

Official Newspaper of the College of Staten Island

## Panel Informs First Time Voters For November

*Event Covers Relevant Issues of the General Election*

**BY LARRY ZAKHARENKO**

CSI hosted an election panel to connect first-time voters with political experts as the 2012 General Election approaches. The panel was an open discussion for all but fell short of attracting the attention of students.

"This is exactly the kind of event we should be hosting," said President Fritz in his opening statement. "It really connects the faculty expertise we have on campus with community interest."

The panel covered a wide variety of topics. Tax reform, healthcare, voter identification, voter suppression, and the importance of staying informed were all covered on the night of October 2nd.

Fannie Conner of the League of Women Voters opened the discussion. She reminded attendees the last day for registration is October 12 and that people who change their place of residence need to fill out new registration forms. Conner also reminded attendees that voting will take place from 6AM to 9PM on Election Day.

Each panelist was then given ten to twenty minutes to discuss their topic. Professor Calvin Holder of the History Department was the opening panelist.

"Democracy is not a spectator sport," said Conner. "This election will arguably be one of the most important this country has had since perhaps 1936."

Professor Conner followed with a discussion a history of lynchings and voter suppression in the African-American community during in the early 1900's as the context to compare contemporary voter suppression with government issued I.D.'s.

"Democrats have argued that there is an effort to implement voter suppression, directed primarily at minorities. The Republicans have argued that their intent is to prevent voter fraud," said Holder. "I'd like to put in historical context what voter suppression has meant for a minority group in the United States before, specifically blacks."

Professor Holder went on to explain tax reform, an issue that both presidential candidates have arguing over since the conclusion of the Republican Primaries.

"The tax system really is a window into the soul of our nation," said Holder. "It is becoming increasingly evident that an oligarchy is emerging in the United States, and an oligarchy is a direct threat to any democratic system, such as

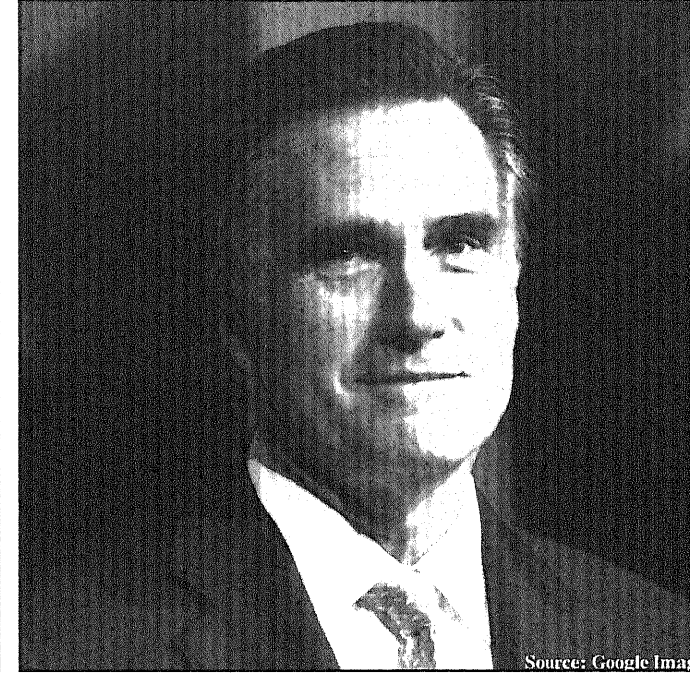
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## The United States Economic Meltdown

*CSI Experts Point The Finger At The Banks*



Source: Google Images



Source: Google Images

**President Obama and Presidential Nominee Mitt Romney have two competing views for fixing U.S. economic woes**

**BY JEREMY PASKER**

Political Scientists and Economy Professors at CSI place blame on the banks for the worst financial meltdown in over 75 years.

"Good solutions are hard because banks are really good at evading them," said Political Science Professor Roshen Hendrickson. "If they're doing things behind the scenes they're more likely to take risks."

Capitalism works when people, businesses and governments have easy access to salary, credit, or investments. Money flowing towards markets that create jobs and distribute

resources is more important than the total money available within an economy.

Sustaining markets involve the purchase of resources between connecting industries, such as when timber, cement, steel industries integrate with the construction labor industry. When one builds a home from scratch it helps the economy more than purchasing a home already built.

"The real price of everything...is the toil and trouble of acquiring it," wrote the credited inventor of Capitalism, Adam Smith.

When a person qualifies for a loan, and

then purchases a home from a previous owner, money is only moving from one bank to another. That is a non-sustaining market. Before the recession, the majority of the world's income was channeled through housing mortgages. These transactions create meager ripples in the economy, as they are a non-sustaining market.

These transactions occurred thousands of times artificially inflating them in value, along with homes of similar value that weren't on the market. The systemic rise in artificial values created a conflated economy. This happens

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## Voter ID Laws Under Fire

*Solution to a Problem that Does Not Exist*

**BY AMANDA V. GRANBERG**

The attempts at passing new voter ID laws in Pennsylvania, Mississippi, and South Carolina to prevent voting fraud drew criticism from Democrats and the American Civil Liberties Union for being unconstitutional. The laws would require a voter to possess valid identification to be able to register or vote in the 2012 General Election.

"It is an open secret that the express purpose of Voter ID laws is to discourage or prevent people from casting a ballot. Numerous studies show that voter fraud is statistically nonexistent in the United States," said Political Science Professor Cary Karacas. "Given that relatively few votes can determine which candidate emerges victorious in an election, a law that effectively suppresses the vote of minority and low income groups makes

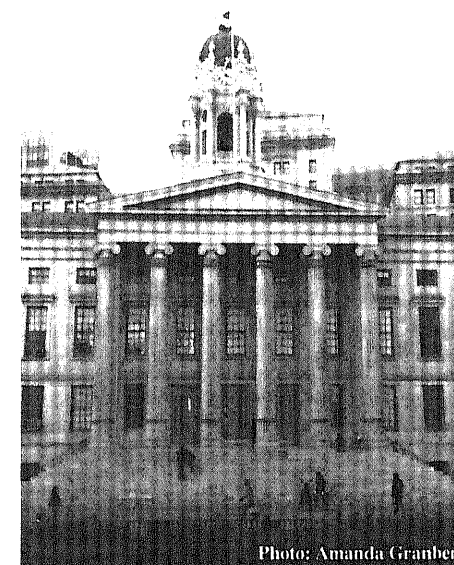


Photo: Amanda Granberg

**Brooklyn's Borough Hall will be a polling site for the upcoming General Election**

strategic sense for Republicans. It does not bode well, however, for our democracy."

If the laws are passed students, minorities, veterans, and senior citizens would find themselves able to register but unable to vote in the election because they lack a certain form of ID. These groups do not have the same access for acquiring proper identification before an election or lack the money.

"More than 10 million eligible voters live more than 10 miles from their nearest ID-issuing office," reported The Brennan Center for Justice at New York School of Law. "Many of the offices maintain limited hours."

Congressional Republicans have defended these laws. Republicans believe that they will stop fraudulent voting.

Democratic legislators say they have less

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## Debatable Debate Procedures

Major Media Outlets Failing to Hold President Obama and Presidential Nominee Romney Accountable for "Facts"

BY JOSEPH POTENZA

When United States Presidential Candidates, President Barack Obama and former Governor Mitt Romney, met on stage to discuss economic issues facing the nation in their first debate, the eyes of the nation and media were upon them.

Minutes after the closing statements the major news networks declared victors and criticized both participants, as well as the moderator, on their performance. After the commotion, choruses rang out "Governor Romney Wins!" and "President Obama needs to do better."

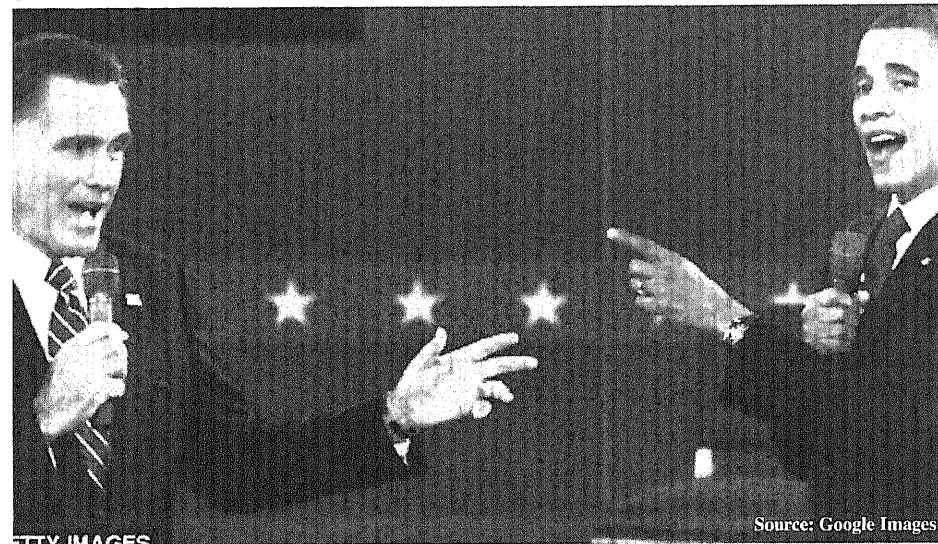
What was not said was actual journalism. It is not the media's role to tell who won or who lost. Journalists are meant to give facts and hold people accountable for what they say and do so the public is properly informed.

The concept of this fell by the wayside as comments over hair and smiles took prominence over the presentation of facts and evidence. Yes, attitude and demeanor play a part when both sides are committed to facts and truths, but that does not give any bearing on winners and losers. You cannot declare a winner of a debate minutes after it concludes.

In the background were the glimpses of

responsible journalism. Politifact.org ran live fact checking of the statements and arguments made by both participants. The days following the debate, other sites, such as The Washington Post, caught up and began checking the multitude of lies and exaggerations that the constituents spouted and leaned on through the debate.

Unfortunately, even as these other media outlets began to pick up the slack, very little attention was paid to fact and consistency checking by the national players. Instead, people were just treated to the news making up



Source: Google Images

their opinions for them.

When the Vice Presidential debate took center stage the moderator Martha Raddatz did her job keeping Vice President Biden and Congressman Ryan in check while focusing on the facts and specifics.

For this she was criticized by major news sources. When Candy Crowley stood up to the candidates and tried to enforce time restrictions and correct Governor Romney on the issue of the speech the President gave on the Benghazi attacks, she was attacked by certain news stations as being biased, while those

doing the criticizing were ignoring the role of the moderator in a debate.

Making sure facts are straight if possible is part of the job Crowley was tasked. Some even said that the time for fact checking is after the debate, which is a bizarre concept. To not hold the participants accountable is a dangerous behavior that defeats the purpose of the discussion.

By ignoring facts, the words said, positions held and arguments made lose all purpose, and opinions would be better formed on what color tie the viewer likes more.

Between broken analysis, news networks and sites are focusing more on the public's reactions. Both Fox News and CNN ran articles and segments on Twitter reactions to the debate that are still popular and advertised through their sites.

After the second debate, they reported on what terms were trending on Twitter instead of crosschecking numbers and statements.

Reaction stories are fine, but they should not be the forefront of journalism and reporting. Reports such as these are just distractions to keep people from formulating their own opinions.

## Bankrupting the American Political System

BY MIKE MILEY

As the election nears we see more and more exactly how bankrupt the American political system truly is.

By this I'm of course referring to, my oft repeated statements of how incredibly similar the Democrats and Republican parties really are, especially in the realms of economic policy and the absence of Third Party political candidates from any of the debates and the American political discourse in general. Really how democratic can a country really be if ever "serious candidate" for office are interchangeable on 90% of their policies? This is why I like to term America as a one and half party State, that at the fundamental level both parties are functionally the same, with a window dressing of enough difference for people to fall for it and back them, as if they were two entirely different entities.

You may of course think I'm entirely off base with this, "Mike", you might say, "But what about the fact that Democrats favor policies beneficial to minorities and women, while the Republicans are more than fine casting them off and suppressing their rights and ability to vote?" That is a very important point to make, that one difference between the Democratic and Republican platforms is that, Democratic platform is at least acknowledges that women, minorities and the poor are people deserving of respect and human dignity that any person deserves, while the Republicans pretty much wish they would go off and die in the gutter and not bother the "Job Creators" with their petty problems of "health issues" and "civil rights abuses." These are

important issues that the Democrats say they champion, or course the Democratic politicians that support these issues come mainly from Northern liberal urban areas, while the party members from the South, rural and conservative areas, termed "Blue Dog Democrats," became notorious during the 2009-10 Healthcare reform debate and in the end were more responsible for the weak kneed, Healthcare "reform" we got than the Republicans. This is the thing to remember about "Obamacare," a term I hate with a passion for being glib, is that it's a rehash of the Heritage Foundation sponsored Republican Healthcare package from the Clinton era. But we have to look at how often the Democrats actually stand up for their so called base, which is rarely, they are far more willing to throw them under the bus in order to get something "bipartisan" passed with the Republicans. The whole concept of bipartisanship should be anathema to the American political process since it is based on competition, people fighting one another till something gets passed. If we look at the history of compromises made by the early American congress and senate, they all came back to bite us in the ass, since they just kept pushing the problem of slavery down the road until it exploded into the Civil War.

Which brings me to the point that in America, we have one conservative party and one far right nationalist party. Since they are both obsessed with the idea of "bipartisanship", though in the Republican mindset, compromise means agreeing 100 percent with them, we have two parties that look more and more alike. I've said it before, I'll say it again, the Republicans represent a steep dive

crash right into the ground, while the Democrats represent a long slow decline into the side of a mountain. They are two sides of the same coin, just look at their economic policy.

Both parties agree on the tenets of Neo-Liberal economics, the Democrats just try and take a nicer approach to it, extreme capitalism with a human face. While the Republicans just don't care. The proof of this comes right out of the second presidential debate, when President Obama agrees that with Romney about lowering corporate tax rates. At a time when corporations are pulling in record profits, where the wealth disparity in the US is at a level unseen since the "Gilded Age," were saying the wealthy need to pay less? Of course the rational always cited is the need to "stay competitive" in the world market. The problem being there is no way for US workers to compete with the third world with paying them equivalent wages, meaning we want factories back so we can have a real economy, were either going to have to raise tariffs and taxes on imports and incentive buildings things in America with a decent wage, or start paying wages of 20 cents a day. These are the only two options we have under a capitalist system, they are far from perfect, but unless we decide to finally get tired of dealing with the same bullshit every 5-10 years when the market implodes, but that's up to us. The problem we arrive at is that paying American workers slave wages (though they would never outright call them that) is more acceptable to our political system then doing something that would actually benefit the middle and working class.

Why are things like this? Simply because we

only have "two", though I think we've discussed enough to call it one party to choose from, because so called third parties are left out of the political discussion. Mitt Romney and Barack Obama are far from the only people running for president, so why are they the only two that debate? Why not invite the candidates from the Green Party, or any of the other political parties? Hell when Green Party candidate Jill Stein and her vice-presidential candidate Cheri Honkala from the Green Party, tried to enter the grounds of the Presidential debate at Hofstra University, they were arrested and held for 8 hours. This is what the face of American democracy is, anyone not supported by the corporate aristocracy, the oligarchs of the one percent are not allowed to be near the "serious" candidates. There is something wrong with the political system in this country, and come the day after Election Day when someone has been chosen the 24 hour news networks will croon about how we've had another peaceful handover of power/incumbent and the system works, while it rots around us. I urge everyone, please, look up who the third party candidates are in your district, look up what they stand for and if you agree with them, vote for them, not just for President, but the local level, too. The odds are stacked against us, with the massive amount of money at the beck and call of the "two" major parties, but just maybe we can counteract that, maybe we can actually change things in this country for the better. Just remember change does not come from above, it must be forced from below, and they only way to do that is to show that we want actual choices in our democracy.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: All Hail the King

I really enjoyed this article. As a big fan of the show, my attention was immediately drawn towards it. However, one thing to point out is the spoiling warning in the beginning. It states not to read unless you're up to date, but then 3/4 of the article is things fans would already know if they were to read it. I was hoping for more for more speculation or theories on the show rather than just one or two graphs at the end.  
Alec Montalvo  
Junior

Re: Bringing the Polls to the Classroom

The article that focuses on the registration of voters was well written and for a good reason. It keyed in on an issue that is a real problem for a movement going around campus. The story was well reported and encouraged more people to register to vote.  
Paul Stimop  
Junior

Re: Third Time's The Charm

I found this article to be a very enjoyable read. Victoria's story is one many students out there can relate to. It reminds us that the fantasy of losing our virginities and the reality of doing so are far from being similar experiences. We did not all begin our sexual journeys as masters of the art. I think more stories about uncomfortable situations such as this one would be great.  
Teddy Feaser  
Junior

Re: Do Not Let Sleeping Dogs Lie!

I really enjoyed the video game review. I liked how Steve listed all the cons first and then the positives. I thought the comparisons to other video games were very well written. Adding a rating was a very cool touch.  
Stefano Bartolone

Re: Do Not Let Sleeping Dogs Lie!

I enjoyed Steven's article about the game "Sleeping Dogs." Mostly because I had agreed with what he had to say for the most part. I have played very little of it but his review was good enough to influence me to buy it or not. If you could please tell Steven to include more description on his favorite parts or weaknesses the game puts forth. Go into more detail about levels, missions, or glitches. Big gamers want to know that stuff.  
Bradley Popkin

Re: 50 Shades of Grey

I thought this article was the perfect explanation of the book. I also read the book and agree that there were enjoyable parts but the writing was "typical" and obvious. My opinions were right there with Lucia Rossi.  
Samantha Fink  
Junior

Re: 50 Shades of Grey

I really enjoyed this article written by Lucia Rossi. The book written by EL James gives women the opportunity to talk about sex and sexual experiences freely. Because of this book, sex is no longer a secret subject or a topic of conversation to be shy about  
Melissa Oviedo

Re: Green Thumbs Club Lends Mother Nature A Helping Hand"

I enjoyed the piece on the garden beside the Campus Center. However, I do not like the led to the article. It is a person opinion and expresses my views alone. I feel it is too cliché and be improved to draw the reader in.  
Chris Carregal  
Senior

Re: Green Thumbs Club Lends Mother Nature A Helping Hand

I read with interest the article by Lucy Farfan-Narcisse. Her piece about the garden of beauty on the campus seems to me that a vast effort is being applied to promoting "green projects" and its nice to see that CSI is no exception. Perhaps Lucy could be an inspiration for other students to "go green" by creating new groups, or at least writing about them using models and examples from other schools that improve the environment and add to the "clean air" is a positive thing. From "green thumbs" to tobacco free air to boost other clean projects.  
Lynn Matteo  
Sophomore

Re: Sex and the Island

Dear Banner Staff, I am a 19 year old guy and I read the Sex and the Island piece all the time. I can't help but notice that the guy who writes it rarely gets laid in the end. What's up with that? I'm writing to you guys asking for help on what I can do to succeed in that department. After countless times of not getting it in with girls. I ask you guys for help or any tips. Thank you.  
Dan Porcello  
Sophomore

Re: Sex by Another Name

How can you expect people to want to share their stories or opinions in the "Sex and the Island" page if they must publish their names? I'm sure many people have fantastic stories that they seem ambivalent to share if their name is published as well. Contributors should have the option to remain anonymous or write under an alias. Personally, I would use the porn name technique (name of your first pet and the street you live on) to determine my name for the byline if I submit an article.  
Elizabeth Krawczun  
Junior

The Banner is now offering INTERNSHIPS to CSI students. Internships last one semester and give students the opportunity to learn about media. Interns will work a minimum of 12 hours per week, and can focus on:

- Blogging
- Editing
- Photography
- Graphic design
- Layout & production
- Reporting
- Web design
- Fact-checking

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**"CSI Hosts Pre-Election Panel"**  
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the one we have. The wealthiest 1% of the American population owns 33% of the wealth."

Holder argued that if the tax system cannot be adjusted to accommodate the needs of the people than our ailing country faces more peril.

"If we look at the state of America in 2012, we see an Interstate Highway system that is in crisis. We see a decrepit railroad system when we compare it to advanced, industrialized countries," Holder stated. "We see bridges in need of repair, rivers that are polluted, an educational system that is slowly being bled, and a bloated military system where billions of dollars are being spent on things that are not necessarily needed to protect our security."

Professor Richard Flanagan of the Political Science, Economics, and Philosophy Department accompanied Professor Holder on the panel along with Finda Gbollic of the Legal Aid Society. Professor Flanagan opened next with his interpretation of the controversy behind voter suppression and state issued identification.

States are requiring voters to present photo identification. Democrats fear the measures will discourage minority voters, while Republicans say they are preventing voter fraud.

"The reality is that the state bureaucracy doesn't have the ability to produce I.D.'s in sufficient number to accommodate all the people who would need them with the election looming," said Flanagan. "However I don't think it will be an issue because I'm certain that both campaigns will have more lawyers than voters. You will have to swing through a balance of lawyers just to get to the voting booth."

The discussion progressed towards Health Care and how it was not a prominent issue when Obama was initially elected. Flanagan mentioned Obama's work with Health Care, how he got it done after Clinton could not. Flanagan argued that although critics will call Obama a socialist, historians will remember him for his big compromises.



Political Science Professor Richard Flanagan leads the panel discussion on October 4th alongside Calvin Holder and Finda Gbollic.

"This will be Obama's biggest legacy," said Professor Flanagan.

Finda Gbollic of the Legal Aid Society gave her expertise on student loans and education.

"Eight million Americans are receiving student loans, and 1.6 million Americans are receiving student grants from the government," said Finda. "Approximately 37 million Americans right now have student loan debt that is over 1 trillion dollars collectively."

Gbollic said that only a small percentage of people are able to pay for college with grants and the rest are piling on debt. Gbollic suggested that students check out EqualJusticeWorks.org, a website which helps explain how to repay loans and offers advice.

The Pre-Election Panel was a non-partisan forum on the relevant issues in current politics. The panel presented an insight into the history and concerns of elected officials, candidates, and the community. Chief Librarian Jones said the discussion was, "informative and provocative."

The panel was hosted in conjunction with the Academy of Retired Professors, the NAACP of Staten Island, and the New York Urban League. The organizations urged eligible voters

**"Voter ID Laws Under Fire"**  
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to do with fraud and more to do with voter suppression. Democrats argued that Voter ID laws are a form of poll taxes, abolished by the 24th amendment. The Voting Rights Act passed in 1965 also prohibits the imposition of, "any voting qualification or prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice, or procedure."

In states like Pennsylvania and Mississippi in-person voter fraud is close to nonexistent. The strict voter ID laws were suspended for the upcoming election but were not permanently rejected.

Since 2011 there have been 180 voter ID related bills introduced in 41 states; 27 states are still pending legislation and 25 laws and 2 executive actions have been passed in the remaining 19.

Thirty-three states in total have passed laws that demand a voter have proper identification. These laws vary state to state with many different requirements.

States can be divided up into "strict" and "non-strict." In a strict state a voter cannot cast a ballot without first presenting valid and current identification. Those who are unable to show identification are given a provisional ballot that will be held for a short time after the election until the voter returns with acceptable identification.

In non-strict states voters without ID can sign an affidavit of identity and are not required to return with identification to have their ballots counted.

They can also be broken down into "photo ID" and "non-photo ID" states. Seventeen states will now require a voter to present photo identification. The current non-photo laws will stay in effect for the upcoming election. If found to be constitutional under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, these laws will go into effect.

When money flowed through a single channel instead of spread out over several it inflated the market price, like the aforementioned housing crisis or the 90's dot-com crisis, it causes a recession. The more money invested in a sector, the bigger the recession. After money evaporated, every level of the economy starved, from government, to private business, to individual households. The money lubricating the financial sector dried up halting industry to a crawl.

"The worst financial crisis in two generations has erased \$14.5 trillion, or 33 percent, of the value of the world's companies," wrote Bloomberg News.

Banks no longer had money to give out loans for households, or businesses decreasing the demand for goods. This stopped businesses from hiring. The lack of accessible credit caused a cascading effect dissuading households from spending money, followed by more layoffs, followed by further decreased spending, followed by more layoffs.

Money is created when banks give loans. Those loans become an investment to whichever sector receives it. If a government borrows from a bank it immediately spends on

to consider the facts-at-hand in the upcoming primaries.

Although the turnout was not as high as hoped, those present were involved in the discussion.

"Do you believe that the requirement to show valid ID is in effect a suppression of the vote?" asked attendee Zulan Henderson.

Panelist Calvin Holder said, "There are efforts to deny people the right to vote by having people meet certain standards that are not necessarily important to the exercise of the franchise."

Henderson rebutted by asking if the panelists believed that voter fraud is a real threat, "as seen by the Chicago convictions of voter fraud" and if the motion to implement I.D.'s is justified by the threat of voter fraud. The panelists chose to avoid the question as to not stray from the theme and conserve time.

Dr. Irene Deitch, and Chief Librarian Wilma L. Jones encouraged everyone to, "take this back and share this experience with others," words that resonated through an audience composed of faculty, veteran voters from outside the college, and three students.

**CSI Hosts Dean's Symposium on Staten Island Voting Patterns**  
*Investigating Policy Changes and the Federal Elections*

BY DAEYUNG LEE

On October 4th, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences Dr. Nan Sussman, introduced a Dean's Symposium investigating the "Voting Patterns and Policy Changes in the Federal Elections."

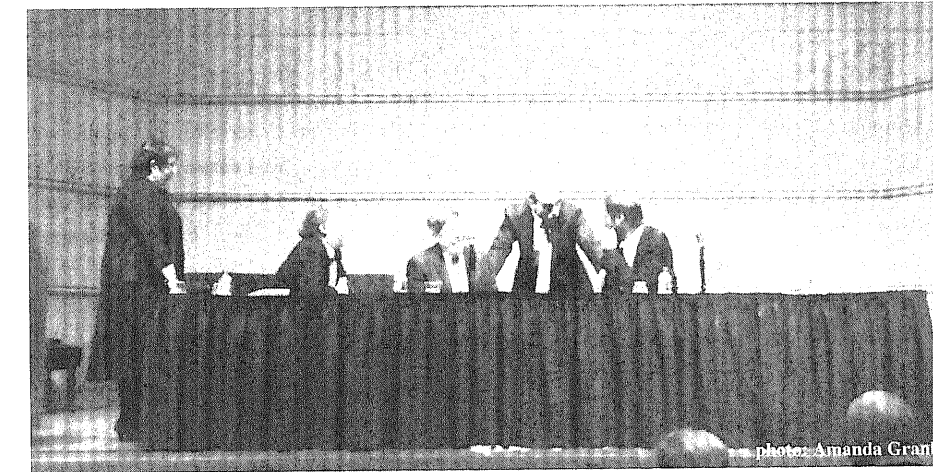
Dr. Richard Flanagan, Associate Professor, invited 3 notable guest speakers who kept the investigation central to Staten Island politics, the theme of his book with the late Dr. Daniel Kramer entitled, "Staten Island: Conservative Bastion in a Liberal City."

The speakers focused primarily on the political history of the borough, discussing the relative sequestration Staten Island has cultivated from New York City.

Tom Wroblefsky, Political Editor at the Staten Island Advance shared a desk with Jeffrey Krossler, noted NYC Historian and Professor at John Jay College, and Councilman James Oddo of the 50th District.

Dr. Flanagan opened the panel with a tribute to his colleague Dr. Kramer, expressing his admiration and honor in being allowed to partake in Kramer's project. He also expressed his condolences to Roshanda Kramer before beginning a series of questions to the panel.

The panel was first asked to define the three most important events in Staten Island Political History. Dr. Flanagan pointed this out as the Construction of the Verrazano Bridge, the election of public officials such as Governor Rudy



CSI hosted a Dean's Symposium, October 4th on Voting Policy

Giuliani and Senator John Marchi, and the debates over the removal of the Great Kills Landfill to which all three panelists agreed.

"The election of Rudy Giuliani," said Oddo. "You could like, love, or hate him but he's made every other mayor have to live up to his relationship with this borough."

In discussing the politics of Staten Island, the panelists and Dr. Flanagan, focused on the fact that Staten Island is integral to the politics of NYC, despite the recurring theme of secession.

Keeping the symposium light with humor, Dr. Flanagan said, "Councilman Oddo is the kind of Republican a Democrat can vote for. I don't know how much of a compliment that is, but thank you Councilman."

**"The U.S Economic Meltdown"**  
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when: a) homes are so overpriced it's impossible for ordinary people to buy, or b) once debtors become insolvent.

"They were home renters and not homeowners," said Economics Lecturer Linda Coull.

Once people can no longer afford to pay their debts, investments for those markets implode. Money thought to be safe through investing seamlessly evaporates overnight. Those assets have little worth but still remain on bankbook ledgers.

When money flowed through a single channel instead of spread out over several it inflated the market price, like the aforementioned housing crisis or the 90's dot-com crisis, it causes a recession. The more money invested in a sector, the bigger the recession. After money evaporated, every level of the economy starved, from government, to private business, to individual households. The money lubricating the financial sector dried up halting industry to a crawl.

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Money is created when banks give loans. Those loans become an investment to whichever sector receives it. If a government borrows from a bank it immediately spends on

construction of schools, roads & highways, bridges, high-speed rail, education, internet & telephone wire, and green energy. These sectors of the economy add a wealth of newly employed labor. When people are employed, governments receive an increase in tax revenue to repay debts and the economy swells with a base of spenders injecting money into the system.

The only investments that recycle are sectors that produce jobs allowing for the newly created sectors to reinvest. Once re-investments stop during a recession, money dries up, and the economy shrivels and regresses.

"In 2001, before the crisis, engineers said infrastructure could put people back to work," said Econ Lecturer Coull.

During a recession it all depends on what the people trust more: a conservative agenda or a liberal one.

The Republican agenda touts government interventionism as inefficient and wasteful. They believe government to be obtrusive and an annoyance that boggles down innovation. They report society should rely solely on the ingenuity of business by investing money directly into private industry.

"Free enterprise has done more to lift people out of poverty, to help build a strong middle class, to help educate our kids, and to make our lives better than all the programs of government combined," said Presidential candidate Mitt Romney.

In order for a household to put money back into the economy they need expendable income. In order to have enough income to insert back into the economy individuals must have employment from business or outside investment from banks.

"Due to a lack of aggregate demand, banks are loaning more carefully," said Economics Lecturer Coull. "And households are saving

Civily and respectfully, the panelist debated over a series of questions, all streamlining the importance of Staten Island's political history in relationship to the politics of the city, constantly drawing notice to the difference in popular opinion from the "forgotten borough" and the rest of the city. Dr. Flanagan pointed his attention to the Great Kills Landfill as the premier example of Staten Island's status.

"But there are landfills in the Bronx," said Krossler. "There are landfills in Queens too. What makes it so intolerable to Staten Island?"

The panel eventually landed at the point of Kramer and Flanagan's exposition: the Republican, conservative nature of Staten Island.

more and spending less."

Banks are now able to give loans because they were bailed out with \$14 trillion by global taxpayers. They must be willing to risk losing money, but private enterprises are unlikely to do.

"Obama is trying to help Banks refinance homeowners," said Economics Lecturer Coull. "But the Banks want their palms greased."

Private industries provide a major chunk of the potential employment, but only when businesses have enough residual profits to reinvest in wages. A business is not obligated to provide jobs to employees.

Business' primary obligation is to provide the best product to their consumers and the greatest dividends to their stockholders. During times of recession a scarce supply of equity dissuades businesses from altering that goal.

"Businesses will only invest if they see a free market in the future" said Political Science. Professor Hendrickson. "But there's no such thing as a free market; governments needs to play a role."

The United States' economic model is a triangle. Households, private business and government being the essential three pillars that contribute to its foundation. In order to reinvigorate a starving capitalist economy there needs to be a surge in spending from any of those three pillars.

Each sector of that trio is dependent on the other. Business needs consumers to spend money, consumers need money from business in the form of wages, and the government needs for the former two sectors to have money in order to recoup taxes and afford to fund courts, a military, a police force, a fire department, Social Security and Medicare.

When money dries up after a financial collapse governments intervene. They are the

only institution with fluid access to money during a recession, because governments aren't liable to make a profit. The Governments only responsibility is to keep the country afloat. Congress is debating over how.

Congress is fighting over who will contribute the least, either a de-funded government or a regulated corporate sector.

"Congress is divided over two distinct political philosophies," Professor Hendrickson said. "The Democrats cite growth and government intervention, but the Republicans cite low taxes and limited regulation."

Partisanship has caused bickering between the two political parties.

"Congressman are beholden to a philosophical ideology," said Political Science Professor Richard Flanagan.

The Democratic stimulus has enabled a "slow quantitative easing to take effect," said Economics Lecturer Coull. "Before, the economy was counting on credit; now, there's none."

Congress has forced through austerity to solve recovery. Austerity only works if people already have money, which the banks refuse to give to them. Businesses aren't creating jobs fast enough for speculators to invest properly.

There is investment, but only in commodities that have little impact on the jobs market.

A subsequent decrease in the need for labor, with many advances in technology, future generations will have to rely on their savvy and ingenuity as thinkers to become the inventing class of industry and not just it's wage earning class: a class of debtors.

"Equal quantities of labor are always of equal value to the laborer, yet to the person who employs him they appear sometimes to be of greater and sometimes of smaller value," wrote Adam Smith.

**Meet Your Senators**

*Student Government Introduce Themselves Over Tacos*

BY DAEYUNG LEE

The Student Government representatives of CSI invited the student body to formally meet the newly elected senators. Senators, representatives, and other members of SG exchanged information and conversed with students while serving them tacos and nachos in the IC Campus Center during club hours on October 11th.

The 'meet and greet' with the Senators allowed students to interact with members of the Student Government in a relaxed, fun atmosphere.

"We're trying to get initiatives going; especially the senior class gift committee and connections with alumni," said Student Government President Michael Allamby. "We want people to treat CSI like family."

Allamby discussed his ambitions with various students, explaining the goals he wished to accomplish during the 2012-2013 academic year.

Senator Alexandra Doronina believed that the 'meet and greet' was beneficial to the students of CSI for a number of reasons. Doronina was present at the event to discuss and answer questions as to what SG does for

the students and campus.

"It's really great to meet the new people and new faculty involved in the Student Government," said Doronina. "It's important to know how the college operates and how we can contribute better to the CSI community."

Doronina is currently serving as the Commissioner of part time and evening student affairs. Doronina is currently involved in reinstating the evening coffee hour at The Green Dolphin Lounge.

Towards the middle of the 'meet and greet' with senator and representatives eating occurred more than socializing. Senator Jorge Guzman defended the event and saw this as a positive for the organization.

"The event is actually pretty good," said Guzman. "There is a bunch of people who've come for the food but they are picking up flyers as well."

Guzman is currently serving as the Deputy Commissioner of the Finance Community. Guzman is responsible for funding of the many clubs present at CSI.

"It's a great experience," said Guzman. "We sort of filter out the club applications and decide which ones get funding from Student



SG senators encourage students to get involved in the CSI community by discussing future plans over tacos on October 11th.

Government."

Senator Kelyn Poles chided some of the students present from double dipping their tacos while she spooned out guacamole and salsa to them. As the Club Commissioner Poles was in charge of the involvement fairs, carnivals, and other club connection events on the campus.

"It's my first year here," said Poles. "I love it."

Not everyone present at the event shared Poles enthusiasm. Some student's were just there for the free food.

"I'm just waiting for tacos," said Nick Gonzales.



# BANNER STYLES

## Fashionable First Ladies

BY VICTORIA CAROCCIA

As the late, great James Brown once said, "It's a man's world, but it would be nothing without a woman or a girl." When it comes to discussing the wives of Presidents past and present, this statement could not be more accurate.

Although the title of First Lady is an unpaid, non-elected title, it is still one of the most coveted and highly visible positions in the United States Government.

It is the First Lady's responsibility to uphold her husband's policies and protect his good reputation. Due to these obligations, the

First Lady often finds herself in the public eye, and is always sure to dress to impress. All 44 First Ladies have made their nation and their husbands proud with poise, grace, and impeccable style.

However, there are a select few who stand out above the rest. Regardless of your politi-

cal beliefs, there's no denying that these four ladies served up flawless public appearances with a side of fierce realness during their time in the White House. Hopefully, the future of politics will bring us even more fashionable First Ladies.

**Dolley Todd Madison (In the White House from 1809-1817)**

Dolley Todd Madison was the wife of James Madison, the fourth President of the United States. Madison is noted as the originator of First Ladyship; making headlines for helping battered women and orphans, as well as risking her life to save historical artifacts during the War of 1812. Despite her great community efforts, Madison is mainly remembered for her fashion sense. Bored with the New World fashion, Madison introduced various European styles to the White House. Her most noted ensemble included a turban adorned with peacock feathers.



Source: Google Images

**Jacklyn Kennedy Onassis (In the White House from 1961-1963)**

Married to John F. Kennedy, Onassis was known for her effortless style, love of rich fabrics, and tendency to show a little skin. Jackie O perfectly captured the essence of 1960's fashion with her tailored dress suits, oversized sunglasses, and jewelry. With color television on the rise, women all over the country were inspired by Onassis and imitated her casual yet classic style. Jackie O's legacy as a First Wife, though short, will forever live on in the fashion world.



Source: Google Images

**Nancy Reagan (In the White House from 1981-1989)**

Former actress Nancy Reagan knew exactly what it took to be in the public eye. During her tenure, Reagan hosted a total of 55 state dinners and went out of her way to order expensive "Nancy Red" china for these occasions. Reagan adorned herself in couture gowns by Oscar de la Renta, which prompted him to say that Reagan "never made a single faux pas" in regards to fashion. Always ready for her close-up, Reagan would often color coordinate her outfits to match the setting she was to be photographed in.



Source: Google Images

**Michelle Obama (Currently in the White House)**

Before the Obamas took office, the fashionable First Lady had taken a hiatus. In 2008, Michelle Obama made her debut sporting affordable fashions from J. Crew and White House Black Market. In 2009, she was featured on the cover of Vogue, photographed by famed fashion photographer Annie Leibovitz. Known for her sculpted biceps and love of floral print, Obama restored feminine and effortless style back into the White House. We can always count on Michelle Obama for her reliable, selfless attitude and great fashion sense.



Source: Google Images

## Campus Style

BY DIANA PORCELLI



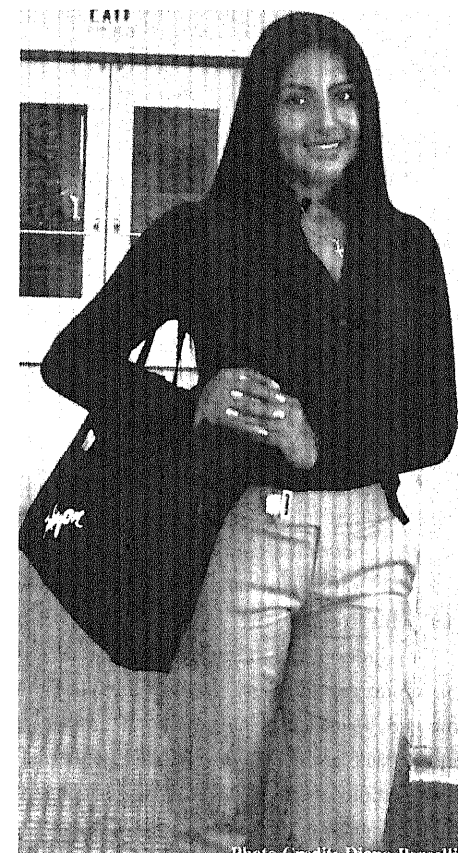
**Justin Chavez**  
Sophomore

6 Style: True Religion Jeans, Ski Hats



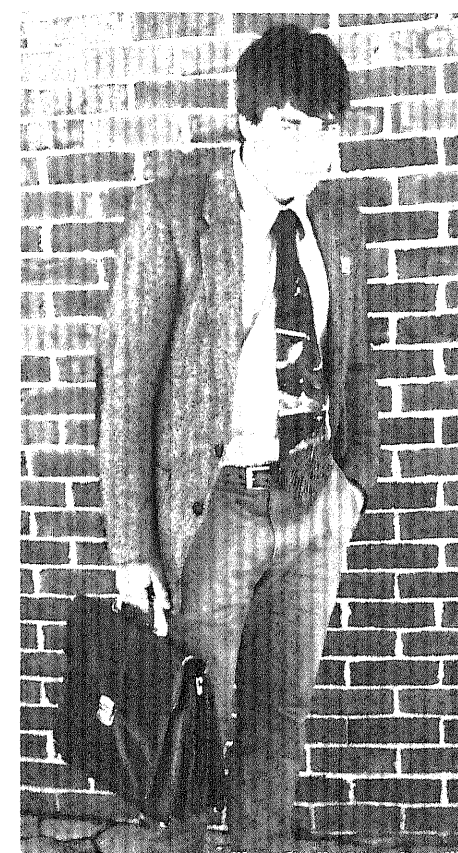
**Elizabeth Krawczon**  
Junior

Style: High Boots, Michael Kors Shirts



**Monica Sibiri**  
Sophomore

Style: Calvin Klein and Michael Kors



**David Charles**  
Sophomore

Style: Prada Briefcases

# BANNER STYLES

## Democratic and Republican Fashion

### What's the Difference?

BY NICOLE PAGANO

As we all know, there are major differences between the Democratic and Republican parties. Fashion is definitely one of them, but how

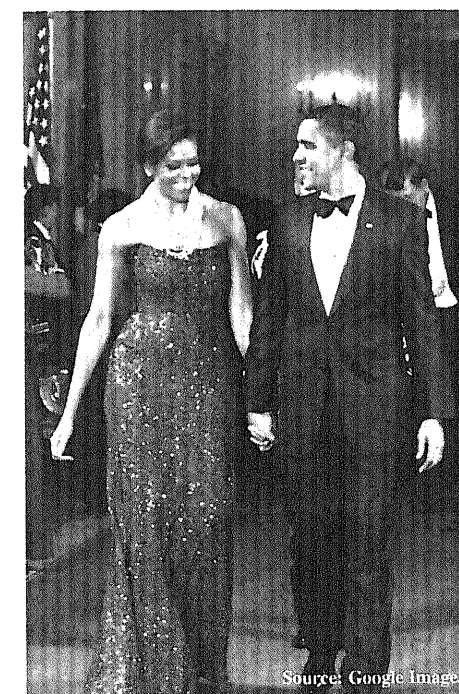
so? I am going to take an in depth look at outfit choices, colors, patterns etc. of our Presidential candidates and other people in office that I have randomly selected.

When I first took on this assignment, I really didn't think there would be any difference; Suits and ties for men and dress suits and boring skirts for the women. I was wrong. I

realized that the Democrats are riskier with their outfit choices. They choose more colors and patterns, and the to Republicans tend play it safe.

### The Democrats...

President Obama and his wife Michelle are known as a very fashion forward couple. Both have graced the covers of Vogue and Men's Vogue magazine. Obama has been seen outside of the White House in designer jeans and jackets, and he has also sported khakis and polo shirts. Maybe his laid back style is due to the fact that he is a dad to two young girls, or maybe he just wants to show America that he's a real guy.



President Obama and Wife Michelle

Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi is another fashion forward woman in office. She is known for wearing pearls with her dress suits, which are perfectly fitted for her. She is not afraid to play up her outfits with different color patterns and necklines.



Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi

Mrs. Obama is known for her very classy and elegant dresses and she is definitely not afraid to take some risks with bold colors and designs. Though she has been saying since day one that she does not use a stylist, there have been rumors that say otherwise. Vice President Joe Biden has not been seen in laid back outfits as much as Obama, but he is definitely very clean cut. He is known for wearing black designer suits that are perfectly tailored, and occasionally changes up his look with his ties.



Vice President Joe Biden

Fashion risk taking doesn't prove true for all Democrats in office.

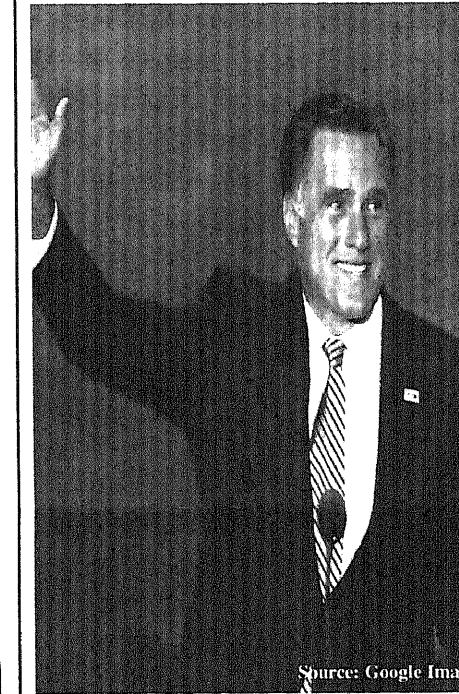
Congresswoman Debbie Wassermann Schultz proves to be the epitome of boring political fashion. Her dress suits look like they barely fit her, and the color palette she chooses to wear could not be duller. Her blonde curly hair looks like it is stuck to her head, and it is easy to see that she does not believe looking good is part of her job.



Democratic Congresswoman Debbie Wassermann Schultz

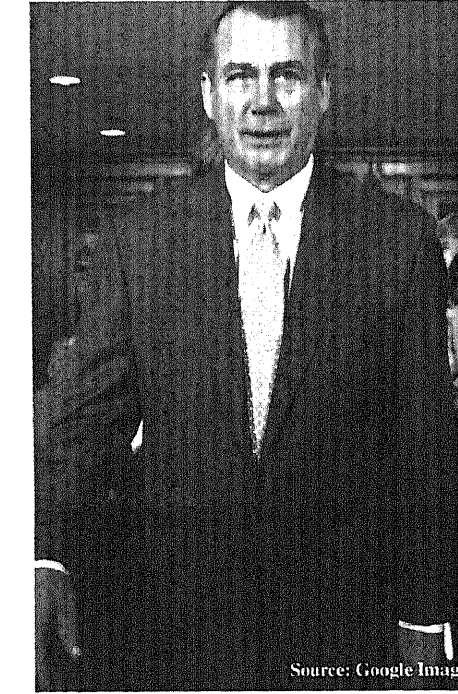
### The Republicans...

Moving to the Republican side of fashion, Mitt Romney and his wife Ann stick to more traditional fashion choices. Navy and dark grey suits are a favorite for Mitt Romney. He has been seen wearing plaid shirts with khakis for his laid back style, but all that really proves is that his fashion sense is dull.



Residential Nominee Mitt Romney

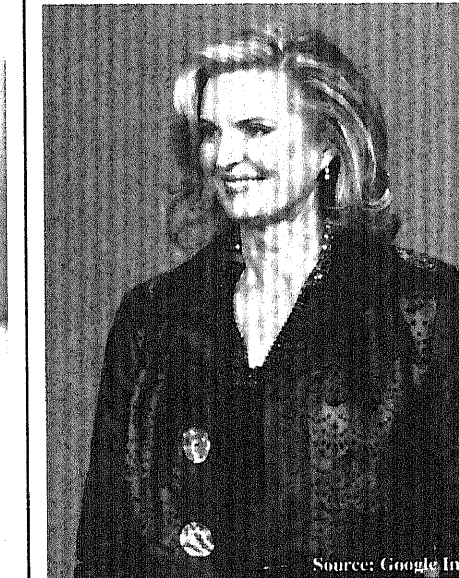
House speaker John Boehner is more fashion forward than both Romney and Ryan combined. One thing that always leads to a great fashion choice for him and oozes office readiness is his use of pinstripes. His black and dark grey suits are always a good choice; they show conscientiousness, yet still look good.



Majority Speaker John Boehner

Ann Romney definitely has some fashion sense, but does it stand out? She did wear that bright red 50's style dress for the first debate, but that's about all the risk she has taken so far. Yes, she plays with color and accessories, but her wardrobe isn't that adventurous. It's all very traditional and played safely.

Vice Presidential nominee Paul Ryan is another conservative fashion doer. His grey and blue suits and white undershirts look like they are too big for him, and they just scream boring.

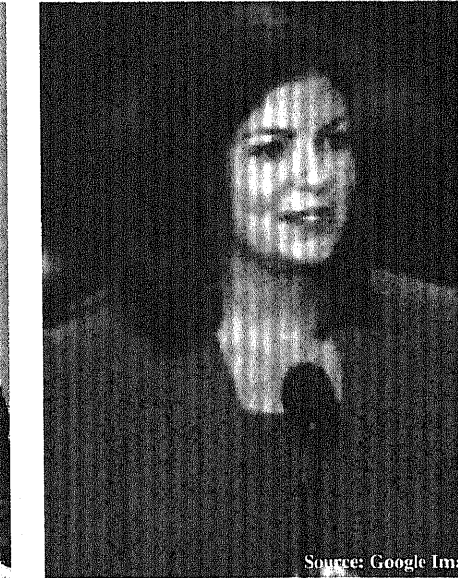


Ann Romney

US Senator Kelly Ayotte is another stuffy dresser. Boring dress suits seem to be the go-to choice for women in office, but once again, just because some color is added does not make them pretty to look at.

So we can see that there are similarities in dressing for both parties. How can you make a statement when suits and dress suits are required to make you look professional?

The Democrats are more of the risk takers in this sense. As for the Republicans, well, they just stick to what they know.



Senator Kelly Ayotte



# BANNER ARTS

## Election Essentials: A Presidential Playlist

*A List of Rock Music's Most Thought Provoking or Revolution-Inspiring Political Tunes*

BY MARIE SCARSELLA

With a presidential election right around the corner, it isn't unusual to see musicians who

speak out and share their political views. While their opinions and lyrics might not sway your vote, they do provide some good tunes to

rock out to in the privacy of your own room. Here's a playlist of some of rock music's most politically charged tunes. Just make sure not

to sing them too loudly in the shower. People might think you're going to incite a riot... or that you're just a little crazy.

### Bright Eyes - "When the President Talks to God"

Folksy frontman Conor Oberst is no stranger to political activism. Known for his role in the fight against illegal immigration, and his performance at an Obama fundraiser during the 2008 election, here he is at his finest, railing against ex-POTUS George W. Bush.

### Sleater Kinney - "Combat Rock"

The fine ladies of Sleater Kinney have some beef with America, and on "Combat Rock" they shout it loud and clear. A fiery charged indie-charmer, the track questions the country's actions. "Since when did skepticism become un-American?"

### NOFX - "Separation of Church and Skate"

Fat Mike and Co. are quite possibly some of the most politically-charged artists on this playlist, and "Separation of Church and Skate" off of The War on Terrorism proves it. Fast punk riffs combined with feisty lyrics about "hatred of authority," it makes sense as to why the band is monumental within their genre.



### Desaparecidos - MariKKKopa

Conor Oberst makes the list for a second time - this time with his punk moniker and immigration-based tunes. "MariKKKopa" rails against Arizona sheriff Joe Arpaio and his extremist immigration policies, calling him out on his support for racial profiling.

### Gogol Bordello - Think Locally, Fuck Globally

What could be more politically charged than a band of gypsies preaching about the purchase of local goods? Gypsy king Eugene Hutz feels that the global economy sucks, and he's got a bunch of accordions and violins to back him up.

### System of a Down - BYOB

What would a political playlist be without a song about war? System of a Down brings the anti-war sentiment to close off the playlist, jam-packed with heavy riffs and lots of yelling. The song's title stands for "bring your own bombs," all while dropping its own on the American pro-war sentiment.

# BANNER ARTS

## The Political Machine - The Most Polemic Game of 2012

*A Light Hearted Game with a Distinct Visual Personality Doesn't Make Up for The Lack of Core Play*

BY ANTHONY TILLELI

This PC only title is a very unique game. The basic concept is to become President by campaigning and winning a fictitious general election.

The first major complaint comes even before the start of the game. You are forced to create an account with Stardock to play and thus, in order to play this game, I must first log into Steam and then into Stardock. There is no reason for this. Steam already provides built in digital rights management into its platform.

Community services and multiplayer are possible without the need for an account and again, the Steam network already covers this. This appears like a blatant and dishonest attempt to accumulate email addresses so that they can send "exclusive" offers to them. To Stardock's credit, I opted out of emails, and true to their word my inbox is offer free.

The first element to grab your attention is the art style. They use bobble heads to represent the candidates and everything has a distinct toy feeling to them. I found it humorous that the designers included President Obama's extremely large ears and Governor Mitt Romney's long chin.

The sound follows suit with a similar cartoony soundscape; for instance, during news segments you would hear a dateline style intro. The bobble heads can even be clicked on and would nod in response. The game feels like a political cartoon you would find in the news-

paper.

The game play is a mixed bag. It is well thought out and has a major focus on the little details but the execution and game play feel half-baked. The main menu offers a tutorial instruction manual that covers the basics and has some nice artwork to compliment the instructions. The tutorial fell short in that it should have been more in depth explaining how each element works together. The accompanying artwork is fun but don't help to explain the concepts. I would have liked an interactive tutorial as people learn better through doing.

The game setup menu provides many options, such as game length, difficulty and starting funds/resources, allowing for more play variety. The character creation screen is where the game shines. Here, you can pick a predefined character, such as Obama, Romney, Abe Lincoln and Thomas Jefferson, or create a custom candidate.

The custom candidate can be extensively modified, both visually and their political platform/attributes that affect how the game responds. If you happen to have a bobble head fetish then this is the game for you. The main game is a campaign simulator and similar to turn based strategy games.

Here is where the game really falls short, it has the elements for a complex and intense game, but it lacks the critical pieces. The developers focused too much on the small



details and overlooked the overall game play.

The general lack of player feedback is the main issue. As the game progressed, events and items in the game aren't immediately understood. A lot of information is hidden behind sub-menus or you don't know how many resources are required to do an action. More importantly, on your opponent's turn, he will zip around the map doing various actions and on each turn you will spend time figuring

out exactly what he did and hoping you don't accidentally tell your candidate to do an action, wasting a precious resource.

Final verdict: I don't want to dismiss this game as a simple cash grab, as it has many interesting attributes and a unique charm, but it feels very rushed and unfinished. I don't recommend this game and it suffers from problems that can't simply be patched out in the future.

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## The Political Conspiracies of Metal Gear Solid

*The Metal Gear Solid Series Contain Hidden Political Undertones*

BY STEPHEN KLEIN

While the Metal Gear series is no stranger to political conspiracies and ideologies, its narratives and messages are wide open to interpretation.

Similar to the rest of the world of gamers, I saw the latest eleven minute trailer for Metal Gear Solid: Ground Zeroes. Was I amazed by the phenomenal graphics? Yes. I did not think that was possible for a multiplatform game on current-generation hardware to look so good.

Metal Gear Solid has always been known for more than just incredible visuals. The franchise is known for intricate storylines, revolutionary stealth game play, and themes of political conspiracy.

Speaking of political conspiracies, let's start off with Metal Gear Solid 2: Sons of Liberty. While the script covers several post-modern themes and a number of taboo subjects, there are still heavy allusions to politics being acted out as a show. The President is the puppet and figurehead while the rich and powerful, known as the Patriots later discovered to be an AI network, being the real party in charge of everything.

Now MGS: Sons of Liberty is an eleven year old game, but conservative talk show host

Michael Savag said that the rich and powerful, such as George Soros, brought down the economy on purpose so that their puppet, President Barack Obama, could get elected. There are people, and I know some of them, who actually pull the strings and are the ones controlling us.

In Metal Gear Solid 3: Snake Eater, Naked Snake is chosen to defeat his mentor after she defects to the Soviet Union. Snake later discovers that it was all a ruse for America to receive the Philosopher's Legacy, a virtually unlimited amount of money.

Again, game by that is about eight years old but could the Philosopher's Legacy be an allusion to the equivalent of oil today? Some would claim that America wants it all and that is why we put ourselves in conflict with the Middle East.

Fast forward to Metal Gear Solid 4: Guns of the Patriots, and you will come across politics being unraveled in a different light. From the very beginning, Solid Snake, or Old Snake in this case, states that "war has changed" multiple times. He often references how, "the age of deterrence has become the age of control, all in the name of averting catastrophe from weapons of mass destruction."



This sounds mysteriously like President George W. Bush's reasoning for invading Iraq for deterrence; the supposed Iraqi threat of weapons of mass destruction. Iraq did not declare war on us, but we invaded this oil-rich country due to empty threats.

The Metal Gear Solid family of games are beloved not just because of their game play,

but because of the backdrop for political conspiracies. When Metal Gear Solid: Ground Zeroes is released, and hopefully that will be within the next year, we will all experience for ourselves the next era of political intrigue along with getting to sneak around the first open world Metal Gear, of course.



# BANNER OPINIONS

## Not Fast Enough!

### *Allowing The Transport of Weapons Across The Border Is Plain Wrong*

BY ANDREA CURRY

A world in economic crisis. Countries in the midst of civil war, what do we do? Apparently, let guns walk.

The term "let guns walk" is a term used by the Department of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) to express the act of allowing guns to cross over the border into Mexico from the US. Not only did the ATF allow this, but they actually had a program called "Fast and Furious", in which they gave orders to ATF agents at the border to watch as guns were bought, right before their eyes.

Gun control at the border has always been an issue. Over the years, ATF agents have set up watch stations at the gun shops closest to the border to run interference between the buyers and the border. However, when open violence between the Mexican Government and the

power hungry drug cartels. Allowing guns to go into the hands of murders and thieves was a common practice at these border shops.

ATF agent Dobson came forward after months of sitting and watching as guns crossed the border. He told reporters that his director had ordered him to sit back and do nothing. When he confronted his director about the absurdity of their orders, they told him to keep quiet. They said that the directive had come from Washington.

Who precisely the orders came from is unknown. Due to Obama's executive order to not disclose the information, the communications are now confidential. This may be a protection of the people and their families. It also raises suspicions to what else they are trying to sweep under the rug.

The really curious part is how this all

seemed to come to light just as the democratic party was trying to pass stricter gun control laws. It seems they are creating the perfect circumstances to pass their agenda. Let's face it, if we hear nothing but gun violence on the news we're going to beg them to enact these laws.

So what exactly was the point to this project?

To follow the guns to the drug cartels up the chain of command to catch the leaders. However, what happened was the opposite. They lost over 1,400 assault weapons. They completely lost track of them — until they ended up at crime scenes.

Brian Terry was an ATF agent in Arizona who ended up being on the receiving end of the very guns he was told to let walk. His death is what sparked Dobson to come forward. It also sparked media interest in what was happening

at the border. All this led to the discovery of a cover up. Fast and Furious was not fast enough to clean up their tracks. With Dobson's testimony, and many others coming forward, more questions were raised; many of which remain unanswered.

Only over time will we know the whole truth. Until then many continue to die by the hands of people carrying guns. This tragedy is not due to poor gun control laws. It is due to poor decisions by a government department, who decided to disregard the safety of hundreds of lives for the sake of pushing policies and "catching bad guys." My question is, who is the bad guy? The one who provides the weapon, or the one who uses it? In this case it is both, but mostly the one who provided; because they choose to do it in order to "protect," but caused nothing but pointless death.

## The Problems With Universal Healthcare

### *'Obamacare' Has Its Pros and Cons*

BY ANDREA CURRY

Universal Healthcare has worked in many other countries, such as Canada and Switzerland. "Obamacare" is a step towards this type of health care but it is not there yet. Its policies have given us some great benefits, and implement many others over the next few years. I fear that if this continues into the universal healthcare model it may not be a choice, but a slippery slope towards forced health insurance for lesser care.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act has been working its way through the Senate and Congress for years. It has been revised more times than The Bible. However, it finally passed March 23, 2010.

There are many great benefits to this plan, such as the extension of insurance coverage for

young adults still living at home until the age of 26. This is a huge benefit to many who can not afford their own coverage.

The Affordable Care Act also set in place policies that end an insurance company's ability to limit essential benefits. It has allowed for the opening of independent offices to help consumers navigate multiple private health insurance companies. Health insurance will have to cover preventive treatments, such as mammograms and colonoscopies. The list goes on and on of the ample benefits of this act. These benefits are awesome. However, when a law becomes nationalized it loses sight of the individual, and begins to become a situation not of choice, but force.

An example of this can be seen through the prohibition and alcohol laws. When prohibi-

tion was overturned and alcohol became a legal substance once again, the drinking age was 18. When the government decided it was going to change the drinking age to 21 it put into effect a law stating that it was the individual bar's choice to change the limit. However, the bars did not change the age to the new federal standard would be slightly more expensive than the ones who did because there would be special taxes for the ones that did.

In 2014, the Affordable Care Act will be taking a similar approach. Most individuals who can afford health insurance will be required to do so or pay fees in order for the uninsured to be covered. They will also be implementing tax on those who do not purchase health insurance.

The entire system will always be flawed

until we alter the level that determines poverty. Poverty level income for a family of four is considered \$29,000 per year. This has been in place since the 1950s. In the last few years of the cost for living has skyrocketed. Leaving the poverty line at the same level as 62 years ago is hugely irresponsible. Many people will be missing out on the coverage that they need but being unfairly categorized as living above the poverty line. In 2014, those people who do fall below the line will be eligible for Medicaid, but what does that matter if thousands of other Americans making \$35,000 a year need it, but won't be able to receive it?

There are benefits we will receive from the Affordable Care Act that are really good. The question is whether this is leading us in a positive of negative change for healthcare.

## Russians Seeing Red

### *Old Habits Die Hard...*

BY LARRY ZAKHARENKO

Comrades, you may have Romney fever, and the only prescription, is more Mitt Romney. A sweeping phenomenon has emerged across Staten Island and Brooklyn that has the Russian community succumbing to brainwashing propaganda, the magnitude of which is comparable to that of George Orwell's 1984.

For those of you with Eastern European parents, relatives, or friends that still have that off the boat accent, you probably know what I'm talking about. For those of you more fortunate and not knowledgeable in the matter; Eastern European immigrants living in New York are not the most politically educated or involved demographic.

For most, the only thing that matters is good vodka, and knowing when their next paycheck comes in. Even those that lived a lifetime here estrange themselves from American politics as if they're somehow betraying secret soviet roots.

When you ask the older or uninformed Russian, Ukrainian, or Polish population which candidate they like better, the response you typically hear is a proud and reassuring "Romney."

If you ask why, I can guarantee they'll say one of three things; because Obama has done nothing, because Obama is Muslim, because Obama is black, or a combination of the ignorant three in which Obama is called Barack Hussein Osama.

That gust of wind you just heard was the sound of hundreds of liberal readers sighing in disappointed unison.

Although I'm unbiased between both candidates, I am a reporter, and this was one insensibly naive mystery I couldn't just leave to Scooby-doo. Almost everyone I asked from this demographic had jumped on the Obama-hate bandwagon, giving me the same scripted answer. I found myself feeling like Mugatu from Zoolander, shouting "doesn't anyone notice this?! I feel like I'm taking crazy pills!"

I discovered that the source of the brainwashing was Russian radio stations like channel 620 AM radio. A gravely, soft spoken voice spews stool water and nonsense while listeners indulge in twisted facts and subliminal Romney adverts. This station was, dare I say, the Fox "News" of

Russian radio.

An entire demographic, which relies on these stations like a methadone fiend to get their daily fix, unknowingly follows the preaching of an organization with hidden political motives. The station, along with other talk-show organizations, go as far as misinterpreting American political news in Russian and changing around the facts to a fan base that heavily speaks Russian as their primary language; when the hosts do choose to speak in English, they coincidentally misuse key words to promote or demote certain candidates.

Ukrainian native, and U.S. citizen since 1993, Olga Anastasiadi is a school teacher that has had to travel from Staten Island to Brooklyn for the past 12 years. In that time she's listened to 620 AM almost every morning and evening during her commute.

"The focus of the station has definitely shifted from a passive, informative talk show, to an aggressive partisan crossfire," said Anastasiadi.

Although the station still plays music, talks about the community, or sets up comedic routines, they find ways to bash candidates from all spec-

trums of government and pass it off as hard facts.

"I found myself liking Romney more and more, and I wasn't sure why," Olga admitted. Even school teachers like Olga are caught in the subtle brainwashing when it's widely known that none of Romney's policies benefit teachers at all. She tells me that the reason the radio station is so influential is because most immigrants have nothing else to listen to, they cling onto the radio station like a lifeline into the American way of life.

When Vladimir Putin showed dislike towards Romney, who asserted that "Russia is our number one foe," the station's listeners were told that Putin thinks of Romney as a "strong and honest businessman." Obama is unfortunately depicted as, "a clown in a suit, marching bears in the circus."

One solution I propose is to inform and educate the listeners of the real Mitt Romney and his true political standings, to give them the Romney that told 533 lies in 30 weeks, as documented by Steve Benen, instead of the fictional czar who will end Obama's reign of tyranny that these radio stations have manifested.

# BANNER OPINIONS

## Only Half Into Politics

### *I Love Politics But I'm Just Not In Love With Politics*

BY LUCIA ROSSI

It's surprising how people get angry when I say, "I'm just not into politics." Every time, people look at me as if I'm a horrible citizen. Perhaps I can be cynical, but that does not mean I am avoiding personal responsibility.

I do vote and I'm sure there is a vast majority of people who don't follow politics as well as I do. We don't realize these people are there while we rave about debates; we seem to ignore them and focus on what we believe is important.

Yes, I'm blissfully ignorant. But pride in my ignorance is not rampant. No, I'm not saying that because I'm a closet conservative. I'm actually a democrat.

Some people believe that the political system is "fixed," voting is pointless, that politics is propaganda and most of the information

we're fed are lies. Some people believe that America only offers the illusion of choice and voting just provides unjustified legitimacy to an entirely corrupt game. I don't necessarily believe that but I do understand why people would.

Politics is similar to football. People fight for whatever team they are cheering for, invest their time to support them and their money to fund them. But in reality, people are getting worked up over something they rarely have complete control over. I personally feel that my vote is insignificant because my opinion on who should lead the country will not increase my importance in my community.

Say I win an argument on why Obama should be President over Romney. What would I gain, satisfaction that I won an argument? Why waste breath when he may not actually

win?

I have political views, but I don't trust our system and I don't trust the politicians. I think it's very possible politicians say what we want to hear. It's also why I don't watch the news often. The news can be really depressing to watch. I don't know how people do it every day. It makes me lose faith in humanity.

I think that if I followed politics more I would become disgusted. I would ultimately get a headache from the falsities, unnecessary quarrels, and overly inspirational and empty statements.

People may say they aren't interested in what is happening in Libya because it doesn't directly affect them. Although I don't follow politics and I don't follow the news, I would like to know when something consequential is happening in the world.

I will learn as much as I need about politics to determine where my vote is going to; whether insignificant or not, it's still mine. We're not suppose to "like" politics, but we still do it for the chance to keep our vote relevant and that delirious, idiotic liars won't ruin our country.

The important thing is, no matter who wins, there will always be wars, people dying and people starving.

Therefore, isn't Politics just a game?

I overheard a woman who just realized that Saddam Hussein was executed say: "They caught him?"

For anyone who doesn't remember, Saddam was captured 3 years prior to his execution. Now, there is someone who doesn't follow politics!

## Voting Matters!

### *Good for the Country and You!*

BY STEFANO BARTOLONE

One of the great powers that Americans have is their ability to contribute to the Nation's future. A simple way to do just that is by taking the time, every first Tuesday in November, and vote for a politician. For hundreds of year's minorities of all types battled for this right. The fights to secure this freedom are vast and extraordinary; yet in present day America, many Americans ignore this right. What is truly bewildering is that this is the only time of year that our political voices are prominent, yet many of us do not take advantage of it.

Most people fail to go out to voting stations because their lives are too busy, or that they have not registered to vote. The first reason is understandable and is often some-

thing out of your hands. Most businesses, including CSI, should either close down or have an extended break during Election Day or at least every four years for a presidential election. This would at least give people more leeway to take time and go out to the polls. The second reason for not voting is pure laziness.

Just register, it will not hurt. Registering is not the same as voting. Yes, it is true that you have to select a party affiliation, but this should not stop you from registering. The party that you are registered under is not a true representation of your political views.

A third objection to voting is what I like to call, the Electoral College Excuse. Some people feel that voting is a waste of time because the Electoral College negates their

one vote. Is true that your one little vote will not change the country? No! I know we have been spoon fed to believe it, but the most avid voter knows this to be false. Regardless of the Electoral College, our vote is still important. Your vote, along with all the other votes, will still play a role. Plus, wouldn't you rather tell someone that you expressed your opinion, instead of simply keeping it to yourself? Just because your vote may seem small, and seemingly canceled out by the Electoral College, it's better to say that you contributed then not at all.

Other people complain about voting because they feel that candidates fail to keep promises. The counter argument is simple. The motivation for voting is to either elect a politician or replace them with another. If a

politician fails to fulfill their promises, you will eventually have the opportunity to vote them out. In other words, your vote can be used as a form of punishment.

I am, by no means, making you feel guilty about not voting because we have a freedom in this country to not vote, but it frustrates me to see people angry with politicians. They do not take time out of their lives to do anything constructive. It pains me to know people are passionate about politics and their country but fail to express their voice. It is true that your one vote probably will not determine the nation's next president but at least you can say that you attempted to play a small, yet very important role, in either changing or improving your country's future.

## To Vote or Not to Vote?

### *What Do You Do When Everyone Seems Incompetent?*

BY SARAH ALADHAMY

Politics is an important topic that's most relevant during the election season. Some believe that it should be discussed in public, but others have a different perspective. Surprisingly, it's the one topic this Middle Eastern chick isn't a fan of.

Growing up, my parents never really encouraged me to like or hate politics. Long before the war and Saddam Hussein became President, my family emigrated from Iraq. I know it's hard to believe for all you readers out there, but it's true. Middle Easterners are generally not political. Politics is very much different there. Once someone wins the presidency, they're President until the day they die or resign. To me, it sounds stupid; when someone is president for life, eventually they're going to turn into a dictator. It's no wonder Iraq's former President Saddam Hussein was cor-

rupt with power, killing and torturing hundreds of innocent people.

Another reason politics doesn't interest me is I could never one hundred percent agree with either party. Then again, I don't think everyone really agrees with either party on everything. It always frustrates me when one party wants to change something that's going to turn out bad. In 2008, while watching the Presidential Debate between McCain and Obama, I couldn't decide which one would be a better fit for the job. McCain is so old, he looks like he's about to die at any second. The Vice-Presidential candidate Sarah Palin is an idiot who doesn't know what the hell she's saying. If McCain died while in office and Palin took his place, we'd be screwed.

Although Obama knows what he's talking about, it's hard for me to tell if he's serious. To me, he comes off as someone

who's just a good talker. Most people I know who voted for him don't see it that way. Every time I ask them why they voted for Obama, the response is either because he's a minority, or because they want the war to end.

I'm all for having a president of a different ethnicity. But voting for him solely because of his race is ridiculous. What about what he plans to do as president? What will he do for the economy? The war? Healthcare? Although I wasn't able to vote, I probably would have voted for the third party.

I feel a little sorry for the third party candidate, Ralph Nader. He's always there every time voting comes around. You'd think after so many years of running as a candidate he'd be president by now.

This year, my first chance to vote, will be for Obama because during his 4 years he

hasn't done a bad job. He did more for the country than President Bush ever did. Watching the presidential debate makes me certain of it. I mean yes, people are still losing jobs but it takes time for the economy to get back to the way it was. As the saying goes, "patience is a virtue."

Romney's view for the country being run by "business" is a load of B.S. When I think of the country being run as a "business" I immediately think of greed and power over other third world countries. If Romney wins, our country will go right back to square one. We'll be in more debt than we were before, more people will lose their jobs and more people will lose their homes.

Who knows, this country may even escalate another war, but this time with China over money, under the auspice of trade.



# BANNER SPORTS

## Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Look to Push Forward

*With A New Coach and Added Depth to the Team The Dolphins Look to Make A Statement in the 2012-2013 Season*

BY MIKE PAPANDREA

With the 2012-2013 season about to kick off, the dolphins will have their head coach Mike Ackalitis for a full season. He believes there are a few keys to the season that can lead to a more successful one than the last. One stand out on the Women's team, is the addition seven freshmen.

"They're becoming very close already," said Ackalitis. "Two of them are sisters, three of them know each other from high school, and it's becoming a very positive atmosphere because they're always coming on time."

The added freshman boosts the girl's roster from a low 11 last year, to a full roster of 18 this year. This depth will give coach Ackalitis more options for rotations and a can focus on an individual swimmers strengths and weaknesses for specific matchups.

Returning swimmers from last year have another season under their belt and should only improve from here. CUNYAC Diving Champion Stephanie Collyer plans to keep her titles this year in the Conference.

Key returning swimmers are Juniors Vasiliki Stergioula (Freestyle), Elaina Lei (Breaststroke) and Lauren Overeem (Butterfly.)

Senior Jessica Pifalo (IM/Backstroke) returns to the pool after an 8-month shoulder surgery recovery knocked out her 2011-2012 season. This year, the senior aims to stay in the pool.

"I feel confident going into this season," said Pifalo. "Between our freshman class and our strong pre-season that we had, we definitely are going to look to make a statement this year in the conference."

Ackalitis made sure that his pre-season practices included lots of running. He also pushed his team into the pool as much as he could in the month of September to get the team in shape for season.

"Practices are a lot more structured," said Pifalo. "He [Ackalitis] really pushes us in the best way possible and always encourages us to put 100% in each practice."

On the Men's side, four swimmers who made nationals last year return. Sophomore Timur Rakhimov, Junior Yury Zimarev, Andrey Tarasov and Junior Danila Novikov are all trying to build upon last season's personal success and turn it into team success for men's swimming.

Alongside Collyer, Sophomore CUNYAC



Source: CSI Athletic Dept.

### Head Coach Mike Ackalitis Pushes the Lady Dolphins Swimming Team to A Successful Season.

Diving Champion John Pignatelli plans to keep his medals for the Dolphins this year. Junior Mitchell Lovell, and Sophomore Nolan Reece will join in contributing extra points and scoring for the Dolphins.

Ackalitis has made some achievable goals for the men's and women's teams. It starts with the men beating their conference rival, Baruch, who got the best of them last year.

"Last year Baruch beat us even though we won every single event," Said Ackalitis. "So,

we're hoping we have enough depth to kind of offset that and win the CUNY Championships."

On the women's side, Coach is not setting the bar to winning the CUNY Championships. A finish within a certain rank can mean a successful season and something to build upon for the upcoming years with this new freshman class.

"On the women's side I would like to be top 3. Being a big team I think we have a shot at that."

## 2012 MLB Playoffs Preview

*A Quick Look at What is Ahead For This Year's Post Season*

BY ANTHONY GUANERI

The 2012 MLB season has been an eventful one. With the addition of a second wild card in each league, more teams are in the hunt for playoff contention than ever before. This has also been a memorable season for other reasons. Washington has stormed to the top of the National League standings to bring playoff baseball back to the nation's capital for the first time since 1933.

The Baltimore Orioles have returned to prominence, currently in control of the top wild card spot and fighting for their American League East division title in fifteen years.

Familiar faces like New York, Tampa Bay, Detroit, and Texas are all vying for a return to postseason play as well. It has been a big year for individual players. Los Angeles Angels rookie outfielder Mike Trout has already established himself as an elite player at the age of twenty years old and is a front-runner for the American League MVP award.

Detroit star Miguel Cabrera is on the verge of the of the first triple crown in baseball since Carl Yastrzemski since 1967. Cabrera currently leads the league in batting average, runs batted in, and is one home run shy of the league lead (behind Josh Hamilton).

In the National League it seemed Giants outfielder Melky Cabrera had established himself as a top player, until a failed test for banned substances landed him a fifty game suspension. Pitching phenomenon Stephen Strasburg rebounded from Tommy John surgery with an exceptional season, but has been controversially shut down for the playoffs due to reaching his innings limit. This season was not without its disappointments either.

Perennial playoff contenders Boston and Philly struggled all year to maintain any kind of consistency. The Dodgers got off to a very strong start but faltered as the season wore on, even after acquiring several notable players from the Red Sox (Josh Beckett, Adrian Gonzalez, Carl Crawford).

Looking ahead to October, pitching is the name of the game. With the best staff ERA in baseball, Washington is well positioned to make a run at the pennant despite the absence of Strasburg. In the American League, Texas appears to repeat as league champions for the third year in a row. This is in thanks to a strong blend of high-powered offense, stellar pitching, and a great defense. Not to say that these are foregone conclusions.

The Yankees are the most experienced



Source: MLB.com

team in October, even with injury concerns and questions about starting rotation depth.

Tampa Bay and Oakland have arguably the best starting rotations in the American League.

Detroit is an offensive powerhouse and Justin Verlander remains one of the most feared pitchers in baseball.

Cincinnati has also blended good offense with strong pitching this season, and a healthy Joey Votto should go a long way towards their championship dreams. Atlanta has bounced

back from their monumental collapse of last season, San Francisco is just two years removed from a title, and St. Louis is looking to defend their thrilling World Series victory of 2011.

No matter how things play out, this is sure to be one of the most exciting MLB post-seasons in recent memory.