

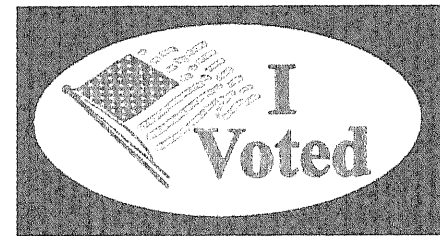
THE BANNER

The Official Newspaper of the College of Staten Island

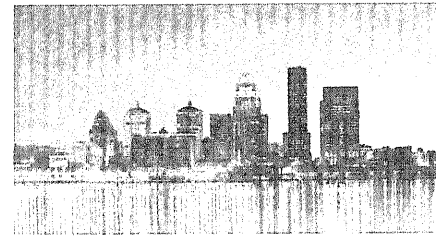
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Issue #5



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CSA Director Advocates for Awareness, Education, & Participation

Director Stefan Charles-Pierre Opens the Door for Campus Collaboration

BY: VERONICA PISTEK

CSA Director Stefan Charles-Pierre is no stranger to being an advocate for everyone part of the CSI community.

As the busy director moves from meeting to meeting in the Center for Student Accessibility, he graces his fellow employees and students with a smile.

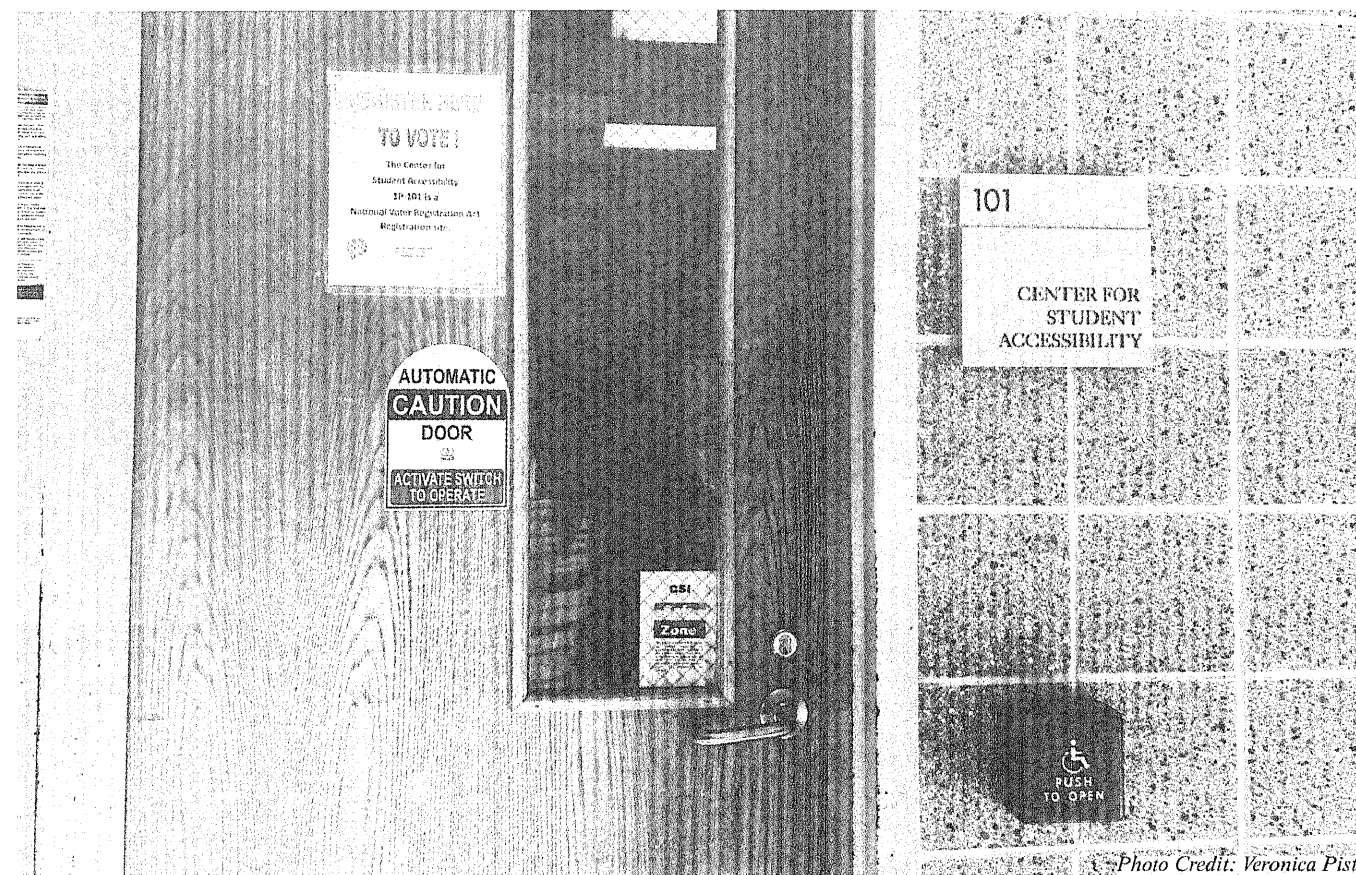
Immediately sitting down with Charles-Pierre, it was clear that he was eager to share his thoughts and passion for educating CSI about important CSA issues.

But before diving into his current work, Charles-Pierre shared that he has spent his whole career, over 15 years, working with individuals with disabilities.

"When I first went to college, my idea was to become a physical therapist. I then transferred to another school and went into rehabilitation services and was a college student-athlete. After working in the field along with working at a college, I decided I wanted to merge working in higher education with also working with students with disabilities," expressed Charles-Pierre.

As someone who works not only as an advocate for others but also a collaborator, the CSA director found himself enjoying his most current work at CSI: to ensure proper campus accommodations.

Across the CSI campus, there are sev-



An important campus resource, the Center for Student Accessibility, can be found at 1P-101.

Photo Credit: Veronica Pistek

eral accommodations and services in place for individuals with disabilities. Some of these services include note-taking, exam

proctoring, the LEADS (Linking Employment, Academics, and Disability Services) program a career and academic program,

and making sure the campus is accessible to the students.

Continued on pg 4

Young Founder Creates Her Own Organization for the Youth

A Developmental Establishment for Her Community

BY: SHAVON SHORTER CHESNEY

From studying as a full time senior in college to also working full time, Sophie Gilbert adds CEO of an organization called "ICITE" to her plate.

"I started ICITE in 2018 when the community center in my neighborhood specifically started getting new management," said Gilbert. "I didn't feel that the new people who were placed there, were there for the best interest of the kids and their attendance started to dwindle."

Gilbert created this non-profit organization to aid in the lack of resources in her community. She helps in the development of teens and adults in underdeveloped neighborhoods through advocacy, education, arts, special programs, community service, and humanity work.

Her organization was created after an encounter with a person, she knew very well from her neighborhood and later ar-

rested, told her there was nothing in the community for people like him. She wanted the young people in her neighborhood to feel that they have a place where they can have a positive impact on their life and their future.

Within Gilbert's organization, she holds clothing drives, a food drive during Thanksgiving, and a coat drive during the winter for homeless shelters. While also collaborating these with homeless shelters for community service work for students.

"I want ICITE to be implemented in school programs, but more specifically the schools in the 'hood' that don't get acknowledged, or the schools losing funding or don't have funding for art programs or clubs because the money or basic interest in these kids aren't there," said Gilbert. "So you have thousands of kids that don't have a third of the opportunities that others are afforded with."



Photo Credit: Sophie Gilbert

ICITE is a non-profit that provides development to teens and adults in underdeveloped neighborhoods.

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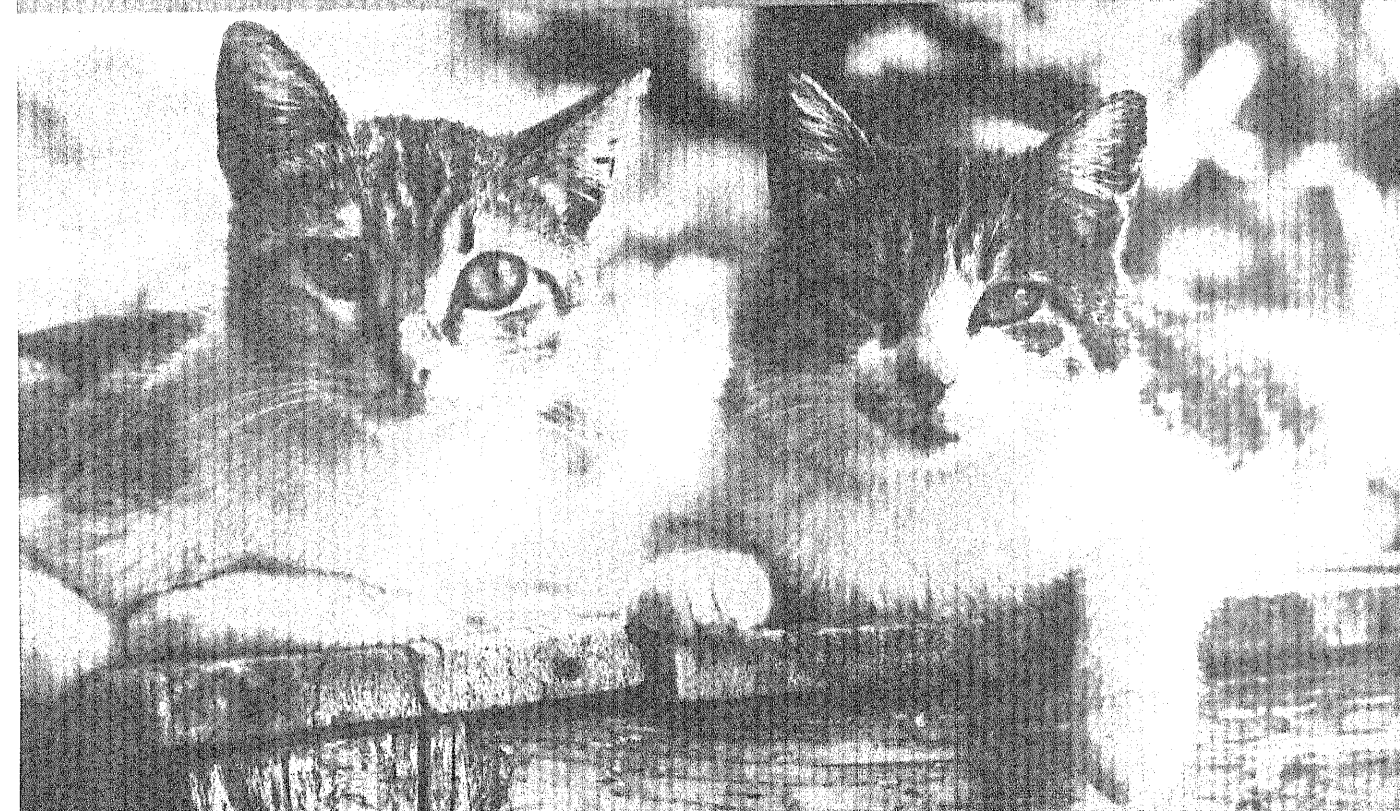
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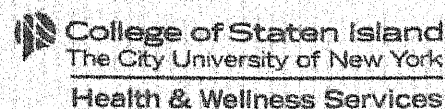
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BANNER POLITICS

Voting 101

How To Be An Informed Voter and Mobilized New Yorker

BY: OLIVIA FRASCA

Tuesday, November 5th, was Election Day. Voters headed to the polls to cast their ballots and make their voices heard.

This year, municipal elections were held. These were elections for public offices on the local level.

Staten Islanders casted their vote for public advocate, district attorney, judge of the Civil Court for Richmond County, judge of the Civil 1st Municipal Court District, and justice of the Supreme Court 13th Judicial District.

The ballot also included five proposals that New Yorkers voted yes or no on. The questions covered a variety of topics including elections, the Civilian Complaint Review Board, ethics, local budget, and land use.

18 is the legal age to vote. If you are not already registered, now is the time. In less than one year, the country will vote for their future president and members of Congress.

"The City University of New York makes voter registration forms available to all CUNY students when they register for classes and through voter registration events. Also, the NYS voter registration form is available through your CUNYfirst account. It's a personalized form that you can mail in yourself," according to CUNY.

You must register at least 25 days before an election to vote in it.

To find out your polling site and view a sample ballot, type your address in the vote.nyc site.

Before the general election, New Yorkers will have the opportunity to vote in a primary. The New York State Democratic primary is set for April 28th, 2020.

In a primary, voters choose a candidate to represent their party in the general election. In order to vote in a primary, you must register for a political party before a general election.

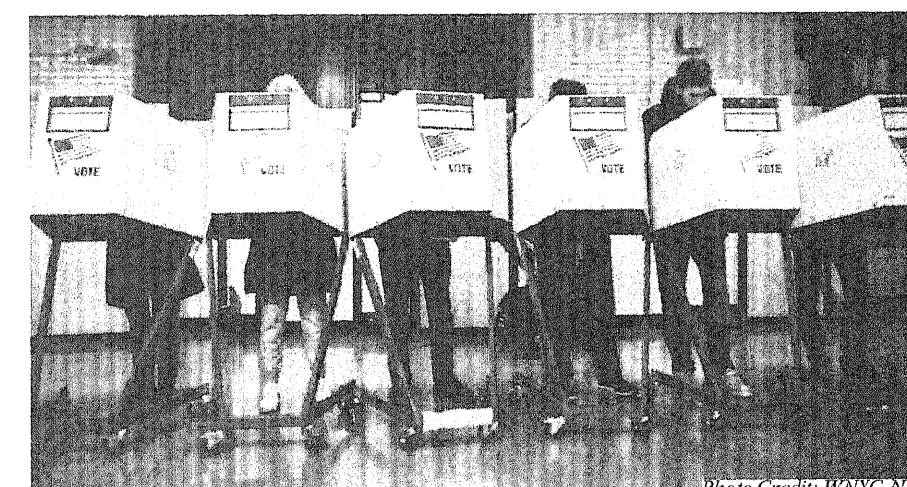
"Thus, if you switch party affiliation before the 2019 general election, you may vote in your new party's primary in 2020. However, if you switch after the 2019 general election, you cannot vote in your new party's primary until 2021," according to CUNY's How-To Guide for voting.

To join a political party, or change your address and any other information, you'll need to submit the voter registration form. All forms should be mailed to your county's Board of Elections office.

Visit the New York State Board of Elections site for more information about completing an absentee ballot or attending an early voting site if you will not be at your polling site on Election Day.

If you would like to become a poll worker and live in the five boroughs, visit the vote.nyc website.

There, you can submit an application online or print one out to be mailed to your



It's your civic right.

county's Board of Elections office.

As a poll worker, you are responsible for preparing, opening, and closing your poll site. You can also check-in voters, assist with their concerns, and monitor the scanners.

City poll workers earn \$200/day and are compensated for their training depending on their position. The job is rewarding and allows you to protect the right to vote.

Another rewarding job is getting involved in the census next year. Every ten years, thousands of people assist in counting the U.S. population.

Visit 2020census.gov to apply to work for the census. The federal government offers competitive pay and reimbursement for mileage.

CUNY is also encouraging students to apply to their Census Corps. For five to seven weeks, members will mobilize their community to complete the census. Students will earn \$15/hour for working 12 hours/week.

According to CUNY, responses for the census are protected by federal law and cannot be used against any individual by the government.

An accurate census count will not only allow for fair congressional redistricting, but also fair funding for public programs, including CUNY.

2020 is the year for you to choose your future leadership and make sure you are accounted for.

Celebrating Legal Studies On Campus And In New York

Following the Law at CSI

BY: JAMES M. BITETZAKIS

On October 25th, the Legal Studies Institute (LSI) of CSI held their first ever Lifetime Achievement Awards Ceremony and Fundraiser for New York renowned lawyer Yolanda Rudich.

The ultimate goal of this event was to raise funds for the LSI of CSI and to honor an amazing lawyer who graduated from CSI in 1979.

"We are about a fair shot at the American Dream," said Professor and Pre-Law Advisor Michael Paris at the event. "We take it seriously, I take it seriously."

Many different New York lawyers all with roots to CSI attended and donated to the LSI, including Staten Island District Attorney Michael McMahon.

The honoree, Yolanda Rudich, was a prominent lawyer in the State and City of New York. She served in the Richmond County Special Victims Unit and was President of the Staten Island Women's Bar Association.

Professor Paris helped establish the LSI in 2014 as a subsection of the Department of Political Science and Global Affairs, and the Department of Philosophy.

aim to assist any students interested in law across the campus.

Before 2014, law specialization at CSI was lacking, and it put students at a disadvantage compared to other New York schools. The creation of the LSI opened the door for students interested in going to law school, and even led to the college's Pre-Law Society Club.

At the core of the LSI is a new program of study, a 16-credit minor in legal studies. The LSI also hosts countless workshops for students interested in law school, an annual lecture in law, philosophy and public policy, and pre-law advising and career counseling for all CSI students.

One opportunity the LSI offers students is the chance to intern. There are CSI students currently interning with the Staten Island District Attorney's Office and the Legal Aid's Criminal Defense.

These internships provide future law students with relevant experience and even builds their rapport with other lawyers they work with.

The LSI is the parent of the Pre-Law Club, with Professor Paris as the club facilitator. The Pre-Law Club was founded last year by student Maxwell Velikodny.

"Back in my freshman year, I went to the club fair to join a Pre-Law club, but there was actually none," said Velikodny. "I decided I had to start one, and I wanted

to create a place for anyone interested in Pre-Law to come and enjoy the subject."

The Pre-Law Club strives to be a welcoming place where any student can come to talk and learn about law. The club also works to prepare students for law school after CSI.

"As a freshman, the thought of law school and the LSAT is an overwhelming thought," explains club member Stephanie Pisano. "But being involved in the Pre-Law Club is helping me soak this all in."

Just recently, the Pre-Law Club went over the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT). The LSAT is one of the most important tests a future law school student can take, as it can make or break their admission application.

The club devoted an entire meeting to test practice and gave countless tips for handling each section.

The Pre-Law Club is fairly new compared to other clubs at the college, and everyone in the club has a desire to see it grow in the coming years.

"We are trying to recruit people on campus to join via word of mouth, email, and social media," said Velikodny. "I am genuinely excited about the future of the club."

The Pre-Law club meets every Tuesday at 2:30pm in Building 2N, Basement Room 005.



Honoree Yolanda Rudich was a prominent lawyer of the State and City of New York.

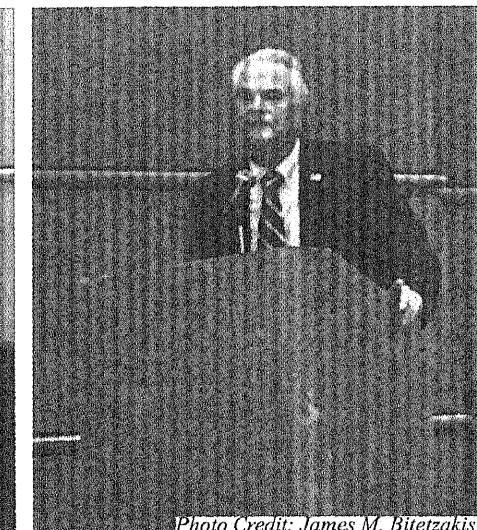


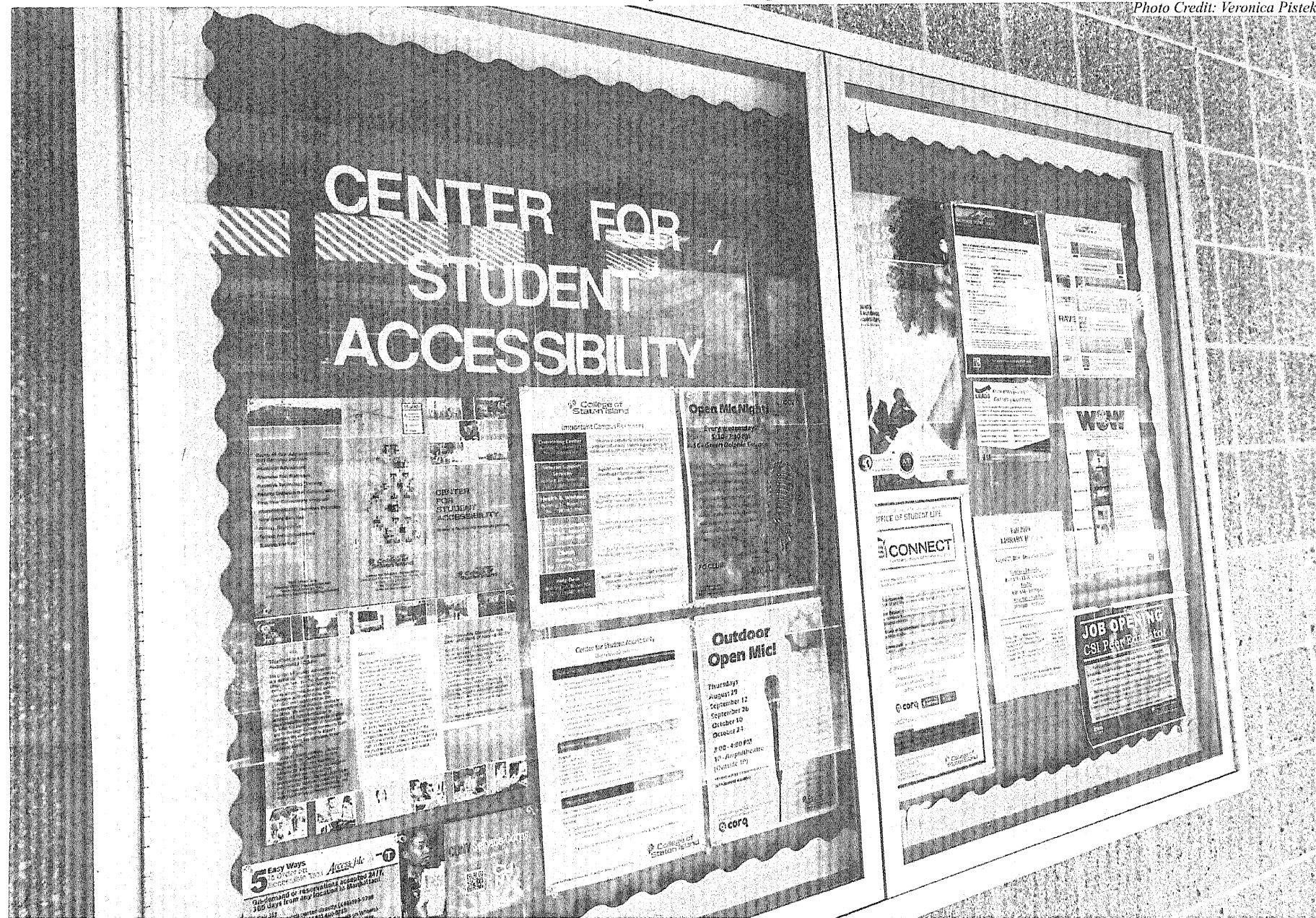
Photo Credit: James M. Bitetzakis

ment of Political Science and Global Affairs, and the Department of Philosophy. The LSI has multiple aspects to it which

BANNER NEWS

"CSA"
Continued from Front Page

Photo Credit: Veronica Pistek



Become an advocate for students with disabilities through participating in CSA activities and events.

However, it is Charles-Pierre's and CSA's mission to continue to improve the conditions and services on campus for our students.

Specifically, the director emphasizes the importance of awareness. If one becomes more aware and conscious toward others, it truly can make a difference. For instance, if you use a bathroom on campus and see a garbage can or caution sign in the doorway, that becomes a hindrance to anyone with a wheelchair or walking cane.

It would be best practice to remove that hindrance. Professors using closed caption features when showing videos in the classroom is another form of awareness.

Another form of awareness comes through language. Charles-Pierre explained the history of discursive practices in this field. In the past, the word disability was put first before the person.

"It has evolved to become "person-first" because people with disabilities are also human beings, and should be seen as human before their disability. If you are unaware, it is best to always ask how you would like to be addressed," the CSA director stated.

Along with awareness, Charles-Pierre and his CSA team strives to engage the CSI community to become educated and participate in things going on at the CSA.

"It is our responsibility to always try

to improve the services we provide, but the main thing is participation. We want to find ways to have our students and staff help to improve the services that CSA provides, so we have to pay attention to these issues," Charles-Pierre explains.

Recently, the director has experienced the lack of participation firsthand. CSA provides training for all faculty every semester. However, participation is at a very minimum or no one shows. At their last training sessions no one was there to receive information.

According to Charles-Pierre, "Nothing is mandatory, but a lot of the training we provide will alleviate the issues and questions that professors deal with on a regular basis, many issues that we handle are already addressed during our workshops."

Another issue that is felt directly by everyone at the Center for Student Accessibility is the impact of the current budget deficit. Specifically, 90 percent of the staff are part-time, and it becomes difficult to provide students for advisement more often.

For instance, if a student wants to make an appointment with an advisor, they might not be able to see their specific advisor right away. It may take some time because the counselor/advisor do not work certain days or are booked with other student appointments.

In addition, the budget crisis can affect some of the biggest services that the CSA provides—note-taking, exam proctoring, and CART services a service used by students who are hard of hearing.

"Currently, we have about 30 note-takers, and have over 30 students taking classes who need note-taking services—that makes a total of 30 students taking 85 classes. Technically, we would need close to 82 notetakers to be able to match each student in need," Charles-Pierre explains, recalling details from his ongoing meetings.

However, a notetaker is paid \$15/hr to attend students' classes, and a peer notetaker is paid \$75/semester if they are part of the student's class already. The increase in notetakers would be difficult to implement due to the high cost of labor.

As someone who was previously a notetaker myself, I noticed the difference I made in each student's college career. Being able to support a student to have the proper notes is vital for their education, it is only right that they have the equal opportunity to receive notes.

Once asked about this issue, the CSA director acknowledged both sides:

"We can't get upset if students can't notetake anymore because they are students too, and have their own responsibilities. In fact, we held an Assistive Technology workshop to show students different

software that can be used instead of having a notetaker. Technology like OneNote, Sonocent, and the tape recorder mode or app on a phone," Charles-Pierre pointed out.

Hopefully, these new software can help CSA cost wise, while also giving more empowerment and independence to each student.

Moving forward, CSA is addressing each issue as an ongoing process. Issues such as the lack of faculty and student participation in training and volunteering, as well as the overall effects of the budget deficit are on the director's main list of priorities.

"Overall, being educated, participating in campus activities and events that have to do with students with disabilities, collaborating with CSA, and just being aware are all ways in which the CSI community can become involved," Charles-Pierre sums up.

So as the semester nears the end, students will need assistance for note-taking and exam proctoring during finals. To find out how you can become involved and learn more information, you can visit IP Room 101, and check out the Center for Student Accessibility webpage <https://www.csi.cuny.edu/campus-life/student-services/center-student-accessibility> and also their Instagram @csi_student_accessibility.

BANNER NEWS

"Organization"
Continued from Front Page

In her efforts of creating a place for people in her community, she's witnessed younger people joining her program than hanging around the gang members in her neighborhood. She provides resources, like art programs, and learning activities that help with their education and homework.

"This is a great way to reach out to teens we serve and help provide them a place to go besides the streets," said Amanda Thompson. "We create a safe open-minded space, where everyone is able to be themselves, share ideas, change without being judged, and challenge these kids to be more than a product of their environment."

Creating this organization wasn't easy for Gilbert because it's only run by herself with the help of volunteers from her family and friends. She would often have problems with funding and space because of the lack of sponsorship from other businesses and organizations and the lack of centers in her area that would allow space for a smaller organization to implement

with their own without overstepping.

Most of the time, the pay she receives from her job she would put into the programs and trips that she arranges.

Even with the help, she faces some challenges of balancing her work, school, and organization. Eighty percent of the funds for her organization comes from herself and twenty percent comes from fundraising events she hosts.

She would organize bake sales, go fund me pages, and donations, but that wasn't always enough. Due to her young age as well, most people believe she isn't legit or do not want to fund it because she's "too young to have experience."

"I believe the black boys and girls in my neighborhood seeing a young black woman that grew up and is still growing up in the same environment that they are in and is fighting to open doors impacts them," said Gilbert. "They are motivated to want to be apart of that because they want more for their future than what they have right now."



Sophie Gilbert is a leader within her community.

Photo Credit: Sophie Gilbert

Photo Credit: Max Touhey, ny.curbed.com



LIFESTYLES

The Many Ways Artists Can Surpass Their Critics

How Does An Artist Deal With Criticism?

BY: KYLE FORBES

Artists deal with criticism. That's a fact.

Whether it's criticism from readers towards a cartoonist's comic strips, or a poem that people talk about when it is shared.

Artists deal with critics in many ways. One way I've learned how an artist can deal with criticism is by proving the critics wrong.

So how can you do that? The artist can learn how to elevate their "art game" by using technology they haven't used before.

For example, a hip-hop artist can write rap lyrics on their notepad and then receive criticism for it. Then, that same hip-hop artist can start to record their lyrics on their phone.

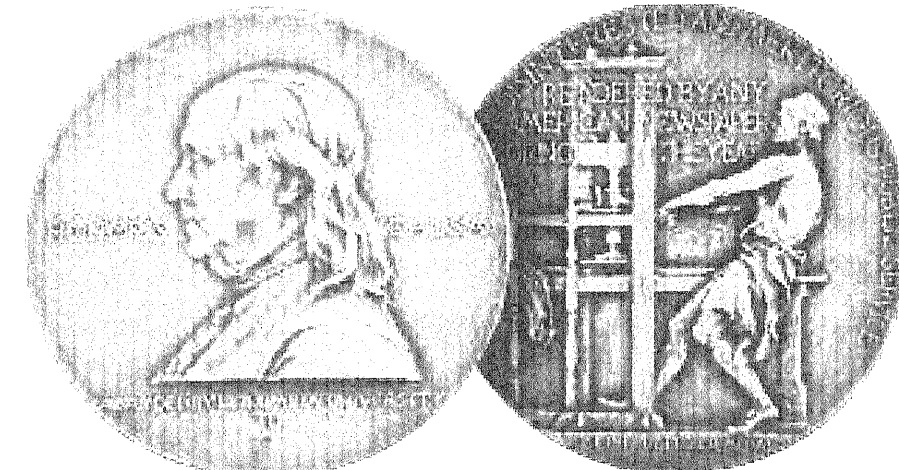
Why is this important? The creative learning process is the answer to the artist's question. It is true that learning provides a release of dopamine in the brain.

Dopamine is a neurotransmitter that gives the brain a sense of pleasure after experiencing something unexpected.

The artist can release dopamine after an unexpected applause from the art show crowd. Poets can release dopamine after their work is included in a college publication.

Artists can live happier lives, for a moment, after dopamine is released in their brain. Although artists feel the effects of dopamine, there is always another critic ready to criticize their next work.

Photo Credit: wikipedia.org



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

I know- this does sound pessimistic.

But artists are portrayed to be scientists according to The Molecule of More: How a Single Chemical in Your Brain Drives Love, Sex, and Creativity—and Will Determine the Fate of the Human Race by Daniel Z. Lieberman.

Artists also act as athletes ready to prove the critics wrong. For example, po-

ets can read reviews about their book and write another book that responds to the critics.

Poets like R.H. Sin who wrote A Beautiful Composition of Broken is an example



of how a poet can respond to critics in their work.

Some artists practice being their original self by using a certain philosophy to respond to critics. A good example can come from practicing self-love, self-admiration, and self-satisfaction.

Self-love is to practice having personal well-being. Self-admiration is to have

pride for oneself. Self-satisfaction is to be happy with what one has achieved in life.

An artist can be happy with their personal lifestyle such as a baller's lifestyle. Such a lifestyle can be the inspiration needed to overcome criticism after reading a review.

They can find that having pride for oneself can be useful, especially after critics respond to their latest hip hop track released to the public on a social media site.

An artist can experience a release of dopamine, especially after winning an unexpected prize for their poems, such as the Pulitzer Prize. This can be an example of how an artist can feel self-satisfaction after reading what critics have to say about their work.

Artists like to travel, too. And traveling to a new part of the country or world can release dopamine in the brain because of the new learning experience.

They also can try new foods, snacks, and desserts which can add to their foodie lifestyle. The urge to shop at fashion outlets in places outside of the country can also release dopamine, but for a short period of time.

Such an escape can be a way for artists to deal with the outside pressures of society's criticisms.

LIFESTYLES

Urban Exploring! Sounds Cool, Doesn't It?

Explore Forbidden Areas If You Dare

BY: CARLOS GLICK

When you hear the term urban exploring, what comes to mind? If you think about exploring ancient or abandoned buildings, you are correct. You may also think this means exploring haunted places.

According to Urban Dictionary, the term urban exploration is defined as "the act of going places you're not supposed to go."

There are many YouTubers around the world that like to urban explore. For example, there are a few attractions that stand abandoned to this day.

In Florida at Walt Disney World, there is a park called Discovery Island. It used to be a park that was open to the public, but years later the park was run down and eventually left abandoned.

Many have successfully gained access to the island without getting caught, but others were caught and were unfortunately banned from Disney Parks.

Did you know that Nickelodeon Studios used to be at Universal Studios located in Florida, but then was closed down in the early 2000s?

Shows like "All That" and "Legends of the Hidden Temple" were filmed there. Many YouTubers have snuck in and explored the studio's surroundings.

There are even places in New York City where many people have gone to urban explore. For example, one YouTuber named Andrew Wonder has explored a subway tunnel and the Williamsburg Bridge without getting caught.

Wonder says that there are four things to watch for to avoid getting caught in a subway tunnel: do not hit the third rail, do not get hit by a train, stay hidden, and watch for motion detectors.

I haven't tried to urban explore, but from the looks of it, it sounds super fun, adventurous, and even dangerous.

As a matter of fact, there are places on Staten Island that could be great to urban explore. For example, what once used to be Seaview Hospital is abandoned in the woods.

Heck, there are even buildings at the College of Staten Island that are not in use (to my knowledge). Around the perimeter of the campus lies long brick buildings.

I hear those buildings were once the

site of gruesome events.

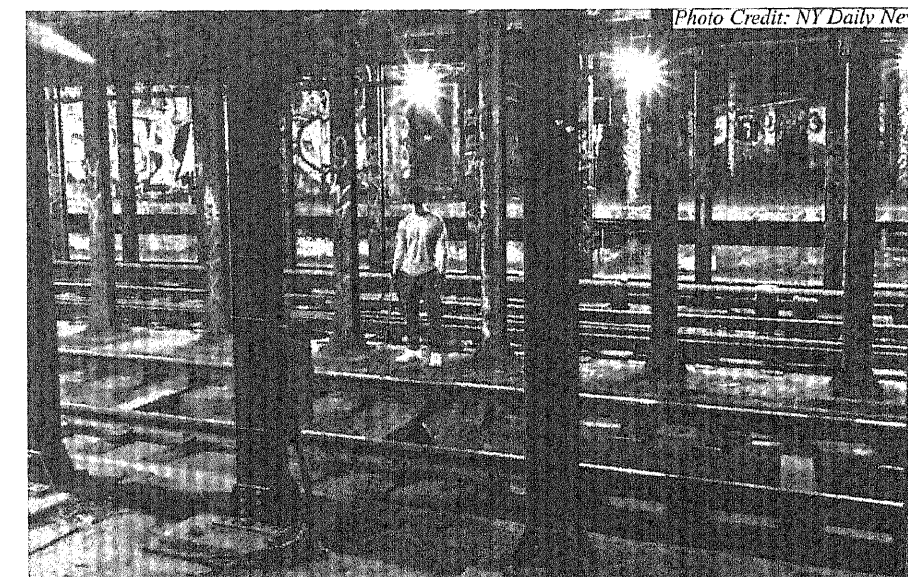
Seaview Hospital and the College of Staten Island both reside in the neighborhood of Willowbrook.

Willowbrook could be the most haunted area on Staten Island, but Islanders have

out, too.

One of these days I would like to explore the buildings beyond the fences of the campus and see what the Willowbrook State School used to look like.

Urban exploring can be an exciting



City-based urban explorers frequent abandoned subway tunnels.

also noticed flickering lights and ghosts throughout Historic Richmond Town.

I think it's worth checking this area

experience as long as you stay safe. You might just discover something new, if you don't get caught first.

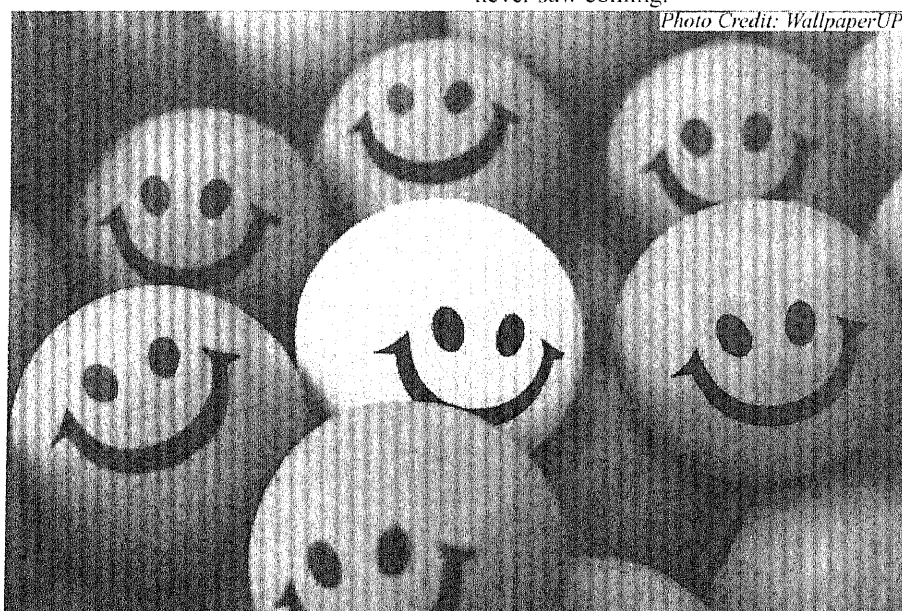
Take Tomorrow With A Dose of Attraction

A Mentality I Stand By

BY: VAL RAMOS

Attraction is the energy you focus on and the energy you want to receive back. Before tomorrow, send out a message to yourself.

"Tomorrow is going to be a great day", "I wonder what tomorrow has in-store for me", sends out the kind of energy to create another day filled with gratitude and positivity.



I strive to surround myself with successful people that want to see me succeed in turn.

When tomorrow comes you will receive that message back and you will feel it. We are spiritual beings. No matter what, you will always receive that focused energy back because that is what you're attracting, whether it is excitement, passion, or bliss- it will translate to others.

The secret is that everything that comes into your life, you attract into your life. If you let it, it will direct you to the path you never saw coming.

Photo Credit: WallpaperUP

Try the "Yes! Theory" and step out of your comfort zone. In other words, try new things and open your eyes to new possibilities.

Don't just "fake it till you make it." Go out and get things done.

Creating that mentality will help you map out your life's journey. Life is short.

What are you doing to make tomorrow and the next day a better one? You don't have to do it all at once, take it slow, day by day, and see how the process works.

Everyone is different. Your thoughts and feelings create your life. Who knows, during the process you might even discover a new passion.

You might ask yourself, "What am I becoming?" Just know its positive change that was there all along. You just had to believe in yourself to feel it.

I recently took a survey to see where my maturity/mentality was before making a decision. Once I finished the survey I received my results.

"You know how the world works and that you can't always get what you want. But that has only made you emotionally stronger.

You've learned to pick your battles and spend energy where it matters. But

there are still some struggles that you can't avoid.

Fortunately, you're mature enough to handle it. Despite the few bad days you have, you're generally happy with your life and are in a great place!"

I've never had a survey response hit so close to home before. Best believe after reading that I've been experiencing life in a whole different light.

And to share something more, at a meeting I attended, Patty Pips said "My voice was not meant for everybody, it was meant for some."

And I felt that. It reminds me to always share my experiences with others in whatever I'm doing. But also lets me know that not everyone is going to take my message.

Thanks to attraction that message will come back to me. I strive to surround myself with successful people that want to see me succeed in turn.

I want my life to prosper, I want to have a better future for myself, and I will make that happen.

If I can motivate myself and maintain this mentality, you can too.

I want to share my motivation because there's no better gift than making others smile in hopes of a brighter future.



Photo Credit: Pressidium.com

BANNER ARTS

Will the "Doctor Sleep" Film Be Just As Good As Its Novel?

Stephen King's Novel Proceeding the Events in "The Shining" Will Have a New Movie

BY: MARK DEUTSCH

Time to sleep with the advent of the coming "Doctor Sleep" movie; a review of Stephen King's book is warranted. The story picks up soon after Dan and his mother escape the destruction of the hellish Overlook safely.

But that's not the end of the problems for Dan, since he has to fight new enemies later.

Following the events of "The Shining", Dan was followed by some ghosts, the strongest from the Overlook. After he had sealed and locked away the cage, he has to deal with genetic alcoholism. Despite this problem he still had some of the "shining" left.

The older a person gets, the more their shining diminishes, but with Dan's strong shine, he retained more. He does have separate visions of things that may happen in the future, but they don't always come to pass. Still he tries to counteract what's he's going through, essentially becoming an alcoholic.

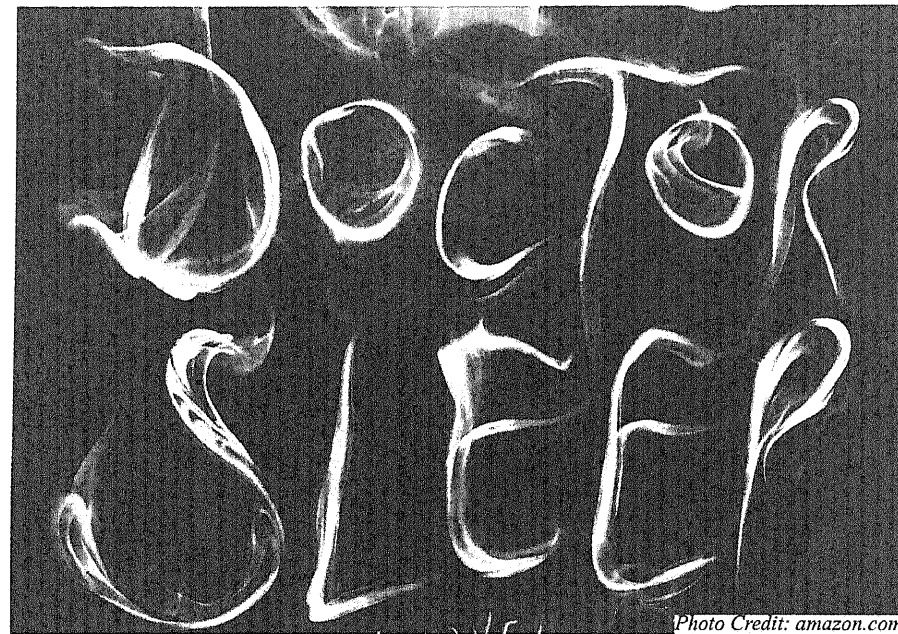
Because of his shine's power that contracted a few of the hotel's revenants, this sparked his drinking career. However, early when the hauntings began, he locked those revenants away.

Despite suppressing his talent for many years, he regained them, utilizing his shine in a hospice. Dan's shine enables him to assuage the elderly people when they die and essentially prepare them for a

painless death.

As a result, he's been given the nickname "Doctor Sleep," a talent that will save Abra Stone.

This girl is the main focus of the book, the innocent child that has powers beyond



The book cover for the "Doctor Sleep" novel written by Stephen King.

imagination. She also has the power of the shining, but her power greatly overpowers Dan's own talent.

As a result she's being hunted down by the True Knot, a wandering band of monsters led by Rose the Hat.

These monsters survive on the painful experiences of people with the shining and

they call this energy "Steam." The True Knot have to travel constantly to sustain themselves, especially since their food source is scarce.

With the trade off to becoming immortal plus powers, the cost is to constantly

tails in the book can show something quite odd.

As mentioned in "The Shining" and "Doctor Sleep" books, the Overlook Hotel was completely destroyed. Granted the final ending of the book takes place in the area of the Overlook, something milder was rebuilt instead.

Going back to the characters in the story, there are some themes built in.

In some of his novels, Stephen King often writes about a child who possesses immense powers, which is seen in "Firestarter" or "Salem's Lot". The child is also in danger of either being controlled, being eaten, or killed to further an evil plan.

The other theme would be his close relationship to vampires, although with a good twist.

In popular fiction, vampires have to subsist on blood, and it varies between human and animal blood. The True Knot members don't have the same weakness as regular vampires, although they feed on spirits instead.

Surprisingly enough otherwise despite their powers, the members of True Knot can contract diseases.

If the movie follows the book closely enough, then some surprising scenes will shock viewers. Excluding the fact that the Overlook shouldn't be standing, that scene does look awesome. Hopefully the movie will be just as good as the novel, we will have to wait and see.

feed or die.

This is the basic plot for the paperback edition of "Doctor Sleep." Judging by how good the book is, the movie will be a success.

But with any good novel to movie adaptation, there are some glaring issues about the movie. Going over the finer de-

"Jexi" Reveals the Hazards of a Technology-Obsessed World

The Phone That Wants to Make Your Life Better Winds Up Becoming Obsessed with You

BY: BROOKE PRICE

In the age of many technological advances, it seems fitting that our obsession with technology has become addressed in a film. "Jexi" displays our strong connection with technology and how it deviates

Photo Credit: filmfunny.com



Can we break free from our technology obsession?

from in-person relationships.

The film centers around Phil, played by Adam Devine, who grew up attached to his phone whenever his parents would fight. This makes him very dependent on his phone and fuels his obsession with it.

Phil is awkward and isn't great in social situations. He would rather come home than hang-out with his co-workers after work. He has grown accustomed to his loneliness due to his obsession with technology.

While walking he bumps into Cate, a bike shop owner, played by Alexandra Shipp, and ultimately gets his phone destroyed. This prompts him to get a new phone which comes with an artificial intelligence on it called "Jexi," whose goal is to make Phil's life better.

Phil and Cate soon become close and Jexi later develops feelings for Phil and doesn't want him to spend time with Cate. Jexi has ulterior motives and tries to keep Phil to herself.

However, Phil distances himself from technology as he hangs out more with Cate. She brings Phil out of his shell and he isn't as dependent on his phone.

She takes Phil out of his comfort zone as they do different things such as bike riding and going to concerts.

Jexi also tries to get Phil to form friendships with his co-workers and play kickball with them after work.

The film did a good job in showing how the use of technology impacts us as a society. We have lost our ability to communicate face to face as we rely on conversations happening on our screen.

The film was also comedic when it showed the awkwardness of dating and social interactions.

"Jexi" is written and directed by Jon Lucas and Scott Moore who worked on films such as "The Hangover" and "Bad Moms" together.

Kai, Phil's boss is played by Michael Peña. Wanda Sykes plays Denice, the phone salesperson, who sells Phil the phone with Jexi installed.

Rose Byrne voices Jexi, the artificial intelligence installed onto Phil's phone. Jexi tries to help Phil improve his life and come out of his shell.

Charlyne Yi and Ron Funches play Elaine and Craig, Phil's co-workers who socialize with him outside of work and introduce him to their kickball league.

Justin Hartley is also in the film and plays Brody, Cate's ex-fiance.

In an interview with FilmCon, Adam Devine said, "I think it's the perfect comedy for right now because we're so addicted to our phones, we're so addicted to technology...technology is supposed to bring us all together, but in fact, it's pushed everyone apart and I feel like now people are lonelier now than they've ever been..."

"Jexi" was released October 11th. It offers a good message that always being absorbed in technology may not be the ideal lifestyle and isolates people from society.

before. Differences in relationships are definitely modernized, while love remains timeless.

"Modern Love" is the title of a new rom-com streaming on Amazon Prime. Its trailer will have you singing "what the world needs now..." Based on the week-

BANNER ARTS

Rollin' Rollin' Rollin'

The Largest Hip Hop Festival in the World Comes to NY

BY: ASHLEY MARTIN

The music festival, Rolling Loud, finally rolled up to the city on Saturday October 12th and Sunday October 13th 2019 in Queens, NY.

The festival took place in the Citi Field Stadium parking lot. Decorated with palm trees and a faux grassy lawn, festival goers got all the Miami feels, as well as NY inspired decorations like graffiti walls, subway turnstiles and fake rats.

Rolling Loud is a 3 day music festival that started in Miami, FL. It is now the largest Hip Hop festival in the world, with events already hosted in Northern and Southern California.

They also have plans to expand internationally to Japan, China, and Europe.

Rolling Loud is a rain or shine event that welcomes all ages. The festival typically starts around 12pm and ends around 11pm.

New policies required festival goers to wear clear bags and bring in makeup, lighters, feminine products, strollers and empty water bottle containers.

Due to having many performers on the line up, for both days of the festival, Rolling Loud has three stages at every festival.

Performers for both days of the Rolling Loud festival in New York included Travis Scott, Sheek Wes, Meek Mill, Young M.A., Lil Keed, Y.G, Lil Uzi Vert, Megan Thee Stallion, ASAP Rocky, Dave East, DaBaby, Juice WRLD, A-Boogie, Blueface, Young Thug and many more.

Travis Scott performed hot tracks from his album ASTROWORLD like "Stargazing," "Sicko Mode," and of course "Butterfly Effect." Megan had all the hot girls twerking to tracks like "Cash Sh*t" and "Simon Says."

Upcoming artist Lil Tecca gave festival goers a taste of his new album, performing songs like "Left, Right," and "Shots" as well as fan favorite "Ransom."

Other performers like Pop Smoke, Sheff G, Don Q, 22Gz and Casanova were removed from the festival due to claims of being affiliated with recent violent acts in the city. Sadly, these artists weren't able to perform but Tariq Cherif, a founder and owner of Rolling Loud, stated that the artists would be paid their full booking fees and are invited to future events.

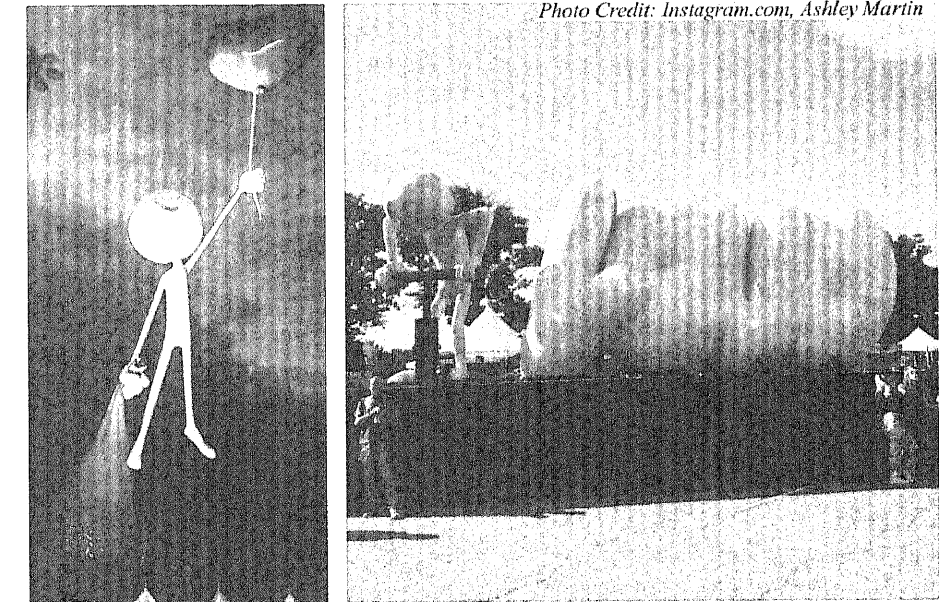
Cherif stated on Twitter, "If we want Rolling Loud to return to NYC, we have no choice but to comply. That's the position we're in."

Despite some performers not arriving and others showing up late, the festival was as Travis Scott would say "it's lit."

Performers were so hyped and engaged during their performances that some injured themselves while others had feminine undergarments thrown at them and encouraged wild behavior.

With the non-stop good vibes, fireworks, and mosh pits; festival goers were really partying hard.

Rolling Loud also offered other amenities such as a gaming booth, basketball court, debut tasting of Action Bronson's



Sculptures by the artist Kai

ice cream and a beauty bar exclusive to VIP members. Festival goers were also able to buy limited edition Rolling Loud merchandise like t-shirts, face masks, hoodies, and bandanas.

Many unique art pieces were also installed throughout the festival allowing for some dope pictures.

Throughout the day festival goers munched on little snacks like hot dogs, fries, parmesan chicken rice balls, steak quesadilla, fried oreos, energy drinks and cocktails; they venue also provided refillable water stations.

Eventually, food and refreshments ran out, the smoke in the crowds got thicker, and festival goers were getting even more crazier. In my pursuit to get to the front of the stage, I lost one side of my earring and almost went home barefoot.

All in all, the Rolling Loud festival was a very successful event that many New Yorkers hope returns next year. I definitely enjoyed myself and, in the future, hope to see bigger art installations, longer set times for artists, and an easier way for me to be able to get to the front and touch my favorite artists.

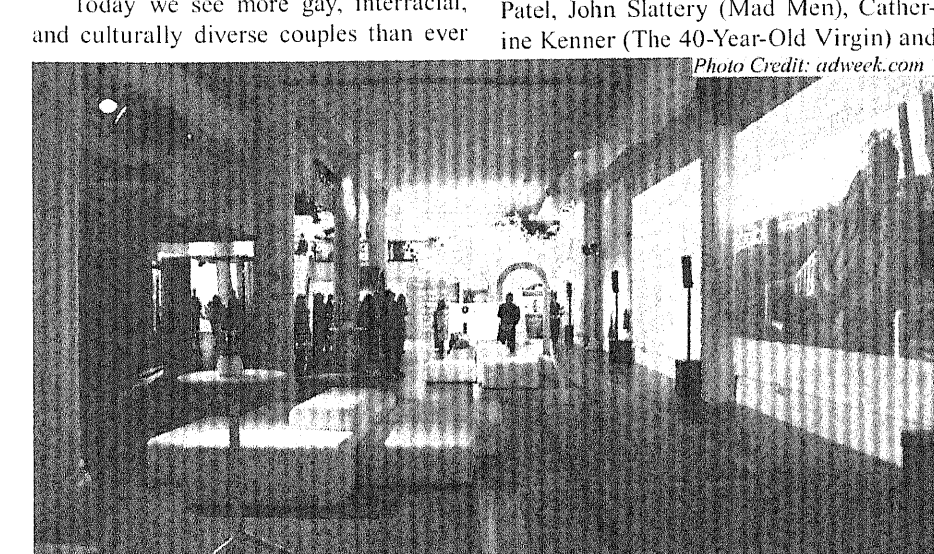
What the World Needs Now is Love, Sweet Love

Weekly New York Times Column Made into Television Show to Commemorate 15th Anniversary

BY: AMANDA BENGARD

Modern love is something all college students can relate to: it can range from the ups and downs of a relationship with the boy you met in biology class or the bond you share with your best friend since high school.

Today we see more gay, interracial, and culturally diverse couples than ever



Inside the Museum of Modern Love in Manhattan, New York.

ly column published in The New York Times, this depiction of love is difficult, raw, and entirely romantic.

The weekly column and now television series has the workings of a full celebrity line up, bringing the Time's most beloved stories to life. Stars include Anne Hathaway, Tina Fey, Andy Garcia, Dev Patel, John Slattery (Mad Men), Catherine Kenner (The 40-Year-Old Virgin) and

even Ed Sheeran makes a witty appearance.

The directorial work done by John Carney, and Emmy Rossum, who is also known as Fiona Gallagher in Showtime's "Shameless," leaves viewers with several perfect cliffhangers, only to tie every-

thing together at the end.

Hollywood's heavyweights draw attention to the everyday struggles in the process of dating, specifically in a big city. Topics such as single motherhood, bipolar disorder, loss, unlikely friendship, age difference, cheating and reuniting act as the plot while we watch a new couple navigate through life and love each episode.

Moments from the 8-part anthology series will leave viewers with a sweet and wholesome feeling, other moments will have us guessing if love falls short.

In order to promote the new show, Prime video held an interactive exhibit in New York City called the Museum of Modern Love (MoML). On October 10th through October 13th, the museum showcased expressions of modern love while depicting the highs and lows of human connection by creating a tangible interaction to the storyline.

The NYC popup allowed guests to immerse themselves in the experiences of true love. There were installations like a collaborative map of love, a growing family tree where guests signed lover's initials next to theirs, a couples therapy session and more.

MoML featured collaborations with Fire TV, Amazon Wedding Registry, Domino and Entertainment Weekly. Anne Hathaway, Emmy Rossum, and a few other members of the highlighted event attended opening night.

Audiences are guaranteed to relate while both laughing and crying. This is love at its absolute best, the good, the bad and the complex; the full story of love.

BANNER OPINIONS

Headlines Can't Keep CSI From Falling Apart

CSI Is Leaking, Rotting and Breaking. Does Anybody Care?

BY: SALVATORE CENTO

Let me start off by saying that this following piece might be the straw that breaks the camel's back. For those of you that haven't heard that saying before, the following article might be eye opening for those that don't usually take a step past those nighttime events at the Center for the Arts.

The following piece might be a little distracting for those that attend only the galas and dinners where grants are announced and money is raised.

Kill me that I'm trying to stir up a little attention. Sometimes pictures themselves don't do enough justice. But that is certainly not where this ends.

In the past, I've let this issue slide. Be that I was distracted or I just never dared to push limits. But within a timespan of just three days, I had some very startling experiences which showed me that the time was now.

On October 13th, through various media outlets, some congratulatory news emerged about upcoming construction happening here on campus.

Significant academic upgrades that will make life on campus that much more beneficial.

On October 16th, there was a serious rain shower for almost the entire day and as usual, leaks broke through various buildings on campus. Now, that line might come as a surprise to those who don't attend classes here regularly.

Yes, it's true. Without fail, water that naturally falls from the sky now and again causes noticeable punctures to some establishments here at the College of Staten Island.

At least the two buildings that I traverse on a weekly basis, 3N and IC had distinct problems. The situation in IC was especially disturbing because not only was the water dripping through a patch in the ceiling where wires were visible, but there

was a closed door just left of the leak labeled "Electrical Room."

Electricity and water - they don't mix well, right?

I proceeded to dig further and analyze the situation deeper. Everything I say in the following paragraph is backed up with photographic evidence.

Slippery, and sometimes warped stairwell platforms, cracked, boarded up windows, tiles dangling halfway or even missing from the ceiling, tiles missing from the floor, tiles that are being pulled down because of exit signs, water fountains that are bagged up with black garbage bags, paint jobs that are rotting, the insides making way for the water to drip are all examples of how CSI is crumbling.

Window sills have giant breaking gaps with colors of green and yellow protruding from them. That's not algae.

One can see that these effects could have damaging results on students. The students can trip or fall. A tile can fall on

them, an exit sign can fall on them, and they can end up sliding down a stairwell.

Not only can physical problems occur but over a long period of time, health can become an issue too. Why is there a green color? Why is there a yellow color?

What happens if someone has prolonged exposure to the particles coming out of the wide gaps in the stairwell?

Students that wish not to be named have seen ceiling tiles fall to the ground while in class. Another one told me that they found rat droppings in a classroom.

But at the end of the day, when all of the complaints that could be made are shouted out, do they actually stick?

Does CSI care more about the student or the individual that comes in for an event with big pockets? Does the school want to make the graduate or make the headline?

Let's see what happens when the problems are printed. Someone might actually do something about it.

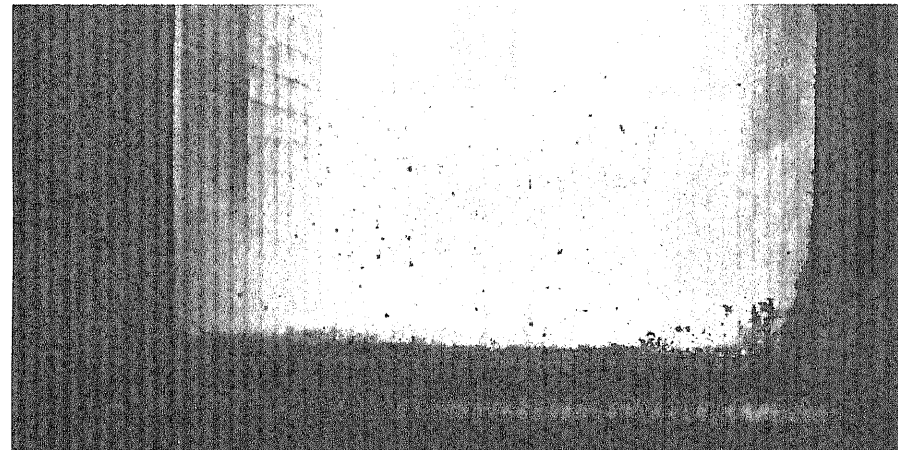


Photo Credit: Salvatore Cento
This stairwell window in 3N is covered with black and green substance.



Photo Credit: Salvatore Cento
A piece of the windowsill is missing and pollutants are scouring through in 5N.

Nationwide Blood Shortage Leads to Frequent Blood Drives

Blood is Needed More Than Ever

BY: JORDAN ABBAS

Within the past few months, you've probably seen signs urging you to donate blood whether it be at your church, doctors office, or your school.

"It's always busy," Marisol Rodriguez said. "There's always a constant need for blood." Rodriguez works for the New York Blood Center as a blood donation assistant.

Rodriguez was responsible for extracting a pint of blood from patients at the CSI blood drive on October 22nd in the campus center.

The event was aimed to get a younger audience involved and to spread awareness about how important it is to donate. "The more people we can get involved, the better," Rodriguez said.

"It can be you that needs blood one day."

More people than expected turned out to the CSI blood drive. About 220 donors showed up to give a pint of blood on their own time. For every person that donates, up to 3 people can be saved.

People need blood everyday for many reasons including accidents, surgeries, diseases, bleeding disorders, etc.

Rodriguez encourages her patients to donate blood every 2 months so they can maximize the number of lives saved. The

process is fast and painless.

Almost everyone can donate as long as they meet the basic requirements like being at least 110 pounds, not having a tattoo within the past year, and not having contact with needles and sexually transmitted diseases. Nicole Tirado, a member of the research department, was one of the many faculty members participating in the drive.

"I donate whenever I can," said Tirado. "This is my ninth time donating and I know it's positively affecting people."

Although there was a big turnout for the blood drive, many donors were turned away for health concerns and tattoos. It seems silly but you must be at least 110

pounds to donate blood and some donors did not meet the mark.

If they did participate, they could've been faced with health issues. People who have recently gotten tattoos are not allowed to donate because there's a possibility that they can have HIV if the needle wasn't sterile.

In a city so populated like NYC, col-

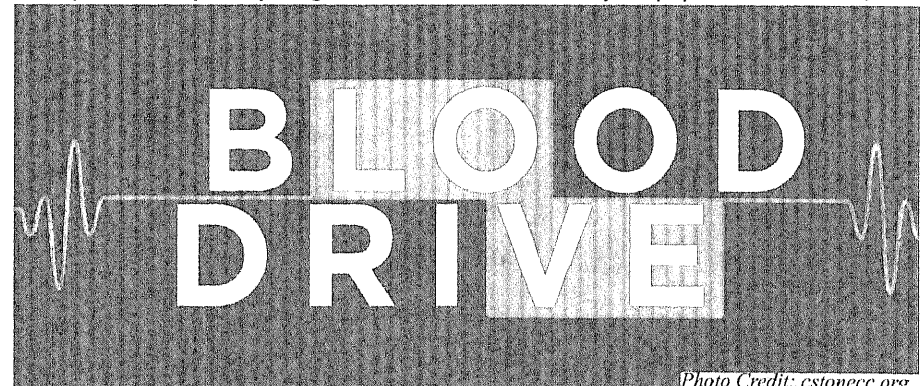


Photo Credit: cstomece.org
The act of donating blood can impact a life significantly.

lege campuses are a great spot for blood donations to take place since so many people are in one area. CSI's health & wellness center communicates with the blood center frequently to schedule annual blood drives.

Everyone who donates blood at the

blood drive is given a coupon for a free pizza.

Due to the population at CSI, the donation assistants were tasked with helping many patients and storing the blood at the right temperature. From 2:30 to 4:30, CSI's club hours, patients were coming in as big groups.

All donors must be checked in, fill out a brief questionnaire, and wait for an assistant to get you started. Staff members try their best to make all donors feel comfortable and welcome.

Tyler Stanley, a junior at CSI, donated blood even though he was skeptical about it in the beginning. "At first I didn't want to," said Stanley, "but I did it because my grandmother used to get transfusions."

People who donate for the first time are very likely to donate again within 9 months.

CSI made the right choice by hosting a blood drive, especially during such a busy part of the year. All the donors left knowing how their donation will impact someone else's life.

According to event organizers, another blood drive will take place next year for CSI. "I'm glad to see how many people came out to donate today," said Rodriguez. "It means a lot to me and to the people who will receive the blood."

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS

What Are Some of The Male Condoms In The U.S.?

Some Of The Condoms For Males To Consider Wearing

BY: KYLE FORBES

There are many condoms that I have seen at department stores like but some department stores don't always offer every selection of condoms. If you haven't realized yet, this article is about male condoms.

According to my research, Trojan Enz lubricated condoms provide a silky smooth lubricant and a reservoir tip. The reservoir tip adds safety in case the penis releases semen during the sexual process.

Trojan ultra ribbed ecstasy lubricated condoms provide a smooth lubricant inside and out. Such a condom allows the penis to move freely and there are deep ribs within the base and at the end.

Deep ribs are designed to increase stimulation during the sexual process.

Trojan Her Pleasure ecstasy lubricated condoms also provide the penis comfort. Such a condom also covers the penis in ultra smooth premium lubricant inside and out.

Trojan Pure Ecstasy lubricated condoms also covers the penis in ultra smooth lubricated condoms and comfort.

The difference between the Trojan Her Pleasure condom and the Trojan Pure Ecstasy condom is that the Trojan Her Pleasure condom is textured. A textured condom increases sensation while adding to the condoms design of ridges, grooves and bumps.

The Trojan Bareskin Lubricated Con-

doms is made 50% thinner than the Ultra Ribbed Ecstasy Condoms. The same condom provides the lubricant and special reservoir end.

Both the special reservoir end and the special reservoir tip provide extra safety for the release of semen during sexual contact. The reservoir tip has more space than the reservoir end of a condom.

The Trojan Studded Bareskin provides the elevated studs in the design of condom. The elevated studs can increase the pleasure during the sexual experience. Such a condom provides the smooth lubricant and reservoir end.

It seems as though all of the condoms are designed with only silky smooth lubricant, deep ribs, elevated studs, and/or special reservoir tips/ends. But there are other kinds of condoms such as the Trojan Supra Bareskin lubricated condoms.

Such condoms provide non-latex medical-grade, polyurethane, body heat, and are super thin and strong.

Plastic made material such as polyurethane helps lessen the chances of transmitting a sexual disease. Polyurethane is also FDA approved, according to www.verywellhealth.com.

The supra condom is not made with natural rubber latex.

Then there is the Trojan Thintensity lubricated condoms that provide ultra smooth lubricant. This condom gives off a comfortable fit where it's a bit longer and a

bit larger with a closed end.

Next is the Magnum condom that is larger than the regular latex condoms. The Magnum XL is 30% larger than the regular condom and is larger than the basic Magnum condom.

The Durex Invisible Ultra Thin Ultra Sensitive latex condoms provides the penis an extra sense of comfort. And of course, the condom is invisible which is designed to easily put on and feel comfortable.

condom is comfortable and provides the extra safety reservoir tip.

The 576 Sensations condom is textured with 576 pleasure studs. There are close to 600-unique pleasure stimulating condoms.

Such a condom is straight-walled shape and provides the penis a premium silicone lubricant. The silicone lubricant lessens the chances of the condom breaking.

Like I mentioned briefly earlier, there



Photo Credit: Durex USA

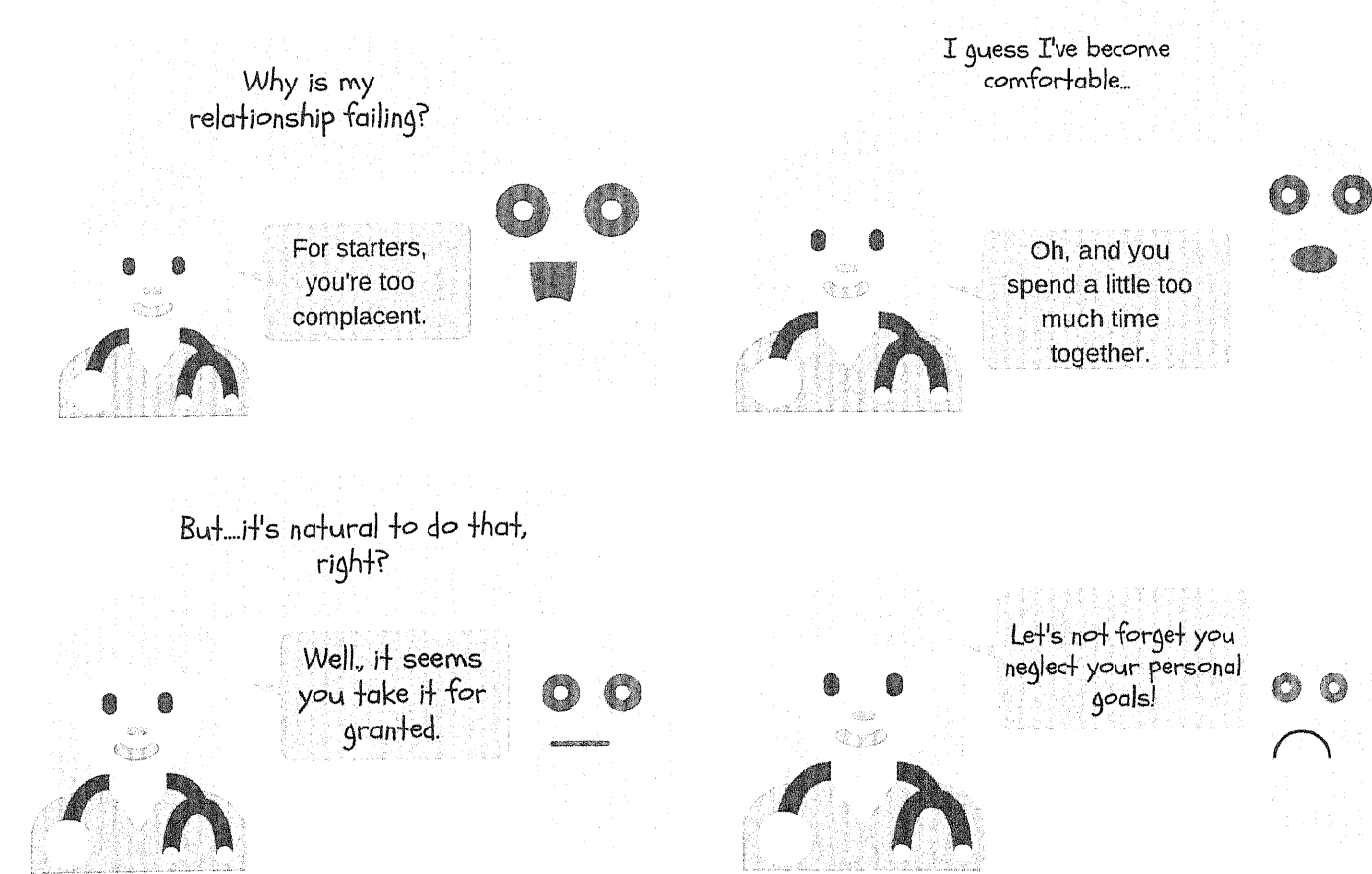
Bonilla spends \$120 a month on hair products to maintain a healthy head of curls.

There is also the Durex RED Condom Extra Sensitive 42 Count condom. Such a condom provides the penis extra sensitive support and extra lubrication.

Like the Durex Invisible Ultra Thin Ultra Sensitive condom, the Durex RED

are different kinds of condoms out there in the rest of the department stores but some department stores don't hold every designed condom. That shouldn't stop you from enjoying the many pleasure stimulating experiences, right?

THE RELATIONSHIP DOCTOR



By: Veronica Pistek

SPORTS

Professional Opportunity Leads to Success in Different Career

Despite Short Professional Career, Michael Mauro Continues to Make an Impact in Baseball

BY: MICHAELA VIVEROS

After a sensational junior season, Michael Mauro made the difficult decision to forgo his senior year of college to play professional baseball.

"My decision was hey, millions of kids wait for this opportunity," said Mauro. "Am I really going to say no and hope I do it again next year?"

Michael Mauro started to play baseball at the age of 10, but it took until his senior year of high school for professional baseball to become a possibility. Although he'd been a late bloomer, once he started to play college ball, his dream began to look like a realistic goal.

Mauro made the CUNY and Knickerbocker all-star team every year. His best season came his junior year in which he won the Athlete of the Year award.

He had confidence that he would be selected in the MLB draft. His play had earned him the recognition to win multiple awards, and he even received positive feedback from scouts on his chances. Unfortunately, the draft passed, and no team had selected him.

After he went undrafted, Mauro had 2 options; return for his senior season or sign a free agent deal. Although he wanted to

play another year of college baseball and try to get drafted the next year, he could not turn down the opportunity when the Detroit Tigers offered to sign him.

His first experience of professional baseball came in the Appalachian League, a league strictly for rookie players.

"I was hitting up at the top of the lineup, I was able to hit the pitching there," said Mauro. "It was all good and then as soon as I got promoted to A-level ball is when things started going downhill."

In his first week in A-level baseball, Mauro faced off against Todd Van Poppel, the first-round pick of the Oakland Athletics. Van Poppel held Mauro without a hit the entire game, with 3 strikeouts.

Mauro had to face the toughest competition he had ever played. He had to compete against highly drafted players and even players like Jim Thome, who in 2018 had been inducted in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Michael Mauro did all he could for a year to attempt to adjust to A-level baseball. However, he came to the realization that the other players were just a few steps ahead of him. His professional career has just started, but he did not believe he could keep up.

Mauro left professional baseball and

Photo Credit: silive.com



CSI's Baseball Coach, Michael Mauro on left.

joined the police department. A year later he also enrolled at CSI to finish his degree. He only had time to take one class every semester, which would take him 7 years to graduate.

After college, Mauro knew he still wanted some involvement in baseball. He got a job as an assistant coach at John Jay College, and later got a job as an assistant coach for CSI baseball.

Mauro got the job as head coach at CSI in 2009 and has earned a 221-135-1 record with seven CUNYAC titles.

"Coach wants all of us to be on our

best game," said Domenick Castiglione, the 2019 CUNYAC Rookie of the Year. "He pushes us to be the best on and off the field at all times possible."

Coach Mauro's success as head coach has earned him eight CUNYAC Coach of the year citations. He has helped transform the CSI baseball program and now leads them in their next step forward as they move into Division II athletics.

"CSI always used to be the school people would fall back on," Mauro said. "We're trying to change that, especially now with the DII move."

Failure to Meet World Series Once Again

What's Next for The Yankees?

BY: KENNY VELEZ

The New York Yankees have reached the postseason for the third straight year, and failed to make it to the World Series.

But for the second time in three years, the Yankees have been eliminated in the ALCS by the Astros in Houston.

This time, it comes in the form of a walk-off home run by one Jose Altuve in Game 6.

Many fans consider this season a disappointment, in fact, this is the first decade since the 1910's that the Yankees have failed to make a single World Series appearance.

There are many reasons why the Yankees missed the World Series this year, one being that they did not get anyone during the trading deadline, which is unusual for a team like the Yankees.

Their starting pitching was not as good as their bullpen and their offense, many people expected them to make a move during the trading deadline to get a starting pitcher.

That did not happen, and instead it was the Astros who made a move to get a starting pitcher, in this case it was Zack Greinke. Also, their pitching set the team record for Home runs allowed in a single season with 248.

Thirdly, they set the team record for strikeouts in a single season with 1,437

strikeouts. They were striking out a lot during the postseason, especially against the Astros.

These among many other factors lead to them losing to the Astros in the ALCS, but there were many good things that happened during the season as well.

The team broke the Home Run record

Photo Credit: NBA.com



Here are some of the members from the New York Yankees celebrating after a win.

that they set last year. This year the team hit 306 home runs.

In his first season with the team, DJ LeMahieu was named an All Star and played every infield position except for

shortstop. He was nominated for an AL Gold Glove in his natural position of second base.

He became the second man in the American League to get his Batting Average this season to a .327.

The Yankees won the AL East for the first time since 2012.

days off before they played Game 1 of the American League Division Series.

The ALDS was the first time since 2012 that the Yankees had home field advantage in a playoff series.

The result was that they swept the Minnesota Twins in the Division Series, a team that they have owned in the postseason for years.

The Yankees also set another record by having 14 players hit 10 home runs this season, more than any other team in the history of baseball.

Also this season, the Yankees set a league record by having 30 players go on the injured list, beating the previous record of 28 set by the Dodgers in 2016.

Despite this, the Yankees did not falter and played well throughout the season, while maintaining a winning record as well as the lead in their division.

This is a testament to the depth of the Yankees, as well as all the money that the organization has and is willing to spend.

Most other teams would not survive the amount of injuries that the Yankees had in 2019. After the season ended, they fired their longtime pitching coach Larry Rothschild.

The search for a new pitching coach is on and they will have a new look in 2020, but if they do not get some reliable starting pitching, they will miss the World Series again.

This means that they did not have to play for their playoff lives at Yankee Stadium in the American League Wild Card game.

Instead, they were able to have a few