

THE BANNER

November 27, 2006

Tales From the Frontline: Vets, Mothers Come Together to Discuss Iraq War



Michael Cohen

Lucie Lauria

Friday, November 17th 2:30am
Even a gram of raw fish scale couldn't have saved Tony this time. Facing a bowl of puke, on his knees praying to the porcelain god, he realized, although he had a Hoover vacuum for a nose, he had the alcohol tolerance of a 12 year old. Some chunks hung off his official A-Rod jersey but he managed to keep his powder blue Air Max's clean.

Tony used to sniff blow when he drank, for safety measures of course. Hendrix died chocking on his own vomit. Tony didn't want to go out like that. He said it helps to prevent "the spins." "I could drink all fuckin night when I'm on coke," boasted the Fat Man.

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November 16 - Iraq veterans & military family members met with CSI's students and faculty at the Williamson Theatre in the Center for the Arts to discuss the personal impact of the war.

"The war in Iraq is a betrayal of democracy," Celeste Zappala, a mother whose son was killed in Baghdad, said. "I'm disappointed how the political parties corrupted the spirit of our country."

After Zappala shared the pain of her loss with the audience, CSI students and faculty stood up and applauded in tribute to the memory of Sgt Sherwood Baker, PA National Guardsman.

Elaine Brower, a mother whose son recently returned from Fallujah, was humbled to share table with Zappala. She would rather be home with her son, but she couldn't, not since the time she

realized that the U.S. Army was NOT after Osama; it was a deception. She would not be silent. "How dare this government send our sons to kill innocent people?" Brower said. "How do they dare occupy a sovereign country? My son was lucky, but every ten hours, a Sergeant Major goes to some family, knocks on the door, and brings the dreadful message."

Christian Bustamante, a CSI student and former Army National Guard, avoided the horrors of the illegal, bloody, and unjust war and applied for contentious objector status. The army discharged him.

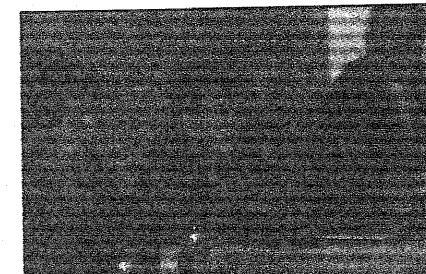
The discussion continued with the bloody memories of Josh Middleton who served in Iraq with infantry units as a medic. Middleton joined the military because he wanted to escape an uncertain future as a poor college kid. A few weeks after he got to Iraq, he was kneeling over a man that he and his friends had killed. He wasn't an insurgent but simply a man they shot because he was driving past curfew. Middleton wrapped the body up in a poncho and carried it to a truck. He remembered a piece of the man's head fell off and Middleton and his friends started laughing at the absurdity

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"Planned Housing" Top Concern at Town Hall Meeting

No Definite Answers Given

Kevin S.P. Mamakas



November 15 - Student Government sponsored the first of two yearly Town Hall meetings where the primary issue discussed was the future "planned housing."

Following brief remarks by President Springer and SG President Arishna Ramphal, students and staff were given an opportunity to voice their concerns and ask questions.

During the meeting, Angelo Aponte, Vice President of Finance and Administration, temporarily stopped the Q&A session and for a presentation regarding proposed housing on campus. The presentation then changed the random questioning into a Q&A on the subject.

According to Aponte, the number of beds that will be available to students and faculty in these "town houses" was cut from 980 to 520.

When asked how the dorms will blend with the high school, it was made clear by Aponte that they will not be dorms, but rather residential houses. President Springer then defended the high school.

"There are many advantages to a high school on campus," Springer stated. "It is immensely popular in the Staten Island community, and it certainly enhances the representation of CSI. It is unabashedly an elite high

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Tunnel of Oppression Forces Students to Confront Prejudices

Kevin S.P. Mamakas

Pictures of abused women, Adolf Hitler, and segregation were plastered next to the "N" word and other ignorant words as the walls of CSI's Green Dolphin Lounge were transformed into a tunnel of hell.

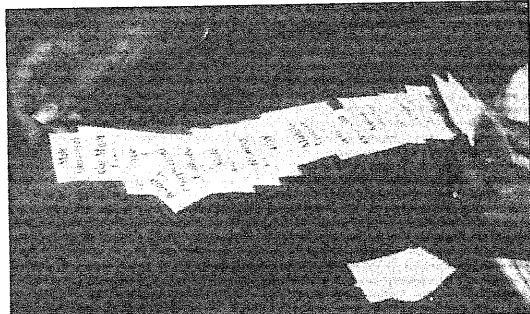
The unwelcoming experience in the tunnel was capped off with disturbing sounds of babies screaming, women crying, and tortured men.

The Office of Pluralism and Diversity successfully used this as the first component of the "Tunnel of Oppression" program which allowed 98 members of the college community to experience life as a minority in 34

minutes.

"It gives folks like me a chance to see how it is for non-white male people in our society," said Brian DeLong, CSI's Director of Pluralism and Diversity and New-Student Orientation.

Before going through the tunnel to another discriminatory experience, a crowd between 8 and 12 people



Students participating in the event were labeled with stereotypes. Photos by: Kevin S.P. Mamakas

watched a short biography of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. To bring the small and personal audience closer to how it was in the 1960's, a staff member played a recording of slaves being whipped and glass breaking.

The next part of the program brought the group into the Sleeping Dolphin Lounge where they were bro-

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Booty Call. Will you accept the charges?
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ADP

The New York Times The American Democracy Project

Iraq

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of the situation.

Most of the attacks against Middleton's platoon were hit and run and made them incredibly frustrated. They took their frustration out on whoever they could. A lot of times the victims were just innocent civilians.

Middleton remembered once he was on quick reaction force and responded (as a medic) to an Iraqi that another unit had been shot out and were resting on the floor of the passenger side. Without looking in the back of the car, he dragged him out and slammed him onto the concrete. Instead of trying to save him, he kicked and punched him. He slammed his head against the ground and watched him die. After he bled out, he looked in the back of the car, and there wasn't a bomb but just some car parts and what looked like plumbing supplies.

The last speaker, Rob Timmins, a CSI student and Iraq veteran was a handsome stocky blond guy. He had been in airborne school when 9/11 happened. By March 2003, he was in Kuwait, waiting to cross to Iraq.

"It's tough to be a soldier," Timmins said. "A friend had a new baby. His patrol got ambushed, and when we got there, on the asphalt road, there was my friend's arm being picked up by a medic and put in a plastic bag."

In shock, he got back into his Humvee. It was 103 degrees; he was escorting a fuel convoy through a city where a car bomb would have lit the whole place on fire. A Humvee is not a safe vehicle because with a sharp stick one can drive a hole through the canvas.

Then he saw a bus driver. The guy wouldn't stop when Timmins motioned at him - STOP. Timmins looked him straight in the eyes. He saw the eyes of a mad man. The guy wanted to get through their two Humvees. His furious eyes were saying, *If you want to stop me, you will have to kill me.* Timmins walked over to the bus, pulled the guy out of the window and smashed his

brains out.

It wasn't easy for Timmins to recollect and verbalize what exactly happened. His memories of the war were fragmented.

"People are dying needlessly and a lot of those that aren't killed or injured still have to deal with a lifetime of battling PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder)," Middleton said. "There is a dream I have a couple of nights a week. All of my friends that died are conducting a press conference...I can't tell them that I'm sorry or that I miss them. For some reason, my mouth won't open. The dream ends like this every time."

"Soldiers suffering from PTSD have difficulties to reinterpret what happened," Dr. John Lawrence, a CSI psychology professor, said. "Their painful assumptions compel them to blame themselves for what happened. If they are not treated they will have intrusive thoughts, memories pop into their mind even if they don't want; they lose control of their mind and grow insane feelings."

According to The Guardian, Tony Bush's illegal invasion of Iraq has taken nearly 3,000 reported American sol-

diers' lives and approximately 900,000 Iraqi lives. Where would one draw a line between "collateral damage" and genocide?

The war on Iraq is a war on the Iraqi people. The British medical journal The Lancet concluded that the invasion raised Iraq's mortality rate from 5.5 deaths per 1,000 people per year to 13.3 deaths per 1,000 people per year.

Bush's recruiters, hungry for more deaths, are out there cyber-stalking even kids on MySpace. Yet neither the Republicans nor the Democrats seem to have a clear solution to the Iraqi slaughter.

"The impression the Bush administration now gives is that the whole matter has been put into the hands of Baker's group - which is ridiculous, especially as the President continues to declare that inviting Iran and Syria to help stabilize Iraq is unacceptable," The Guardian stated. "He is against talking to them and says he still expects 'victory.' If so, what is the purpose of the commission?"

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Who are the Bilderbergers?

Lucie Lauria

A little clique of puppet masters, concocting our future, meets annually at secret places, guarded by the military, to conspire against us, the people of this planet. The fact that one hundred world's most powerful men annually convene behind closed doors while denying access to those journalists, who are willing to report for the public, demonstrates an alarming anti-democratic position of this "elite" clique, the so called Bilderbergers.

The Bilderbergers include heads of states, royalty, industrial tycoons, world bankers, and media kings of the West. The global power elite set their dark agenda using the power of money and influence. They pull strings behind the scenes to handpick future presidents, prime ministers, and whole puppet governments out of candidates whom they invite to the secret conferences. Spearheaded by the Rockefeller and Rothschilds, they set the world economic strategies, trade away natural resources and cheap labor of other countries, and plan how to take money out of the people's pockets. Bilderbergers are driven by greed and power hunger ad infinitum.

Hollywood director Aaron Russo, who recently released his latest documentary America: From Freedom to Fascism, told

the Alex Jones Show, "Eleven months before 9/11 took place, Nicholas Rockefeller assured me there's gonna be an event and out of that event we're gonna invade Afghanistan, so we can run pipelines through the Caspian. Then we can go into Iraq to take the oil and establish bases in the Middle East to make it a part of the New World Order. Then we're gonna go after Venezuela - that's what's going to come out of this event."

The mainstream media keeps silence on Bilderbergers because Bilderbergers own them. The public is supposed to be kept in the dark. Besides other issues, these "high priests of globalization" intend to launch a new totalitarian regime - the New World Order. Only a few years ago, the group's existence was fervidly denied to the media.

This year, an American journalist Alex Jones tried to cover the 2006 Bilderberg conference in Ottawa but was arrested by the Canadian police.

Tony Blair, the British Prime Minister, recently lied to the British Parliament in the House of Commons when Lord Stoddart questioned him whether he attended any

of the Bilderberg conferences. Blair had attended the 1993 conference before he became the leader of the Labor Party. In a few years after the gathering, Blair miraculously rose to power and became the British Prime Minister.

Bill Clinton won the presidency only after he had attended one of the Bilderberg conferences. Undisclosed sources reveal that Hillary Clinton took part in this year's conference in Ottawa. However, according to the participant list, George Pataki was there, too; therefore, the outcome of the 2008 presidential election may still be a surprise.

November 2006, Andreas von Retyi, a German writer, released a book titled Bilderberger, the Timetable of the New World Order, in which he explains how Clinton became the American president; how and why the Bilderbergers created the 1970's oil crisis; how the Bilderbergers made a decision to allow the fall of the Berlin wall; how they sacked Gerhard Schroeder; how Olof and Alfred Palme were murdered because they disagreed with them, etc.

"Our world history is not the result of coincidences, but rather precise planning," von Retyi wrote. "More than a half century ago, a powerful group was formed to take the fate of this planet into hand and steer the world in the direction of a secret brand

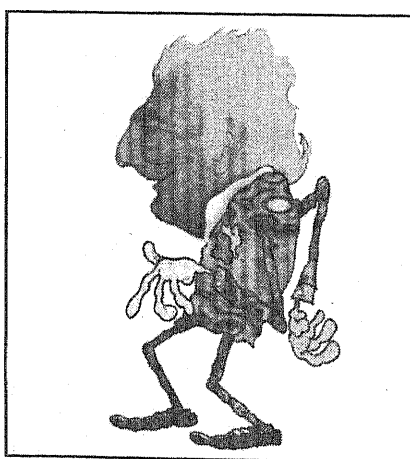
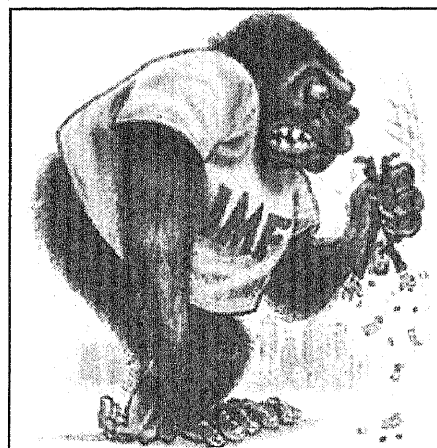
of internationalism. Numerous crucial events in politics and economics can be traced back to subtle manipulation by Bilderberg. Their goal: total global control."

The idea of the total global control and of the New World Order is much older than one would assume; in fact, it goes so far back as to the fifteenth century. The history of the Bilderberg group began in 1954 when the first conference was held in the Hotel de Bilderberg in the Netherlands near the German border. Prince Bernhard of The Netherlands, a former member of Schutzstaffel (SS) - one of the most powerful organizations in Nazi Germany - became the first Chairman.

Over the course of more than fifty years, they seem to be running the world politics, their mind set on their goal - the New World Order. One of the fervent Bilderbergers, Henry Kissinger, a former secretary of state with a dirty history, emerged from behind the scenes recently to support the neocons' doctrine and the Bush administration's policy of reshaping the Middle East and constructing the New World Order amidst a global catastrophe.

President Bush has never appeared on Bilderbergers' participant list, but he miraculously materializes in the same cities where the clandestine gatherings are held. Nevertheless, both Dubya and his father like to mention the idea of the New World Order.

David Rockefeller addressed the U.S. Business Council, "All we need is the right major crisis and the nations will accept the New World Order."



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Town Hall

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school on the island, perhaps the city." Dr. Springer does not believe the high school will not have any effect on the housing.



Angelo Aponte discusses the future of CSI's housing plan.

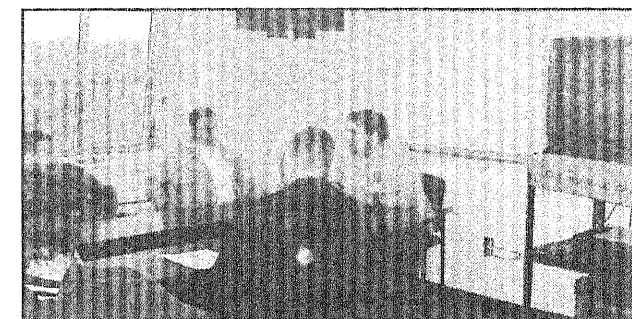
As CSI waits for the Master Planners to make recommendations about the housing, the panel was not able to give any definite answers. It is speculated the handball courts will be torn down in order to make room for a residential buildings, and rebuilt in a yet to be determined area.

Oppression

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ken up into smaller groups based on their eye color.

This was where I was separated from the rest of the group, with one other person: I picked on for having blue eyes. The other group was treated with respect, given candy, and comforted



with compliments towards their superiority.

"Never mind him," said the moderator in character. "You are all better

The Master Planners, Cooper and Roberts Firm, are being paid \$750,000 to make the recommendations.

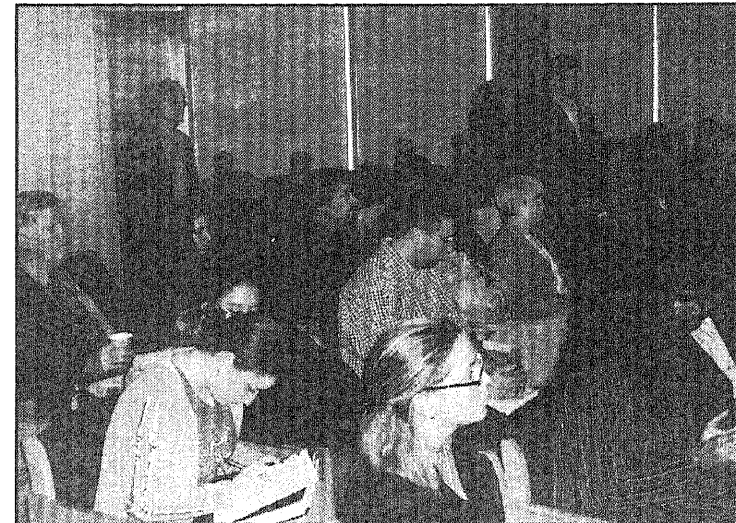
After the College gets a response from Cooper and Roberts, the administration, students, staff, and faculty will housing qualifications, location, and what

kind of local businesses CSI will be able to utilize for the community's benefit.

Although Aponte stated that CSI is "the safest of all CUNY campuses," lighting on campus and security will be increased and improved. They will "upgrade security systems, pull boxes, and add additional emergency light boxes."

However, security staffing has already been increased. "They are more visible during evening classes," said Aponte.

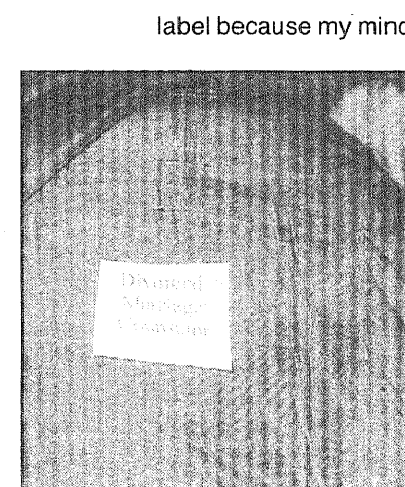
Also discussed was Third Rail's recent article, "CSI On Sale." "Tuition



Students, faculty, and staffpacked into the Green Dolphin Lounge for the first Town Hall meeting of the year. Photos provided by: Yearbook

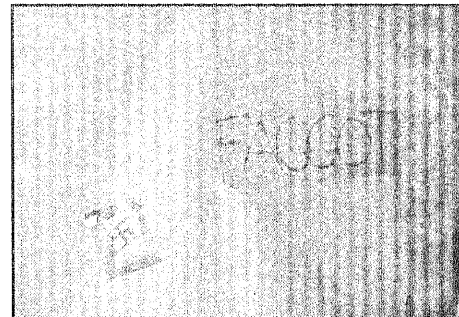
only pays for one-third of a student's college education," Springer said. "Taxpayers pay the other two-thirds. We have a responsibility to the community."

She added, as an example, the \$650,000 soccer field is available for use by CSI and the Staten Island community for a rental fee. However, according to law, the college cannot under cut private businesses. "Every time you see the community using the campus, they paid for it," Springer said. "You do too, I won't deny that."



label because my mind was still in the Sleeping Dolphin Lounge. As a white catholic male, I had never felt oppressed the way I was in that room.

As a child I was effectively taught not to treat someone differently because they were unlike myself. I truly believe all people were created equal. However, I never imagined what it would feel like to be oppressed for such a ridiculous reason.



The scariest part of the experience, and the point of the event, is to let the college community know that people have

experienced real versions of the wall of prejudices, the oppression role-play, and the stereotypical labeling which the program addresses.

I could not concentrate on my

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A Meal of Hope

Hunger Banquet Teaches a Lesson in Selflessness

Stefanie Plust

Roughly thirty of the fifty students who participated in CSI's Hunger Banquet sat on the floor of the second floor West Atrium (1P) eating cold rice with their hands as represented the sixty percent of the world who are impoverished.

Hillel and NYPIRG created an Oxfam (an international relief and development organization) style Hunger Banquet honoring National Hunger and Homeless week, which annually takes place the week before Thanksgiving.

The high income students were served a three course meal while they sat at a table. The middle income students served themselves rice and beans, ate with one utensil and sat on chairs.

The meal was followed by three speakers: Wendy White, the volunteer coordinator of Project Hospitality, Elaine Schenk, of the Multifith Center and Bill Johnson, a CSI alumnus and Vietnam War Veteran.

Wendy White discussed her travels to third world countries and what Project Hospitality does on Staten Island. "Being hungry or homeless does not reflect who you are; you can change your life," White said.

Elaine Schenk read a brief story of kindness told by Mother Teresa. The tale demonstrated how a starving woman shared her food with a starving neighbor.

Schenk's story of selflessness was followed by Bill Johnson's story of desperation. He told of an experience he had while in Vietnam. "We were starving and without food for days," Johnson said.

According to Oxfam's global statistics fifteen percent of the world's population are high income, meaning they earn a per capita income of \$9,076 per annum or greater. Twenty five percent of the world's population are middle income, meaning they earn between \$912 and \$9,075 per year.

While sitting around the table on Thanksgiving, think of those who do not have and share what you have learned today," said Marc Montalano, PC coordinator of NYPIRG, who ended the program.

Verrazano School Raises CSI Standards

Michele Rose

A year ago in his cushy office, David Podell, CSI's Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, stumbled upon some statistics that students with high G.P.A.'s ditched the commuter school for dorm life in the middle of their college careers.

As the epitome of all things Staten Island, the name Verrazano holds a resonance for many students who attend CSI. "It was agony finding the name," said Podell, "we came up with this name because of the Bridge, the first European visitor to New York, and it just means Staten Island."

The Subcommittee used the F.I.R.S.T program (First-Year Integrated Resources, Support, and Teaching) as their foundation, due to its success. A welcomed student to this program would have passed all three CUNY basic skills tests, failing comfortably in between the Honors College and remedial classes.

When Podell had trouble articulating what he wanted to say, he turned to face the man sitting next to him, Robert Huber of the Department of Public Relations. "It doesn't sound pizzazy enough," said Podell.

coming out of that program would be lost."

As a solution to this dilemma, "the Verrazano school will facilitate closer connections between students and full time faculty members," according to the Strategic Plan, "faculty mentors work with students to help them become more self-reflective about their goals, their careers, and the skills they will need for those careers."

"The Baccalaureate status is equated using the High School Index, said Mariann Carlin, Director of Academic Advisement, PhD, "it looks at high school status, grade point average, and if the student has taken three units of Math and English."

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major, this program isn't for them. Danielle Nygaard, a graduate from SUNY at Albany and working on her master's in Education at CSI had no idea the new school existed, as do most students at this point.

While the subcommittee and a few select students have sung its praises, others remained skeptical. Austin Lee, a Communications professor revered by almost all of his students, is concerned "that this program is an extension of high school homeroom."

David Podell and the Subcommittee are fully aware that with every new project there are kinks to work out. "Research is still being done," said Podell, "and you always have to pilot before doing full blown research."

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invaders emphasized the market. The key is the free market. In the case of Iraq, the issue is oil. Their goal is to transfer the oil supplies from the hands of the Iraqi state into the hands of multinational corporations through the "free market."

However, the neocons' strategy hasn't been completely successful yet. The oil is not coming out at the rate they would want it to come out.

The Republicans and Democrats are playing a "good cop - bad cop" game. The leaders of both parties are worshipping the same altars of power and wealth.

A group of people is trying to control the world through the power of the market and democracy is dying.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: The Beacon

I give Enrique Ignacio Inocente a lot of credit for what he publishes in the Beacon. Even though some of his remarks may be construed as offensive or crude, they are bold and true.

- Billy Kline

I noticed that this edition of "The Beacon" is more crude than usual. Keep it up. The "Ask Someone Who Cares" article made me cringe a few times, but it's still entertaining to read.

- Matthew Roca

Enrique Ignacio is fucking hysterical. I love every one of his fucking articles. Whenever The Banner runs, I immediately turn to one of his fucking insane articles.

- Lauren Iervasi

This article is fucking fantastic. Pure genius. It's not everyday that you come across works that push the envelope like this.

- Jonathan Zimmerli

I think the articles in the Beacon section are amusing. The Beacon Profanity Watch article caught me by surprise, but I loved it.

- Lori Katz

Re: The Sign Off

It's pretty sad when a group of people form to topple a service provided for students to express themselves with. Radio stations should have some sort of responsibility to share some public access information with the campus.

- Jaime Manus

I feel that Kevin Mamakas' article about WSIA and petitioner Carl Sabatino was

very insightful for listeners of the station. Many students will probably be surprised to see that WSIA is currently in a legal battle. The article is very informative and does a good job of depicting both sides of the issue.

- Stephen Spagnoli

I cannot believe that the radio station is in jeopardy of being shut down. It gives so many communications majors opportunities that other colleges don't have. Many students are involved with WSIA and have learned the in-and-out of radio that cannot be learned in a simple class lecture.

- Patrea Patterson

I am with you all the way. It sounds like they are trying to take WSIA of the air with any reason they can. WSIA is a good station that offers a variety of music and information, and all from our own backyard.

- Chris Mical

I'm kind of shocked that WSIA is getting its license denied by the FCC. Nobody really knows about WSIA and what kind of music they play.

- Evelyn Bietsas

Re: Sex and the Island

The article "You're an Awesome Girl but..." is one in which mainly every teenage/college girl can relate to. It has happened to each of us probably at least once, when a guy you have a

major crush on, or a close guy friend, doesn't even know it and constantly talks about how he is sick of the girl he is dating, or thinks all girls are sluts.

- Marisa Schaefer

Nicole, you make me laugh and, at the same time, I must say KUDOS to a job well done. You must have gone through a lot and dealt with so much stupidity from men.

- Mojeed Amusa

You're an awesome girl, but as usual, your articles are highly entertaining. I appreciate this one in particular because it's definitely the type of rejection everyone has felt at some point in one's own life.

- Allison Pearce

Re: Splat! Roadkill Removal at CSI I thought this was a very interesting article. I have witnessed dead animals on the road at CSI and I never thought that there was a specific procedure to the removal of birds.

- Elizabeth McNeils

I found the quote by education major John Crisano Jr of "Sometimes they just dart out..." could be used to describe students crossing Loop Road as well. I agree with the better lighting but I think the concern is people getting hit versus saving "CSI's animal population which will probably get picked off by the local red tail hawk on campus anyway."

- Donald Vroomer

Re: I Like Sex. It Nice! If I were a critic I would give this movie two thumbs up. The movie was hyster-

ical. It's great. So what if the movie has a little Anti-Semitism, the guy is Jewish for God's sake. You hear people all the time bashing their own culture in one way or another! High five!

- Beatrice Cherrony

High five. I like it too. Borat is the funniest movie I have seen in a while. Sasha is a genius. By causing so much controversy, he is succeeding in making this movie #1.

- Chris Bono

Re: Afghan Woman It is always nice to see the other side of things. If only more people could look at it.

- Joseph Podkalicki

Isn't Bina a Pakastani woman? Ok, I still admire her courage, great woman, but she did expose the unfortunate situations of oppressed Afghan women who are living in a society claiming it's Islamic, but has its own rules.

- Jihane Tamri

Re: Sex! Safety First There is never enough talk about safe sex and then this article was published. Thank you Banner; these students just don't get it. Safe sex saves lives.

- Debra Santulli-Barone



Blair said that the intervention in Iraq is 'pretty much of a disaster.'

Disaster for some can be fortune for others. Looking at the war through the eyes of the free-market capitalist enterprise, the loss miraculously transforms into a commercial success.

Since it's a money-making business only for the "elite," the neocons had to find some scapegoats to throw to the plebs to distract attention from themselves.

According to The Guardian, "Neocons are now saying that the Iraqis did not deserve our help. Some suggest they they are an inferior breed."

Some people really don't mind if hundreds of thousands of innocent people die. They are comfortable with that. Their God is money, so why should they care?

Dr. Harry Cason, a CSI's political science professor, thinks that the reasons for the war on Iraq are multiple. The neocons like to use the term "changing the face of the Middle East."

The U.S. then knocked down Japan's door and insisted that Japan make itself open. The consequence was "marketizing" the country into a liberal society. The

Advertisement for the movie 'VAN WILDER: THE RISE OF' featuring the title, a photo of Mike Myers, and promotional text including 'THE LEGEND IS GROWING' and 'ONLY IN THEATERS DECEMBER 15th'.

Medieval Times

Photos and Article By
AnnMarie Costella

Wearing a cardboard king's crown, eating greasy food with your hands, and watching grown men parade around in tights - What could be more fun? 50 CSI students hopped on a bus to New Jersey for a night of excitement at Medieval Times. They cheered for their assigned knight (the red and yellow knight), they sat on the edge of their seats during the jousting tournaments, and feasted on the sumptuous banquet of food before them. The menu consisted of: vegetable soup, a large chicken leg, one spare rib, half a baked potato, and a tiny McDonald's style apple pie.

The elaborate plot of the show itself, however, was tacky as many of the knights participated in ye olde overacting. The costumes were beautiful and looked authentic aside from the wireless headset microphone (the type Madonna made famous during her blonde ambition tour), a less than medieval accessory. After the show, the actors met with the fans and posed for pictures and signed autographs. The blue knight was a favorite amongst the ladies who crowded around him as though he were a rock star.

On the ride home, one student proudly showed off the life size ornamental sword that he had purchased as a souvenir for the meager price of \$125.00, a wise investment since you never know when you will be challenged to duel while on your way to class.

Everyone had a good time even though red and yellow knight lost the faux competition to the green knight. The trip was a great success for the PDC who plans to book similar excursions in the future.



CSI CLASSIFIED

Interviews by: Allison Ryder

Layout and additional content by: Enrique Inocente



Name: Jimmy Mora
Age: 22
Occupation: Salesperson, Computer tech
Major: Marketing with a minor in French
Hobbies/Interests: I like dancing, foot-

ball, baseball, soccer, hockey, movies, clubs, and travel.
What he looks for in a girl: I think personality is the most important thing because it can make you so beautiful, but there will always be someone better looking than you. I look for style, originality, and she has to be sweet. I like a girl that isn't afraid to cry on my shoulder, and tell me what's on her mind.
What's the most important thing in a relationship: The most important thing is trust. You can't have a relationship if you're constantly doubting the person you are trying to be with. Communication is also important because it's how you get to know that person. If you can't have a great conversation with them, then what do you have?

What's he looking for right now: I look for a girl with a smile like the sunrise. She has to be intelligent because, otherwise, what else are you guys going to be talking about for the rest of your life. She has to know how to balance going out, and staying home—I like going out on the weekends, but I also love those blockbuster nights.

The Beacon News Brief

George Bush Refuses to Pull Out of Iraq. Iraq Gets Pregnant.



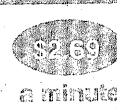
"I did not have sexual relations with that country," says President, denying his role in conceiving the bastard state, Kurdistan.



Name: Mike Grosso
Age: 22
Occupation: Works at American Eagle
Major: Elementary education
Hobbies/Interests: Baseball, lounges, hockey fights, pizza, girls wearing glasses.
What he looks for in a girl: Her smile, personality, and looks.
What's the most important thing in a relationship: Someone who is always themselves, can take and give back sarcasm, and is jealous to a certain degree.



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Name: Michael Lantino
Age: 25
Occupation: Full time restaurant employee, part time student
Major: Marketing with a minor in Finance
Hobbies/Interests: Movies, music (industrial, electro, trance, 80's, freestyle, rock, catchy rap, pop, punk), anime, video games, travel, eating out, cheese, racing, new things, going out to bars, clubs, hanging out.
What he looks for in a girl: I don't really have a criteria of things I look for in a girl. Its more about what I see in her. Every girl can have plus or minuses, but its mostly chemistry that counts.

What's the most important thing in a relationship: The most important thing in a relationship is, again, chemistry. In combination with a comfort level that comes with trust, understanding, and having things in common.



Name: Joe Cardone Jr.
Features: 100% Italian, tan, around 5' 8"
Status: Single
Age: 20
Major: Business
Hobbies/Interests: Sports, going to bars and clubs, playing cards.
What he looks for in a girl: I look for a sense of humor, intelligence, good looks, ambition, and someone who knows what they want in life.

What's the most important thing in a relationship: Trust is the first thing that comes to mind. With no trust, you can't really have a good relationship. Someone you can go to when you have things on your mind. A girl who you can go out with, do nothing, and still have a fun time.

What's he looking for right now: I am NOT looking for a girlfriend. You have to live life to the fullest. I'm a 20-year-old just trying to have fun and meet new people. I'll know when I'm ready, and, at the moment, I'm not ready. Had a few heartbreaks in my past I've yet to get over. Right now I'm just trying to go out, and have a fun time.

Johnny and Miltz



Name: Mike Ward
Age: 18
Occupation: Cashier
Major: Undecided
Hobbies/Interests: I skate, snowboard, listen to music, party and such.

What he looks for in a girl: I look for a personality. She has to keep me entertained. A hot body is a must. A girl who is smart as well as funny, and has to be interested in the same things I am—or at least willing to try. I'm a big snowboarder so it would be nice to have a chick on my side when I ride.

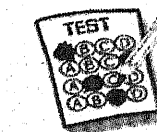
What's the most important thing in a relationship: The most important thing would be a connection.

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Name: Andres Crespo
Age: 25
Occupation: Regional radiology
Major: Computer Science
Hobbies/Interests: Clubbing, hanging out with my friends, fraternity events
What he looks for in a girl: Someone who is understanding, and romantic.
What's he looking for right now: I am looking to just enjoy life because I have learned that whatever happens, happens. Girlfriends don't just come like that—you should get to know a person a little better. From then on, see if it's going to be a great relationship, or just a good friendship. The girl being a good kisser is a plus.

1R

Continued from page 12

have been used to help pay off his student loans that he still pays five years later.

You will not find these two men at the 1R gym but what you will find is the typical student-athlete. A group of well constructed young men and women whose bodies are ripped to shreds. Their training, designed to withstand the rigors of a long season, improves athletic performance. They buzz throughout the complex as if it were a beehive and they were the drones. Upon seeing that there is only one main group of weight trainers using the center, especially the weightlifting area, the question must be raised; why don't more students use the gym?

A relatively new building, 1R opened only eleven years ago. It's still very beautiful to look at and is very practical and efficient, containing everything a student needs to succeed.

The weight training area does not need any physical renovation. The walls are freshly painted a clean white and the area is well lit with four rows of six lights, each perfectly spaced three ceiling tiles apart. The water fountain, which makes noises from the drain, would seem to be a nightmare, but the water sparkles like it came from a bottle and is quite cold and pleasant. The entire set of dumbbells, along the left wall corner, is practically brand new, only two years old. They look as if they were just put on the rack for the first time yesterday. Members and students always put the weights correctly back on the rack and not a single weight can be found on the floor. All of the equipment has been completely shifted around and placed in a very efficient manner, making the gym more spacious. The gym holds eight machines, six for leg exercises, one for chest and one for shoulders. It has a cable machine with six different stations for varied usage. All the machines are functional- nothing broken or damaged. The cable machine sticks a bit and could use some grease, but otherwise, is in very acceptable condition. Ample amounts of bars, benches and free weights are available for use as well.

The cardio room contains five treadmills, three bicycles and two elliptical machines. All of this is crammed into a small classroom in the upstairs wing. Not a lot of equipment for a school that has over 10,000 students and for a building that has outside members who pay to use the facility. Good news, however, is on the way. Directly next to this room lies a conference room that if dreams become reality, will have its walls conquered and the two rooms will be combined to make for a much less claustrophobic environment. There are machines in storage waiting to be put to use and this venture would allow that to happen. Electricity problems are the next hurdle to overcome. All of these machines running simultaneously cause power shortages in the cardio room.

Renovations are constantly being made, unbeknownst to the average CSI student. According to Fran Militieri, the Assistant Athletic Director and Business

Iraq Veterans

Continued from page 1

The strippers grew tired of our abuse and we ran out of singles a half hour ago, so Fat Boy and I decided to peel this fine veteran off the bathroom floor and leave. Tony fought in Iraq and in January he will again be referred to as Private Malone. Most people end up in jail or rehab from cocaine addictions, but Tony went to Iraq.

* * * *

Tuesday, November 7th 2:45pm

I decided to visit The Banner to drop off an assignment. While there, the editor handed me a flyer, which detailed an event that she wanted me to cover. It read: "The Personal Impact of the War in Iraq: Veterans & Military Family Members Speak Out." "Another empty-seated CSI event," I thought. "Perhaps Tony would like to come along." He wanted no part of it. Tony didn't care for shit like this. He never joined any veteran's group and hardly sought recognition for his service, a fucking anomaly of a veteran.

Thursday, November 16th 5:30 pm

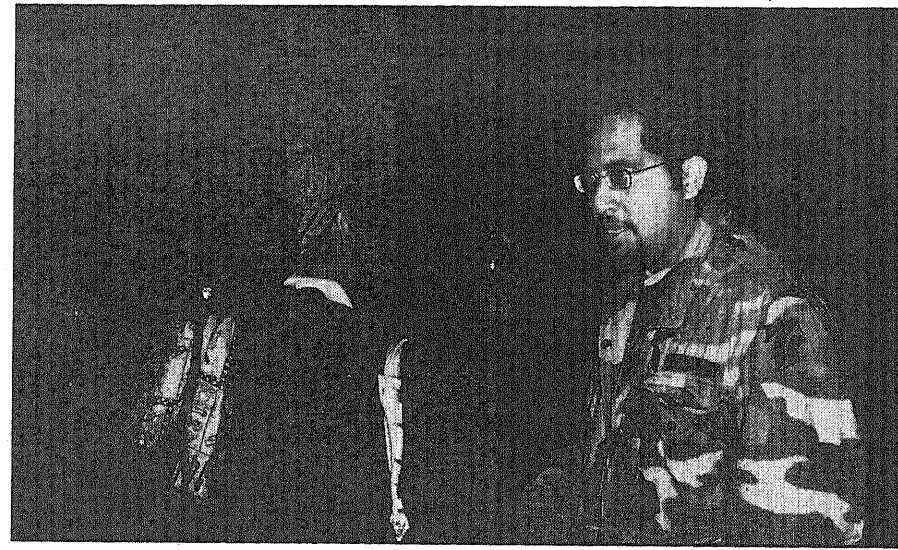
The day began with the night before. A few hours ago, I was multitasking. Doing extensive journalistic research and fixing a chemistry cheat sheet, essential for the next morning. But that goddamn Lexus full of intoxicated demons. They assaulted my ego and insisted I sucked at pool. Abducted and not returned until dawn, one more obstacle now stood in the way of me covering this fucking event. The luggage under my eyes showed that by 7:30pm I would have the look of a heroin addict, nodding out, doing the "dope fiend lean." I planned to stay awake through my student Government meeting and chemistry exam, but sleep through Spanish and arrive to the event fresh.

7:15 pm

The Williamson Theater in 1P was empty. The rain held a few people up, so the forum started late. Tony said he couldn't come because he had work. Cab driving is a fine profession for a 25-year-old war veteran. He had a pick up at CSI and I had a few minutes; we smoked

Manager, there are multiple, extravagant plans in the works. The gymnasium bleachers will be replaced as a safety precaution, the scoreboard and backboard are outdated and replacements will be made, and the divider curtain on the basketball court is falling apart and will be installed. These plans and others proposed to the borough president await approval for the funding, which will come out to over \$400,000. Militieri is in charge of much of the behind-the-scenes planning for the building. A student study lounge is in the process of being built in the upstairs section of the building near the offices. Many student-athletes call this place a "second home." The lounge will include Internet access, computer stations and study desks.

More student use will lead to quicker and increased renovations. With more



half a blunt after his drop-off and then he dropped me off.

When I returned, Celeste Zappala had begun to speak. Her adopted son, Sherwood Baker fought and died in Iraq in April of 2004. Next on the panel was Elaine Brower, and anti war activist whose son had just returned from Iraq. To the left of the two mothers sat two and a half veterans. Josh Middleton sat nervous and red-faced. Rob Timmins, a better speaker and more charismatic person, gave a story about beating an Iraqi citizen with the butt end of his rifle until the head split apart, like Chris in Platoon (Charlie Sheen) beating the one legged Vietnamese boy, but Rob wasn't talking about a movie.

Rob cared not to attack anyone's beliefs; he only wished people would take a stance, any stance. "Get a cause and run with it," he said, "because apathy just doesn't work."

Christian Bustamante, the "contentious objector" somehow became a member of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), without ever going to Iraq or Afghanistan. Christian enlisted in the National Guard in 1999 but claimed to change his beliefs after 9/11. Tony expressed hostility after I told him Christian's story on the phone, then explained, "Listen, I get off at eleven, we'll hit up Curves and kick it later."

Friday, November 17th 12:30 am

A half hour and two double Hennessey's deep into our evening Tony began to open up. "It's fucked up to bitch out when it's time to see some action, but I can't knock em," referring to

use CSI will be more inclined to put funds into the gym and those who would like to see even more machines will be rewarded. There is plenty of room to make use of, especially after the rearranging, and could probably have more space with a little more manipulating of the equipment. CSI gets at least one piece of gym equipment annually, spending approximately \$5,000 in the process. More machines gives the hardcore weight trainers their variety and for the person looking to maintain physical appearance it gives confidence and makes their workout easier than lifting free weights. Sure almost all exercises can be done using free weights but they are not as easy to execute at times. Some examples would be a "peck deck," "shoulder shrug," and "lateral" machines. Another deterrent, as nice as the new dumbbells are, would be the

fact that they are rubber. The hardcore gym buff prefers metal weights to rubber, which leads to the cliché "pumping iron." A phase that was introduced to this country by Arnold Schwarzenegger and his group of cronies like Lou Ferrigno (T.V.'s Incredible Hulk) in the late 1970's. The fact remains metal weights are not superior in any way to rubber ones but more of a mental factor and working out is ninety percent mental.

The moral of the story: CSI's 1R has a nice atmosphere with friendly people who work there. It improves quality and conditions continually. It's adequate to most for a good overall workout, so come check it out and see how your school is constantly upgrading to make life easier and more convenient for everyone, not just the student athlete.



Fantastic Fiction: Will Ferrell Makes a Masterpiece

AnnMarie Costella

News happens when life deviates from ordinary paths. *Stranger Than Fiction* chronicles the life of Harold Crick (Will Ferrell) an ordinary man whose life is forever changed by extraordinary circumstances. Crick, an IRS agent, who lives a secluded life ruled by numbers, order, and calculations, and whose best friend is his wristwatch, one day suddenly hears the voice of a woman narrating his life, deeply disturbed he goes to visit doctors and psychiatrists none of whom will assist him.

Finally, he calls on an English literature professor played by Dustin Hoffman to help him figure things out. Hoffman tells him that if he is indeed living a story that he must first determine if it's a comedy or a tragedy and whether he is in control of his own destiny - that is, does he move the story forward with his



actions or does the story dictate how he behaves?

The plot thickens when Crick meets Kay Eiffel (Emma Thompson), a famed author, whom he discovers is his own personal narrator. Could Eiffel still end her novel by killing its protagonist knowing that he

is in fact a real human being? Would Crick accept the fate written for him or try to escape? You will have to watch the movie to find out.

Stranger

Than Fiction is unique, original, and fascinating. It has so many intricate and wonderfully deep layers. The cast is fabulous and the subtle humor that is present throughout the film is great. It is quite refreshing to see Will Ferrell in a roll that is not so ridiculously slapstick. *Stranger Than Fiction* is great cinematic story telling at work.

Grade: A

Marie Antoinette: Sex, Drugs, & Cake

AnnMarie Costella

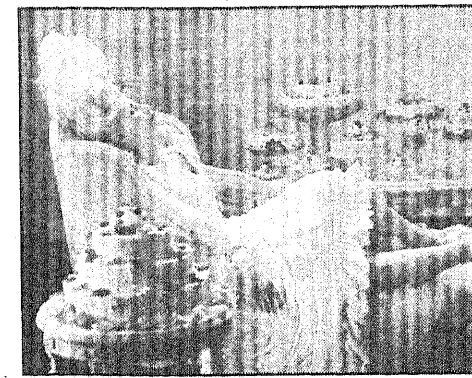


Elaborate Victorian backdrops, decadent costumes, massive consumption of rich desserts set to 80s dance music, and not much else. *Marie Antoinette*, a biopic that follows the life of the fabled monarch as she leaves her Vienna home to rise up and become the apathetic, overspending, and arrogant Queen of France, is a complete disappointment and

perhaps the worst film of the year.

The first thing you notice about this movie is that there is hardly any dialogue. Instead it relies heavily on visuals to convey a story that is almost non-existent. Further, this technique,

which is poorly used, seems to be the tool of laziness rather than artistic creativity. The audience never gets to know the



real Marie Antoinette - her thoughts, her feelings, her desires. Also, there is never any direct explanation for her frivolous behavior.

The film does possess some charm, although it is quite miniscule in comparison to its overshadowing flaws. It illustrates the ludicrous, repetitive, nature of royal life. Antoinette

must get dressed in front of, what looks like, the entire court of Versailles. According to biographers, she complained to her mother about the public spectacle, declaring: "I put on my rouge and wash my hands in front of the whole world!"

The far more interesting character in the film, however, is Louis XV's mistress, Madame du Barry, a commoner of ill-fame whom Antoinette refused to speak to until she was finally forced to acknowledge her. Du Barry is played by actress Asia Argento, whose dead on portrayal of the crude, crass, and boorish Comtesse is the film's only saving grace.

Finally, after two dull hours, you expect to get your \$10.00 worth with a climactic ending, where Antoinette is beheaded at the height of the French Revolution. Wrong! The

Grade: F

film does not show her getting killed. In fact, the abrupt nonsensical ending will leave you asking: "What the fuck?" Director Sophia Coppola has surely surpassed Ed Wood as the worst director of all time, with this abomination.

Grade: F

Watch This Instead



Amadeus

If you are craving a good Victorian period piece, filled with drama and expert story telling check out the 1984 Mozart biopic, *Amadeus*, starring Tom Hulse, and you will not be disappointed.

Sex and the Island

Nicole Bonelli's

It's 2 A.M. Do you know where your booty call is?

Him: *I need a check up; can you take care of me?*
 Me: *Oh doctor, I think it's your job to take care of me*
 Him: *So come over and I'll fuck the shit*

out of you
 At 2:00 on a hot summer's night, watched myself live out my own walk of shame. I made my way up the stairs with an uneasy feeling in my stomach. Maybe it was because I drank too much that night. Maybe it was my stomach's way of telling me, turn back, you'll hate yourself in the morning for this! Either way, I shook it off. The door opened, and I was greeted by my late night lover.

There was no time for a hello, or a how are you as I found it hard to catch my breath in between his sex crazed kisses. He pressed me up against the wall, and continued to kiss me hard. My legs became jello as a chill of erotic pleasure kept me yearning for more. I knew from this point on, there was no turning back.

We stumbled into the living room, and fell to the floor as we began to rip each others clothes off. I kicked my black lace trimmed boy shorts slip away

with my feet, and I once again questioned the situation. Sexual desire took over my body, and I let out a moan of pleasure as I felt the six inches I needed to get over a past failed dating extravaganza.
 When all was said and done, I was proud of myself and felt that I deserved a pat on the back. I had meaningless sex, and I intended on keeping it that way. I couldn't help but smile to myself as he returned with two cups of apple juice. For once in my life, I felt like I had control of the situation.

Two weeks later, at approximately 2:00 in the morning, I was woken up by an obnoxious vibration. I threw my cell phone at the wall due to my cranky state of being, but my curiosity kept me restless. I pushed my unruly hair away from my eyes, rolled out of bed and checked my mysterious text message. After I read it though, I wish I would have ignored it.

Him: *Wanna come over and fuck me?*
 What a pig! But I've never been so turned on in my life!

Me: *No, maybe another time. I'm going back to sleep.*

We met up two more times over the summer for some animal-like sex.

However, summer came to an end and so did our friends with benefits agreement.
 Me: *Hey doctor, I need a check up.*
 What are you doing tonight?

Him: *Although I've been thinking about it, I'm with someone right now. I hope we can still be friends.*
 I didn't see this coming. I knew it was

just sex, but I guess there was a part of me that still had hope that maybe... just maybe it would be something more.

Later that night, he invited me to hang out with him and a few of his friends. I thought we could just be friends, but I was being naive. As soon as I met up with him, he couldn't keep his hands to himself. As hard as it was for me, I followed my mind instead of my sex drive and resisted. "Do you want to give me a blow job?" he asked.

Something held me back from kicking him so hard in the balls that would have guaranteed him never to get another blow job, but I responded with a simple, "Are you fucking kidding me?" The subject was dropped.

The sky started to turn a purplish

blue color as the sun began to rise. We were all ready to part ways, and then his voice calling my name pulled me back. I poured my heart out, "I know it doesn't mean anything now, but I liked you while we were hooking up. Did I mean anything to you?" He started blankly at me, and responded, "I did, but things are different now. Do you want to come home and have sex with me? We can do everything but make out though." This is the guy who stopped hooking up with me because he was "seeing" another girl. I took no pity on myself for putting up with this, but I felt bad for this girl who thought she had met Prince Charming.

Finally all the pieces of the puzzle came together. I wasn't only delusional when I answered that text message, but throughout during this whole experience. I thought I was living in some fairy tale romance chick flick, but when reality slapped me in the face, I woke up and realized that I wasn't Julia Roberts. At best I was Nicolette Sheridan - in for an act or two, a medium for someone else's story. I realized not all of life's situations have a happy ending, yet I was mortified and insulted by this one.

very well done and live up to Sonic's creator, Yuji Naka's idea. "What if Sonic were real?" That is the theme of the game. The cut scenes are beautiful to watch and give the feeling of watching a mini-Sonic 3-D movie. This is a feat many video games have tried to do in the past, but up until now only Square



to control Sonic when you first play the game, and it does take some getting used to because you'll easily die about 20 times in the first level alone. Although, after you get used to the controls, you'll have an enjoyable playing experience (expect for Shadow). Also, there are still some camera issues that you'll have to contend with while playing, and the load time in this game is terribly long.

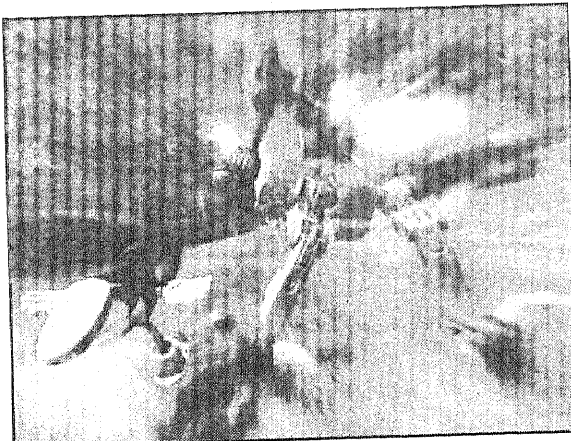
Still, it is hard to find a good All-Ages platformer outside of a Nintendo console, and Sonic 2006 is about as close as you can get to playing one. Sonic 2006 is available for the Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3.

Overall, Sonic 2006 does offer a fun gaming experience. The graphics are

Sonic Blasts Back Onto the Scene

Dominic Fiduccia

When Sonic the Hedgehog made his debut in 1991 on Sega Genesis, Sega revised the way people look at platform games by making Sonic unique. Sonic had the ability to move at blinding fast speed giving the game a sense of and excitement that has not been seen before and rarely duplicated since. Sadly, in the era of 3-D gaming, Sonic hasn't fared so well. Many 3-D Sonic games tend to be confusing and frustrating with bad controls and bad camera angles.



Sega decided to celebrate Sonic's 15th anniversary with the promise that these problems would be removed for Sonic the Hedgehog (or Sonic 2006 as it's being called by its fanbase). The story of the game takes place in the city of water called Soleanna (it bares a strong resemblance to Venice, Italy). The city is the home of Princess Elise, who is the keeper of a dark secret called the "Flames of Disaster." Dr. Robotnik learns of this secret and wants this power for himself, and decides to kidnap

Princess Elise. When Sonic learns what his arch-nemeses is up to, he heads off to Soleanna to stop him.

While you do play as Sonic in the game, he is not the only playable character. There are two other characters that you will play during the game with

their own plotlines and intentions. They are Shadow the Hedgehog, who is Sonic's evil clone, and a new character named Silver the Hedgehog, who has time traveling

abled from the future. Each character has its own unique way to play to give each character a different gaming experience. While Sonic relies on his super-speed, Shadow will use a gun and various vehicles. It is absolutely stupid when playing as Shadow. He may be Sonic's evil clone, but when you have super-speed why would you have to use a gun or for that matter drive around in vehicles? Sega wants to revive the Sonic franchise, but if they continue to allow Shadow to use guns and drive in cars,

Royale Flush

John DePetro

Cool...very cool. In Casino Royale, Daniel Craig picks up where Sean Connery left off 35 years ago when he quit the series. The best Bond since the first Bond, Craig brings a long-needed depth to film's most enduring icon.

For the first time Bond is portrayed as human. Although James Bond is at his core an extremely closed off and guarded character, there's just a little crack in his armor and the audience gets to see an emotional and empathetic guy, if only for just a short time. Not only does his body bleed, but so does his heart. This Bond isn't perfect. He isn't all knowing. And most surprising, he isn't unbeatable.

Also, this version of Bond broods more than he snickers. The arrogance remains but in less of a punny, smart-ass kind of way. He's still cocksure of himself even though he uses it than ever before.

Craig's Bond still has rough edges to be smoothed. He's impulsive and a bit reckless. He even breaks into MI6 head M's house where he almost utters the name behind the letter. A huge no-no.

In this prequel we get to see just how James Bond became so cold-hearted and sarcastic in the first. Actually, we see a lot of firsts out of 007 including the moment he receives the famous number. We also learn in order to receive double-0 status an agent must have two kills under his belt. Who knew?

Also, for the very first time in 21 films, Casino opens without the franchise's trademark bleeding gun-sight. Instead the screen glows in glorious black and white as we witness Bond's first kill in violent flashbacks mixed with a serene yet intense showdown with a rogue government agent. When we finally see color, it's the oozing down of red blood over the gun-barrel shot covering the screen. Within the first five minutes the audience knows they're in for something special.

Casino Royale is something much dif-

ferent from the rest of the series. Gone are the gadgets, the multitudes of bathing beauties and the James Bond theme music. And he beds only one Bond girl in the entire film. And only then after he (gulp) tells her he loves her.

Stripped away from all its Bonds clichés, Casino Royale and Daniel Craig get their chance to stand on their own and in their own style. There's no attempt to copy Sean Connery's Bond or any of the rest of the other fellow who wore the tux and holstered the Walther PPK (I somehow think he didn't bother watching either of Timothy Dalton's forays as Bond). In fact, this version of Bond doesn't even use miniature pistol. He stays faithful to Ian Fleming's berretta-carrying secret agent.

Now that we've discussed what Casino Royale isn't, let's talk about what it is. The story of the film is based upon Ian Fleming's novel of the same name. Bond's first "00" mission takes him into the world of terrorist finances. In order to stop the flow of terrorist funding, Bond must take down Le Chiffre (the banker that all terrorists their money to) in a high stake game of poker. The plot get a little convoluted but that's nothing new for Bond films.

After the opening titles, we meet newly anointed double-0 agent James Bond on a stakeout in Madagascar. After his less than equal partner makes a quick exit, Bond goes on one of the most exhilarating chases filmed in recent memories. In a pursuit that can be described only as part Jackie Chan, part Matrix and Oscar-worthy stunts

if only they gave out Oscars for stunts, Bond follows his unbelievably athletic target up through a steel framed building, on top of a high-rise crane, back down

through another construction site, along the streets of the city and ending at the government embassy where he engages dozens of soldiers single handed.

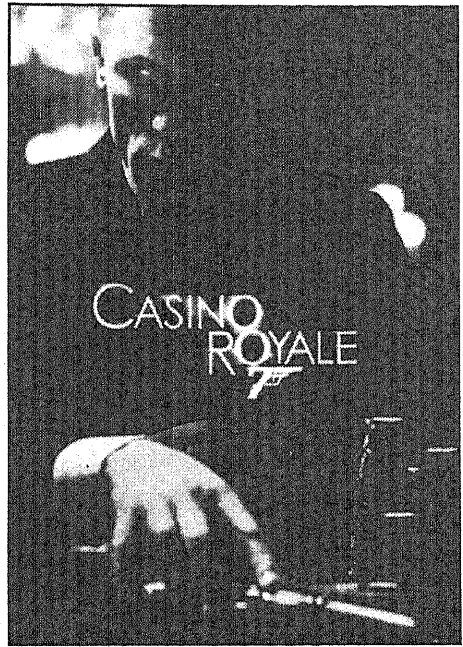
It's been a long time since 007 engaged in such an extensive and physically demanding sequence. As one moviegoer shouted out once he was able to catch his breath, "That's

some Jack Bauer shit right there."

And that's just the beginning. The rest of the film is filled with a jet-fuel-tanker high jacking, a Venice building crashing down into the channel, flipping cars and hands of poker more intense than anything you'll see on ESPN.

But that doesn't mean the film isn't without its flaws. At two hours and twenty-four minutes, Casino Royale gets a bit on the long side. Especially after the false ending when the film become less like an action film and a bit too reminiscent of a scene out of From Here to Eternity.

All in all, while Casino Royale does away with some of the more famous Bondisms, it re-launches the Bond franchise in spectacular fashion. In the best backhanded and denouncing moment in the film, when asked if he'd prefer his martini shaken or stirred, Bond sneers back, "Do I look like I give damn?"



Don't Wince the Year Away: A Letter From the Future

Arthur Morelli



Don't get hot, but Spitz never called about that New Year's Day bender in Albany. Plans changed and you'll do good to brush up on your French, even though that Québécoise you bump into on The Main didn't think so. American Tigre! You'll know what I mean.

Anyways, three weeks into 'resurgent New York' and booyah, great news! No, I'll let you find out for yourself what happens with that Hevesi probe. Poor guy can't even get his crippled wife a ride. Or whatever her deal was. You know, least the driver wasn't picking up his dirty laundry, I'd say. Or was he? HA HA. Um yeah, so the music...we're still waiting on the Arcade Fire, but I feel that coming on. Did I mention the snow? OK OK...

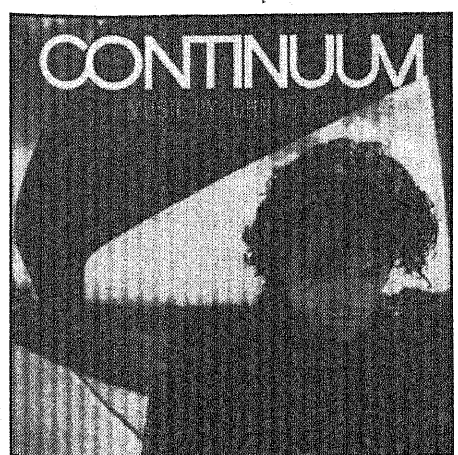
About this new album from The Shins, I know. I know what you're thinking. Zach Braff and Padmé, and that movie that had nothing and everything to do with New Jersey. I thought the same thing! All that still gets me queezed, but I don't want you to get caught up in that sidcar mumbo. We got something here. Listen up.

Wincing the Night Away starts off gentle like you're floating in space and can't stop. The production is slick like it took them three years to tweak because it did. The whole thing is an airy trip to the ocean and I think they like it that way. The guitars gleam and Mercer's is a croon that still owes a lot to Brian Wilson's heyday. There is nothing particularly fast about this album, but what else could you expect from a band who always had a slack-pop shake. The sound effects and keys underneath invent this aura like helium that could put you to sleep or make you talk funny. You'll like this album because it isn't tough yet isn't cheap (I know how you scoff that sugar-pop glaze that don't think). Three whole years and The Shins giveth something to look forward to. Just wait, you'll see.

Grade: B+

John Mayer: Continuously Borrning

AnnMarie Costella



John Mayer sings about life, love, politics, the world and our place in it. Continuum has poetic lyrics, deep soulful vocals, and heart touching honesty, but even all that is not enough to save it from an overpowering saturation of bland nostalgia.

The album lacks originality and relies heavily on clichés. All the tracks

are similar in style forming one homogeneous mass.

"The Heart of Life," is a ballad sung to a nursery rhyme tempo over a twangy guitar riff. It will give you chills, and not in a good way. On "Stop this Train," Mayer croons: "Stop this train; I want to get off and go home again. I can't take the speed its moving in," proving that even he is not above using metaphors that have been beaten to death in every genre of music from rap to country. The whiny vocals on "Vultures," will have you muttering: "Sing properly, damn it!"

The album does have a few excellent tracks: "Waiting on the World," "Gravity," and "I'm Going to Find Another You," but even these tunes seem to blatantly rip off the signature styles of Rod Stewart, The Eagles, and Joe Cocker.

John Mayer may have discovered a cure for insomnia with this snooze fest.

Grade: D

Try This Instead: Mr. A-Z by Jason Mraz



It's light and fun, yet bluesy and clever.

SPORTS

November 27, 2006

CSI Gym: Always Upgrading

Craig Pisani

He stood at the mirror. A look of drive and determination glared back. As he curled the bulky 55 lb. dumbbells his biceps peaked like mountains, his veins protruded like vines. His balance flawless, he braced himself for the massive strain his body was about to endure. Juice ran through his blood helping to ensure positive gains. A shadow of a man strained alongside him. This man, with arms and legs like toothpicks, made a skeleton look strong and well nourished. He lifted the 20 lb. weights and struggled to no end, his confidence destroyed in the process. In CSI's Sports and Recreation Center, Building 1R, these two men do not exist for they are the ghosts of gyms past and are nowhere to be found.

William Stendard and Mark Carrey were two examples of these ghosts. Though not as exaggerated as the men in the mirror, they represented the groups well. A freshman at CSI, Stendard refused to use the 1R facility. As an up and coming hardcore weightlifter, the lack of machines bothered him. "I need variety in my training," Stendard said. "The machines are an important part of my workout."

He faced another problem. The dumbbells only weighed up to 100 lbs., not enough for him in the type of strength training he did. Most gyms included sets up to 130 lbs. He instead used a 24-hour gym in his Brooklyn neighborhood where his workouts usually lasted from midnight until 2 a.m. The \$300 dollars annually he spent to be a member would have been money used towards buying books.

Carrey was Stendard's shadow. Once a student at CSI, he tried regularly using the weight training area. But a problem arose since he only used machine weights. Carrey's goals were different than Stendard's. He wanted to stay in moderate shape, not build muscle mass, so he stayed away from free weights like they had a disease attached to them. An avid swimmer, he wanted to use the pool as much as possible but found it discouraging that little time was available for student use to fit his schedule. "I never got to swim when I wanted," he said. "There were always meets going on or classes or something." He solved his problem by joining the YMCA. He paid over \$500 per year. Take the five years that he was a student and the money added up. It could

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Rebuilding From the Ground Up

Stephen Spagnoli

After a disappointing defeat last season during the first round of the CUNYAC playoffs, the CSI men's basketball coaches felt they needed to make drastic changes. Throughout the regular season last year, the Dolphins' roster was filled with student-athletes who, although talented, were never able to pull things together. Not only did the team lack consistency, but the players also struggled to stay eligible. For many of them attending class was about as common as attending the dentist. It wasn't something they did often.

If a student-athlete has the chance to play for a storied Division III basketball team, why do they refuse to commit themselves to academics? Is holding down a 2.0 GPA that much of a challenge? The ability for one to participate in a sport he loves should be enough motivation for him to keep his nose in the books, and keep up decent grades.

Head Coach Tony Petosa's challenge was to put together a squad of student-athletes who focused on both academics and athletics. As he prepared to lead a different team of Dolphins into the new season, he felt that the type of athletes he recruited in the off-season would help re-establish the program and build a foundation. He scouted student-athletes who plan to keep up their grades and attend CSI long-term. His message to his new team was simple: Play hard, study harder.

But the problem did not lie squarely on academics. Many athletes joined the team and expected to be starters. Unfortunately,

it didn't work that way. Between practices and games, athletes usually committed 25 hours per week to basketball. To get multiple athletes to join a team, commit so many hours, and only come off the bench to perform in a "mop-up" role was a daunting sacrifice that few have been willing to make so far.

"Many kids prefer to go to school, make a little bit of money, and play video games," Petosa said. "It takes a unique kind of individual to join a team, realize that they will be expected to perform in a lesser role, and stick it out with that team for a number of years. Many athletes aren't happy unless they are getting significant minutes. I can't guarantee that to everybody."

In mid-October before one practice, Petosa seemed disenchanted with the inability of Staten Island students to commit to four years of basketball. Of the sixteen players currently on the roster, six come from Staten Island, four from Brooklyn, one from Queens and five from New Jersey. "I would love to build a team of twelve Staten Island kids and win with them," he said. "But the reality of it is pretty clear. It has been very difficult to find many Staten Island athletes that are committed to both academics and basketball. Whether it is attending class or performing a specific role for the team, for some reason it doesn't work out with Staten Island athletes."

Assistant Coach Vinny Messina appeared hopeful about the progression of the club. "The entire coaching staff, especially Coach Petosa, worked so hard in bringing in athletes with a drive and with a focus," he said. "These athletes have talent and they want to learn and work towards achieving their degrees. Their attitudes are great. Now it is about putting it all together on the court."

Now that the athletes have been recruited and the foundation has been built, the next step towards the goal is for the team to develop continuity on the court. "We're trying to work a miracle in one season," he said. "But we're hopeful that the upcoming season will be successful in terms of athletes getting used to playing with one another."

Petosa did an excellent job of scouting student-athletes for the future. It may take time for the team to develop chemistry, but many of the athletes recruited to the squad appear dedicated, hard-working, and respectful individuals who hope to be around for the long haul. Petosa believes that the athletes he pursued will be focused both in the classroom and on the basketball court. He has done his part in putting together a team of promising student-athletes. Now it is time for the athletes to step up for him. They all know what they need to do. Follow his motto: Play hard, study harder.

Basketball Diaries

Michael Jones

It's the night before the team leaves for Boston. There, we will play our first two games of the season at Emanuel College in a four team tournament. Ironically, we travel over 200 miles north only to play a team that is just a few miles over the Bayonne Bridge. Jersey City College, our first opponent and familiar foe, will be a difficult first round match-up. But Sean Weismuller who has emerged as the team's "go-to" guy, is confident. "We have a great chance to win this tournament," he said. "We may not be as athletic or deep as some teams, but we make hustle plays."

Robert Mesjasz is notorious for making these plays on defense and offense, which is why he was dubbed with the nickname "The Worm." Along with "The Worm," I also enjoy making hustle plays. Two seasons ago I led the team in charges, and I hope to help the team this season by taking charges and diving for loose balls as often as possible. Furthermore, Rob and I are both shooters who will be expected to

make outside shots to take the pressure off our big men.

Over the last month of practice, players have emerged and expectations have been set. The scrimmage against NYU, a national power, gave players this chance. Weismuller and fellow forward Gari Blacket battled NYU's All American big man Jason Boone, which is a foreshadowing of the strong seasons expected of these team leaders.

Kyle Yokum, a freshman point guard, makes his collegiate debut Saturday, and he will have the tough task of bringing up the ball against the Jersey City press. Christian Montervino, his roommate and fellow freshman, is projected as the team's sixth man and should see extensive minutes throughout the tournament. Staten Island products Anthony Tisi, Maurice Lewis, Matt Holtzer, Ryan Hennessey and Bobby Crimmins have all made the final roster and all have a chance to play in Boston and throughout the season.

"We are all excited for Boston," Heath Dilts, a junior guard said, "and to finally get the season underway."

Dolphins Split Tournament

John De Petro

The Dolphins began the 2006-07 season with a trip to Boston, Massachusetts to play in the Emmanuel College Tip-Off Tournament. CSI lost the opener to the New Jersey City Gothic Knights 90-77. The next day the Dolphins evened their record to 1-1 when they defeated tournament host Emmanuel 83-77 in the consolation game.

Despite some early season success, Head Coach Tony Petosa knows his team has a long way to go. "I hope that we continue to play as hard as we played this opening weekend," he said. "We are very young and also inexperienced. Not a great combination. However, if we work hard and our kids try to fill their roles, we could improve steadily the rest of the season."

The Dolphins' next game and home opener will be played on November 27 at 7:30 p.m.