starved, 200 million bushels were sold for animal feed. Livestock owners could afford the wheat; poor people could not. Rather belatedly, real wheat had shown up again—and lots of it. U.S. Department of Agriculture statistics eventually revealed that 657 million bushels of 2008 wheat remained in U.S. silos after the buying season, a record-breaking "carryover." Soon after that bounteous oversupply had been discovered, grain prices plummeted and the wheat markets returned to business as usual."

Moreover, according to Kaufman, "The worldwide price of food had risen by 80 percent between 2005 and 2008, and unlike other food catastrophes of the past half century or



Rising prices in your local supermarket may cause a drop in sales

so, the United States was not insulated from this one, as 49 million Americans found themselves unable to put a full meal on the table. Across the country demand for food stamps reached an all-time high, and one in five kids came to depend on food kitchens. In Los Angeles nearly a million people went hungry. In Detroit armed guards stood watch over grocery stores. Rising prices, mused the New York Times, might have played a role."

This insightful passage shows how bad the effects of food inflation are. The spike in agricultural commodities prices which occurred between 2005 and 2008 fueled drastic increases in prices consumers were forced to pay at the supermarket. Moreover, this quote gives a graphic depiction that starvation is not only prevalent in foreign third-world countries; but also it can rear its ugly head within the domestic borders of the United States.

Consequently, if agricultural commodities continue to rise at the rate which they have risen over the past few months, another 80% surge in food prices isn't totally off the table. In these tough economic times in which unemployment continues to hover around 10% and millions of Americans are still in jeopardy of losing their houses to foreclosure, the staggering increases in food prices like what happened from 2005-2008 will act as a particularly destructive tax if this potential situation comes to fruition.

Thomas Brigandi is a Macaulay Honors student. Additionally, he is a frequent contributor to the investing website SeekingAlpha. He also is a Registered Securities Representative. He currently holds the Series 7 and Series 63 Securities Licenses.

during the luncheon. Some of the students bring their resumes with them. They also practice networking. Students who practice networking focus on formal and informal networking as a possibility to get a job, because getting a job is 80% networking while about 10% is done by posting your resume online.

The Career and Scholarship center finds that the luncheon is a very successful event. "One year a young woman came back who does auditing for the Wall Street firm and said boy did I learn. It really came in handy," Hollan said. The center finds that from this event many students come back and tell them how successful they were due to the Business Etiquette Luncheon. This is one of the career and scholarship centers goals, is to have students be successful and become competitive in the business world.

Do you have something to write about? Let us know what you think. You can send your comments and concerns to us by sending an e-mail to: the.BANNER.csi@gmail.com

Or you can drop off a copy in our mailbox on campus in 1C-207.

Public Service Announcement

Free Flu Shots Available for Students

Protect yourself against influenza this year by getting a free flu shot at the walk-in flu vaccine clinic sponsored by CSI Health and Wellness Services.

The clinic is scheduled for Thursday, December 2, 2010 from 9:00 am -6:30 pm. No appointment is necessary.

Vaccine is available to all CSI students with a valid ID card. Students 17 years old or younger must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Please contact the Health Center at (718) 982-3045 if you have any questions.

BANNER ARTS

An Interview With: My Pet Dragon

JUSTIN SARACHIK

My Pet Dragon, consisting of Todd Michaelsen and Reena Shah is just a small part of a new wave of music that is taking over the undergrounds of music. Blending the sounds of indie pop, electronica, and various folk and rock incarnations, MPD is sure to conceive raw emotion and power to the listening ear. A band not only known for its unique name, but also its revolutionary music, is trying to break into a music world as diverse as their sound.

Here is the interview-

(For Todd) Why did you quit college for music? What was the plan?

Well I left school because I pretty much knew I was wasting my time. I was writing and recording music when I should have been in class. When everyone was studying, I was in the laundry room where the acoustics were good, strumming away, writing songs. I had major tunnel vision. Music totally consumed me and most of my friends at school were musicians. At that time the basic plan was to get to New York City and soak it all in without fear. I had no real clue what I was doing but New York was always calling from the time I was a kid visiting my uncle in the East Village in the 80's. Luckily my uncle still lived there and told me "to come on down" and gave me his couch for awhile. I just knew I had to be there.

After taking a life changing trip to India, how did the culture shape you as a musician? What was the experience like?

My trip with Reena to India opened me up as a person in ways I cannot fully explain. I guess it ultimately affects the music you create. I was astounded to see how happy certain people were with no material possessions or wealth. The incredible beauty and diversity of India's people, religions, and cultures is something you must see to believe. India is "Life Concentrated" I wrote "The Painter", the second day I was there, (song off of MPD's First Born record). It just flowed in about 10 minutes.

But what I truly learned in India is that people are people everywhere. We are all the same in the end, no matter where we are from. It's just nice to see how people live in different parts of the world. I don't think we appreciate the little things enough sometimes. The simple beauty of an Indian-Garland vendor in the middle of chaotic city is something quite remarkable. A Jain temple on a mountain top with thousand-Year old artwork carved into every corner will always be etched into my memory. Getting engaged on the black sand beach of the Arabian Sea is a sacred moment. A child without a limb begging in Mumbai is also

something you will not forget. The world is terrifying, confusing, yet gorgeous and inspiring at the same time. That is India.

What's funny about my musical style is that I was actually playing "Indian" sounding music before my trip to India and well before I met anyone in New York that was playing that kind of "OM" sound. I was into bands like The Beatles, Tool, The Deftones, and The Smashing Pumpkins. All those bands at some point blended east and west.

How does the music and dance duo work? How does this work live and what is a live show like?

I would say that Reena's role in the band is to be herself. If she wants to dance while she sings along with me, great, if she wants to play percussion, then great. Whatever works best for the music is my only rule. My Pet Dragon is not about doing what everyone else does. I don't want to make anyone in my band express themselves in ways that are disingenuous. My Pet Dragon is about being yourself and being one with the music. If you want to dance, dance. If you want to sing along with us, sing. If you want to scream, scream!!! We are not posing. We are not going for that "brass ring". All the pain and joy we feel, you will see it come out at our show. We want to create a moment where the music moves us and maybe we lose ourselves in that moment... and we hope you feel that too.

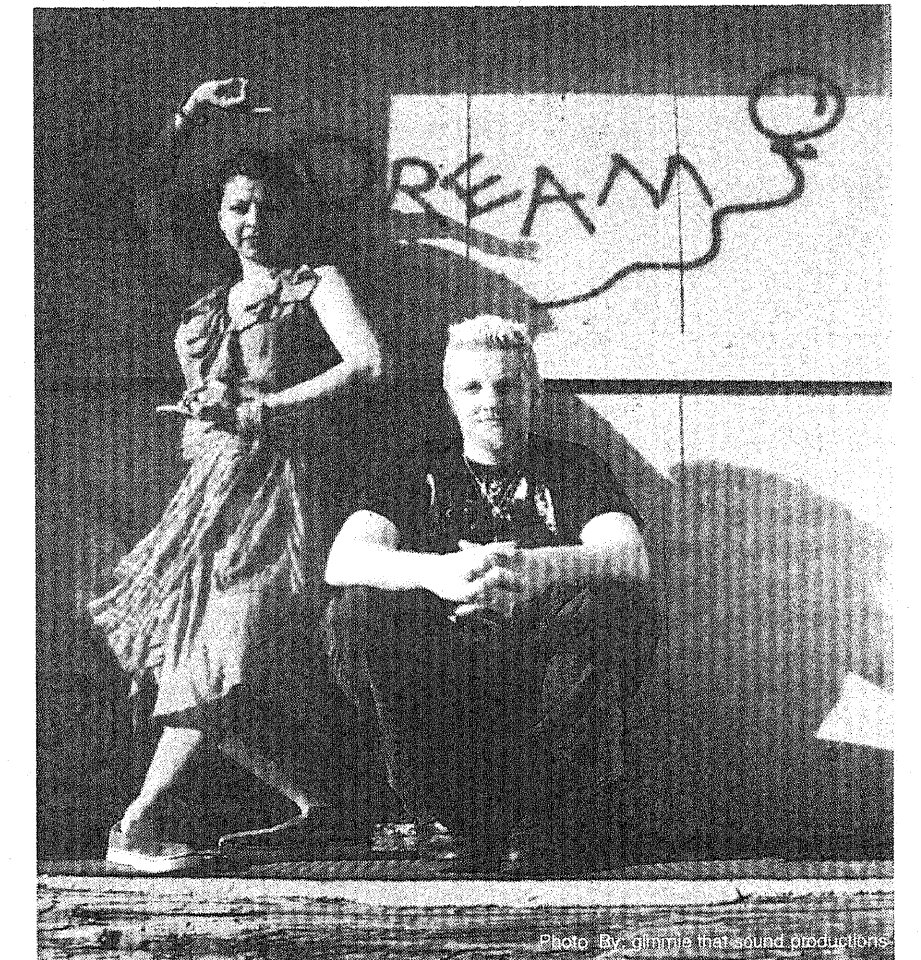
Where'd the name come from?

The name My Pet Dragon came from an imaginary friend I had as a child. I would fight this giant creature every night before I went to bed. I'd line up all my stuffed animals and GI Joe's on my bed and we'd battle this laser eyed monster to the death. The next night he was somehow resurrected and we'd go at it again. It helped me sleep. That was the original "my pet dragon". Although some of our fans suggest it is some phallic reference or something...it is in fact, not.

(For Reena) What's your background in the arts of dancing and acting, and where did this interest come from?

I have always been interested in the Arts as I was exposed to it at a very early age. My parents are true supporters of artists. They would host and attend music parties where they would listen to professional musicians from India. They would stay up into the late hours of the night with their friends and sing Indian devotional songs as well as songs from Bollywood movies.

At the age of 4, my mother took me to Classical Indian Dance Classes for Bharatha



From Left to Right: Reena Shah & Todd Michaelsen

Natyam, taught by the Late Indian Film Actress & Dancer, Padmini Ramachandran, where she started the Padmini Institute of Fine Arts in New Jersey in the 1980's. I was one of her 1st students. I graduated from the Institute in 1991 with my Arengetram at the age of 13 and became a Professional Classical Indian Dancer. I was also involved with Indian Dance Troupes, traveling throughout the United States and Canada. I am also a Traditional Indian Folk Dancer in the dance styles of Garba plus Raas (Gujarat) and Bhangra (Punjab).

Acting was always a part of my dancing as Bharatha Natyam is also about storytelling through facial expression, body movement, and rhythmic dance steps. I acted in every school play in Middle School and High School in my hometown in New Jersey and sang and danced in the musical productions as well. My senior year of high school, I was a part of an Advanced Acting Class with only 5 students at Newark Academy. My teacher Mr. Scott Jacoby really gave me an opportunity to explore all aspects of the art of acting. When I graduated from Newark Academy, I received the McGraw-Hill Arts Award for contributing to multiple arts disciplines and the National Choral Award from Mrs. Julie Jacoby, my amazing Choral Instructor.

I enjoy being able to play a wide variety of characters and telling stories that will resonate with the audience. I have been fortunate to be a part of many different film, dance, theater, art, and music projects that tell profound stories of the experiences of our lives from many different cultures. It's through these projects that I have been able to create a dialogue about the world we live in and how we can make it a better place for

all of us. We are One.

Being a part of My Pet Dragon is quite incredible as I have the opportunity to explore Todd's music through my own interpretive dance movement loosely based on the Classical Dance style of Bharata Natyam. I enjoy singing with this band as well. Todd's music lyrically explores many different themes that I love to visually translate. It's a spiritual experience for me when I perform with My Pet Dragon... whether I am singing or dancing, I know that being in the moment with his music, both the live sound and his words, gives me hope for the future.

How would describe your music? What do you want it to be?

My Pet Dragon music to me is a combination of everything I've ever listened to. I hear classic rock, post rock, electronic, folk, pop, psychedelic, 80's dance, 90's rock etc, etc. It covers many emotions but ultimately that tension/release melodic kind of rock music perfected by bands like Smashing Pumpkins, Radiohead, U2, and David Bowie... that is where my heart is. I can't deny it. I dig what I dig, soaring vocals and guitars.

What I want it to be is pure energy. I am learning everyday new ways to express myself and expand my music. Sometimes that means making it simpler too. Look at Neutral Milk Hotel. Most of those songs have 3 or 4 chords but it's the way they sung and how much heart is put into the lyrics. Neil Young too is another hero. That guy can break your heart with one note on his guitar. That's what I aim for... total expression in the moment.

Continued on page 10

The Rebirth of Business Etiquette For Students

D. NIEVES

Interviews are conducted in a different manner, they no longer only consist of just a resume. Students have to make an impression with their behavior during a business interview over lunch or dinner. Associated director Joanne Hollan and Nina Long from the career and scholarship center conduct a Business Etiquette Luncheon at CSI to teach students the Do's and Don't's while eating at a business interview.

"It's a fun event, students arrive and enjoy a meal while they are eating we are teaching them. We coach them how to eat," associate director Joanne Hollan said. On November 19th, 2,010 students from all departments are welcomed to enjoy a four course meal while learning how to behave during business meal. Though business majors are targeted for this type of event, and are students who are sophomores, juniors, and mostly seniors who are going to graduate in may.

The Park Cafe is setup with linens,

china, and silver to give the impression of what a business luncheon might consist of. "It's like a mock business interview" said Hollan. There are limited seats for students, the career and scholarship center cap off seats from 35-40 people. Students are asked to pay a \$5 fee for this four course meal which consists of soup, salad, an entree and desert along with coffee or tea.

Students are asked to be dressed professionally and are graced with the presence of Alumni students who are also invited by the career and scholarship center to sit at each table with students to talk about their experiences in the business world. "Etiquette is not really being taught anymore, but it is now becoming more popular," Nina Long said. The Business Etiquette luncheon only happens once a year because it is very expensive to host the event and this is also the time companies recruit students that graduate in May.

While eating and learning etiquette students are provided with a booklet they can refer to if they need advice and take notes in

"My Pet Dragon"
Continued from page 9

How'd you get involved with, "Gimme That Sound Productions"?

I got involved with Stephen George of Gimme That Sounds through a mutual friend in Chicago. Hillel Frankel of Novo Arts brought us out to Chicago a few years ago for a series of shows. He loved my music but thought I needed a better mix on my recordings. He introduced me to Stephen George in New York, who had an extensive resume and experience with just about every genre of music there is. Stevo, as we call him, is an amazing engineer and studio wiz. We did a demo together of "Lover in Hiding" at his new studio in the Catskills and it sounded so good we decided to finish a record and put it out on his new label - Gimme That Sound Productions.

What's the response to your music like?

The response to our music so far, has been very exciting to us. Most of the blog reviews of our songs released so far have been very positive and compare us to a variety of bands... most of which I agree with. Our live shows are very intense and if we have an audience ready for that energy then it's going to be a magical night. Most shows, people sing along with us during our choruses... especially in songs like "Moonshine". We have certain fans that are keeping track of our set lists and traveling to see us in different cities. So that is when you know you

are connecting. It's exciting to us after all the work we put in to see that response.

Sita Sings the Blues, tell me about this.

"Sita Sings the Blues" is an award-winning animated film by Nina Paley that blends an Indian folk tale with an American break up story. The film uses classic 1920's Jazz recordings by Annette Hanshaw to tell the heart-breaking tale. It's trippy, funny, and heartfelt. I composed the film's score and composed original songs. Reena played the voice of Sita and sang one of the songs. Matt Groening from the Simpson's actually named "Sita Sings the Blues" one of his favorite films. Nina Paley is a total genius and created something you can't quite categorize. She actually put out the film for free; Radiohead style. The result of that was it gave fans direct access to all things "Sita Sings the Blues". People have hosted their own screenings around the world in their living rooms. It was incredibly fun to be a part of that film and I hope to do more of them in the future in between MPD albums.

My Pet Dragon plans to release a full length in early 2011.

Justin Sarachik has reported with the Staten Island Advance, and is currently Editor-in-Chief/writer for Broken Records Magazine. For more of his writing go to - www.thesibandguy.blogspot.com

A Ton and a Half of Steel, or Something More?

VINCENT BALESTRIERE

At some point in ownership, regardless of whether or not you're a car aficionado, you take a look at your ride and you're reminded of the time that's passed in your life during that period. Whether or not you take that thought any further though, is up to you.

I see a car as more than just a machine, more than just a collection of plastic bits, aluminum and iron engine pieces and steel body frame. It can symbolize any number of things, like primal freedom or escape from daily drudgery. Just you and your four-wheeled transport as you travel to wherever your wallet and your gas tank endure.

It can be a vacation with your mates to the shore for a weekend of drunken antics, enjoying youth and irresponsibility. Or a road trip across two states to see your favorite band do their thing live, your sound system a euphony of their art.

Eventually, all those memories become something more than just mental - they're attached to the object in your driveway. If you spend enough time with a car, you feel a connection to an almost human-level bond; you can almost feel what your machine feels, like it's become a close friend.

And like a close friend, when it hurts...you hurt. I was miserable for weeks until my buddy got back from the "hospital" after he took a beating from a Tahoe.

Stick with the same ride long enough, and it will symbolize both how your life has changed in that time and the places you've driven to - it will be a steel version of you. That's why I love "used" cars so much. Whenever I get behind the wheel of someone else's car, I always wonder, "Where has you been? What kind of stories could you tell about your adventures, if you could speak? Who were your previous owners? Did they treat you as one of their own, or were you neglected, simply partitioned as a tool to enhance their lives?"

Whenever I see a car like that, ignored and hurting, I hear it screaming, "Help me!" like an abandoned dog. Sure, he may be a bit scruffy and needs some medicine to get him going again, but you get the sense that if you take care of him, he'll be the best damn dog you'll ever have.

SEND YOUR OPINIONS, LETTERS, OR STORIES TO:
the.BANNER.csi@gmail.com

BANNER OPINIONS

Gridlock Around CSI: Catch 22

VINCENT BALESTRIERE

It's 6:15; your 4:40 class has let out early. Fantastic. Now it's time to make a mad dash to your car in order to preempt CSI infamous gridlock.

But you're not alone. Thousands of other students have the same idea, and they're powerwalking harder than a Ft. Lauderdale granny. Inside your head, a debate rages: if you walk normally, those five extra minutes your godlike professor has blessed you with will be wasted and you'll certainly be mired in the sea of tail lights and exhaust fumes.

If you step your game up a bit, you've got a shot to get off campus before that ditz in the blue Civic. Look at her, wearing those ridiculous bug-eye sunglasses even though it's already dark out. You really want to lose to her?

Or you could go all out, appearances be damned. Usain Bolt would be proud, seeing your majestic form sprint across two lawns

and half a parking lot to reach your ride.

There's no time to waste. After you finally reach your vehicle, hurl your books into your passenger seat, assuming you don't have a passenger. Do it anyway if you have one. Call it collateral damage, an understood risk your companion accepted when they asked for a ride. A few papercuts and a bloody nose are worth it if you don't get caught in gridlock.

Except that, no matter how quickly you move, or how aggressively you leave your parking spot, you'll still be forced to wait in the queue. Take your pick of exits: Forest Hill, Victory, or even that semi-secret exit between 2R and the gravel lot. None is any better than the others.

So what is to be done? More exits, you say? More peace officers and NYPD Traffic to regulate the flow? A double-lane Campus Drive? This is madness! Yes. But this is also Staten Island.

The fact of the matter is that, despite any advances the administration could make

within the campus grounds, they can't fix the main problem: the outlying streets. Victory Boulevard is one of the island's main arteries, granting access to much of the mid-island and North shore areas in addition to thruways to Brooklyn and Jersey. It's going to be crowded for the majority of the day, every day.

Many students know that though, so they try to go out the "back door," Forest Hill. The problem with that area is that the City of New York obviously never expected or accounted for the ludicrous density of traffic the area sees these days. So there's one lane going off campus to one lane on Forest Hill Road for thousands of cars attempting to vacate the premises.

The road runs only a single lane all the way to Richmond Avenue, two miles from campus. That's a long way to send a few thousand cars at rush hour. Naturally, the intersection of Forest Hill Avenue and Rockland Avenue exacerbates the problem; it's not a three-way light, despite the intersection's popularity as a cross-street for students heading towards Bay Terrace and New Dorp. The queue backs up farther and farther, and

quite quickly the small Forest Hill exit is overwhelmed. And you wondered why it takes nearly half an hour to get off campus that way.

The tertiary exit is only open after 4:40, so it's a no go if you're looking to leave during the noon - two PM rush. It leaves you on Willowbrook Road, which is only really useful if you live in Emerson or Todt Hill. However, you can also construct a route to West Brighton from that exit, so long as you know how far down Slosson Avenue runs and what it intersects with. Take Slosson down to Martling, and cut across to Clove Road. If you're lucky you'll avoid a hell of a lot of traffic that way.

But if you're part of the majority who use the other two exits, what are you to do? does Navigator Vincent have a magical route for you?

Nope. We're all screwed. Staten Island is overpopulated, and CSI is over-enrolled. Gridlock is just a side effect, folks. Time to blow up some cars. Anyone got a rocket launcher?

SEX AND THE ISLAND

The Romantics and the Schmucks

Why do women stay in relationships in which they constantly get cheated on?

LEEOR BRONIS

There was an afternoon in early November when Chloe was running late for class and was stuck in traffic when she looked down at her wrist to check the time on her very expensive white Fossil watch that Tommy had bought for her last Christmas. The watch had perfectly matched the pink Juicy track suit that Tommy had bought her for her twentieth birthday and the Michael Kors tan aviator glasses which Tommy had bought her for their two year anniversary.

"I need a new wardrobe," Chloe admitted to me later that day over lunch. "Everything I own reminds me of that douche bag."

That day, I listened carefully to my friend utter the exact same words to me that I had heard come out of her mouth the last five times her ex-boyfriend had cheated on her. I used to chime in with the usual "you're too good for him" or "why would you go running back to him after he hurt you so

badly." But after a while I just gave up. I convinced myself that she would someday get so colossally hurt by him that it would not be physically possible for her to go running back for more.

I never wanted to be right, but alas I was. Chloe found out that Tommy had cheated on her with a girl whom she had considered her best friend. I always knew that she was just a jealous, self obsessed whore but Chloe never wanted to believe it. We sipped our green teas as Chloe recalled the last conversation that she would ever have with the boy she thought she could spend the rest of her life with.

"Come on baby," Tommy had said to her three weeks earlier. "You know you're the only girl I could ever love." "Oh, do I? I didn't think love meant fucking my best friend in the back of some sleazy bar." She said as she felt the tears start to well up.

"You know it didn't mean anything," Tommy said. He had a great way of making Chloe seem like the bad guy in their relationship. "I can't believe you're willing to throw us all away, don't you care about me anymore?"

This was the fifth time Chloe had heard the famous "I'm sorry I cheated" speech in the two years they had been together. At this point

she had it memorized. Tommy was one of those guys who can only be described as a Grade A douche bag. A twenty-one year old college drop-out who works part-time as a delivery boy for Pronto Pizza, while pursuing his long-term career goal of becoming a UFC ultimate fighting champion.

However, so far all he had become a champion of is getting Chloe to run back into his arms every time he accidentally screwed some girl in a bar, in the back of his Pontiac, or at the Victory Motor Inn, which by the way is really just a nasty whore infested dungeon of a motel.

A sensible person might ask: why do these smart, beautiful, successful girls feel the need to stay in relationships in which they continually get cheated on? Is it simply a case of insecurity, or is it deeper than that? When it comes to matters of the heart, how much pain are we willing to endure?

The key difference between Chloe and I is that Chloe has continuously had boyfriends for the entire course of her adult life. She went from relationship to relationship since she was fifteen without so much as two weeks by herself. I on the other hand, have not.

I never had a guy to hold my hair back while I vomited or buy me a new phone when mine fell in the toilet or hold my hand through a funeral. Through this I learned to lean on myself and have become a stronger and more independent woman as a result. If

a guy ever tried to pull some of the stunts that Tommy had, they would be out so fast their grandmother in the grave would have gotten whiplash.

Her whole adult life, Chloe has been coddled by men and babied to the point of no return. Now, unfortunately, she needed to face reality and stand on her own two feet. In the end, after all the heartbreaks and broken promises, all we can do is pick up the pieces and try to move on.

As we finished our lunch/Tommy detox, I worked up the courage to ask Chloe the question I have avoided for so long.

"Chloe, why did you keep taking Tommy back after all of the lies, and pain, and heartache he caused you?" I asked.

"I guess I wanted to believe the lies," she said as that all too familiar tear rolled down her cheek. "Because in the end all you have are the lies, the pain, and the hurting. For a long time I believed that was love. I honestly thought Tommy was my prince charming."

I wiped the tear off my beautiful and foolish friends face, looked her straight in the eye and said, "Its 2010, let's create our own fairytales."

If you have any questions or need relationship advice, or just a comment in general, email the sex columnist at the.Banner.csi@gmail.com

The Walking Dead Rise to the Top

MARISSA PESSOLANO

AMC's new show, "The Walking Dead" has been bringing in record numbers since its premier on October 31st, 2010. This new television series based on a comic book with the same name, tells the story of the aftermath of a zombie apocalypse. It follows a small group of survivors that are fighting off the undead, desperate to find a new home away from the "Walkers." The Halloween premier pulled in 5.3 million viewers, making it AMC's highest rated premier in its history. Since its debut, the viewership has only dropped slightly, still giving "The Walking Dead" commanding ratings.

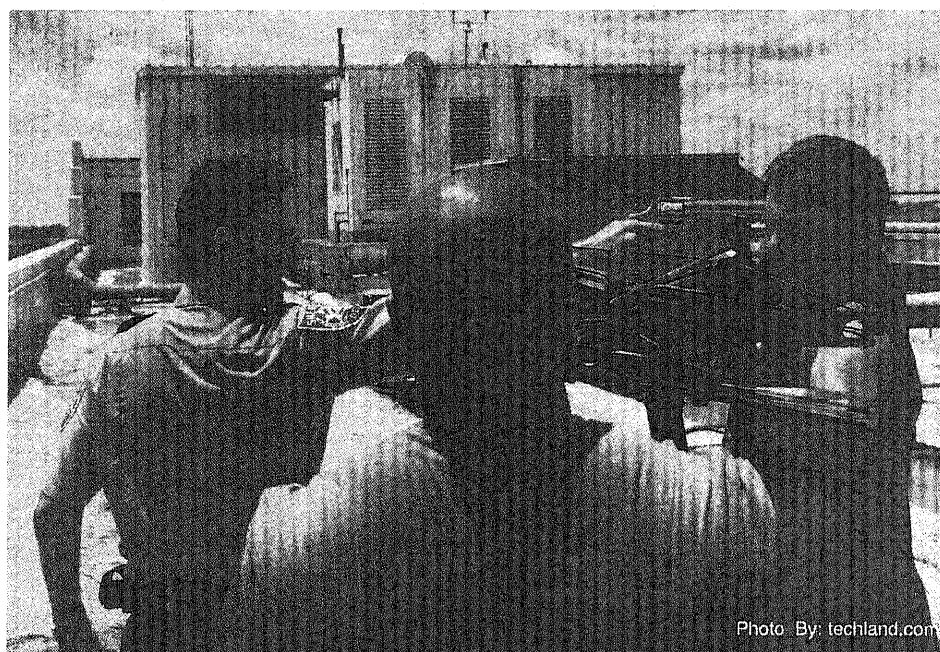
After just two episodes, the show has been renewed for a second season. Fans have fallen in love with the main character, Rick Grimes (Andrew Lincoln), a Kentucky police officer that wakes up from a coma to find that he is one of the few survivors in the post-apocalyptic world. Grimes becomes the leading hero who works with a diverse group of supporting characters, adding depth to the story. These charismatic characters mixed in with flesh, blood and gore, combine to make the perfect formula for a hit series.

The show thrives on characterization,

focusing on the humans, their stories and their fight for survival. The undead antagonists force them to unite together as they are desperately trying to keep sane. "The Walking Dead" has brought in more viewers in the Adults 18-49 category than any other show in the history of television. AMC's President Charlie Collier, is very proud of the shows success. In a recent press release, Collier stated, "As the network dedicated to bringing viewers the best stories on television, we are so pleased to have the opportunity with 'The Walking Dead' to raise the bar within this popular genre and continue our commitment to being the home of premium television on basic cable."

Fans are also given the opportunity to be part of the magic as viewers have a chance to win a "stagger-on" role as a zombie, complete with make-up and gore. In order to be entered, viewers must tune into the show and watch for the secret word. They must then enter it on "The Walking Dead" website by the next morning.

Fans are very enthusiastic about the show and everything it brings to the table. Nicole Lieto, a "Walking Dead" supporter, explains, "I absolutely love the show. It's phenomenal- the acting, the characters, everything. It's honestly one of the best shows I've seen in a while. I think the contest is a great idea. Who wouldn't want to



Scene from "Walking Dead"

play a zombie on TV?"

Although the show is an instant hit, to the disappointment of many, the first season will consist of only six episodes. While the show has been renewed for a 13-episode second season, it looks as if it may not make its return to AMC's line-up until October of 2011. Despite the long wait, viewers are expected to remain dedicated and intrigued by the series, keeping them coming back for more.

"The storyline of 'The Walking Dead' has kept me interested. I am very impressed by the graphics and the realism that the show displays. I am however disappointed that it looks like the second season will not

air until next year. I don't want to wait, but I am happy that it has been successful and it will be back eventually." Explains dedicated fan Michael De Angelis.

"The Walking Dead" has come out of nowhere and made its way into the homes of millions, as they have been waiting anxiously for each new episode that airs Sundays on AMC. Having proved itself, "The Walking Dead" looks as if it will be sticking around for quite sometime.

BANNER SPORTS

NHL Hockey Local teams Overview

JAMES KINGSLEY

With the season still young, it looks like it will be a rough one for the NHL's local teams. The lone team in the tri-state area that has been on top of its game is the New York Rangers, whom are showing they have been benefiting from the recent struggles with the Devils and that the moves they made during the off-season are paying off so far. They are winning despite Marian Gaborik, the Rangers top scorer from last season, not having the season that he is used to having in terms of his production.

Also since he is hurt, other players have taken over as the teams' scorers until he returns. The team has received valuable scoring contributions from the likes of Ryan Callahan, Brandon Dubinsky, and Artem Anisimov. Their defense led by Marc Staal has been effective but can still improve, as has the goaltending of Henrik Lundqvist to keep the Rangers just two points behind the rival Philadelphia Flyers and tied with the Pittsburgh Penguins in the Atlantic division.

Rangers fan Orlando Reyes had this to say about the teams' recent success this year, "So far so good but then again they started off last year real hot only to not make the playoffs. Hopefully they can play well for the complete season." Anthony Leone shared his own opinion, "Oh the Rangers, I've been a Ranger fan for 30 years and the last few years have been a disappointment, but we'll see what is going to happen this year, but I don't see a cham-

pionship any time soon."

One of the divisions most surprising success stories is the NY Islanders. Their youth driven team has been both competitive and some what inconsistent at the same time. Though they have hit the skids lately with a three game losing streak, they can rebound with a string of victories to keep up with the Flyers, Rangers, and Penguins in the division race. Currently they are in forth place, but considering they are the Islanders this is not bad for a team that many thought would be at the basement right now. "I never thought that the Islanders would be competitive, I give credit to General Manager Garth Snow and center John Tavaras, these guys have given this team life. Maybe they can make the playoffs again like they did from '02-'04, 07" long time hockey fan Frank Deleagro stated. "I think the Islanders are having a fluke season and will revert back to their usually pathetic selves soon enough, and this is coming from an Islanders fan" added Michael De Angelis.

An improved defense through trades, draft and free agency, and younger talent towards the forward positions have helped the team in their recent improvements. However, goaltending will and still is an issue, considering they have an aging netminder in Dwayne Roloson and an injury prone goalie in Rick DiPietro are cause for concern. For now the Islanders will take what they have and hope with the draft and future trades they can improve their goaltending among other positions.



Photo From: Google.com

A surprise team that no one expected to be struggling for wins this season has the New Jersey Devils with out hope. After signing Ilya Kovalchuk to a massive \$100 million contract over the summer, the Devils have been having salary cap trouble and have been hit hard by injuries and major funks. Their record has been horrendous, they are struggling in all aspects of the game from the power play, defense, goaltending, and scoring. Head coach John Maclean, has been getting a lot of heat for the Devils struggles this year, and rightfully so, since this is their worst start in 20 years.

Many experts have claimed Kovalchuk as an expensive bust for his current production this year, while the Devils two best players Martin Brodeur has been struggling with a makeshift defense, and an injury to Zach Parise out for three months with a knee injury has the team reeling. Fans of the Devils have their own views on the problems inflicting the team thus far, "In

all seriousness, their power play has been unable to click all year and they are rotating three rookie defensemen with Volchenkov, Fraser, and Salvador out its tough. Arnott, Langenbrunner, and Elias have not played well at all this year and it has showed in every facet of the game.

Brodeur cannot give up more than 2 goals; otherwise it might as well just be a loss." Devils fan John Carl Ziegler said. "The Devils are the best team in hockey, and they will rebound, Maclean will get Kovy and the rest of the offense scoring, Marty will be the same Marty we all know and love, and the defense will be back to it's dominating self soon, just give it another week or two", added Jason Andreula. With the season still young the local teams, will look to improve and make their seasons into winning ones respectively, while possibly adding more firepower and strength during the season and before the trade deadline.

Tibbs Time

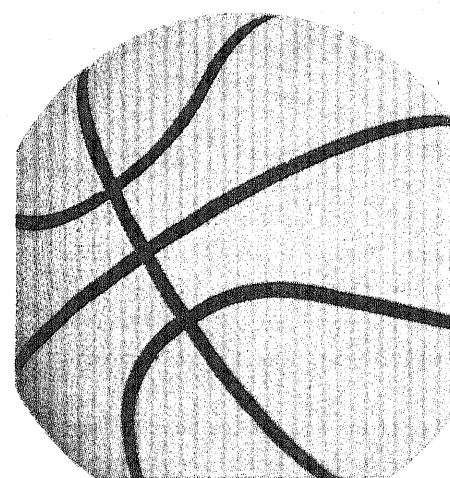


Photo By: patriarc.com/

CHRIS KAVCIC

When CSI opens the 2010 season Friday November 19 they will be without not one but, two 1,000 point scorers off last years team. That team also went 12-14. So to fill the void left by Christian Montervino

and Ryan Hennessy's departure, the Dolphins will look to their new point guard Thomas Tibbs, and a motion offense to create the points to win.

"He brings quickness and athleticism to the point. I think he's going to make other players better," said coach Tony Petosa now in his 21st season coaching his alma mater.

" He's a vocal leader and the kids really like him. He gives us something that we really need."

Tibbs, who starred at St. Peters Boys before walking onto Monmouth for a semester and transferred to Wagner before landing at CSI, will lead a motion and cut

offense for his new team , that will feature plenty of cuts,screens,ball fakes, and backdoor passing, all things that make the Dolphins point guard the triggerman for the

offense. " I don't want to come off as cocky," said Tibbs, "but I want to lead the nation in assists. Not just Division III, the

nation."

Tibbs will lead a young team that will return starters Jordan Young, who was CUNY Rookie of the Year and Second Team All-Conference his first two years, Dale Taranto, and Liwei Pan who all were major contributors to last years squad.

Adding to last years returners and the new point man CSI will benefit from incoming freshman power forward Matt VanManen and small forward David Hughes who will jump right into the starting lineup along with Tibbs.

Two more freshman, Bloochy Magliore and Luis Valdes as well as Frank

Husslein could all find their way into the mix with the Dolphins this season, who were picked to finish fourth in the CUNY's five team South Division, pre-season coaches poll.

Tibbs, is the headliner of what could be an interesting season for CSI. A new point guard featured in an offense that will allow him to create for others, while also giving him opportunities to use his own quickness

and ability to finish at the bucket to offset the loss of last years scorers."We don't have the shooters we had last year," said Petosa,"but we have guys who can finish and get to the foul line."

The offense Petosa has set in place will feature many of the Princeton type characteristics of the motion offense with cuts, screens, and everyone touching the ball on one possession, usually taking the shot clock down to its final seconds. Said Petosa, "I don't think we can settle for taking jumpers on the perimeter."

Tibbs is literally a coach on the floor. The former Island standout is also the

freshman coach for Curtis now in his third season coaching the young Warriors. Tibbs

said that coaching young men helped him realize how much he missed playing and

couldn't wait to get back on the floor. Now he'll be leading from both the bench, the floor, and sometimes both.