

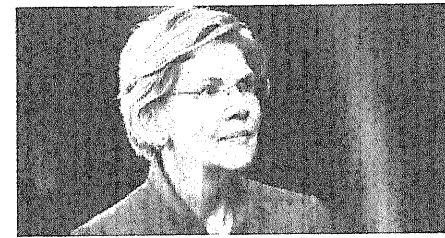
THE BANNER

The Official Newspaper of the College of Staten Island

Established 1993

October 20, 2019

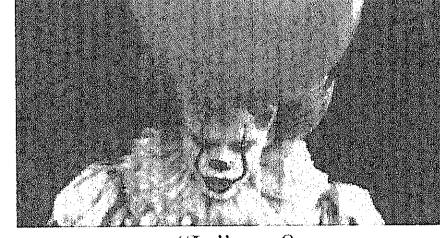
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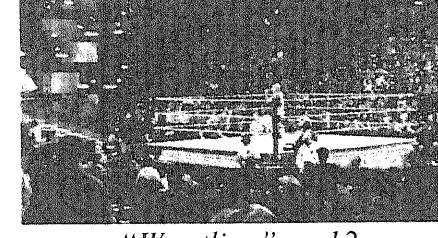
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Staten Island DeafNation Expo & Conference

Highlights from the National Conference Held at CSI

BY: PHILIP SANZONE

The DeafNation Expo and Conference is the place to be for "knowledge, inspiration, and networking with others who are dedicated to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community."

Taking place in IR at our very own CSI campus was a two day DeafNation event that invited people from all across the country.

The first day was an educational conference, and the second was more hands-on with different booths and vendors.

After hearing from some people who went to the first one, they said how lovely it was and each topic that was touched upon had such an impact on the Deaf community.

Having people who talk about diversity in the community as well as workplace is amazing. They even spoke about the changes in the STEM workforce and how STEM should change along with that is enlightening to hear.

Mostly it was the booths that caught the eye with handcrafted items such as purses or necklaces. There was even wood with burned in designs; one being a starbucks design with signed letters.

There was even an electronics booth

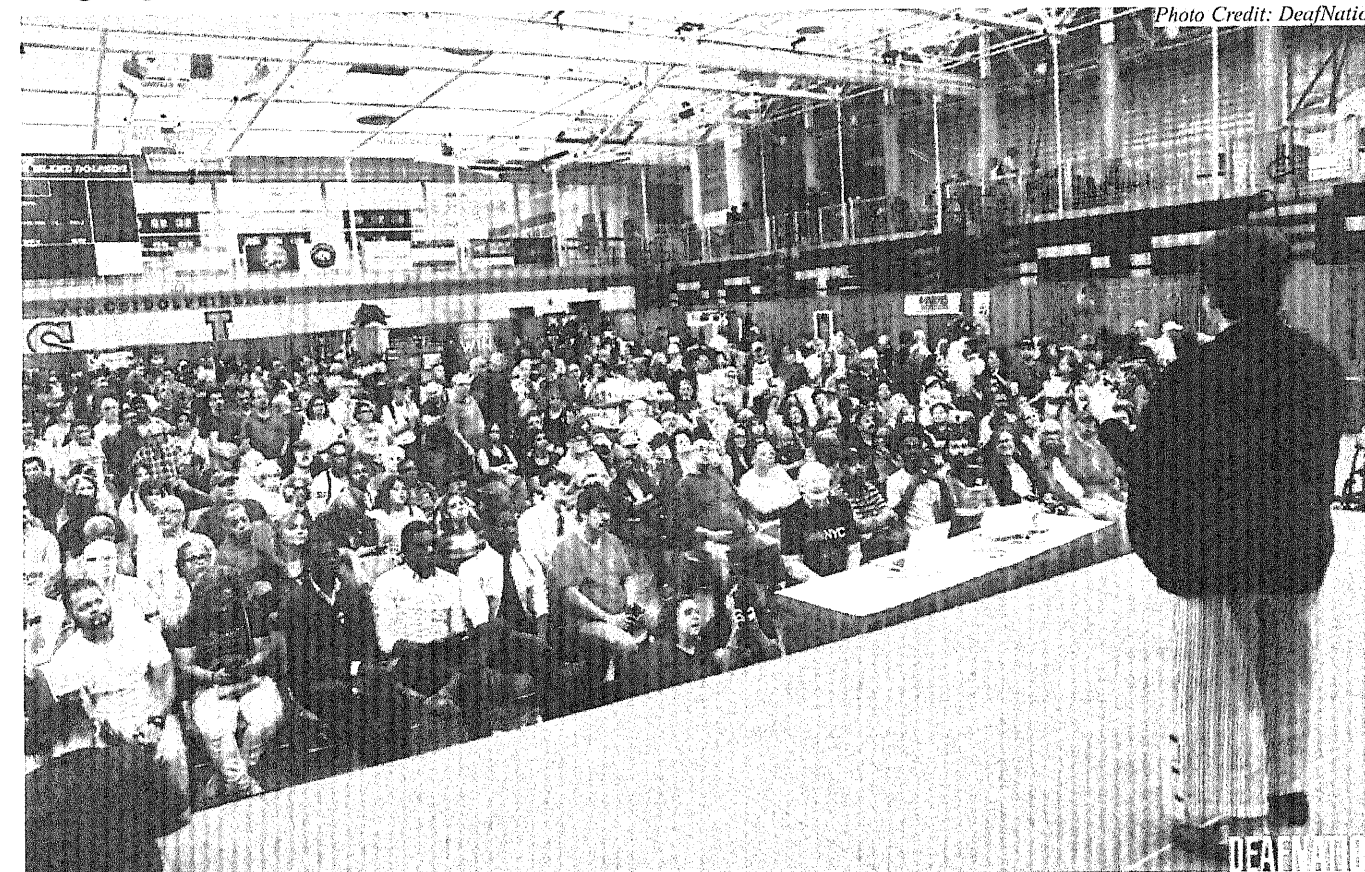


Photo Credit: DeafNation

The Deaf Expo is a nationwide event.

showing off hearing aids as well as clocks. The venue even had music with a lot of bass; doing this helped them feel the music.

For someone who just got into asl with basic knowledge, many deaf people were understanding. They helped and tried to teach me along the way; one person gave me a wooden shaped heart with a sign on it.

Continued on pg 4

Calling All Musical Theatre Fans!

Spotlighting the New CSI Musical Theatre Club

BY: VICTORIA ORIENTE

Interested in taking the stage through singing, dancing, band or acting? Or perhaps you prefer backstage work such as directing, lights, set design, or costume design?

Regardless of how you enjoy getting involved in productions, the Musical Theatre Club at CSI is for you.

Students Arnold Lopez and Shannon Smith created the Musical Theatre Club with the goal of teaching musical theatre to those who are looking to learn more about it, and uniting people of all different backgrounds through common interest in musicals and musical production, as well as enriching the CSI community through something that is surprisingly not offered in our school.

"I went to the Admitted Student Con-

ference and when speaking with Student Life, I had asked if the school had a musical theatre program or put on any musical productions-- it was to my surprise that they didn't offer any," Smith said.

Once Lopez heard about this, the two decided to bring the love of musical production to the college and give students who are interested in more than just plays a chance to gain experience for their future careers in addition to singing, dancing, and acting in a safe environment.

What really sets this apart from just acting in the school's drama department is that the club is open to all students at CSI regardless of talent, and welcomes all students who are somehow interested in getting involved using whatever field they are interested in.

Continued on pg 5



Photo Credit: Victoria Oriente

Students and club creators: Arnold Lopez and Shannon Smith

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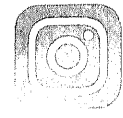
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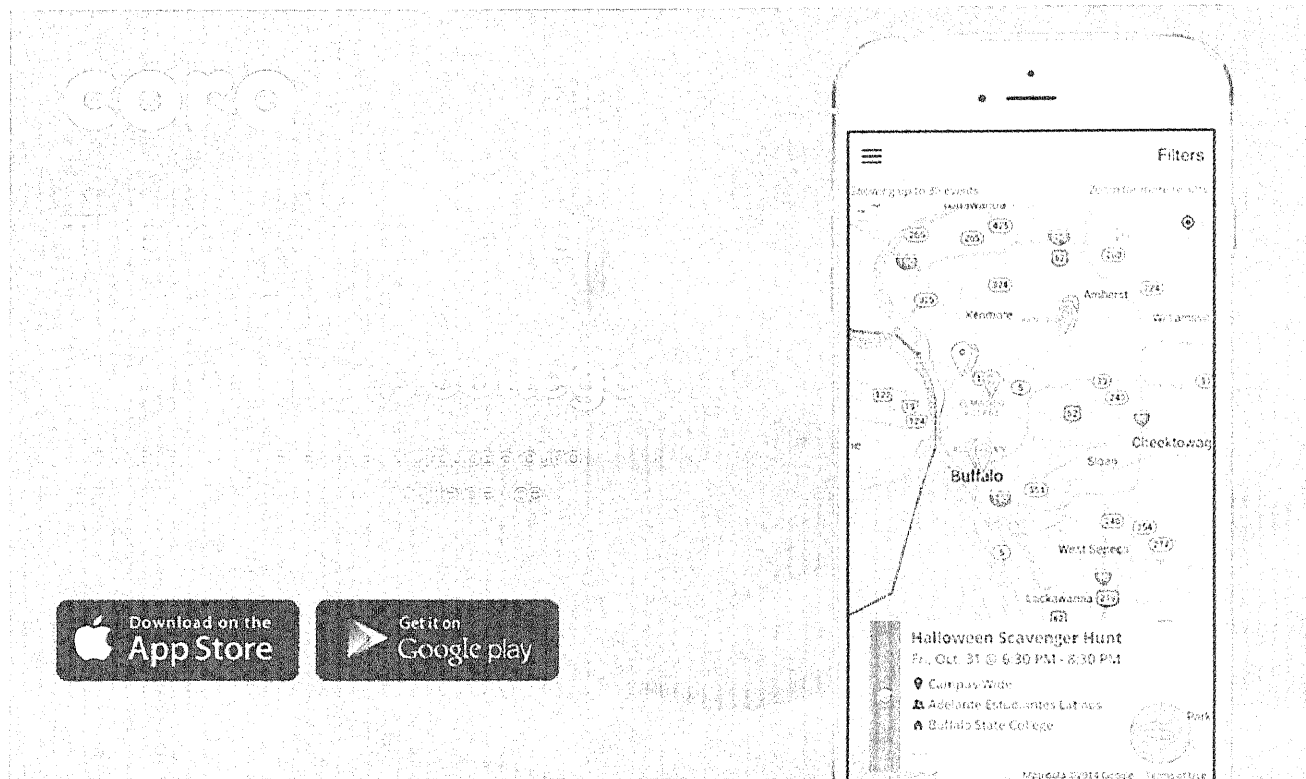


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BANNER POLITICS

Democratic Debate: The Race Is Not So One-Sided

Winners, Losers, And The Unscathed Of The Debate Create Second Thoughts

BY: SAMMY QUARRATO

The Democratic Party debate on September 12 is what people mostly expected but there were surprises in it, causing doubt for some of the more popular candidates such as Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, yet giving motivation to candidates such as Beto O'Rourke and Julian Castro.

The debate was centered mostly around policy, as all debates should be, but this one was focused on facts. For the most part, this debate was the least spectacular and flashy of the ones released so far. Before the debate even started there was one candidate in particular that got the boot: House Representative Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii.

The DNC stated that she did not qualify for the debate due to her low polling, despite virtually every poll putting her on the same level or even higher than the candidates on that night's stage, such as Amy Kloubacher and Castro.

Speaking of the lower-end candidates, Kloubacher was considered one of the losers of the debates for seeming robotic, unnatural, and unambitious. Castro, on the other hand, performed exceedingly high for someone of his position in terms of performance in the polls.

The former mayor and secretary challenged former Vice President Joe Biden

in a verbal dispute when it came to his record stating that Biden would take credit for what Barack Obama's administration accomplished, but always dodged the confrontation when criticized for what it did. Biden blundered as he has been during these debates and caused his supporters to

mental fortitude to be president, especially with him being older than current President Donald Trump and only a year younger than Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders.

Senator Harris of California didn't perform exceedingly well or bad, but rather satisfactory. Her introduction was met

viewing Sanders as "too far-left."

Entrepreneur Andrew Yang revealed that the Freedom Dividend, his most well known policy (or infamous policy, depending on how you see it), will be tested for ten families.

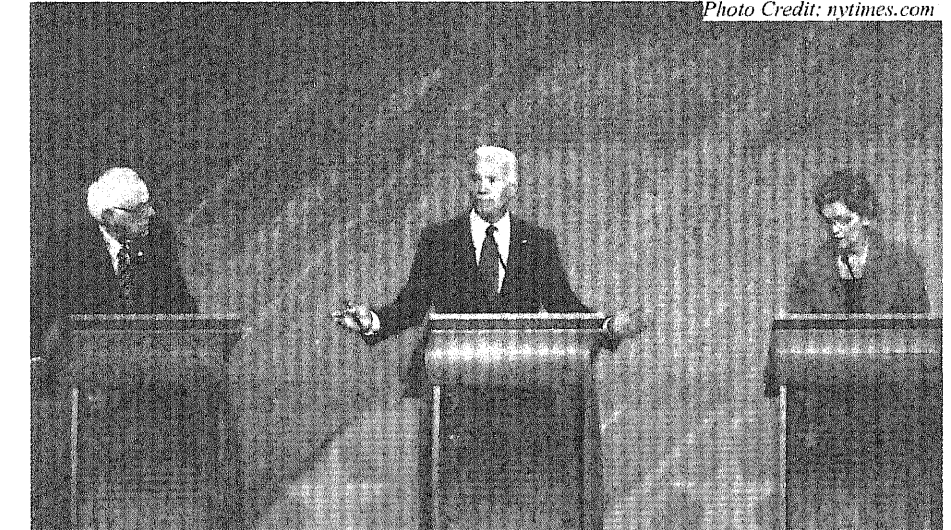
The Freedom Dividend is a policy Yang wishes to implement if he becomes president. The policy gives \$1,000 each month to every American adult.

In his opinion, this stimulates economic growth and mobility.

Mayor Pete Buttigieg gave a snarky comment about the policy being creative. Buttigieg also did not give a clear response to many progressives about his preference for a Medicare For All plan over an ObamaCare 2.0 plan.

Senator Cory Booker was also considered a "leaning loser" because he did not have many stand-out moments. His statements were not covered in mainstream media and he even polled less than a non-politician, Yang.

The Democratic debates will continue into October. As of now, the nomination is still up for grabs for the candidates that take advantage of every opportunity and connect with the most voters in the first couple of primaries and caucuses. The race is only beginning. There's still time to decide which candidate you want to represent your interests and ideas.



Conventional wisdom says these three have the biggest chance of winning.

cringe, again.

This isn't the first time he has done this and it isn't exclusively in the debates either. He has been mixing words up and overall not organizing his thoughts as clearly as he should.

People question whether he has the

with open hearts and applause but she decided to stick with the script and not take any risks, which may hurt her campaign.

Senator Elizabeth Warren also came out unscathed but due to her high ranking in the polls and Biden's blundering, moderates have been leaning toward her and

The Whistleblower That Kicked Off The Impeachment Inquiry

Did President Trump Break The Law And Will He Be Impeached?

BY: DEJON VIRGO

On September 19th, the Washington Post reported that someone in the intelligence community filed a complaint with Intelligence Inspector General Michael Atkinson on August 12th about a phone call President Donald J. Trump had with the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky.

The whistleblower said in the complaint that he heard from officials that Trump asked Zelensky to investigate his political opponent for the presidency, former Vice President Joe Biden and his son Hunter Biden.

The complaint also states that Trump offered his personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, and the Attorney General of the United States, William Barr, to help the Ukrainians investigate the Bidens. On the third page of the complaint, the whistleblower alleged that a White House official heard Trump alluded to the military aid that he froze a couple of days before the phone call.

The whistleblower also states that the lawyers in the White House told the staff to lock down the transcript of the call in a highly classified server which alludes to a cover-up. On page seven of the complaint, the whistleblower says that the State Department was worried about Giuliani's involvement in Ukraine and a threat to national security.

The whistleblower restates the concerns that State Department officials had with Trump advising Giuliani to try to pressure Ukrainian officials to investigate

the Bidens. Inspector General Atkinson's letter to the Acting Director of National Intelligence, Joseph Maguire, hides the identity of the whistleblower.

The letter also stated that the whistleblower did not have direct knowledge of Trump's call with Zelensky and may have a political bias against Trump, but Atkinson still believed that the complaint was credible and the whistleblower followed everything by the books. This whole whistleblower complaint is what made Nancy Pelosi, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, launch a formal impeachment inquiry against Trump on September 24th.

According to Politico the whistleblower complaint gave Democrats enough reason to open the inquiry, which is not a formal impeachment but an investigation into whether the House should impeach the president. Pelosi told six committees to handle the investigation into impeachment: the Judiciary, Intelligence, Oversight and Reform, Foreign Affairs, Financial Services, and Ways and Means committees.

Trump and Republicans in the White House have pushed back on the inquiry, saying that Democrats are overreaching and that there was no quid pro quo. According to the New York Times, the allegations against Trump are that as President he has tried to use his power to pressure a foreign leader to investigate his political rival and a debunked conspiracy theory about the 2016 election.

The summary of the transcript of the call with Zelensky, released on September 25th, showed that Trump asked Zelen-

sky to do him a favor and investigate the Bidens. On October 4th, text messages were released between State Department officials that showed how deep Giuliani was involved with Ukraine and alluded to a quid pro quo with the military aid that Trump withheld from the country.

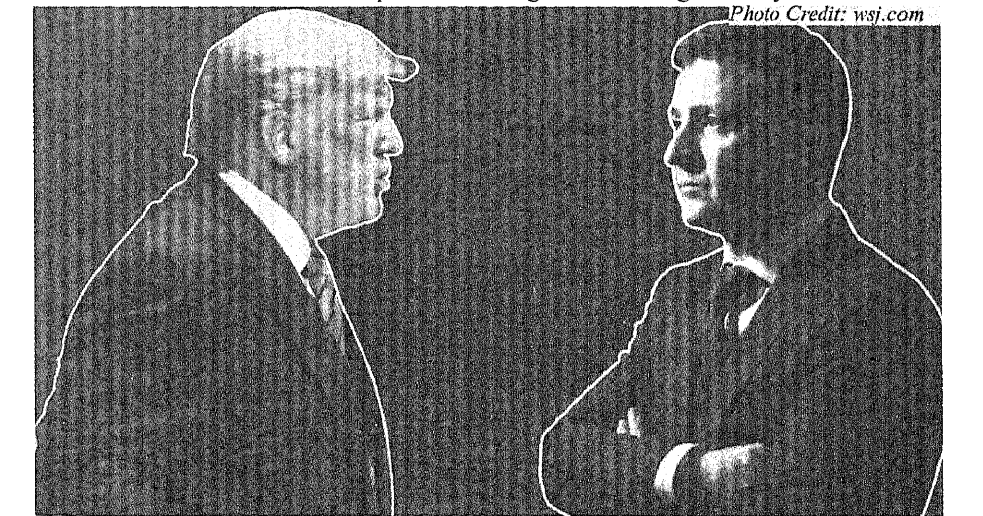
One message says, "Are we now saying that security assistance and WH meeting are conditioned on investigations," suggesting that the State Department officials and Giuliani tried to get Ukraine to start the investigations.

According to Vox, the president and Giuliani believe that Biden pressured

only one who wanted the individual out. The EU, IMF, anti-corruption activists in Ukraine, US government, and even some Republican Senators wanted the prosecutor fired so it was an organized effort.

The US intelligence agencies have long debunked the conspiracy theory that Ukraine was involved in the 2016 election. It was Russia, not Ukraine, that had interfered.

On October 3rd Trump told reporters on the White House lawn that China should investigate the Bidens, committing an impeachable offense on camera by asking another foreign country to intervene in



Trump and Zelensky facing each other with the whistleblower complaint.

the 2020 election.

Everything that has happened within the last few weeks is building up for an impeachment and constitutional showdown between the executive and legislative branches of government.

While it is true that Biden pressured the prosecutor, there is no evidence that he did it to help his son because he wasn't the

BANNER NEWS

*"DeafNation"
Continued from Front Page*

The event served as a testament to the strong community deaf people have, and even for hearing folk it was a good learning experience as well as social environment. There was a booth full of amazing movies based on deaf characters or ideals.

They had learning books for young kids or just beginners, as well as a dictionary full of signs. There was a lot to choose

from.

One even had exquisite art beautifully made and paintings framed wonderfully to boot. There was a lot to look for.

Plus, a religious booth as well as other organized booths that furthered the community were present. Even Sprint was there with a showfloor showing off accessibility for deaf people.

There was even a deaf history game show present at the event that had wonderful prizes. On top of that there was a traveler quiz that was run by Joel Barish the CEO of DeafNation, which ran the whole event.

It was an eye opening and exciting experience, in all honesty with just basic ASL skills it didn't even feel like I wasn't part

of the conversation. Everytime I conversed it was a fluid and natural experience.

Even with low skills in a language or culture, by doing just a little research beforehand you can dive into the community.

If you can open your mind to something unique as this expo, you may be able to find something to cherish at the end of it.



BANNER NEWS

*"Musical Theatre"
Continued from Front Page*

Whether you perform well in an audition or not, there is always a way to get involved. Smith and Lopez have plans to start out the club with studying musicals, as well as singing songs in hopes to one day with a higher budget, be able to take their talent to the spotlight on stage.

Some of the students' inspiration originates from performances such as Six, Hamilton, and Hairspray.

When asked about what their favorite elements of those productions were, Lopez appreciated the main message of Hairspray adding on that the musical shows "you don't have to be society's version of white, blonde, and skinny, you can be proud of your body shape, ethnicity, race, gender and still have just as much of a chance as everyone else."

Smith values Hamilton because of how much diversity was truly on the stage and that the actors were casted not based on race or looks, but talent.

"Hamilton was the first musical I listened to and it helped me get over stage fright and insecurities and motivated me to get into Musical Theatre".

It is also such a beauty to Lopez and

Smith to witness how theatre evolved throughout time, from these works being mere concepts to full on Broadway productions. It is a mission for them to show members this beauty as well.

Personally, from my experience with these types of productions in High School one of the most amazing aspects was transforming from just reading lines among a circle of teens, to getting into costumes and walking out on stage in front of an audience to see.

Being in theatre is such an empowering feeling, an escape from real life where you can truly be whoever you want to be and inspire those around you.

Meetings will take place during club hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays once the club is officially able to start.

The club is currently focusing on getting their budget improved and hosting some fundraisers and advertisements to gain more public interest, after that they will open their doors to all students who are interested! Anyone with questions or inquiries can reach out to shansmith.ss1217@gmail.com



LIFESTYLES

Staten Island's Night Out at the 46th Annual Greek Festival

The 46th Annual Greek Festival Draws in Crowds of Staten Islanders For All Things Music, Food and Fun

BY: AMANDA BENGARD

The annual Greek Festival in Bulls Head has been held on Staten Island for over 45 years. In the beginning of September spanning across two weekends, over 20,000 visitors flock to celebrate Hellenic culture with Greek food, music, raffles, carnival rides and more.

While the weather begins to cool, tents go up in preparation for one of the largest events hosted by Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas Orthodox Church. Just a skip and a jump away from Staten Island's college campus, makes visiting the festival a great after school activity while also supporting our local community.

As an annual attendee, pro tips include: arriving just around dinner time to the church parking lot turned Greek celebration. Parking will be difficult considering the abundance of new and returning revelers, therefore finding a spot a block or two away from the venue isn't uncommon.

On your walk over you might see frolicking children, couples hand in hand, and families all headed in the same direction. Follow the traditional Greek tunes and the delicious smell of souvlaki as you arrive to the Richmond avenue entry gate.

There, welcoming church members can be seen handing out menus while

collecting a \$2.00 cover charge before entering the all cash event. Not to worry because ATM machines will be on site for quick and easy transactions.

Upon entering, rows of long tables filled with festival goers will lead directly up to the food tent. Some of the best food and dessert can be found here and so it is advised to arrive on an empty stomach. Favorites include spanakopita (spinach pie), pastitsio (layered macaroni and ground



Traditional Hellenic dancing at the Staten Island Greek Festival.

beef, topped with a béchamel sauce) and the famous lamb or beef gyro in pita bread.

The tables are set up ensuring a family style experience, which is eating together with neighbors and friends. While digging

into delicious food, nightly performances are played on the main stage for all to see. Be entertained by traditional Hellenic dancers dressed in folk costumes and participate in the dancing yourself with live music by "The Cosmopolitans."

If the performance is not charming enough, located throughout the lot are kid friendly amusements such as ring toss and carnival rides. For adults, the festival also provides imported Greek wine by the bot-



Photo Credit: sigreekfestival.org

tle or glass, Greek beer, nightly games of chance and a mega raffle giving away 10 cash prizes.

After dinner and games, it is impossible to skip the most exciting part of the fes-

tival, dessert. With an entire tent dedicated to fresh pastries doused in honey, there is no such thing as 'no room for dessert.'

Upon discovering the sweetest tent of the night, parishioners will be serving American coffee, Greek demitasse and tea for those who prefer it. Greek classics such baklava, karidopita (honey walnut cake) and a festival favorite called loukoumades (honey puffs with syrup), to which can be added powdered sugar and cinnamon to each visitor's discretion.

If this description of all that is honey and sugar doesn't suffice, there is always a Carvel ice-cream truck parked inside the event serving up cold treats and delicious sundaes for the kids. The event's success is directly thanks to donations from parishioners, local businesses and volunteers who not only work during the occasion but also prepare months leading up to it.

For two weekends each year the Greek festival provides a real traditional experience without having to travel thousands of miles. Welcoming a diverse population of attendees, the celebration continues to stand alone when it comes to what brings our community together.

After the overwhelming turnout, it can be said that next year's festival can't come soon enough. Opa!

Junk Food Trade

Swap Out These Foods For Healthier Alternatives

BY: MARK DEUTSCH

Everyone loves that sweet or trans-fat taste found in junk food, resulting in fat gain at the very least. What every diet recommends is abandoning those sweet treats, without any worthy substitutes. But here are some trade-offs that can make transitioning to healthy food easier.

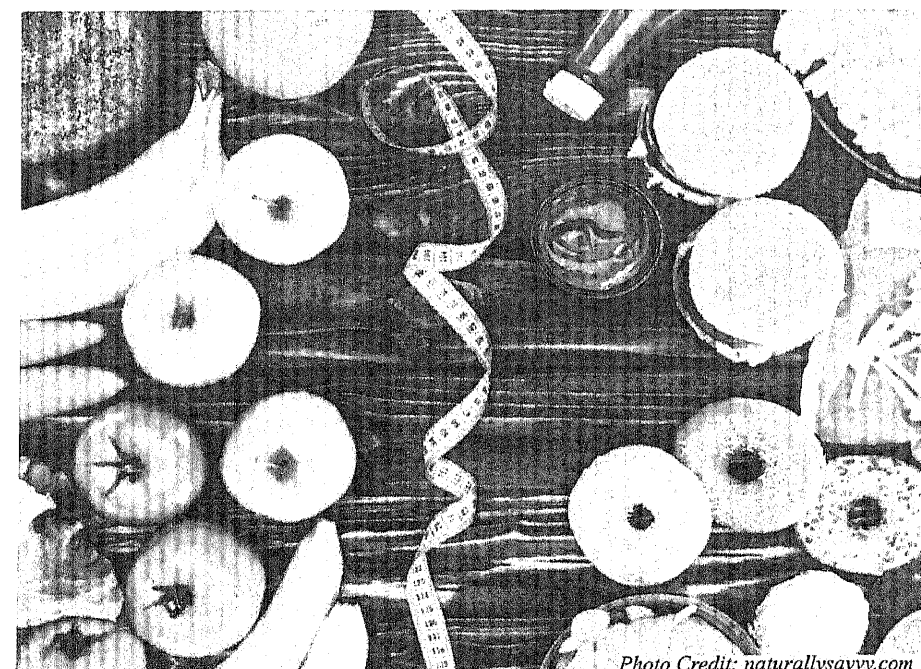


Photo Credit: naturallysavvy.com
Making the switch to healthy eating is easier than ever thanks to more available options.

Before going on about general junk switches, this case of bad nutrition is a good start. According to CNN Health, the case of a boy eating only pringles, french fries, and processed ham caused blindness.

Fixing the french fry habit can be substituted with its similar opposite: tri-colored veggie straws. These facsimile french fries are healthier, contain more nutrients,

and also have different colors.

These straws definitely may not be as tasty, but are better for the body along with the next replacement.

Replacing the processed ham or other meat is easier said than done. Out of the many diverse foods available, few of them will be used. These few will be separated into both meat and veggie foods.

For the meat side what can be recommended is basically chicken, also some beef if it's viable. Buying some food that isn't processed meat would be a major step towards a healthier lifestyle.

The other way to ensure eating healthy is to go the long jump, by eating meat-free vegan meals.

Most vegan meals can constrict eating habits. But after salads come vegan substitutes, such as veggie burgers or tofu. The veggie-based burgers can be quite delicious, thus solving the meat part of the diet.

Based on the kid's unhealthy diet it's easy to assume that he drank too much soda. Changing his drinking habit to water would be standard, but in cases similar to this, there are other options.

Many of them may not conform to one's tastes, but there is something for ev-

ery one's palate.

First thing served would be diet cola for any big soda drinker, nearly empty of sugar along with calories. One of the downsides of the diet soda is the unclear effects on the human body. This famous drink is a close substitute for actual soda, yet there are drinks without ambiguous evidence.

Starting off would be the more common drinks, tea or coffee, would serve as healthy in moderation. Since one can't drink tea or coffee all day, carbonated drinks such as seltzer can be used whenever.

With the majority of the blind teen's habits alleviated, there's still more junk food to swap out.

A reverse process can turn anything into junk food, called deep frying. Dunking any food into hot fat will make it both delicious and unhealthy. Literally any food dunked in boiling fat will become fat, most likely what attracts us to bad habits.

Examining how fried food has an impact on the body may deter people from eating it.

Hopefully these warnings and helpful suggestions can convince people to make a serious change to their diet, or at least switch up their current food habits.

LIFESTYLES

My Bed or My Class?

Quick Tips for Waking Up for Class in the Morning

BY: ASHLEY MARTIN

It's difficult waking up for classes, especially when your body and the bed feel molded into one. But here are some tips that might make waking up in the morning a little easier.

Firstly, make sure you set an alarm the night before, more than one if you like to hit that snooze button. Secondly, prepare your clothes and pack your bag the night before.

It may sound juvenile but the shorter your morning process is, the more time you have to sleep. You also won't be scrambling to get your belongings together.

When you wake up in the morning avoid staring into space, contemplating your life decisions, avoid social media. If you must look at your phone to wake

up, try limiting screen time to about five minutes.

Scrolling through social media can delay your morning process and make you late. If you wake up and you're still tired, try washing your face with cold water or taking a shower.

However, taking a shower during the night will save you time in the morning.

Letting some natural light into the room will give you a boost of energy to start the day. Eating a sufficient breakfast is important to get the day started, such as coffee, muffin, bacon-egg-and cheese, fruit, or protein bar.

Listening to your favorite songs or meditating while you get ready for class can drastically improve your mood as well. Starting the day by setting minor goals can motivate you to get up.

You can also try waking up with a positive outlook for the day. If you think you



Photo Credit: tumblr.com

might not have a good day you can always anticipate going home to your bed.

Overall, being able to simply wake up is reason enough to get out of bed. Being able to open your eyes, breath, and obtain an education are things we take for granted.

Taking a moment to appreciate what you have can put you in a better mental space. But if all else fails, and you still can't find the motivation to get up, you can always recite this mantra: "At the end of the day, I'm paying for it, so I might as well go."

Photo Credit: slideshare.com

Work hard.
Sleep well.

BANNER ARTS

It Chapter Two: An Elongated But Satisfying Conclusion

The Losers' Club Returns to Give Audiences their Fill of Heart, Horror, and Psychotic Clowns

BY: VINCENT VILLANI

As the summer blockbuster season winds down and with the start of awards season releases still weeks away, "It Chapter Two" is an entertaining film to hold audiences over during this period of limbo. With this film, director Andy Muschietti quite faithfully adapts Stephen King's acclaimed novel to the big screen for better and for worse.

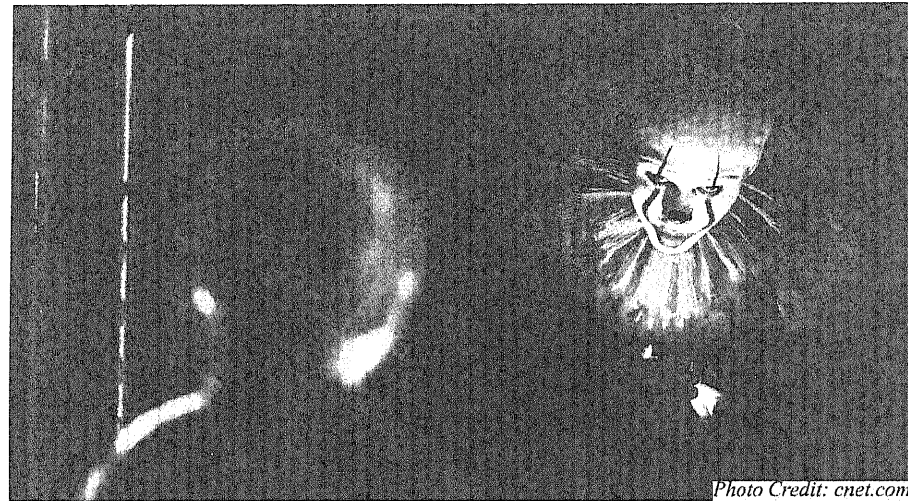
Set twenty-seven years after 2017's "It," "It Chapter Two" sees the young Losers' Club all grown up and ready for another battle with the titular demon. After a twenty-seven year-long nap, Pennywise the Clown (Bill Skarsgård) reemerges to inflict psychological terror on the residents of Derry, Maine, once more.

All of the members of the Loser's Club that we met in the previous film have all grown up and moved on from their home in Derry except for Mike (Isaiah Mustafa). When It returns, Mike summons his childhood friends back home to fulfill the oath they made almost thirty years prior; to destroy It once and for all.

The film sees the reunion of our favorite characters from It (2017): Bill (James McAvoy), Beverly (Jessica Chastain), Richie (Bill Hader), Ben (Jay Ryan), Eddie (James Ransone) and Stan (Andy Bean).

The majority of the film's first and second acts focuses on these characters' reunion and how each one deals with the ghosts of their past before their ensemble confrontation with It.

However, it's during this stretch of time, specifically during the film's second act, that "It Chapter Two" has the ability to



Bill Skarsgård reprises his role as Pennywise the Clown in It Chapter Two.

drag and become somewhat monotonous. Yet, Muschietti is able to mask this flaw by including creative scares (that don't always land) and suspenseful moments, as well as flashbacks featuring the young cast of the first film, to serve as character devel-

opment in some cases.

Despite its ability to feel long at points, the film is thoroughly enjoyable. Muschietti's faithfulness to King's novel serves the film well in terms of its themes. King's themes of the corruption of innocence, processing trauma and the terror of the unknown are all present and hit upon quite

remains the story's centerpiece in terms of sheer presence. Whenever he's on screen, a sense of uneasiness fills the theater. Skarsgård's Pennywise has an unpredictability about him combined with a childlike but manipulative demeanor; all of which makes him one of the most haunting horror villains to ever be on screen.

Both the seasoned actors in this film and the young actors from the first one mirror each other's performances very well. The almost 40-year-old Losers matched their younger selves in almost every way; a testament to the dedication of all of the actors involved. The fact that we were able to see these different versions of the characters in back-to-back scenes helped highlight this even more.

In the end, "It Chapter Two" is a healthy mix of good and bad. The film contains solid performances all around and covers various themes from Stephen King's novel. However, with a runtime of 2 hours and 49 minutes, the film has the ability to drag and lose the audience's attention. For fans of King's novel and of the first film, "It Chapter Two" fulfills its promises even if it is a little long.

"It Chapter Two" is now in theaters, so get ready to watch Pennywise the Clown wreak havoc upon the town of Derry and the Losers' Club once more.

well within the film. The author even has a brief scene as the grumpy owner of a Derry antique store, giving the film his seal of approval.

The film features fantastic performances all around. Bill Skarsgård's Pennywise

The Strange Case of the Blair Witch Project Game

New Twists on an Old Franchise

BY: SALVATORE CENTO

Coming out in the shadows of the high profile *The Dark Pictures: Man of Medan*, another survival horror game which was published by Bandai Namco games, *The Blair Witch Project*, was released on August 30th, 2019.



When the paranormal is against you, a signal won't help you.

Not only is this an unusual movie property to be adapted into such a medium, but the publisher is Lionsgate Games. Hearing those two words together was an-

other unlikely pairing. To balance that out though, the developer was Bloober Team, the same ones that were responsible for the making of *Layers of Fear 1* and *2* so all hope should not be lost.

Diving head first and one will notice the care that was put in regarding the visuals of the game as well as the sound. Just

and look right away to where they think the disturbance is coming from.

The inclusion of a backstory for the main character helps players connect and understand why the character is freaking out (beyond the obvious reasons).

But after playing and watching other people experience what the game has to offer, there are numerous reasons why Metacritic gave this game a 68 out of 100 for the PC version and a 71 out of 100 for the Xbox One version.

The most obvious of these is the lack of the main antagonist—the witch. I understand why they didn't include more of the character, but in a world where anything could have been created, some liberties could have been taken to give us more than just ten lines of dialogue here and there.

I will not complain about any of the mechanics of the dog you are given from the start of the game. However, I will complain about the trade off made here with the implementation. One, the add on feels like it was made last minute. Second, just for a cheap pull of the heart strings made later on, the feeling of being alone was sacrificed.

You have someone else coming with you, someone to fill that empty void that would make the slightest event that much

more terrifying. Without the animal, the only other people in the game that players could interact with would be so far away that a walkie talkie or cell phone was needed. The feeling of isolation would resonate so much more.

Not that the overall story gets any worse or the pacing becomes broken, but after playing through the whole horrifying first person experience, I can say that *The Blair Witch Project* was two different projects that were forced to be combined into one.

The first part, albeit creepy at times, consists of walking through overgrown trails, scarcely discovering troublesome clues and having day turn into night just like that, which is nothing compared to the second part of the story. Walking the same path over and over in a small, dark house. Having voices from the past constantly taunt you. Being physically thrown around. Seeing your sins come back and haunt you.

I would like to finish off with this. Even with the cons, *The Blair Witch Project* is enjoyable as a game. Dare I say, even better than *Man of Medan*.

But be prepared, after everything was said and done, a cleansing of the player's soul is due. Go outside. Watch a comedy. I wouldn't suggest going to sleep.

like in the movie, the player will come to sometimes feel as though they are actually lost in the forest. Before events start to ramp up, suspicious noises from all around will definitely make the player jump, stop

BANNER ARTS

K-12 Discusses the Many Struggles One May Face in School

Melanie Martinez Paints Dark Themes Against a Pastel Backdrop

BY: BROOKE PRICE

Melanie Martinez, who has blown up since she was a contestant on "The Voice" in 2012, recently released her new album titled "K-12." This album discusses topics such as body image, bullying and eating disorders, which are common in school settings.

Melanie tries to tell a story through her albums. Her previous album, "Cry Baby" tells the story of her persona of the same name who grows up and is becoming more aware of the world around her. Now, in "K-12," Cry Baby attends a K-12 sleepaway school, which is the backdrop for the album.

Her album incorporates a bright and cheerful pop type of beat to her songs, whereas her lyrics discuss a dark subject matter. Since her album focuses on kindergarten through high school, Melanie incorporates sounds common to school such as a school bus's running engine, office phones ringing, school bells ringing and chalk on a chalkboard.

All of the songs in Melanie's new album were pleasant to listen to, however some songs that hit hard were "Show & Tell," "Nurse's Office," "Strawberry Shortcake" and "Orange Juice."

"Show & Tell" talks about how although Melanie is famous, she is a human like everyone else and makes mistakes and isn't perfect in every way. For the film, Melanie appears as a puppet and dances

via strings, which shows that because of her fame, she is often looked at by society, like she's on display for all to see, like a puppet.

She discusses how she is scared to voice her own opinion or she will be criticized and be forgotten about: "There are strangers takin' pictures of me when I ask 'No more' It's really hard for me to say just how I feel I'm scared that I'll get thrown away like a banana peel."

In her song "Nurse's Office" Melanie incorporates sounds of people coughing and sniffing and band aids being ripped off to enable the listener to visualize being in the nurse's office at school. During this song, Cry Baby hates going to class so much that she fakes being sick in order to escape from the bullying she endures in the classroom.

"Strawberry Shortcake" talks about body image and how not everyone looks so skinny like a model or Barbie doll: "Feeling unsure of my naked body stand back, watch it taking shape, wondering why I don't look like Barbie, they say boys like girls with a tiny waist."

The song also addresses how women are often perceived a different way based on their appearance; "Cause it's how I look and not what I think." "Strawberry Shortcake" also discusses how some women who get sexually harassed may blame themselves because of the outfit they were wearing that led up to the incident: "It's my fault, it's my fault 'cause I put icing on top



Melanie Martinez is known for discussing serious issues through her music.

Now, the boys want a taste of the strawberry shortcake." However, it is never the victim's fault.

In the song "Orange Juice," Melanie discusses eating disorders such as bulimia. Cry Baby's friend, Fleur in the movie struggles with bulimia since she wants to be skinny and remain friends with the popular girls at K-12 if she loses weight.

Cry Baby consoles Fleur through the song and tells her that she is beautiful just the way she is; "I wish I could give you my set of eyes 'cause I know your eyes ain't working, mhm I wish I could tell you that you're fine, so fine, but you'll find that disconcerting."

Melanie also wrote and directed a film for her album, which was also titled "K-

12." The film was shown in theaters across the country and is currently on YouTube.

The film shows Cry Baby's journey through K-12 sleepaway school as she soon learns the horrifying truth about the school.

Melanie's songs flow throughout the movie and the choreography for the songs were entertaining to watch.

In an interview with People Magazine, Melanie said that she will be making two more albums which will have their own films. She will also be going on her "K-12 Tour" which begins on October 13th.

This album was a nice sequel to the "Cry Baby" album and allowed the listeners to follow the story of Cry Baby's maturation from childhood into adulthood.

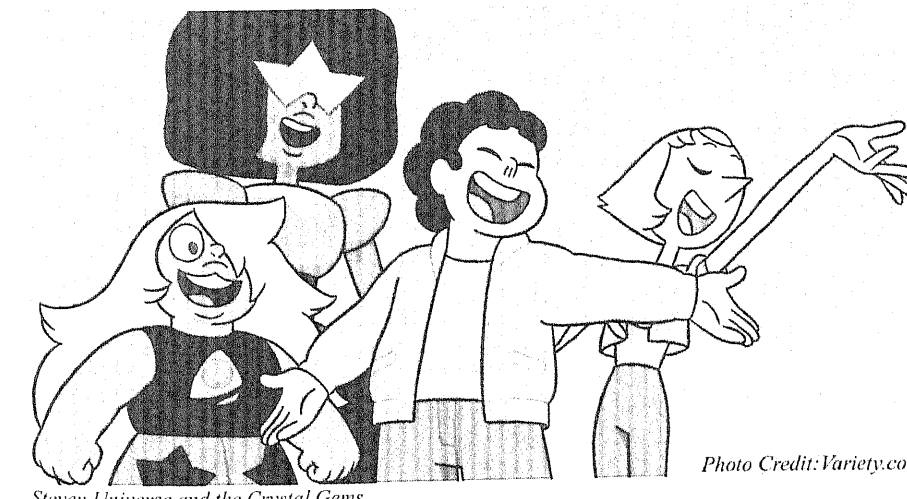
Here We Are in the Future, Here We Are in the Future...

Steven Universe: The Movie Review--Spoiler Alert!

BY: ASHLEY MARTIN

Have you heard the tale of Steven? The story begins with Steven Universe, now 16 years old, who established peace with the Diamonds, dismantled the gem colonies and is ultimately anticipating returning home to his family.

The Steven Universe movie premiered on Cartoon Network on September 2, 2019. This film musical included many



Steven Universe and the Crystal Gems.

collaborations with artists like Chance the Rapper, as well as our regular favorites Estelle as Garnet and Uzo Aduba as Bismuth. As always, producer Rebecca Sugar left viewers in awe with themes of love, friendship, evolving and even trauma.

This beautiful musical opened with

a storybook of the show's history and plot. We learn the brief history of Pink Diamond, her role in the Great Diamond Authority and the reason she made the decision to shatter Pink and become Rose Quartz.

As we currently know, Steven initiated peace among galaxies, and in the storybook of his life, it was acknowledged. When looking at the old Great Diamond Authority symbol, we see Pink Diamond

biggest diamond and rules the most colonies. Blue and Yellow are parallel to each other as they are of equal size with equal amount of colonies and Pink at the bottom as she's the smallest with only one colony.

Now we see Pink at the top showcasing Steven's impact on the other Diamonds and the galaxy. The Diamonds now value and respect Steven's opinions; they improved their behaviors, liberated the gems, but much work is to be done as they are still very codependent.

Steven later returns to Beach City and sings of a happily ever after along with Pearl, Garnet, and Amethyst. Their happily ever after shortly comes to an end as they are greeted by a new character, who we had no prior knowledge of since the movie, Spinel. We learn that Spinel was abandoned by Pink Diamond almost 6,000 years ago, which led to her mental instability.

Rebecca Sugar stated in an interview with AV Club that "Spinel is really a toxic person...[she] has the goal of hurting people. I [Rebecca] really wanted to explore what it's like when you're trying to help someone who really doesn't want to help themselves, who wants to embody the negative feelings they have about themselves."

Spinel symbolizes a character who is stagnant as she stood still for years waiting for Pink to return. Spinel never got the chance to develop and change so Rebecca brilliantly displayed that through

at the bottom but in the new symbol, Pink Diamond is seen at the top.

It's understood that the order of the diamonds, from top to bottom is in relation to the inner hierarchy of the Diamonds. White on the top as she's supreme ruler of all gems, and other diamonds, she's the

animation. Spinel reminded us of an old school cartoon through her design and mannerisms, which included rubber like features that stretch and flow, similar to cartoon characters from the 1920s and 30s.

In the end, Steven was able to remove the injector, repair Beach City, and dissolve the conflict between him and Spinel. Many viewers empathized with Spinel, angered that Steven didn't offer to be her friend or that Pink left her alone for years.

It's easy to understand why Spinel was in so much pain, however this is not Steven's fault. He did the right thing. He risked his life when his powers weren't working just so he could speak to her, listen to her, validate her and give her hope.

Steven is not obligated to yet again, be responsible for his mother's past or be friends with someone because they are damaged. Steven has also faced a lot of trauma, so their friendship could be toxic.

Spinel decides to go Homeworld with the other Diamonds, in the end, but this dynamic may not be healthy as the Diamonds and Spinel are codependent. However, Spinel with the Diamonds will allow for comfort, growth, and safety.

All in all, Rebecca wanted fans to remember that we're always growing, and "it's an incredible opportunity every day to figure out how to be more and more of the person that you want to be." Ironically, the only growth we see of Steven is in the final movie and not throughout the series.

BANNER OPINIONS

Should Core 100 be Mandatory?

The Right to Alternative Courses

BY: MAXWELL VELIKODNY

Should Core 100 be a mandatory class that all students attending the College of Staten Island have to take?

Without knowing what COR 100 is or taking the class, it is difficult to answer this question.

The College of Staten Island defines COR 100 as a "required general education course that introduces CSI students to contemporary America's constitutional democracy, multiracial society, and market economy, using the tools of the social sciences.

The course seeks historical perspective by examining three formative periods in U.S. history: the American Revolution and debate over the Constitution, the African American freedom struggle from slavery through the civil rights movement, and the evolving relationship between government regulation and the market economy during the 20th century."

At first glance, the Core 100 class sounds very interesting and educational. It seems like a civics course that wishes to endow students with knowledge of American politics, civil rights, and the market economy.

However, students that have taken this course have various opinions on its worth and qualities that would say otherwise.

Based on informal interviews, grievances from Freshman currently taking COR 100, and my general observations, I believe most people have voiced negative concerns over the COR 100 curriculum.

Most students informed me their instructors did not follow the COR 100 guidelines. For instance, students claimed

they had irrelevant assignments, were graded through arbitrary standards, did not have a clear syllabus or structure, and had wasted their time taking COR 100.

Students generally claim the quality of COR 100 classes were poor. Perhaps one

Photo Credit: *csi.cuny.edu*



Building 2N, where many humanities and social science classes take place.

this is because of the lack of full-time faculty teaching the course.

In 2017-2018, there were a total of 80 sections of COR 100. Only 12 of these sections were taught by full-time faculty, while the rest were taught by adjuncts. There were only six full-time professors teaching COR 100 in 2017-2018.

In 2018-2019, there were a total of 86 sections of COR 100. Only 11 of these classes were taught by full-time faculty. What's worse, there were only two full-time professors teaching COR 100 in 2018-2019.

The quality of a class largely depends on the professor, their education, and the ability to explain concepts. Adjuncts have limited experience with this because they

usually only finished a Master's Degree without partaking in a Ph.D. program.

The statistics may offer a possibility as to why the quality of COR 100 is believed to be so poor by students.

There are actually alternatives to the

take COR 100 because they need it to take many of the more advanced to graduate. There is a solution to this dilemma. The College of Staten Island is going against CUNY compliance by forcing students to take this class. Meaning, CSI is going against CUNY guidelines for mandating its courses, which can result in a potential lawsuit.

The Pathways Students Rights, I.2, says, "Students may choose freely among the courses the campuses have designated for the different areas of the Common Core, assuming students meet course qualifications."

If more than one course is offered in a Common Core area, no single course in that area may be required or prohibited, again assuming that students meet course qualifications."

The Pathways Students Rights guideline states the College cannot force or prohibit students from taking a specified course, which it currently is doing.

Not only is the College forcing students to take COR 100, but it is prohibiting students from taking anything other than COR 100 for the pathways section.

In conclusion, students should have the right to choose whether or not they should take COR 100.

Not only is CSI not allowed to mandate students to take courses, but students are capable enough in deciding whether a course is worth the time and effort.

Whether or not you like or dislike COR 100, the College cannot mandate a student to take it. Students should have the choice to seek alternative classes, which is outlined in the Pathways to Students Rights guidelines.

As a result, CSI forces students to

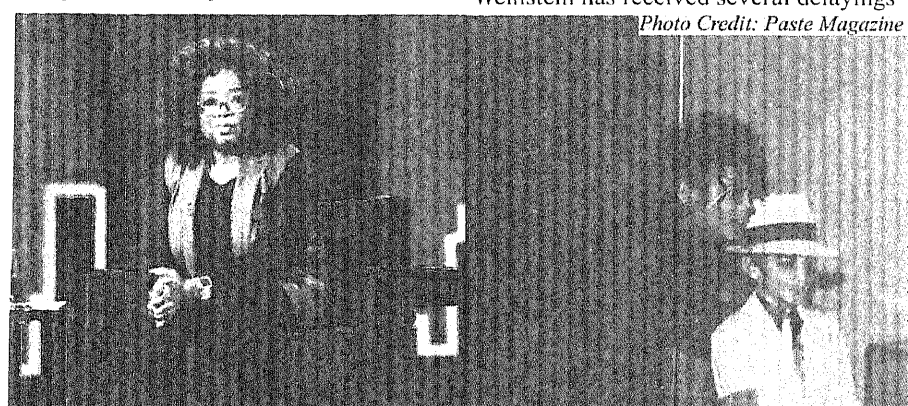
How Oprah and Hollywood Enabled Harvey Weinstein

The Hypocrisy of Oprah and Hollywood Elites

BY: UBONG EKPO

Oprah Winfrey has championed herself as the mother figure archetype of Hollywood. From struggling with childhood sexual abuse, to working odd news jobs, Oprah's story has been one we're made to appreciate.

From being a black woman on daytime television, rising through struggling ratings, to becoming a household name, it



Winfrey's support for Leaving Neverland doesn't add up with her silence on the Weinstein scandal.

is definitely an impressive rise.

Winfrey is championed as a role model, but especially in the black community she holds a special place. Too many members of the black community feel the pain and reality of racism.

However, lauded as she once was, there are some questionable actions that

Winfrey needs to answer.

The 'Me Too' movement was kicked off by sexual abuse allegations towards Harvey Weinstein, the famed movie executive.

Several movie actresses, including Angelina Jolie and Lupita Nyong'o, have claimed Weinstein acted inappropriately with them.

In the time since the allegations, Weinstein has received several delayings

Photo Credit: *Paste Magazine*

of his court procedures. His latest delay moved his trial date from September 2019 to January 2020.

Weinstein was formally charged in May 2018 with several counts of rape, sex abuse and sexual misconduct. He was given an ankle bracelet and can only travel to

New York City and Connecticut.

In early 2019, a documentary titled Untouchable premiered at the Sundance Movie Festival.

However, little to no attention was given to the Weinstein documentary, which went into detail about how Weinstein preyed on women using his power and influence as a Hollywood movie executive.

Instead, Winfrey and her associates decided to promote another documentary, Leaving Neverland. The film follows two men that say they were sexually abused by late popstar Michael Jackson as boys.

It seems like once again in American society, black men are scapegoated for the problems that affect society at large.

That is why it is so perplexing why someone of Winfrey's stature, a black woman, would decide to attach herself to Leaving Neverland.

An even bigger question is why hasn't she addressed Weinstein's sexual abuse allegations?

When it came to Leaving Neverland, Winfrey went on full force to endorse the documentary.

The ultimate act that has left a permanent scar in the legacy of Winfrey is when she decided to hold a special show after airing Leaving Neverland.

She invites the alleged Jackson victims along with director Dan Reed. Winfrey expresses her support to the

alleged victims.

Yet as of this writing, it appears Winfrey has no plans to invite any of Weinstein's alleged victims for a sit-down. Despite concerns with the validity of the film, such as James Safechuck's claim he was abused in a train station that was not built until years after he claimed it occurred, Winfrey has not wavered her support.

Many have noticed since the coming developments that she has removed all content on her YouTube channel relating to the film.

The allegations against Weinstein are what jump-started the 'Me Too' movement.

With simple Google searches on Jackson and Weinstein, one can see a difference.

Jackson has passed away ten years ago, with no ability to defend himself, yet is branded an abuser over a film.

Weinstein has had hundreds of women make claims against him, yet we've seen little reaction. Maybe an article and a short news story.

There has been no calls to boycott Weinstein or any of the movies his production company produced, yet several radio stations worldwide have banned Jackson's music.

Through her silence and connections, Winfrey has made it evident where she stands and it's a shame.

STUDENT PROFILES

The Woman Behind The American Red Cross Club at CSI

Gabrielle Jonny's Impact on the Staten Island Community

BY: PERLA GONZALEZ

Gabrielle Jonny transferred from Hunter College to CSI in the fall of 2018, with a set goal in mind: to start a brand new club on campus.

"I wanted to start a club that has never been chartered at CSI," said Jonny. "I've always had the skills, aspirations, and personality to become the leader of something that held much importance to me."

Within the first month of being a student at CSI, Jonny was able to charter The American Red Cross Club, and has been the president ever since.

She wanted to make an impact on the local Staten Island community and wanted to teach students the importance of volunteering. To her, volunteering is very important and it has molded her into a selfless and passionate person.

She has volunteered at The American Red Cross for over 3 years and takes much pride in it. By being the President of the Red Cross Club, Jonny gets in many hours of volunteer work, which she needs in order to get into med-school, another reason why she chartered the club.

When Jonny created the club, she did it with not only fulfilling her required vol-

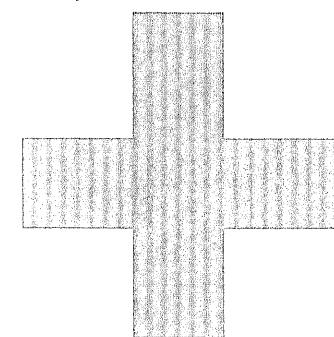
unteer hours but with other hopeful medical students in mind as well.

"I knew I had to obtain volunteer hours for medical school, but I didn't know where to start," said Jonny. "I never want another Pre-Health student to feel like they have no guidance or support on their jour-

ney to become a health professional in regards to volunteering."

As president, there is a lot of behind the scenes work that needs to be taken care of in order to run a successful club. So far this semester, she has organized fifteen volunteer based events and three meetings.

Along with organizing and planning the meeting, Jonny has to keep track of



The American Red Cross mission is to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers.

American Red Cross

her member's volunteer hours, write recommendation letters and complete a lot of paperwork that is needed in order for her to hold these events.

Since her club is affiliated with The Red Cross, she also has to fulfill annual goals from both CSI and the Red Cross.

Photo Credit: *bothell-reporter.com*

"She decided on an endeavor, pursued it until fruition and now the outcome is something which benefits others and will collectively do so for a long time."

One event Jonny was proud of creating was a CPR that was very successful because all of her club members became CPR certified. The club also held a peanut butter and jelly sandwich-making event in association with Project Hospitality, and in forty minutes the club made 200 sandwiches for the homeless, another event she was proud of.

After only being an official club for an academic year, Jonny was awarded Club President of the Year in the spring of 2019 and received a thousand dollar scholarship. She hopes that the club can become Club of the Year next year.

When she volunteered at an event, she was told that there is a lack of young volunteers and she hopes that will change.

"By giving a few hours of your day to help others it will make you a well rounded person," said Jonny. "Just a few hours a week and donating your time is effortless."

The upcoming American Red Cross Club events, such as the Autism Research Fundraiser and Cure Alzheimer's Fundraiser can be found on CSI Connect.

She constantly has to be in touch with the club coordinator on campus and the regional youth manager at the Red Cross.

As busy as it is, Jonny finds that it is all worth it and that she loves to be the president of the club she created.

"As a club member, I am constantly left inspired by Gabrielle's ability to actualize her vision," said Kalindi Mishra.

An Organization's Cultural Inclusivity Helped Sarah Peart Excel

Loneliness Led to a Student's Presidency

BY: MYRIAM BONILLA

Sarah Giselle Peart joined the International Student's Club because she felt lonely and wanted to make friends. She never expected to be elected president.

"I saw it as a way to create new connections with people that were in the same position as me," said Peart. "People who were new to the country and didn't have many friends."

The International Students Club consists of students from around the world

she worked so effectively, that the club as a collective nominated her for an even higher position, presidency. They placed her name on a special voting slip and she eventually won against her opposition.

Peart met with the club frequently, introduced herself to every new member, volunteered to help with events, and attended every time they met. Eventually, everyone saw Peart as a vital person and they all elected her Treasurer in 2018.

She organized the yearly income of \$1,500 dollars neatly and concisely, she budgeted, and picked up all the food need-

She planned the entire club calendar for the academic year which included all the dates of when the club met. She scheduled activities and chose the speakers for specific workshops.

"I love having the creative control to come up with new activities and creative ideas," said Peart. "It really enhances the club and its purpose."

She helped arrange many club activities for example, International Wedding Day meant individuals participated in Malaysian wedding traditions. In Chalk the Campus, participants drew flags with colored chalk to represent each of their countries.

Presidency taught Peart how to problem solve and balance student life while she adhered to the requirements expected of her as the head of an organization. Peart found some aspects of the position a challenge especially since she had to make all of the executive decisions.

Overall, Peart wanted to show the participants how inclusive and culturally rich other cultures were.

"The purpose of the club is to create an accepting comfortable, friendly, culturally diverse environment for both international and national students," said Peart. "I think I'm trying my hardest to be the president that this club deserves."



The members of the CSI International Students Club.

from different cultures, the club met every Tuesday from 2:30pm to 4:25 pm.

The organization conducts group activities that incorporated cultures from countries like Japan, Colombia, Malay-

ed for the people involved. Peart excelled at her job and worked well with all the other executive which involved the Secretary, President, Vice President. She held the seat from 2018 to the end of the spring 2019.

SPORTS

Wrestling Finally Has Some Competition

All Elite Wrestling will be the new threat for the WWE.

BY: SALVATORE CENTO

First, a string of pay-per-views, then Double or Nothing, then Fyter Fest, then Fight for the Fallen, and after that All Out is what the AEW has announced. The rumored next step by AEW would be to announce a TV show and they did. However, WWE could not leave that alone.

On July 24th, 2019, All Elite Wrestling, an organization that was thought up by Cody Rhodes, The Young Bucks and Kenny Omega, officially announced that their weekly television show would start airing on October 2nd from 8pm to 10pm on TNT.

A new episode would then premiere every Wednesday. Albeit not confirmed but found out later, the name of that show will be called Dynamite.

Die hard fans of professional wrestling never thought that WWE, with its foothold in the business, considered AEW to be any sort of competition. But actions tend to speak louder than words and WWE came back in a very merciless way.

Maybe the higher ups or Vince McMahon himself had resentment from his own wrestlers leaving or even just wanting to jump ship. Chris Jericho, a staple of Vince's company for so long, is fully embracing the new entity with open arms by being a wrestler for them as well as an advisor.

Dean Ambrose, a well recognized name within WWE, suddenly appeared at the end of Double or Nothing, attacking the wrestlers in the main event. Even Shawn Spears, who was formerly known as Tye Dillinger within WWE, recently had a spotlighted feud with Cody Rhodes

the world they were coming to prime time television, WWE retaliates by declaring that NXT will make the jump from exclusively being on the WWE Network to USA on September 18th.

NXT is a show produced by WWE that showcases the talent that are in the WWE

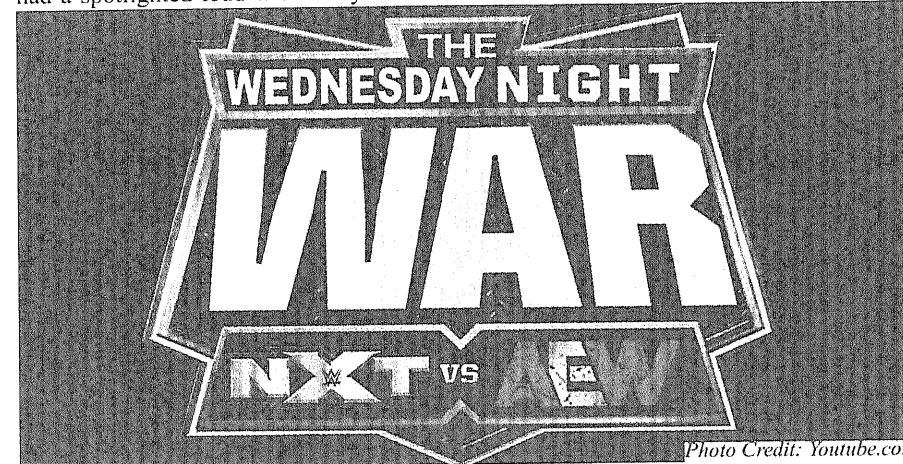
are plenty of documentaries out there to tell them all about the chaos that ensued. Well, strap in your seatbelts because it seems that's about to happen all over again.

This is the first time in nearly 20 years that a wrestling company other than WWE has this much financial backing. A man named Tony Khan is one of the founders of AEW. He is the co-owner of the Jacksonville Jaguars and the EFL championship team, Fulham F.C.

All Elite Wrestling has been proven to have systematic backing as well. Not only do they consistently pack arenas with the shows they have had, but they were brought on by lesser known stations such as AXS TV or beIN Sports such as Impact Wrestling or Modern League Wrestling. Fresh out of being born, a TV network that everyone knows snatches them up and gives them a prime time slot.

TNT was the network, not to mention that TNT was the same channel that hosted the now defunct company, World Championship Wrestling during the 1990's war. Verizon Fios, USA and TNT are right next to each other in the guide which is something worth mentioning.

Attacks have been made and lines have been drawn. My only hope is that this makes for better storylines, better entertainment and better wrestling in the long run.



Starting on October 2nd, wrestling companies will clash.

Photo Credit: Youtube.com

himself.

Not only that, but many wrestlers who are under contract and cannot stray for now are always teasing through some form of social media that they will find better endeavors someplace else.

The date was August 20th, 2019. Suddenly and without warning, an announcement is made by WWE.

Almost exactly a month after AEW told

Performance camp as well as other talent that have been signed from smaller promotions. Episodes will air on that channel from that point on. The day the show will air will be on a Wednesday, and the time the show will air will be 8pm which will be the same as AEW's show time.

Even if a fan wasn't born yet to see the late 1990's Monday Night Wars between WCW and WWF originally unravel, there

Did 2K Sports Step Up With its Latest NBA 2K Game?

Another Year of NBA 2K, Something Great or Something Lame?

BY: DANNY CACACE

On September 6th, NBA 2K20 was released to the world.

Many fans of these games including myself were skeptical about this one coming out with all the hype surrounding it, and I'm here to tell you if this game is worth it.

Over the past few years, the NBA 2K games had friends of mine and the online community saying "Trash" or "This game sucks." With two weeks already into launch for the game, I will list what works and what hasn't so far in this game.

Since this game has a lot of expectations to meet, players expected a lot out of this one. This is due to the fact that the gameplay felt flat to a lot of the online community including myself. The fun was taken out of the game.

The modes in NBA 2K, in the past few years and currently are PlayNow, MyTeam, MyCareer/The Neighborhood or what people like to call it "The Park", and MyLeague/MyGM. Some of these modes have improved and some have stayed the same in this year's game. MyTeam and The Neighborhood are the two most played modes in the NBA 2K games.

In PlayNow, one can play with any NBA team and match up against one another NBA teams. In MyTeam, one collects cards in this mode to create the best team to their liking to match up against other opponents.

In MyCareer, one creates a player to

be any basketball player position and they get to select two archetypes to create a player build to their liking; and they can play full NBA Seasons to help upgrade their player in each game. The Neighborhood is a local playground filled with basketball courts where players can play online together and against each other on the courts, a gym to workout in, and stores for player accessories to dress your character up.

In MyLeague, one can select and control an NBA team to play full nba seasons with, and in MyGM, one can become the general manager of any NBA team they want to be in charge of.

PlayNow has added 6 new historic teams to its mode such as the '13-'14 Spurs, '13-'14 Clippers, '15-'16 Cavs and three others. They have also added all-decade teams where the best players from each decade of the NBA are assembled into one team.

Finally, the biggest new addition to this mode is now they added the WNBA into 2K. NBA Live was the first game to do so but NBA 2K is now on track with them including the WNBA for the first time in its game.

PlayNow has significantly improved with these new additions to this game.

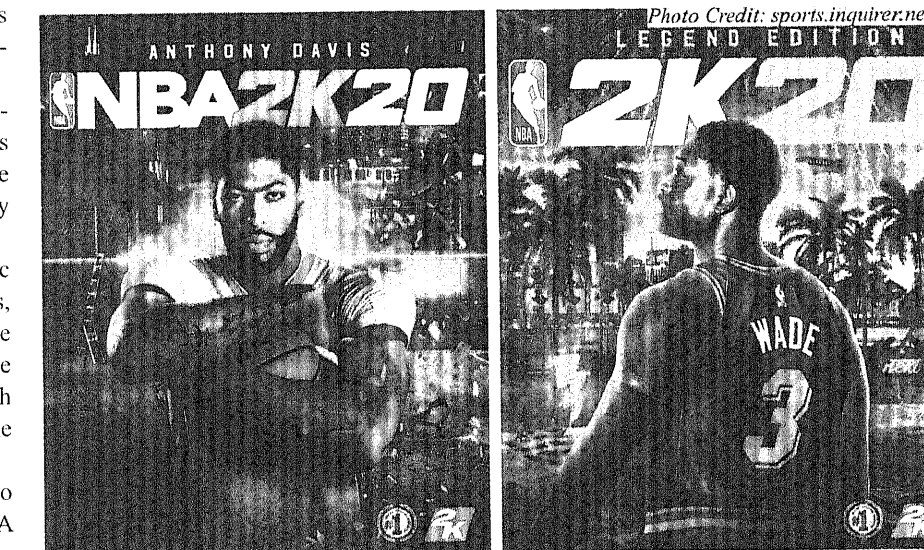
MyLeague/MyGM have shown no true improvements to the game. They kept the same layout of last year's game to both modes and added nothing new for fans to

explore with these modes. This leads to disappointment for fans of these modes.

MyTeam kept the same format of last year's game as well, and changed the layout for offline and online triple threat game modes and added a new way to win prizes in those game modes in MyTeam. There's a new feature in the mode called

in the final game of the set of challenges for each NBA player.

MyCareer has a new well-developed story with an A-list cast, although the story was short, it was very enticing and gave a new perspective on an NBA player's life in the NBA. The neighborhood has the same look as last year's but will be more time-



These were the two cover athletes for NBA 2K20.

card evolution where certain player cards in the mode have specific requirements to upgrade the card to its highest rating that the game allows it to be, and there are new challenges called Spotlight Challenges where there are challenges based on a specific NBA player's career to win rewards after each game leading to a huge reward

ly with their events this year according to their developers, and dribbling is my only true concern for the game as of right now.

However, the game got back to its fun ways with each player build being useful for the most part this year. Overall, NBA 2K20 is an 8 out of 10 for me as of right now.