

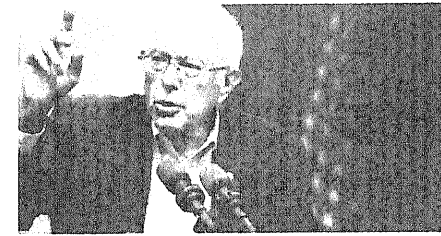
# THE BANNER

The Official Newspaper of the College of Staten Island

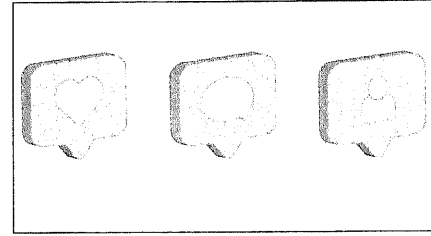
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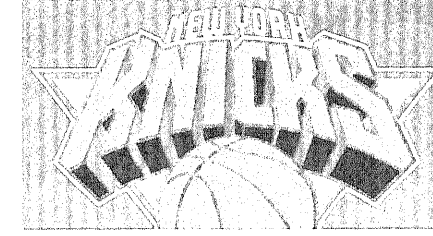
"Age and Politics" pg 3



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"Joker" Review" pg 8



"Knicks" pg 12

## Breaking The Silence At The Bertha Harris Women's Center

2N-106 Is Dedicated To Your Safety And Personal Growth

BY: OLIVIA FRASCA

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and students at CSI are encouraged to share their story and break their silence.

The Bertha Harris Women's Center at CSI hosts a clothesline project at the entrance of 1P. Students are invited to anonymously paint a shirt and hang it on the clothesline from October 3rd through October 31st.

The project is an outlet for survivors of domestic and gender-based abuse to take control of their experiences and express their feelings.

But the clothesline is not the only project that the center promotes. On October 15th, the center held their annual 'Take Back The Night' event.

The candlelight walk took place at the Dolphin Lounge. Over 100 people took part in the event to break the stigma and stand in solidarity with victims of gender-based violence.

The Women's Center is "dedicated to meeting the diverse needs of women students, to addressing gender-related issues both on and off-campus, and to empowering women in order to strengthen the entire



The Women's Center at CSI is a safe space for all genders to study, relax, and get involved.

Photo Credit: Olivia Frasca

community," according to their mission statement.

Enter 2N, turn left, and walk to the end

of the hallway to room 106. You will find staff eager to meet you.

a welcoming space with twinkling lights, chairs, treats, and a group of students and

Continued on pg 4

## Horrorifying History of CSI Willowbrook Campus

Why our Campus May be Haunted

BY: CARLOS GLICK

What some on the CSI Willowbrook Campus may not know is that the campus used to be a mental institution (known as the Willowbrook State School) for people who had severe disabilities.

Not to also mention but rumors say that a ghost haunts the campus. Believe it or not, it is true. (I'll get into the details to that later).

Built in the 1930's for developmentally disabled children and adults, the school became an institution where the borough's most vulnerable residents were abused, starved and neglected, which was the opposite of its purpose. New York Senator Robert Kennedy referred to Willowbrook as a "snake pit" after a visit to the school and witnessed the deplorable conditions.

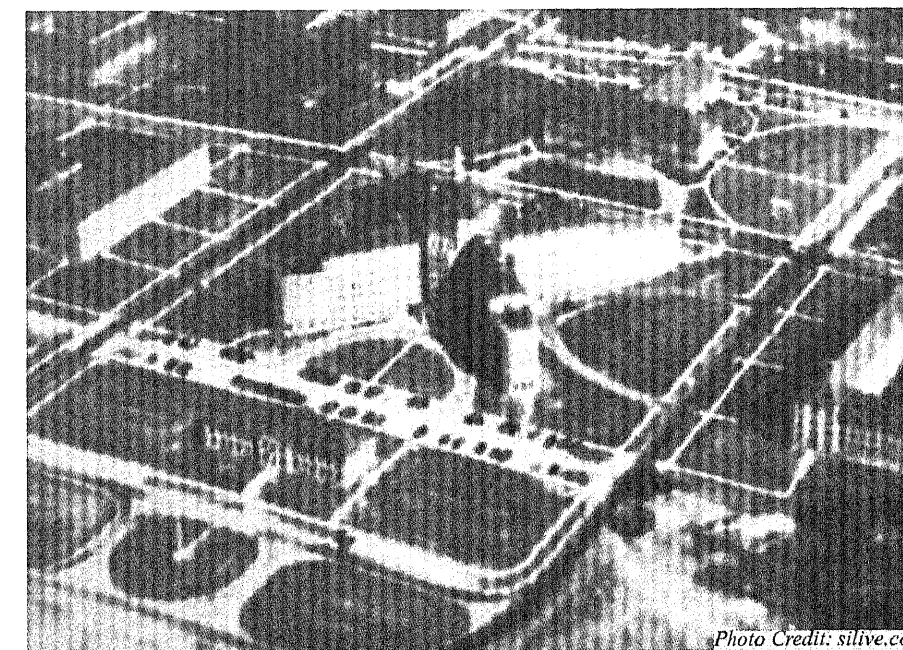
Following his visit, Kennedy called

for a five-year action plan to improve treatment of patients and the school. Still, the school remained open.

During the College of Staten Island's 21st annual Willowbrook memorial lecture back in 2014, a former Willowbrook employee, Diane Buglioli, who had worked at the school for 11 years, said that individuals were "denied their human right to humanity" while living at the school. Buglioli said that prisons allot 80 square feet per inmate, whereas Willowbrook provided only 35 square feet per resident, "with no place to put a treasured item, no place to put their (personal) possessions."

From 1930 to 1987, several buildings on the campus (before becoming the College of Staten Island) housed an institution for developmentally disabled children.

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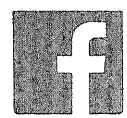
Birds' eye view of the campus in black and white.

Photo Credit: silive.com



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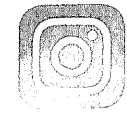
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Business Manager:

Michael Losi

Layout Editor:

Lauren M. Silverman

Copy Editor:

Gabriell Kleydman

Managing Editor:

Ashley Martin

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FACULTY ADVISOR:

Frederick Kaufman

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FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION DIAL 718-982-3116

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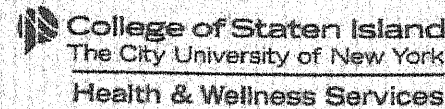
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# BANNER POLITICS

## When Does Age Hinder Political Success?

Decades Separate Young Voters And The Politicians That Are Calling On Millennials To Vote For Them.

BY: AMANDA BENGARD

In the wake of Bernie Sanders' health scare, a statement released from his campaign earlier this month confirmed the 78-year old running candidate had received medical attention for a heart related injury. Sanders is back on the campaign trail only 2 weeks after his heart attack, reassuring Americans, at the most recent Democratic debate, that he is up to the stress that comes with being president despite new concerns.

For the American people, it is reasonable to want to know how extensive Sanders' condition was and to question his ability to remain healthy in office if elected. Although Sanders has been given the title "America's Grandfather" by supporters, he is not the only elderly candidate running for office.

Joe Biden 76, Elizabeth Warren 70, and our current President, Donald Trump 73, indicate our next president is likely to be pushing 80 before finishing a full term. Millennials ranging in age from 18-35 are now becoming a large political force with potential to reshape American politics in 2020.

The question at large is how can the ideologies of aged political candidates ultimately benefit the youth of today and future generations, if the age gap between candidates and young voters is 40 to 50 plus years?

In order to gain the interest of fellow CSI classmates who are likely to be voting for the first time, it must be convincing that

politics is not just old men in suits spewing grand and hard to follow concepts.

For example, Sanders has won over the youth with his radical views and devoted fight against oppression, perpetual warfare, and income inequality which lets affluent Americans rig our economic system to placate their wealth.

During his campaign, Sanders has

tional costs relating to housing, transportation and books.

The cost of Sanders' "College for All" plan is estimated to be \$47 billion per year. At first that number might seem large, but the US is spending \$1.25 trillion annually on war according to truthout.org.

This means only a 5% reduction in our war-machine can fund "College for All."

serve in the United States Congress at the age of 30, lending to the idea that millennials love and support Sanders.

Elizabeth Warren is fighting her way to the top of the tallest political ladder against a powerhouse line up. Steadily coming out with radical and comprehensive ideas, Warren's policies also benefit the youth population with a similar plan to Sanders.

Policies such as student debt relief and universal health care, with plans to fund these policies by taxing the ultra-rich.

Biden served as vice president under the Obama administration for 8 years and much like Obama, who was his younger counterpart by 20 years, holds similar political values.

Although Biden isn't as popular with millennials compared to Sanders and Warren with their drastic and partisan approach, we can still count on Biden when it comes to a strong support for gay rights and government neutrality for women's right to choose.

Next November will be a race to the finish while politicians fight for their seat in the Oval Office. Early contests suggest baby boomer candidates are leading such as Biden, Sanders and Warren.

It is probably true that some of the older running mates may not know what Snapchat is, however they are working to assemble policies for the betterment of future generations.

In other words, the importance is not who is proposing what policy, but rather the benefit young people will gain from it.

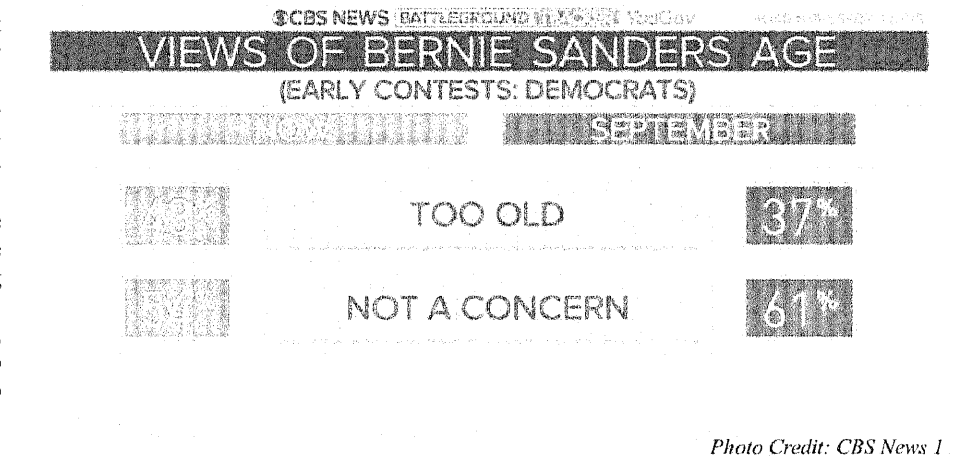


Photo Credit: CBS News 1

Voters question Sanders running at his age, but his policies are just too good.

been advocating for causes such as single-payer health care, racial, economic and climate justice, and most importantly for CSI students, free public college.

Sanders is currently proposing funding to states and universities allowing the elimination of undergraduate tuition fees. This bill will also increase spending on work-study programs and federal grants that help low-income students with addi-

Therefore voting for a politician who promises to better use our national revenue, such as Sanders declares to do, will ensure a considerably better off nation.

Last week on October 15th, Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez announced that she will be endorsing Sanders for president in 2020 and plans to debut at his next rally in Queens.

Cortez is the youngest woman ever to

## US Withdrawal From Syria Continues Region's Destabilization

Did America Abandon The Kurds in Northern Syria?

BY: DEJON VIRGO

On Monday, October 8th, President Donald Trump announced that he will be pulling troops out of northern Syria and abandoning our allies, the Kurds.

The Kurds were very important in defeating ISIS in Syria and they lost thousands of fighters helping the United States in that region.

The pull out of northern Syria is being seen by the Kurds as a betrayal by the United States that left a key ally to defend themselves. The alliance with Kurdish forces began when the United States was looking for new allies to fight against ISIS after they tried to train and give weapons to moderate Muslims, which failed and only produced a few fighters.

The United States knew that an alliance with the Kurds was going to be hard to sell because Turkey saw the Kurds as terrorists and a threat to their country. The PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party) is a Kurdish militant group based in Turkey and Iraq that have been in an armed conflict with Turkey for years.

Turkey, along with other countries including the United States and the European Union (EU), classified the PKK as a terrorist group. The United States formed an alliance with the YPG (People's Protection Units), which is not classified as a terrorist group but viewed by Turkey as an extension of the PKK.

The U.S. tried to change the name of the YPG to the SDF (Syrian Democratic Forces) to make the Kurds look more rea-

sonable to form an alliance with.

General Raymond Thomas, Commander of the U.S. Special Operations Command, explained the rebranding of the YPG to distance it from the PKK and other terrorist groups.

This worked in most places in the world, especially the U.S., EU, and the mainstream media. The media has glamorized the SDF but Turkey was not buying the rebranding and saw the SDF as a threat to its country.

Turkey is a NATO ally, so when the United States deployed troops to northern Syria and helped the SDF, Turkey couldn't attack the Kurds and risk a conflict with a fellow NATO ally.

When Trump announced that he would be pulling troops out of northern Syria, that gave Turkey the green light to invade northern Syria and attack the Kurds without U.S. interference.

Trump's decision faced backlash from almost everyone in Washington, with some of his biggest supporters like Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) saying that he will hold Trump accountable for Turkey's actions.

The concerns about the decisions is that they will damage the credibility of the United States on the world stage by abandoning one of our allies. The U.S. is trying to get a trade deal with China, a nuclear agreement with North Korea, and a new nuclear deal with Iran.

Another concern is the humanitarian crisis that Turkey's invasion caused, with people reportedly dying and thousands fleeing from northern Syria to Iraq.

Yet another disturbance is that the ISIS prisoners that the Kurds were guarding and the potential of them escaping and regrouping will fuel a resergering of ISIS in the region. The Kurds will defend themselves against Turkey which will draw resources and guards patrolling the jails with ISIS prisoners to the border to help fight off Turkey.

Turkey wants to create a "safe zone" in northern Syria which will get rid of the Kurdish threat and give over three million Syrian refugees a new place to settle. The

The administration has also tried to establish some kind of peace between the Kurds and Turks and it was mostly unsuccessful, but on October 17th the administration announced a cease-fire with Turkey.

Turkey will stop the invasion for five days and give the Kurds time to escape the region.

Trump has praised the agreement as a big win for peace, but the Kurds say that Turkey hasn't stopped the attack and they won't leave because they didn't agree to the cease-fire.



President Donald Trump and Recep Tayyip Erdogan during a joint press conference.

Trump administration has been pushing back against the criticism by not wanting to stay in the Middle East forever and by claiming this is a problem between the Turks and Kurds.

The whole troop withdrawal has opened a new chapter in the even more complicated Syrian conflict in the Middle East.



# BANNER NEWS

"Women's Center"  
Continued from Front Page



According to the Clothesline Project's official website, "Clothesline Projects all over the world remind people of the real meaning of violence statistics that are often ignored."

Photo Credit: thepantheronline.com

Office Manager Lori Uccio describes the Women's Center as a home away from home that offers resources and opportunities for students of all genders.

"[The Women's Center] encourages a confidential support network among students, staff, and faculty, while also serving as a conduit of information about counseling and other resources available to women on campus and in the surrounding communities."

The center runs a 4-credit internship class, WGS 490, where students can intern at the center and study feminist theory.

The center also has relationships with other gender-based organizations, such as Safe Horizon, the largest victim services non-profit in the country.

Based in New York City, Safe Horizon "envision[s] a society free of violence and abuse. [Safe Horizon] will lead the way by empowering victims and survivors to find safety, support, connection, and hope."

Although domestic violence can come in different forms, abuse often follows a cycle. First, tensions build up between the abuser and the victim. The victim tries

to satisfy the abuser in fear of the consequences.

Second is the abuse, which can be verbal, emotional, or physical. This can last for short or long periods of time.

The third stage is reconciliation, where the abuser apologizes, blames the victim, or even denies abuse.

The fourth stage is called the "honeymoon" stage, in which abuse does not occur and the relationship is generally peaceful. The victim is likely to stay with the abuser but the cycle does not end.

The center provides counseling, support, and scholarships for both survivors and victims of the cycle.

In addition to interning at the center and learning about feminist theory, those enrolled in WGS 490 can create their own events about issues that matter to them.

Throughout the year, the Women's Center collects accessories, feminine products, and gifts for organizations such as Bottomless Closet and Safe Horizon.

It also hosts discussions and panels about equal rights, salary negotiation, and sexual health. Students can earn CLUE credits for participating at some of these

events.

Toys for children and gifts for mothers in the care of Safe Horizon will be collected throughout campus from November 4th to December 10th. Uccio shares that the center will have a gift wrapping party on December 10th for donations gathered throughout the holiday season, and encourages students to attend.

The Bertha Harris Women's Center at



Photo Credit: WUnews

CSI is open Monday-Thursday at 2N-106. Feel free to call them at (718) 982-2871 for more information about upcoming events and activities.

Whether you need support, a place to chill, or a cup of coffee, visit the center. There, you will join a community of interns, staff, and organizations dedicated to your safety and personal growth.

# BANNER NEWS

"Willowbrook"  
Continued from Front Page

In 1938, a 375 acre section of Willowbrook, Staten Island converted into a hospital for mentally handicapped children.

When construction was completed in 1942, the buildings were converted to a United States Army Hospital named Hal-lorean General Hospital. In October 1947 the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene took over the buildings renaming it the Willowbrook State School.

By 1962, the school had been designed for 4,000 children but quickly spread to 6,000. The patients were understaffed and were locked in rooms for an extended length of time and were forced to sleep on floors covered in their own excrement. Many of the children were underfed and most ran down the halls partially dressed or naked. Between 1963 and 1966 medical studies were conducted on the children, infecting them with hepatitis, some by feeding them the stool of other infected patients.

The Staten Island Advance began uncovering the questionable practices of the Willowbrook State School in the mid-1960s. Jane Kurtin, a reporter of The Staten Island Advance, was one of the first to cover the abhorrent conditions at the school, though the stories did not gain the attention she'd hoped for.

It wasn't until ABC News' Geraldo Rivera exposed "Willowbrook: The Last Disgrace" that the national spotlight was

turned on to Staten Island and the school's treatment of its "students." Before the exposed aired, the network warned: "Tonight as a public service, we're going to make you sick." "This is what it looked like, this is what it sounded like; It smelled of filth, it smelled of disease and it smelled of death."

In 1971 funding to the school was cut leading to worsening conditions. Local newspapers and media including Geraldo Rivera, reported on the overcrowding, lack of sanitary conditions, and the physical and mental abuse forced upon the disabled children. As a result, lawsuits were filed against New York State which would lead to reforms many years later.

In 1974 the area was renamed the Staten Island Developmental Center and in 1983 a plan to close the school was announced. The last child to reportedly leave the school was in September of 1987.

It doesn't end there though. In 1987 Andre Rand who had worked in the school, killed and buried Jennifer Schweiger, a patient at the school, on the abandoned school grounds. Because of this incident, students at the College of Staten Island have reported seeing figures moving through the shadows, strange noises and calls and unsettling feelings.

If you take night classes, and especially if you drive, be careful. You may get that unexpected creepy feeling that something is watching and following you.



Overcrowding at Willowbrook State School.

Photo Credit: silive.com

Today, CSI sits on over 200 acres from the north side of campus (buildings 1M and 2M) going pass the gym all the way down to the S buildings (buildings 1S-6S) surrounding the library. If you have

classes in the S buildings (especially buildings 4S or even perhaps 5S) be warned; I hear that some pretty fishy hauntings happen in those buildings.

Explore, if you dare.



Via silive: "Residents suffered apparent physical and sexual abuse, some were subjects of inhumane medical experiments, many were neglected and went days without food."

Photo Credit: silive.com



# LIFESTYLES

## If Everyone's an Influencer, Who's Left to Influence?

What it Means to Be An Influencer

BY: ASHLEY MARTIN

To influence means to have great impact on individuals, organizations, or behavior. It is a powerful trait that shouldn't be taken for granted.

The term is used very loosely today as we associate anyone with a massive following and money as an influencer, when most are simply giving product reviews.

With the rise of social media, creators have a platform to showcase their talent.

Individuals have an opportunity to influence individuals and create change. It's an empowering feeling but it's also harmful.

Social media promotes unrealistic lifestyles and unhealthy body images. A lot of work goes into presenting a perfect version of yourself online.

Influencers however, will go above and beyond for their followers.

They give followers a personal look into their lives by posting photos and videos, connecting with viewers as well as partnering with brands and advocating on their behalf.

Influencers gain popularity and trust of their followers and in turn, make a profit by using products in collaboration with companies.

They encourage followers to indulge in a culture of mass consumption, with their constant haul videos. They buy or are given excessive amounts of products and spend around 45 minutes enticing viewers to buy it.

Most times influencer videos are sponsored so viewers may have a sense of distrust and are skeptical of the quality of the product, knowing that the influencer is getting paid to make comments.

Photo Credit: ResponseSource.com



Being an influencer comes with great responsibility to be a model to our youth.

An influencer like Kylie Jenner has over 100 million followers, promoting her beauty and skin brand as well as numerous products like clothing or fragrances. This may seem like a good thing as followers

no substance, no thought – provoking conversations.

Being an influencer is not an easy task, as popularity or followers don't automatically equate to free trips and clothes. Somehow though, influencing is the new crave that has individuals sharing more of themselves online, openly discussing topics meaningful to them, and losing their dignity for a few likes.

An influencer must adapt to the ever changing social media as well as be authentic. To call yourself an influencer is a big deal as people look to them for guidance or insight. The information influencers give out, shouldn't just improve your appearance but also empower and educate you.

As viewers we must be mindful of the information we are being told, especially if money is involved. We should also think about who we allow to influence us as it can say a lot about our values and where we want to be in life.

A great influencer would be someone like Bernie Sanders advocating for free higher education, free health care, affordable housing, and other programs that will greatly impact Americans. People like Ava Duvernay, Tyler Perry and Jordan Peele encourage and inspire Black people to write and their tell stories, with all types of characters.

I believe, most great influencers wouldn't even give themselves that label they just take the steps, get things done, and in turn people become inspired.

Influencers have to keep our attention, meet demands and entertain. They also have to focus on the quality of their content and the amount of followers they have. However, it becomes inauthentic.

You scroll through YouTube or Instagram and see the same type of video in 50 different ways. The content isn't original anymore as it seems like people are chasing an extravagant lifestyle and are willing to sell anything to get there.

are exposed to different products but with Kylie's platform how has she enacted change?

Is she influencing youth to be more involved in their communities? Coming up with solutions to combat poverty? Or is she encouraging careless spending on a product that she recreates every few months?

Other influencers promote traveling or simply broadcast their daily life but there's

## How Bartending at a Strip Club Led Student to Disneyland

Emily Traina's Unexpected Route to California

BY: MATTHEW GROSSANE-DIEZ

The fastest money Traina ever made was working as a bartender at a strip club for seven months.

"I made seven thousand dollars in seven months," said Traina. "It was the perfect amount of money that I needed to go to work at Disney while I took my gap semester."

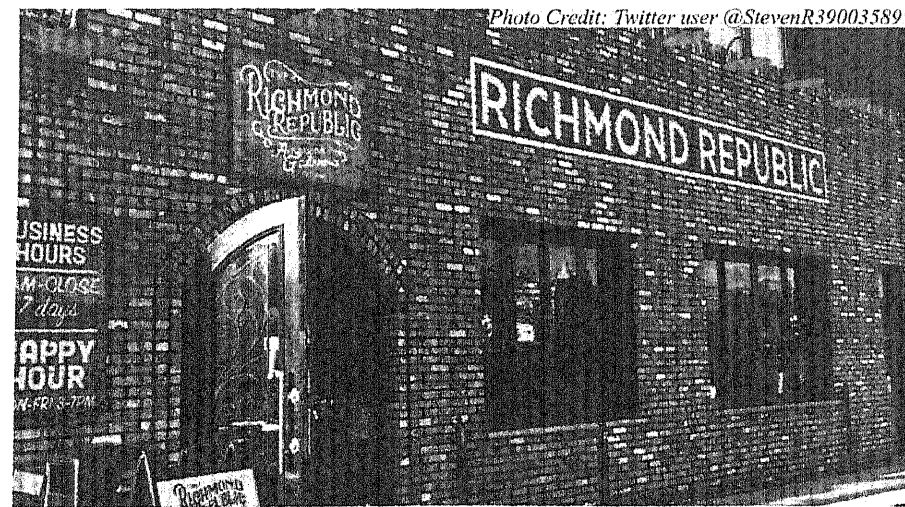
During Traina's first year of college, she worked numerous jobs from being a

makeup artist, to babysitting, to working in ice-cream parlors. She quickly realized that those jobs were not for her and obtained her bartending license at 19 years old.

Bartending was not all smooth sailing at the beginning.

"My first bartending job was for a catering company where I ran an open bar with a more experienced bartender," said Traina. "An important rule about bartending is not to get too drunk, especially if you

Photo Credit: Twitter user @StevenR39003589



Emily Traina now works as a bartender at Richmond Republic.

are new, but me and the bartending crew got all pretty drunk at a random couples' wedding."

Despite the complications Traina witnessed as a bartender, she was accepted into the Disneyland Internship Program, which meant she had to move to California for a year.

Before officially entering the Disney program, she brainstormed ways to make money if she wanted to survive in California for three months.

This prompted Traina to apply to every place she could, including a strip club in New Jersey.

"The funniest thing was that I showed up to the interview in nice clothes, looking very professional and the man asked me: what are you wearing?" said Traina. "Then he said that I had a pretty face and would start next week."

This was going to be hard because her parents wouldn't endorse her new place of work...so she had to keep it a secret.

Traina was nervous, but she needed this job because she was about seven months away from beginning her internship. Her first week was all she needed to realize that this was the perfect short term job for her circumstance.

"I had a guy that would give me one-hundred dollars just to massage my hands at the bar while he talked to me," Traina said. "It was weird though because one minute, I'd be talking to someone, then they'd walk away, get a lap dance, come back and tell me more about their lives."

Traina never entertained even the idea of partaking in anything more than the hand massages, and customers knew that. Working at the strip club showed her the sad reality that these are men who often have deeper reasons for attending a strip club.

These men at times have issues at home or at work, and Traina became the person they confided in. These men would tell her things about their daughters with disabilities, their ailing wives, and many more reasons why they use the strip club as an escape.

Seven months later, Traina left for Disneyland with seven thousand dollars in her pocket.

"My parents finally just found out," Traina said. "It appeared on my taxes and I had to tell my mom so she knew that I never did anything crazy and I only did the bartending."

# LIFESTYLES

## Moving from Borough to Borough

The Radical Differences Between NYC's Different Neighborhoods

BY: SAMMY QUARRATO

New York City has been known for being the largest city in the nation with more than 8 million inhabitants and tens of millions of tourists everywhere and growing within each year.

What some people don't realize that the 5 boroughs are so different from each other, even at their borders with each other.

For example, I lived in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn for most of my life.

The neighborhood is known for it being more of a quiet and retirement area for people who are usually of Italian, Polish, Greek, or Irish descent.

Now, it's known for having a growing Arabic population for the past 10 years.

Due to that, other neighborhoods and even boroughs are affected, such as many people from Bay Ridge deciding to move to Staten Island or other neighborhoods in Brooklyn such as Dyker Heights and Red Hook.

To those who moved to either of those areas, there's some differences in the transportation, alone.

Staten Island only has one train that goes one straight line, it is almost impossible at times to live in Staten Island and not have a car, especially when it begins to snow.

Compare it to where I live, now, the Upper East Side where a Cappuccino and Bacon Egg and Cheese in some cafe's are the price of a full meal in all the other boroughs.

To me and other people who are moving to Manhattan which isn't many due to the high prices, it's a big adjustment because we can't just walk into a random place and get something without worrying about the price of every single thing that we put our hands on.

I was already in that mindset but that was dialed to 100 when I moved because I'm still a Brooklyn Boy, by heart.

The lifestyle that works in all boroughs, no matter if it's cheap or expensive to live there is moderation.

When you save for the sake of saving when you could use that money to improve the quality of your everyday life or just overall live like a normal person which is going out once in a while or just as simple as getting better quality furniture.

Or when you spend every time you get a paycheck on the newest iPhone or getting the most expensive sneakers because you want to showboat your money off to everyone either to impress them or make them jealous.

Both of those are a problem because you're trading one thing for another when in fact you can have a decent life by just being fiscally responsible.

Sure, when you're in Manhattan and are young, you want to go out every Friday and spend the night, you guessed it, spending.

Or when you're in an isolated area of Staten Island or Queens you're used to just being bored in life whenever you're not

working, attending school, or house cleaning.

Almost all of us go through both phases but we eventually realize overtime, no matter the borough, moderation applies to them all.

So, when you move from borough to

of Americans live paycheck to paycheck, nowadays, not being able to afford missing not even one.

We know the government as of late, especially since the 80's hasn't been serving the American people as well as they should of in this issue with our generation believ-



Photo Credit: zumper.com

NYC's boroughs are more different in their own ways.

borough or even when you're just visiting one, just remember that you should know what's an investment in your life and what's just a waste of your time and money.

I know that this is more than it seems to meet the naked eye but the majority

ing that we'll be doing worse than our parents.

Just do yourself a favor and rely on yourself as much as possible, because most people won't care for your situation because they're most likely worried about theirs.

## What Exactly Are You Drinking?

How Soda Can Be Ruining Your Health

BY: MARK DEUTSCH

Everybody has either heard of or at least sipped from that legendary amber liquid, not the alcoholic beverage.

That's right, Coca-Cola is the drink that everyone is hooked on. But there's one pressing question about this popular drink: what exactly are you drinking?

Taking a look at the ingredients on the bottle, it is important to know the effects of sugar and these chemicals on the human body.

The amount of sugar in a 12 ounce coke can is 39 grams. Isn't 39 a high number? According to Livestrong.com, this intake of sugar is excessive.

Specifically, the American Heart Association states that 37.5 grams of sugar is the normal daily intake for an adult. Those leftover sugars would go straight to fat, creating a body that needs a diet.

The problems that entail by maxing out the sugar limit are mostly health problems. A simple one would be gaining weight. It also entails getting a beer gut along with decreased stamina.

Besides these common factors, there are some other serious downsides to ingesting too much sugar.

A serious affliction caused by sugar problems is diabetes, which means your blood glucose, or blood sugar, levels are too high--often requiring medical assistance. Constantly drinking soda can possi-

bly lead to diabetes, which isn't reversible.

This isn't the only component of soda that causes bodily damage, such as those chemicals in the bottle.

To start off, that citric acid contained in coke can be used for a myriad of things, including to clean metal. Cleaning metal

our quality levels.

According to GlobeLifeInsurance.com, the author states: "Soda has also been known to affect vitamin D absorption. Carbonated drinks can be associated with weakening of bones, osteoporosis, as well as hypertension."

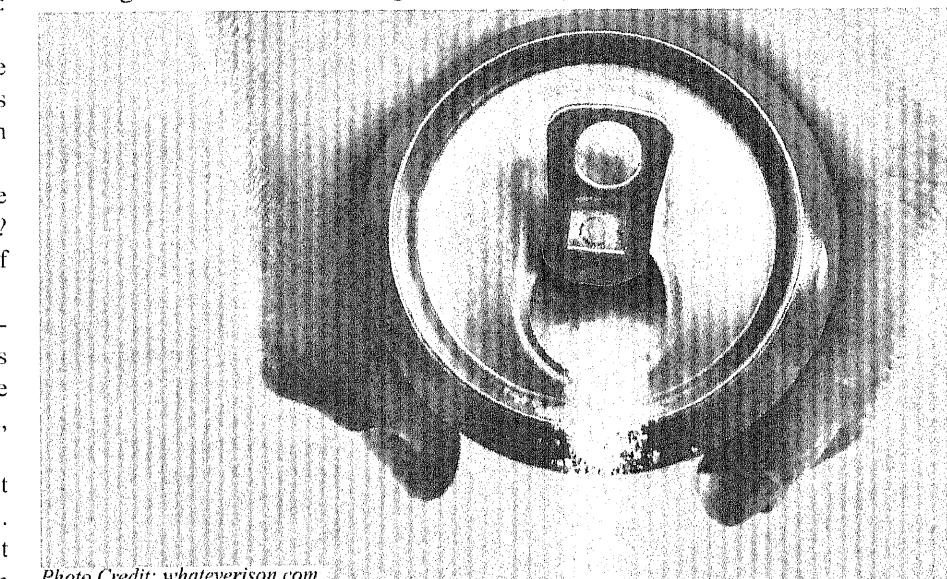


Photo Credit: whateverison.com

Everyone is hooked on Coca-Cola.

isn't the only way to use coke, along with cleaning toilets.

Despite all of the health risks of soda, when it was first introduced to the market it was considered to be healthy. However, lab studies found that this carbonated drink is made of a phosphoric acid that depletes

Besides the potential diabetes, weight gain, and vitamin deficiency from consuming too much soda, there's another risk to the human body to consider.

The smile. Soda can impact those bone-white chompers.

According to the American Dental As-

sociation, "Sugar in soda combines with bacteria in your mouth to form acid, which attacks the teeth. Diet or "sugar-free" soda contains its own acid, which also can damage teeth. Each attack lasts about 20 minutes and starts over with every sip of soda you take."

Put simply, that acid in any soda has the potential to damage teeth, even rot them. Sealing a tooth in a container of soda will almost dissolve it.

Considering how badly damaged teeth get with say, brushing teeth only minimizes the decay. So moving on from the reasons why soda will rot your teeth, let's dive in to what will happen if you don't brush your teeth.

Brushing your teeth helps to get rid of any remaining sugar or bacteria, so what would happen without brushing your teeth for a day?

That sugar would burrow into the teeth, making the enamel thinner and creating painful cavities. All of these facts about the dangers of soda mean the subtraction of soda.

To finish this off even if people learn about the negative effects of soda on the body, especially in the teeth, they will likely still drink coke.

It's not only delicious, but addictive. Even said writer still drinks soda after doing extensive research about it.



## BANNER ARTS

### Joke's on You! "Joker" is King of the Box Office Right Now

Joaquin Phoenix. That's All.

BY: DANNY CACACE

"Joker" stars Joaquin Phoenix ("Gladiator," "Her," "Signs"), Robert De Niro ("Taxi Driver," "Goodfellas," "Casino"), and Zazie Beetz ("Deadpool 2," "Geostorm") and is directed by Todd Phillips ("Hangover," "Hangover Part 2," "Hangover Part 3," "War Dogs").

Joaquin Phoenix plays the titular character Arthur Fleck/Joker. Robert De Niro plays Murray Franklin who is a late night television show host whom Arthur looks up to, and Zazie Beetz plays Sophie Dummond who is Arthur's neighbor.

Disregarded by society, Arthur Fleck (Joaquin Phoenix) stands alone mistreated by the world outside because he can't be accepted for who he is. This foreshadows a future where Fleck turns into the clown prince of crime, the Joker.

When I saw "Joker" in theaters, I was amazed by how chilling the score was and how it keeps your heart beating with how tense and dark it is. The whole soundtrack was phenomenal and really breathtaking and perfect for the movie.

For every scene in the movie when the dark music plays in the background, you really feel the vibe the director was trying to bring to this film, which is quite disturbing and thrilling.

This movie has caught a lot of attention due to critics making people believe that this film incites violence. Although, there is one particular scene in the mov-

ie where people with clown masks on are protesting against the police may seem as a political uprising to some.

I think of it as people trying to show that there are civilians in society who are not seen because there are those who do not see where they come from, and those people want to be heard and seen.

Even though "Joker" has violent mo-



The Joker movie has stirred up a lot of controversy lately and has been breaking box office records. Photo Credit: imdb.com

ments throughout, I don't believe it was actually trying to incite violence. It was showing the kind of character the Joker really is along with giving him an origin story he never had before.

This movie was trying to send a message to the world out of the many hidden but almost blatantly obvious messages. This film offers the message to society that everyone should be loved regardless of

who they are.

Director Todd Phillips has said that he took inspiration from films such as "Taxi Driver" and "The King of Comedy" which are both Robert De Niro films and are both crime films, just like "Joker."

Mental health is another important message that "Joker" uncovers. Arthur

and care they deserve, then the world can fall into chaos as shown in this film where chaos erupts all because of one person. I'm not saying this will happen, but people need to start caring for each other because we're all human and we're not perfect by any means and everyone deserves to be loved.

Everyone's performance in the movie was so on point, and Joaquin Phoenix really gave a fresh spin on the Joker. He really makes you feel for his character while also making you want to be against him at the same time because he acts like a deranged lunatic for a good majority of the movie. The whole movie was phenomenal to me and a true real piece of cinema.

This film checks all the boxes for me in terms of having a really great story with so many messages, an amazing score and the fact that I'm still talking about this movie two weeks after I've seen it shows that this film really is worth talking about.

I have to say what I really love about this movie the most is that it keeps you thinking because you really don't know what to believe and everyone can have their own interpretation of what they think about the movie when it ends. I give Joker an A- and I recommend this movie to anyone especially for those who don't read comic books, and know nothing about Batman or the Joker.

Go see this movie, you won't regret it.

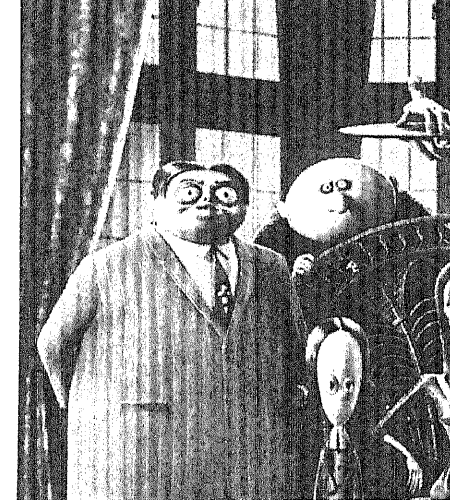
## Guess Who's Back Onscreen—"The Addams Family"

Is Everybody's Favorite Spooky Halloween Movie, "The Addams Family," Really a Flop?

BY: ROSEANNE CASSAR

A brand new family who is spooky, creepy and very different made it in time for Halloween in theaters. This October 2019, a revision of the Addams family is back and our favorite characters are back in animation, bright colors and in 3D.

The movie's setting, plot, and narra-



This creepy and spooky family takes over the silver screen again. Photo Credit: screenrant.com

tive have not changed over the years, but no change is needed with this unique family. Kids of all ages, including adults will always love the Addams family no matter how strange they may seem.

The movie started out with Gomez

(Oscar Isaac) and Morticia (Charlize Theron) reciting their vows in the outskirts of their village, in front of close family and friends. Just before the ceremony ended, an angry vicious mob of villagers decided to chase the newlyweds, along with their guests out of their village.

Gomez and Morticia find themselves stranded in the middle of nowhere and the

The new 2019 animated version of "The Addams Family" is a spinoff from cartoons, TV series and the Addams Family comedy movie starring Raul Julia and Anjelica Huston.

According to the New York Times review it states, "Although returning the Addams to illustrated form brings them full circle (Charles Addam's New Yorker cartoons long predated the 1960s TV series), this movie exists in the shadow of Barry Sonnenfeld's live-action films from 1991 and 1993. As spot on as the casting of Isaac and Theron may sound, animation spares them from having to match the ingenious physical comedy of Raul Julia and Anjelica Huston."

Of course, in every movie you have bad guys. The bad guy is Margo, she is the woman to go to when you want to upgrade your house to fit into her unrealistic neighborhood. When she saw the creepy castle that the Addams were living in, Margo decided to help them, but not in a good way.

Margo is the kind of person who will act like a Ms. Jekyll and Ms. Hyde behind

especially their children, to feel safe in their surroundings.

The family decided to make New Jersey their new home.

The Addams found an old abandoned asylum castle and turned it into their new residence where they started a new life and tried to make new friends (or friends with bad intentions).

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Margo is the kind of person who will act like a Ms. Jekyll and Ms. Hyde behind

everyone's back. When Margo saw that she couldn't get through to the Addams with change, she decided to turn on them. Margo used all the neighbors who were already living in her unrealistic world to turn against the Addams and help her run the family out of their neighborhood by doing some demolition work to the castle.

The castle was being destroyed while the Addams family were having a party for their son Pugsley's mazaruka creating chaos for family and friends. In the end, Margo's daughter and Wednesday found enough dirt on Margo to inform the neighbors exactly what Margo is up to behind closed doors. Margo is nice enough to make over everyone's houses plus putting in hidden cameras too; pulling out her true colors so the whole neighborhood sees her for who she really is, a spy.

This past Tuesday, I saw the movie "The Addams Family." I give the movie two thumbs up. Children of all ages, including the adults should go see the movie.

Rotten Tomatoes have no right giving this movie a negative review. This movie is adorable and for the first time in 3D. This is perfect for Halloween.

The moral of this movie is generally showing the difference from right and wrong and how to treat other people regardless of how different, unique looking or weird you are. In other words, "don't judge a book by its cover" and treat people equally.

## BANNER ARTS

### Universal Studios Gets Spooky for the Halloween Season

New Haunted Houses and Attractions are Unveiled During Halloween Horror Nights

BY: BROOKE PRICE

It's time to get spooky because Halloween Horror Nights is here at Universal Studios. The haunted houses, mazes, scare zones, and spine-chilling shows at the Hollywood and Orlando locations will frighten you.

On select nights from September 6th to November 2nd, Halloween Horror Nights at Universal Studios in Orlando takes place.

There are ten new haunted houses that will thrill and chill you. Some feature popular movies and TV shows such as "Stranger Things," "Us," "Ghostbusters," and "Killer Klowns from Outer Space."

The "Stranger Things" haunted house takes you through Hawkins and deep into the Upside Down. Jordan Peele's "Us" haunted house follows the Wilson family and their terrifying encounter with their doppelgangers.

The "Ghostbusters" haunted house enables you to step into the film and witness Slimer, the pudgy green ghost and even see the famous Stay Puft Marshmallow Man. The "Killer Klowns from Outer Space" haunted house is the worst fear for those who don't fancy clowns.

After being chilled to the bone, you might want to refuel for more terrifying fun. Why not try some unique Halloween foods, such as s'mores, fries, pizza fries, chocolate dipped bacon on a stick, "Ghostbusters" trap popcorn, and the triple decker extravaganza waffle that was shown on "Stranger Things?"

Some new shows that you can see include the "Halloween Marathon of Mayhem" and the "Academy of Villains: Altered States" shows.

"Halloween Marathon of Mayhem" is

a water and light show that displays classic scenes from "Stranger Things," "Ghostbusters," "Universal Monsters," and "Killer Klowns from Outer Space," which are projected onto the lagoon. "Academy of Villains: Altered States" is a show that incorporates dance, acrobatics and theatrics to tell a story.

There are also some new scare zones that guests can walk through. The "Anarch-cade" is an 80's style arcade area where everything is decorated in neon lights.

However, be wary of the neon clad people who may lurk near you. "Variety ball" is a fashion show that showcases the new gory trends on the runway where models display new facial features and bloodied bandages.

Halloween Horror Nights in Universal Studios in Hollywood takes place on select nights from September 13th to November 3rd.

Another cool event that takes place during Halloween Horror Nights at the Hollywood location is 80's Throwback Thursday. Every Thursday night, there will be an 80's themed dance party with a live band, as well as a special appearance by the raunchy Beetlejuice.

Like the Orlando counterpart, haunted houses such as those for "Stranger Things," "Ghostbusters" and "Us" are present. However there are some new haunted mazes that are exclusive to this location.

New haunted mazes include "Holidayz in Hell," "The Curse of Pandora's Box" and "The Walking Dead Attraction."

"Holidayz in Hell" is where guests can walk through rooms involving different holidays such as Thanksgiving, Valentine's Day, Christmas and the Fourth of July, that have a scary surprise.



Halloween Horror Nights incorporates popular shows and movies such as "Stranger Things." Photo Credit: forbes.com

In "The Curse of Pandora's Box," patrons can navigate through the underworld and see terrifying monsters of Greek mythology and even spot Medusa if they dare.

At "The Walking Dead Attraction," guests can navigate through a post-apocalyptic world as they try to avoid walkers, who are hungry for the living.

There are also some different foods at the Hollywood location. These include Slimer's dog, a cherry cola corn dog, Mind Flayer's Milkshake, and Killer Klown's Cocoon Donut.

Slimer's dog is inspired by the green ghost from "Ghostbusters." Slimer's dog is a hot dog with "green slime" (green nacho cheese) on it along with some roasted peppers. Other unique foods include a cherry cola corn dog, which is a corn dog with cherry cola batter, cherry ketchup and

cherry pop rocks on top.

Mind Flayer's Milkshake is a chocolate shake with strawberry sauce in it with chocolate whipped cream, Oreo crumbs, a black waffle cone, and black licorice on top. This dessert mimics the sinister creature in "Stranger Things."

The Killer Klowns Cocoon Donut is a huge donut stuffed with raspberry filling, covered with pink icing and pink cotton candy on top; it's big enough to share!

There are also some different scare zones such as "Fallen Angelz" and "Christmas in Hell." In "Fallen Angelz," ghouls and skeletons run loose and wreak havoc on guests. In "Christmas in Hell," guests can walk by an evil Santa Claus, nutcrackers, and other Christmas related monsters.

Since the fall season is here, why not try a haunting new experience?

## To Comic Con and Beyond

Every Year, the Con Becomes More Magical

BY: LORENZO R MARTINEZ

Thirteen years. Has it truly been thirteen years since the first Comic Con convention in New York City?

In 2006, I was in my own chaos of living believe it or not. I was becoming my own man, and although the blood that was running inside of my veins at that time were of comics, movies, and the sci-fi world, they weren't at full gear effect until about five years later.

I first found out about the buzz of the con right before the craziness of the first Avengers movie. At that point, I was a heavy collector of statues, comics and movies, so it was only a matter of time before I would invest into what was about to become a global event.

The year 2012 came around and boy oh boy, what a difference a year makes. I had just gotten my new apartment and had put together what I back then called "Lorenzo's Batcave."

It was a thing of beauty filled with all of my expensive collectibles and hobbies. I was ready for Comic Con and my Batcave was ready for an upgrade.

That year was special to me. The statue demand for collectors was just starting to peek and I was like a kid in a candy shop picking each one for purchase. I must have spent about two grand on everything I came home with that year.

Ever since then, each year has gotten

better and better. The tickets have been close to impossible to buy online, but with the power of the internet, anything is possible to find. Although I have slowed down with the collecting, I always make sure I bring back some type of goodies to add to my repertoire.

Most years, I tend to focus on my collectibles, what's new, and the art world. Which don't get me wrong, I surely did.

For the most part, the SideShow Collectibles are a thing of beauty that I always focus on. And the Dragon Ball Super figures are my complete weakness (which I went in depth with as I do every year), but this year I decided to make the cosplay world my priority.

As each year passed, people have just gotten more and more creative with their outfits.

More and more people have been dressing up. It has gotten to the point where even I have been contemplating to do so eventually.

Some of their creative minds are brilliant. You truly have to be there to experience their creativity.

Some of them are so great, that they literally pick a corner in the Javits Center and just pose all day long as hundreds, even thousands, of photographers, videographers, YouTubers and media influencers photograph and record their creativity. It has become a culture.

The cosplay culture is an art to be admired and loved.

Saying all that, I, as a YouTuber myself, have gotten into the field of recording my own videos, as well as admiring others that do their own. I have come across a



Hey, what can I say? This is a collector's life at its finest. Photo Credit: Lorenzo R Martinez

few well done and well put together stories that I have invested my time in. One specific guy is @gokuflex.

As a Dragon Ball Z fan, this guy has been one of the rare cosplay dressers that I have truly admired most. He has documented his stories and his comic con ex-

periences every year and he just gets better and better.

I had the honor of finally meeting him and it was one of the coolest experiences I have ever had in a con.

These are the things that make comic

cons so special. Comic Con is not just an event, it has become an oasis.

An escape where people like myself, enjoy our comic culture, our Sci-Fi culture, our Anime culture, and just any fun thing in general that brings out the child within each and every one of us.



## BANNER OPINIONS

### Cultural Beliefs Can Damage Beautiful, Bouncy Curls

*Myriam Bonilla Seeks to Revive Her Natural Hair After Years of Damage*

BY: MICHAELA VIVEROS

Myriam Bonilla had her hair straightened for 5 hours every other week for 12 years, until she finally chose to embrace her natural self.

"All her life my mother straightened her hair, so she raised me the same," said Bonilla. "She'd been taught that curls were messy and unprofessional." Many Hispanic women were expected to straighten their

*Photo Credit: Myriam Bonilla*



*Bonilla spends \$120 a month on hair products to maintain a healthy head of curls.*

hair to fit western standards."

"Pelo Malo" has historically been a phrase used in the Latino community to condemn curly and kinky hair, as written in an article from Refinery29. They are taught to "fix" their undesirable hair.

For Bonilla, she never felt that she had been forced to straighten her hair. However, she never opposed her mother's hair preference because most of her classmates had straight hair. She grew up in a

predominantly white neighborhood, so she believed beauty required straight hair.

Bonilla doesn't believe her mother disliked her natural hair. Instead, she believes her mother instilled the plan to straighten her hair in hopes she wouldn't get discriminated against in school or job interviews.

Her mother's concerns weren't unreasonable. In fact, as stated by The New York Times, it took until this year for a law to pass in New York City that prevented jobs to use one's hair as a reason not to hire someone. For years, many qualified job applicants were denied jobs due to their hair.

In high school, Bonilla became exposed to more diversity. There were women of color, many more girls that looked like her. Their hair caught her attention the most.

Although there were still girls who would straighten their hair as she did, she noticed that more girls would wear their hair natural. Despite her immediate interest in the natural look, it took Bonilla until senior year to finally make the transition.

"As a senior, I became friends with so many girls who rocked their natural hair and I knew I needed to join the natural wave," said Bonilla. "I didn't care if I stood out anymore, I wanted to love my hair the way it's meant to be."

The transitions back to curly hair did not come easily. After 12 years of straight-

ening her hair, she noticed how dry and damaged it became. She needed to cut her hair short and start all over.

The process to revive healthy curls required a long process for Bonilla. It took her about a year to see a resemblance of her healthy natural hair.

The daily grind to get her curls back paid off for her because after all of it, she felt her confidence had doubled. She no longer felt to have hidden her true self, which made her feel powerful.

After her curls returned, she did come across some of the negatives that come with embracing her locks. Admittedly, she felt at times that people wouldn't take her as serious as they would when she had straight hair.

"I feel like I would get complimented more before because it is easier to stereotype people with curly hair," Bonilla said. "I couldn't care less at the end of the day, my hair makes me who I am."

The conflict that Bonilla encountered over her hair did not involve strangers, but instead her own family. Members in her family would often tell her that they preferred how she looked with straight hair. Despite the criticism, she did not let it discourage her.

"I feel like I would get complimented more before because it is easier to stereotype people with curly hair," Bonilla said. "I couldn't care less at the end of the day, my hair makes me who I am."

### PC Culture's Miserable Mission to Manage Halloween

*'Lazy Liberal Leagues' Call for Censorship*

BY: SAMMY QUARRATO

Halloween is a holiday that is celebrated all over the US and other countries in the world from Central America to Western Europe.

The holiday hasn't always been met with open arms from the majority of Americans, being seen as satanic and an insult to God for dressing as ghosts and witches due to the Bible damning these creatures.

What is unfortunate is that this type of puritanism is still present to this day, but it's in a different type of mold.

This type of puritanism is what we've been introduced to multiple times in your and my life is Political Correctness.

The days of people calling someone Satanist is over when you put a white sheet over you with three holes to make a spooky face but now when you wear a Native American Chief costume, and you post a picture of you in that outfit, you get tweets of people calling you a White Nationalist or other ridiculous claims such as that.

It used to be the ultra religious right wing who would put so much focus on this issue but in this day and age, it's the regressives who get outraged over such measly "issues".

Now when you wear a hobo costume, you are considered insensitive to homeless people. When you wear a provocative police feminine police costume you're con-

sidered a "pig-lover" and "submitting to the patriarchy"; or, when you do a Trump impression you're seen as "romanticizing with a fascist".

This type of Lazy Liberalism is what

is a costume and not something Mexicans wear on the regular.

And instead of flipping wall to wall from people dressing as a politician you don't like, how about you go out and vote?

And to organizations such as The

League of United Latin American Citizens who want to call for the censorship of costumes due to them being "degrading" to Latin American Culture, instead of wasting your resources with this Lazy Liberalism, you can help the parents and kids that haven't seen each other for years.

Those are the real victims and they're the ones that need the attention.

The least of their concern is someone of a different culture and ethnicity wearing a day of the dead costume on the wrong day. They want to see their families again.

The whole point of Halloween in its origin is to be non-politically correct. It's why so many people despised it when it was first brought up.

We became a more tolerant and open-minded society overtime but change brings both good and bad aspects to it.

Yes, there are costumes such as Adolf Hitler and Osama Bin Laden that can be argued as being in poor taste.

But calling for censorship doesn't make those people that "are being targeted" feel better, it makes those who are calling for the unconstitutional ban of dressup better.

But to the majority of people reading this article and especially those who are planning to dress up, ignore the crazy regressives and insane fundamentalists.

And most of all, enjoy Halloween.

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## SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS

### Love on the Web is Possible

*Are Online Dating Profiles Fast Tickets to Love?*

BY: SIDNEY MANSUETO

Everyone wants to find love, and everyone wants to find it fast. This way of thinking gives a person the notion that they have found "the one" and are willing to settle down, just because they are in love.

The idea of living the dream is just enough to make one's heart flutter. Dating can be an exciting, and sometimes awkward, experience for many.

First, there is the interest stage, and then comes the anxious stage. The advancements to modern technology has certainly turned dating and ways of communication into something else.

Today in 2019, it is easier to talk through text rather than talk the traditional way, a la in person. More and more people with an interest in dating are finding themselves on a dating site instead of a park bench on a beautiful day.

While many agree that online dating is fast and easy, others feel like it can be a risk. It should be one's priority to set healthy standards and be self-aware when dating on the web.

It should be important to be safe and

be able to figure out who you are talking to. Do they want the same thing as you?

Are they looking for a relationship or a quick hook up? This cuffing season, before you "slide into the DMs" or set up a profile on Match.com, you should really think about the pros and cons of online dating to see if it is really what you want.

Online dating can be a nightmare for many people. As these types of sites rise in popularity, so does the capacity of users.

Today, it seems as if there are way too many "weirdos" and "freaks" out there. Most dating sites today look like a hang-out spot for people with unusual, endless quirks.

One minute, someone could say "I love you", whereas the time you meet in person, they could be the opposite of what they were online.

Catfishing has become a common practice among people who want to take advantage of others, most noticeably naive individuals, for their own selfish gain. One can run into some really sketchy people if they aren't using the site appropriately, or violating the site's rules and expectations.

One thing is for sure, no one wants to

be dating a possible serial killer.

Many resort to dating websites because they, and social media in general, are a faster way to find a partner in the digital age. There are a lot of people in today's world who are afraid to be without someone, and view love as something that can fulfill them and their needs.

This new age form of courtship widens the dating pool for many, specifically young people. In the era where everyone owns a smartphone, it is possible everybody has a profile on a site like Tinder or Bumble. Sometimes, swiping right can come with consequences.

Speaking from experience, dating sites did not really influence me to set up a profile and give somebody a heart, but their concepts have always fascinated me. What makes them so special compared to finding a partner in the real world?

In my opinion, dating apps are nothing but a ballfield of trouble. I am not forcing anyone to agree with me or shut down their Tinder profile, I am just sharing my views on dating via social media.

I will be honest though, I did have a dating profile at one point- but only for a

personal social experiment. I used my free trial as a way to find out how many potential scammers I can find.

Not surprisingly, most profiles I saw were quirky, sketchy looking individuals who were not looking for old fashioned dating at all. This was bothersome, as I had a moment where I was like "what is this world coming to?"

I also have a loved one who dated someone they met on Match.com. The person had an annoying personality and zero redeeming qualities, which made them a living, breathing, walking red flag.

While online dating looks faster and easier on the surface, it leaves behind a trail of many things, from red flags to false advertisement. Being caught up in a messy romance web can be a pain. It is important to have the brains to measure whether someone shares the same values as yourself, and not to date someone just because you do not want to be alone.

When it's on the internet, it's forever. Be cautious this cuffing season, or you'll end up miserable.



*Find love over the phone.*

*Photo Credit: projectbolldlife.com*



## SPORTS

## Blizzard Backlash is More Than Anyone Could Have Thought

Player Blitzchung in a Deep Hole

BY: PHILIP SANZONE

Blizzard banned a player going by the name of Blitzchung. On Oct 8th 2019, he was in a Tawianize tournament for Hearthstone.

Reasons for his ban was simply because he supported Hong Kong's freedom by wearing goggles and a respirator symbolizing gas; this is in reference to the fact that many peaceful protests in Hong Kong end up with Chinese police throwing tear gas.

After saying "Liberate Hong Kong, revolution of our age!" the casters as well as the operating staff cut the stream. Blizzard banned him for a year saying "Engaging in any act that, in Blizzard's sole discretion, brings you into public disrepute, offends a portion or group of the public, or otherwise damages Blizzard's image."

In short, saying that anything that puts Blizzard in the hot seat with China, will hinder them making money and pushing products. Blitzchung later said in another interview that he just wanted to bring to light what is going on right now in Hong Kong and what the future of their freedom and democracy is yet to face.

After all of this, players took to social media and demanded the cancellation of subscriptions like World of Warcraft there biggest mmo in there catalog. Even the video game designer joined Mark Kern by

uninstalling and ending his subscription.

Later tweeting, "We are in a situation where unlimited Communist money dictates our American values," then another saying "We censor our games for China, we censor our movies for China. Now, game companies are silencing voices for freedom and democracy."

This isn't the only employee showing

Photo Credit: swifinformer.com



They have good games, but can that save them now?

concern about the company's ethics. Many are doing their part in the protest and boycott of Blizzard. Their parent company Activision is even feeling the heat with their new game Modern Warfare with loot boxes

being the problem.

They announced that they will be going back to the battle pass system after all the backlash. There looks to be a correlation with that and the new sentiment shared by many fans of Blizzard.

By trying to do damage control they reduced the sentence of the ban and lifted the life time ban of the casters to a year.

This made only made the situation worsen.

Increasing the amount of animosity towards the company, they even said in one post in Mandarin that they were abhorred and ashamed by the player.

Because faith in the company is low and their stock prices are slowly declining, experts are saying to sell. Overall the company has no words towards the mass movement for Hong Kong and the hatred people have towards Blizzard.

With everything that has been done by the company, other companies like Riot are taking advantage. By releasing their own card game and fps, it looks to compete with Blizzard's Overwatch and Hearthstone; they even came out with RPG that can rival Diablo.

This might impact Blizzard's stock more and the company might have a rough few years ahead of it. This is especially true since not many people are sympathetic with how Blizzard handled the entire situation.

If they completely took back what they said and had a centralized moral standpoint people might forgive their transgressions, but who knows. They are a company that wants money so the likelihood of that is far off, but this could be the nail in the head for many of their games since Overwatch and Hearthstone were having problems with the fan base already.

The ban for Blitzchung is now 6 months; plus they are giving him his prize money back. This just angered fans who responded by saying that Chinese influence had nothing to do with their decision.

## Can The New York Knicks Make the Playoffs this Season?

A Slow Start to the Season

BY: DANNY CACACE

With the new NBA season just beginning two weeks ago, the New York Knicks sit right now at 1-5.

This came to be after just losing to Jayson Tatum hitting a deep two pointer just before the buzzer for his team, the Boston Celtics.

The New York Knicks have been the

make the playoffs this season, especially in the Eastern Conference which has gotten significantly weaker. I would think they'll be able to win around 35-40 games which is possible with the team they assembled this off-season.

In this off-season, some things went well for the Knicks, and some things did not go their way. Starting with the NBA draft, in the middle of May when the playoffs are

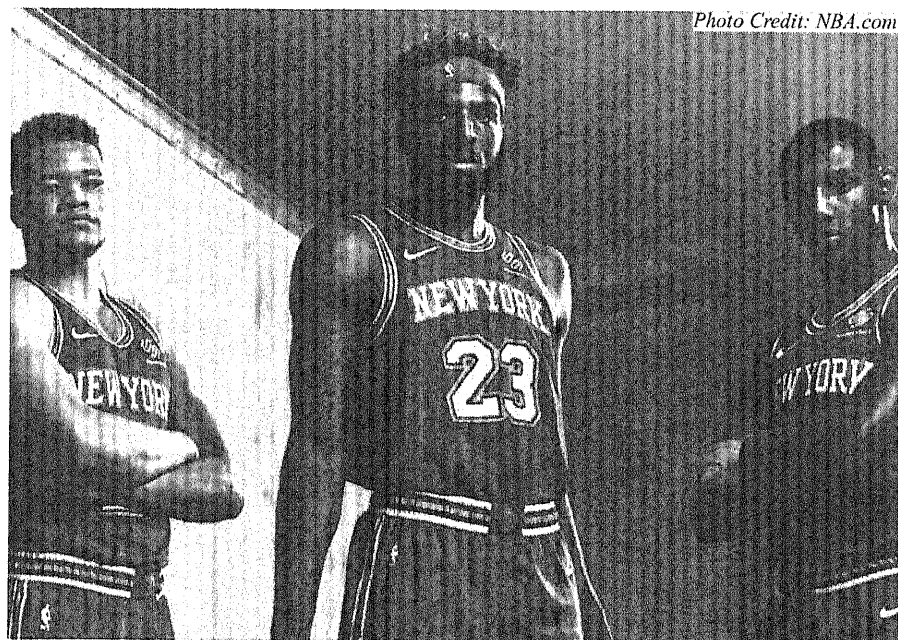


Photo Credit: NBA.com

Here are three young core members for the New York Knicks' future.

laughing stock of the NBA for about the past 20 years now. Sooner or later, one would think they might turn it around, but with the Knicks that just has not been the case as of yet.

This team, I believe should be projected to

already in session, there is an event called the NBA draft lottery where teams get to randomly selected by lottery balls to be a certain pick based off how many wins/losses the team had in the regular season. Now, the lowest seed which were the

Knicks would get a 25% chance at winning the lottery and be able to be the #1 pick in the draft, but unfortunately they did not get that pick.

However, the Knicks did strike gold and still were able to get the #3 pick in the draft which is still pretty good. In the NBA Draft, the Knicks were expected to get Duke's star prospect who played with Zion Williamson who was another top Duke star prospect who was the #1 pick in the draft, the New Orleans Pelicans; and the Knicks did end up on selecting Barrett in the draft. This excited millions of Knicks fans around the world because the Knicks finally selected a player coming out of the draft fans knew they can rely on right away.

NBA free agency was also another big turning point for the Knicks and how the future of their franchise would turn out. Free agency was a mixed bag for myself and I'm sure other Knicks fans as well this off-season.

A lot of assumptions have been brought upon the Knicks since they had a lot of money in cap space and were about to sign two max contract players that they were going to get top tier free agents such as Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving.

Kevin Durant played for the Golden State Warriors last season and tore his Achilles in the NBA Finals last season against the Toronto Raptors and will most likely miss the entire NBA season due to that injury. Kyrie Irving played for the Boston Celtics last season where their season was just a whole lot of ups and downs starting with Irving himself.

At the end, the Knicks weren't able to sign

either of them and they went to the other borough in New York, the Brooklyn Nets.

Nonetheless, hope was not lost. Even though, they didn't get the guys that they wanted and planned on getting, they got guys who can be reliable enough to fight for a spot in the playoffs.

I believe getting a guy like Julius Randle who is a young power forward that has the potential to carry the offense and have a breakout season for us and lead this team into the playoffs. I think obtaining small forward/power forward Marcus Morris is another solid move for the Knicks who is a seasoned veteran and has the ability to be Randle's right hand man in scoring and be a vocal leader to motivate the guys on and off the court.

R.J.Barrett was of course a great addition to the team, he actually leads the team in scoring right now and is a 19 year old rookie. I don't think I have to emphasize that anymore.

Other guys like Taj Gibson is a veteran power forward who can bring that vocal leadership off the bench and Wayne Ellington is a shooting guard that can bring that three point shooting ability to the Knicks when the Knicks need a three pointer to pick up the offense. Bobby Portis is a center who can be a solid back up to Mitchell Robinson and be able to bring that offense the bench while Robinson handles the defense side of things when he starts.

This team has the chance to be in the playoffs once they start picking things up which I believe should happen sooner rather than later, and be able to be a six to eight seed team in the Eastern Conference.