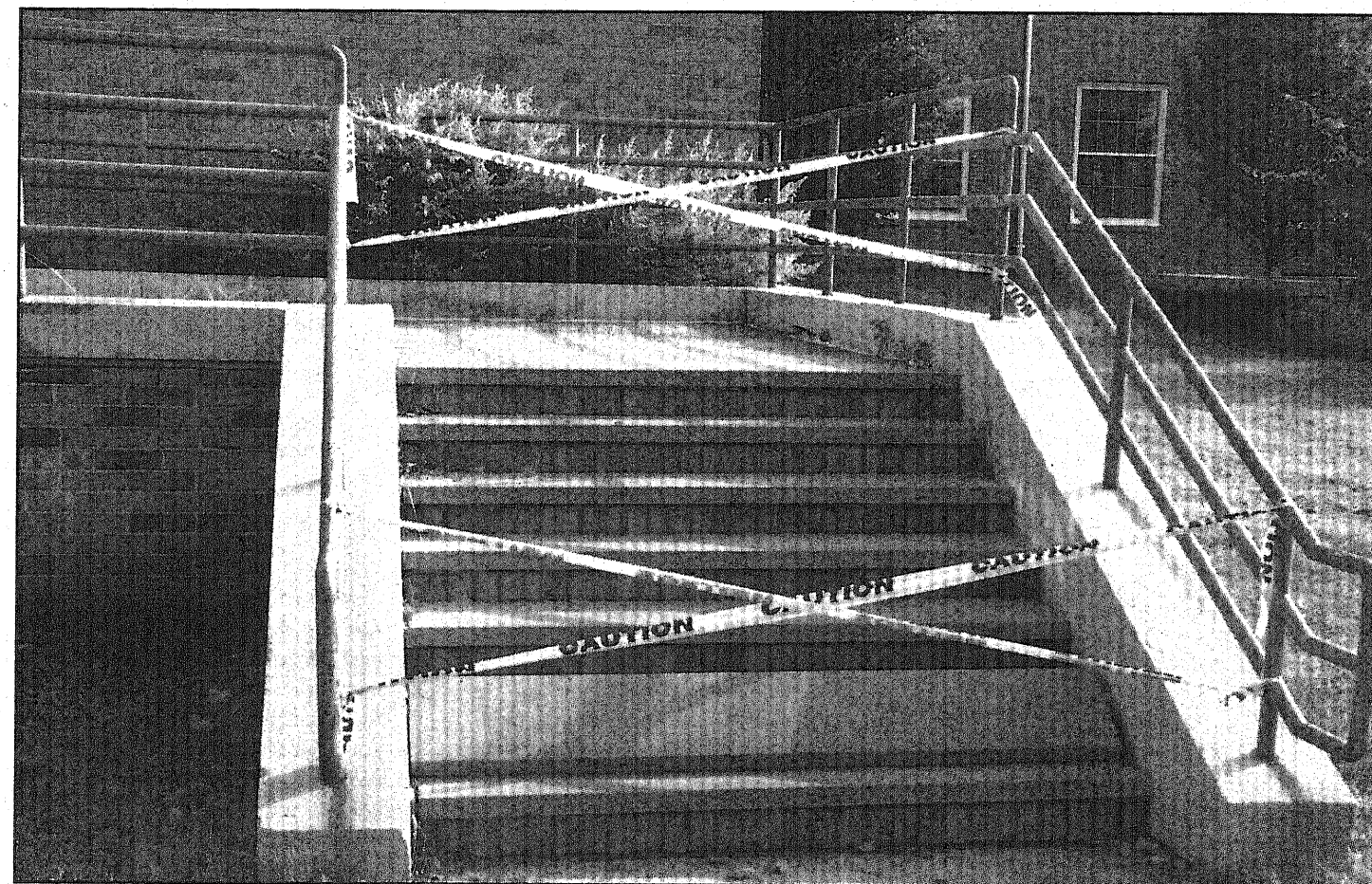


# THE BANNER



## Willowbrook State School Lives on?

BY LUCIE LAURIA  
EDITOR

The largest campus in NYC is also the worst maintained - broken sidewalks, worn-out grass areas, leaning light poles, gravel parking lots, and steps that are falling down or are otherwise broken. CSI's grandiose 204-acre site still resembles the remnants of the Willow Brook State School.

Visitors to our campus may wonder whether the quality of learning is equated to the quality of our landscaping.

"Public education is America's last priority, and so our facilities reflect the attitude of neglect," Professor Sarah Schulman (Department of English) said. "Sometimes the CSI campus reminds me of housing projects I saw in East Germany in the 1980's: institutional, inexpressive and cheesy. I wish that we would stop spending money on this war, and instead put it into gorgeous, large, wired classrooms, free computers for every student and decent food. Our students often come from working-class families, and some have been institutionally undereducated before they get to CSI. Add to this: their young children, holding down multiple jobs etc, and you have a student body that needs space, comfort and material support to move forward."

According to Deputy to the President for Administrative Services Thomas G. Tyburczy, the portion of the budget dedicated to repair of concrete and landscaping improvements (other than cutting) is too small. "It's not enough money," Tyburczy said. "Last year, the B&G (Department of Buildings & Grounds) did sidewalk repairs for \$60,000. We did the sidewalks around the Center for the Arts and all the way to Campus Center, the sidewalks are brand new."

However, water still often sits on the sidewalk by the back entrance to 1R Building, and the concrete on the way to the Campus Center and at many other places across the campus is cracked.

The landscaping is dead at numerous locations and overgrown with weeds. Dead tree trunks and dead trees can be seen at many places across the campus. "This year, the fall landscaping has not been done because of the warm weather," Tyburczy said.

The Department of Buildings & Grounds has contracts on maintenance

Continued on page 3

## New Student Government President at CSI

BY MICHAEL COHEN  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Her high heels click-clacked down the hall of 1C with a shining smile beautifully masking the gruesome insomnia that comes as a side effect of balancing high academic standards, extracurricular responsibilities and a sliver of a social life. "I went to sleep at four in the morning, and I was here [on campus] by eight," said Alexandra Porto, CSI's newly elected student government president. Ms. Porto arrived on campus at such an ungodly hour last Thursday because her and a few other SG senators spent the day speaking to Core classes in an effort to better serve students by first familiarizing them with SG. The "new" SG.

"In the past, I think things were more political," Porto said "I know that turned a lot of people off. But this year, what I'm trying to do is make it like a friendly student government." Somewhat naïve but she continued with a certain tone, "I really want students to feel we are here

Continued on page 3

## How Did Allison Die?

BY LUCIE LAURIA  
EDITOR



Until one Saturday in mid-September of 2007, a seemingly healthy, 27-year-old nursing program graduate, spent her days working in the emergency room of Staten Island University Hospital and taking care of her sick mother and her five cats in her East Brandis Avenue home.

But that Saturday, after she had driven her cancer-stricken mother to the hospital and left her there, her younger brother came to check on her around four o'clock to find out what happened because she hadn't been answering the phone. He found her face-down in her bed. Her face was grey and he knew that she was dead.

"The cats are still here," Mrs. Patricia Cunningham, Allison Cunningham's mother says. "They miss her too; they know something is up, but they don't know what it is. Every time, somebody

pulls up with a car, they run to the window."

Why Allison died is still a mystery to her mother. "We don't know anything," she says. "It will take eight to ten weeks." (Mrs. Cunningham bursts into tears.)

"In June of 2005, Allison spoke on behalf of the 60 graduates of CSI's nursing program, congratulating her classmates as they all pledged in front of family and friends to treat each patient with compassion, dignity and respect," Staten Island Advance stated.

Miss Cunningham graduated at the top of her class from the CSI nursing program in 2005. "She was well thought of," Professor Mary O'Donnell, Chairperson of Department of Nursing, says. "She was one of our top students."

"Allison was a lovely young lady who

Continued on page 3



# American Democracy Project

## Hillary Hones In On Healthcare

BY WILLIAM KLINE  
ADP EDITOR

On September 17, Hillary Clinton proposed the America Health Choices Plan, an outline of a plan for future health care reform, to a crowd of mostly medical industry professionals. Among Clinton's main objectives, as stated in the speech in Des Moines, she seeks to guarantee coverage to the 47 million uninsured or underinsured Americans in our country. Her aim is to create affordable health care, which is available to anyone, regardless of previous medical history or employment status.

Theoretically, the plan looks like a well-guided attempt to ensure that all Americans receive a fair chance at a good bill of health. But, the road to achieve such grand aspiration includes many contradictory elements that will make universal health care and exercise of idealism. While most politicians point their fingers at one issue or another, the question of why health care is such an expensive commodity remains unanswered to the general public. The truth is, they're all right. One decisive factor doesn't affect the whole medical process. Many different factors contribute to the decline of the healthcare system and make the concept of universal health care, a politician's pipe dream.

Clinton's focus on health care illustrates how the medical industry is failing to provide adequate facilities to Americans, and how detrimental the repercussions of an illness could be for

a family. For those uninsured who live on a middle class income, a minor accident or illness could mean thousands in medical bills. A catastrophic incident could mean an insurmountable debt, if the debt could even be paid at all. And, as noted in Mrs. Clinton's speech, the United States spends more on healthcare than any other country.

For a system of universal health care to work, either employer would have to provide insurance to their employees. Or, by law, each individual would have to buy his or her own medical insurance, just as automobile drivers must possess insurance to operate machinery. Either way, the mass outcry from both opposing sides would be great.

If the federal government forced employers to provide health care to all of its employees, only the most lucrative businesses would have the necessary funds to provide such a service. In other words, the end would come nearer for small businesses and big businesses would cry foul.

But, if legislation mandated that individuals buy their own form of insurance, those most directly affected, particularly

the middle and lower class income brackets, would be unable to afford their own insurance. Mrs. Clinton targets this group as the young people of America who don't buy insurance because of clean health records. But, she forgets the segment of the population that truly can't afford to acquire health coverage. Everyone wants good health coverage, but some of them help contribute to the problem of insufficient treatment.

Another factor that elevates the exorbitant insurance premiums is the number of malpractice suits that deter our doctors and force them into a practice of what is known as "defensive medicine." According to medterms.com, defensive medicine is a practice "designed to avert the future possibility of malpractice suits." For doctors, malpractice insurance can become a very expensive, but, an imperative part of medicine. It often puts tighter restraints on the volume of patients that doctors can take and the number of high-risk procedures that the doctor can perform or undertake. Another factor converges two main-

stream political issues into an overall institutional flaw. According to FoxNews.com, one out of every five of the near 50 million that Clinton deems uninsured or underinsured is an illegal immigrant. Certainly, if the United States were to adopt a plan that would guarantee a universal system of health care, the inclusion of illegal immigrants would put costs further up for taxpayers. The United States' responsibility includes its citizens, not the border hoppers who proclaim themselves as citizens through fraudulent drivers licenses and bogus social security numbers.

After her push for universal health-care backfired in 1993, Clinton sought to capitalize on previous flaws in the plan, keeping in mind the criticisms, which, prevented it from being passed in the first place. Many Republicans openly opposed the plan and claimed that it would have limited choices to the insured that were content with their health coverage. Clinton emphasized in her introduction of the conveniently named American Health Choices Plan, that those who were satisfied with their coverage could continue along with the same plan and see the same doctors.

The plan demonstrates a decent motive, but too much bureaucracy already weighs down the system. If Hillary Clinton's healthcare reform influences the health care system, it will further complicate a horrendous process.

applied her academic gifts to her passion for helping others," Professor Arlene Farren, Deputy Chairperson of Department of Nursing, says. We were proud of her as a graduate of our program and are touched by her loss as are her classmates and colleagues.

Allison treated people with compassion, and they loved her. More than 450 people came to her wake, and, instead of flowers, many of them made contributions to American Cancer Society.

## Grounds

from front page

in the value of about a \$1,000,000 (salaries not included), but there is no capital improvement proposed for rehabilitation of the landscaping and grounds.

Who gets this \$1,000,000 and who decides who gets it?

According to Tyburczy, the B&G has a "master plan right now. We have a consultant to help us with landscaping. There is no capital money now, but we're getting an expert to tell us what we need. Then we'll make a request."

Hopefully, the expert is addressing the parking issues as well. The parking should be redesigned. The landscape plan is wrong.

The B&G gets a portion of the money that comes from the state, as a combination of tax levy funds and the tuition payments. The portion is, unfortunately, too insufficient.

With the proper funding, our campus could be the pride of NYC. It seems that there is a lot of money to build parks on Staten Island that are hardly used by the public at all - High Rock for example. Now we have the massive undertaking of the conversion of the former garbage dump to a park. Somehow there is also money to fix the golf courses; let them fall apart a little bit and fix the campus.

Our campus is utilized by almost 15,000 people. Why not make it as beautiful as a park of a similar size utilized by very few?



The fountain behind the 1P building is in disarray. The decorative pillars and the water streams are uneven on top of the poor drainage.

## Allison

from front page

applied her academic gifts to her passion for helping others," Professor Arlene Farren, Deputy Chairperson of Department of Nursing, says. We were proud of her as a graduate of our program and are touched by her loss as are her classmates and colleagues.

Allison treated people with compassion, and they loved her. More than 450 people came to her wake, and, instead of flowers, many of them made contributions to American Cancer Society.

"I'm sick," Mrs. Cunningham, who is receiving chemotherapy for lung and liver cancer, says. "She was a great daughter, she really was."

## New SG Pres

from front page

for them, and we want to know what suggestions they have to improve CSI."

Porto said that she knows apathy plagues the campus, so she felt no surprise when a few students seemed unconcerned with her efforts during the Core class speeches. But as apathetic eyes rolled, Porto noticed something of greater virtue. She saw a great quality in fellow senator Ione Gore. "She really got their attention," Porto said.

Most students just appreciated SG's classroom visit because it cut into class time. But Gore displayed her unique ability to reach students who otherwise would have forgotten about SG as soon as Porto and Gore left the room. Porto seemed excited about the diversified talents and abilities of this year's senators. "We've got such a great team," she said.

Swarmed by interested students Porto gave her personal email address to anyone with complaints, suggestions or interest in involvement. Giving out personal contact information, especially for an attractive and intelligent young woman, might prove to be an inconvenient



ience but Porto's dedication to serving students supersedes fears of perverted stalkers.

"Sometimes I'm too trusting," she said, admitting that her two biggest personal flaws are over trustfulness not setting aside enough time for herself. But these personal flaws morphed into professional virtues once in the realms of SG. "I think the reason I've been successful in SG," Porto claimed, "is because I'm friendly. And I don't do backdoor politics."

Backdoor politics stained the reputation of former SG president Arishna "AJ" Ramaphal, who stood accused of coercing student voters.

In true political fashion, Porto refrained from further bashing AJ but also made sure not to condone voter coercion. "Hypothetically speaking," she noted, "it would be totally disrespectful to fellow senators and students to tell people who to vote for."

Porto never needed to worry about

Continued on page 4

## Sex, Drugs, and...Politics?

BY JENNA CALDERON  
CONTRIBUTOR

Close your eyes. Got them closed? Good. Now lets take a trip back many eons ago to the time of the late, but great President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Looking at him in his time would yield nothing out of the ordinary, nor would any kind of media divulge any such thing.

We know now, over 70 years later, that he was paralyzed, but then we would have known nothing of the sort. It was a different time. A time where what mattered was the man and his policies and how he ran the country, not his physical state, or his personal engagements. Is it still that way today? Hardly.

Everything is like one big Jerry Springer episode. The mudslinging has gone from bashing candidates about their platforms to bashing them about their two divorces, or their husband's misdeeds. This upcoming presidential

election is already getting fired up and has begun to yield plenty of useless and slightly disturbing facts about the candidates.

Forget that Barack Obama is for driving down healthcare costs, John Edwards is pro-choice, or that Rudy Giuliani is in favor of tighter immigration policies. Forget that we are still at war and hundreds of soldiers are still out there dying. None of this has any relevance any longer when it comes to picking our next national leader. Just listen to some of the remarks coming out of the mouths of the candidates and their families.

To start, if cleanliness is going to get us out of Iraq (it is next to godliness

after all) then Obama is out considering his wife "let slip" the fact that he makes it a habit of leaving dirty socks around the bedroom and that he is "snore-y and stinky" in the morning. Oh no, he just lost my vote.

How about that Edwards broke his wife's rib while having sex, or even better, the fact that Giuliani's wife considers him a "big testosterone-factor husband" who secretly loves the movie Sleepless in Seattle? Now everyone can blame the media for what they showcase, talking about the horrible stories they dig up on

people, (which can be the case a good amount of the time) but the fact is, these candidates seem to want the world to know that they can be people too, and



# STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: LUCIE LAURIA  
ART DIRECTOR: DAN COLONNA  
ARTS EDITOR: CARLO MONTAGNINO  
SPORTS EDITOR: MATT CIRELLI  
ADP EDITOR: WILLIAM KLINE  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: MICHAEL COHEN

STAFF: JIHANE TAMRI, JOHN ADRIAN  
CONTRIBUTORS: JENNA CALDERON, MICHAEL D'AURIA,  
CHRISSEY DELISO, MELISSA HAYDEN, CHRIS OLMIERI, AND  
JOEY SCARPA  
FACULTY ADVISOR: FREDERICK KAUFMAN



THE BANNER IS PUBLISHED BY THE STUDENTS OF THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND. ALL WORKS CONTAINED WITHIN THIS PUBLICATION ARE THE PROPERTY OF THEIR CREATORS, AND ARE PROTECTED BY COPYRIGHT LAW. NO MATERIALS WITHIN THIS PUBLICATION MAY BE REPRINTED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, IN ANY FORM, WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE EDITORS. OUR OFFICE IS LOCATED AT 2800 VICTORY BLVD, BUILDING 1-C, ROOM 228, STATEN ISLAND, NY, 10314. OUR NEWS BUREAU CAN BE REACHED AT (718) 982-3116 OR BY E-MAILING OUR WRITERS OR BY FAXING US AT (718) 982-3087. FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION DIAL (718) 982-3116. OPINIONS EXPRESSED HEREIN ARE THOSE OF THE WRITERS, AND ARE NOT NECESSARILY SHARED BY THE BANNER STAFF OR THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND. THE BANNER IS NOT A PUBLICATION OF THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND AND THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTENTS OF THE BANNER.



## New Pres.

from page 3

AJ's slimy tricks. She came with his full endorsement. While addressing senators during a meeting last year, AJ stood up and stated his hopes of Ms. Porto becoming the next SG president. AJ admitted, "I'm quite fascinated by her."

So far Porto has used a much less formal political approach than her predecessor. Her and senator Alokika Fernandes came up with a slogan and planned a promotional give-away to let students know SG "got em' covered." "We got you covered," Porto boldly boasted the new SG slogan.

"We want to wait for a rainy day and give away umbrellas with the slogan printed on them," she said with a wide smile. "Because how many times are you stuck without an umbrella?"

Some interesting and innovative ideas have been kicked around between Porto and senators. She seemed more excited every time she described different plans that are being mapped out.

She also expressed a firm conviction in not wasting students' money. "We have this money from the student activity fee," she said, "and instead of spending it on something that students have never heard of or an event that they won't find out about, I really want to know how they would like that money to be spent."

Porto and the SG have formulated questions in the process of creating a survey to see what students really want and what issues concern them the most.

One idea they came up with, still in its infancy, would directly fatten students' pockets. "We were thinking of creating a discount card," Porto said, "and working with local retailers to get students discounts at, maybe, fast food places around here."

Her ideas seemed somewhat scattered, but she claimed, "I'm a bit of a crazy perfectionist. Whatever it takes to get the job done, I'll do."

And she said that she felt that now it is a time to get the job done especially as President Morales begins his tenure at CSI. "There's a lot we can do," Porto said, "and with a new president this is a great year to actually get things done."

## Professor Ava Chin

BY MELISSA HAYDEN  
CONTRIBUTOR

Sitting behind her desk at the College of Staten Island, Ava Chin's fresh face and big smile gleams of confidence and eagerness, yet at the same time, she remains remarkably relaxed. Sitting comfortably in her chair, she speaks candidly about her experience as a writer. Ms. Chin's desire and appreciation for writing has existed since she was an adolescent. In order to share her creativity and ingenuity with the public, Chin followed her ambitions all the way through college. In pursuing these goals, she graduated with a master's degree in fiction writing at Johns Hopkins University and obtained her Ph.D in literature and creative writing at the University of Southern California.

Soon enough, all that schooling paid off and her work appeared in various newspapers and magazines. Chin's pieces have appeared in magazines such as Rolling Stone, Vibe, SPIN, and Martha Stewart. Her work was also featured in newspapers like the Village Voice and the New York Post. Writing for such various publications proves how flexible and diverse her skills are. She not only adapts to the different atmospheres, but her talent flourishes in her pieces.

As a journalist at the Village Voice, Chin had the chance to cover many different topics from around the city including: music, poetry and underground scenes. Her first story was about drum and bass music and also wrote about a pornography shop open in Times Square. Additionally at the Village Voice, while writing a piece on poetry and hip-

hop, she got the chance to interview a prominent hip-hop artist- Chuck D from Public Enemy. When asked about Chuck D's persona, she said he was "mellow and sweet", an irony that only Ms. Chin, through her insight and descriptiveness, can get away with.

While working for SPIN, the Village Voice and Vibe, Chin was able to do poetry slams and dance theatre projects. These projects took place in locations like the Whitney Museum, the Knitting Factory and more. When asked what the most interesting magazine was, Chin felt that SPIN, which allows artists to solicit their music, outweighed the others. She also had many beneficial experiences as the managing editor at Vibe. While writing about the intersection of hip-hop and martial arts, Chin had the opportunity to interview Wu-Tang Clan's, Rza, who she described as "thoughtful". In addition, her experiences at Vibe included winning a grant for her fiction writing. This grant gave Chin the chance to talk with undergraduate students and made her realize she would rather be interacting with them than writing for a monthly magazine.

This discovery helped Chin to begin her work towards teaching and creative writing. She feels this is the most rewarding type of writing for her. When asked what is rewarding about it, she replied "I have more of a sense of personal satisfaction with creative writing-both writing it and teaching it. I was always more of an artist than a journalist." As a professor, she is able to share her talent and knowledge for writing with

students.

Currently Chin is a resident in Staten Island, New York. She currently works in the Department of English at the College of Staten Island. One of the reasons Chin chose to work at CSI is because it is important for her to be close to her family. Her family resides in the Flushing/Jamaica area of Queens, New York, not a far ride from Staten Island. Although she has only been at CSI for one year, Chin has a lot of experience in teaching. She has educated students in the University of California, Los Angeles and at the University of Southern California. Due to her experience in these CUNY colleges, Chin feels she has "more in common with the students" at CSI. Aside from teaching, she loves that she "learns news things from the students".

Fortunately, Chin's hard work and determination paid huge dividends. She had reached her goals. Recently, Chin put her editorial skills to work in a book of essays called "Split". Most aspiring writers would be grateful to have had the experience in the field like Chin did. Now students not only get the chance to appreciate her work, but learn from it too. So what advice would she give to aspiring writers? Ms. Chin says, "The most important thing is that they should write about what they're most interested in and be persistent as possible," she added, "young people have access to stories about things inside the culture, those are the stories editors want to know about."

## Starving Artist Humble, Not Hungry

BY CHRISSEY DELISO  
CONTRIBUTOR

Perfectly coiled hair? Check. Freshly waxed eyebrows? Check. Skin tanned to the ultimate shade of bronze? Check. Designer outfit that took an hour to choose? Check. You may have guessed that this is the description of a woman getting ready for a first date. Try again. These are the grooming rituals of the typical Staten Island male. If this is so, then why is Nick Rizzi's shaggy hair tucked haphazardly under his decidedly non-designer baseball cap? Rizzi thinks about more important things other than which "Tan-tastic" salon special to charge on his daddy's Amex.

"I think I could easily live the starving artist lifestyle and I don't think I would mind it that much," says Rizzi.

Nicholas Rizzi is a 20-year old Staten Island native. But, don't mistake him for the garden-variety "business major" that thrives on, and mass-populates on the island known for its pumped-up alpha males. Rizzi has the mind and spirit of an artist. For the past few years he has been honing his literature skills at the College of Staten Island

in anticipation of achieving a bachelor's degree in creative writing.

"I don't plan on getting rich and famous from writing," says Rizzi, "I would just like to have one person call me their favorite author."

Quiet, yet confident, Rizzi speaks about the things he loves with an unabashed passion. Comic books interest him considerably. Once, he authored comic book that his friend had illustrated. The project resulted with a fat, proud "A". Rizzi's pleased voice recognizes how his words had helped produce that glorious, coveted letter. He takes the greatest pleasure in penning fiction and prose stories which are inspired from his everyday life.

"I mostly write short stories and some poems and I usually write about things that have happened to me personally, not about dragons or anything like that," says Rizzi. "Unless I personally get attacked by a dragon, I'm probably not going to write about one."

He delivers pizza for his father's pizzeria and says:

"Some of the people I meet or things

that happen to me during the job have provided endless story ideas." He adds, "My hatred for the job and most of the customers is one of my biggest muses."

His clever banter has a humorous edge, which is evident when he quips:

"It's such a horrible job and one which I have no way of quitting or getting fired, because how awkward is it quitting, then the next day waking up and eating cereal with your ex-boss?"

At the end of the day Rizzi just enjoys getting his thoughts down on paper. "My favorite part of writing is just being able to tell a story." His pure and simple adoration for his craft appears in his voice, face, and personality. Nick Rizzi seems to have all the trappings of a true artist—dedication and an unwavering sense of loyalty. He would never sell out for the almighty dollar then, right? Rizzi responds with a sense of reality when he says:

"I say all of this now of course, but like all those punk bands who swore they'd never sign to a major label, I'd probably give up creative freedom so I could pay rent in a second."

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: Our New President Speaks

In response to the interview with President Morales, I think it was a great to interview him since he is the College of Staten Island's new president. Important questions were asked, but I feel that the president gave very general answers. To improve the article next time more specific questions can be asked to warrant more specific answers from President Morales. This may make the article more interesting and keep the reader's attention.  
Amanda Comparato

RE: Who Killed Architecture at CSI?

Although I'm not a student pursuing a degree in architectural studies, I must express my sadness due to CSI's cutting such a program. For the past several years, I have done freelance drafting for my father's company. While I did not create any designs the way the students in the architecture classes have done in the past, I did use the AUTOCAD program and ultimately found the work satisfying. After doing several freelance jobs for the company, I could easily see how someone would want to be involved with such projects. My involvement was simply going over dimensions, and I felt like I was helping to create this future structure or store layout. I can only imagine what it would feel to say, "Yes that's right. This is my design. It's going through right now. The dreams that the CSI architecture students have are great ones, and I hope they can continue on this campus. The college should have allowed the current students the chance to at least finish what they have started. To simply ignore the students show poor judgement and reflects poorly on the college's board.  
Ray Pfaff

I think it's pretty cr\*\*py that CSI decided to kill the architecture program at CSI. It seems like the students and former students really benefited from the program, and went on to do great things. It's not fair that they are robbing other students of this opportunity. I agree with Mr. Krebushevski's idea to turn the program into a four-year course, and I hope CSI brings back the architecture program.  
Nicholas Rizzi

I believe that to cancel the architecture program at CSI is ridiculous. Staten Island is in need of architects as the article states, and there may be of these students who probably don't have the means to commute anywhere else. What will those students do? It's unfair to them because their education will probably suffer.  
Nicole Prota

After reading about CSI's decision to end their architecture program, I was appalled especially when administration advised the students in that program to drop out and become liberal arts majors. What kind of guidance is that? That's pathetic and extremely uninspiring. I always believed that faculty should support their students, not discourage their dreams. That is probably why there had been only over 20 graduates in the past three years. I suggest that they keep the program and simply advertise it more because honestly, I've been a student here for three years, and I wasn't aware that there was an architecture program.  
Francesca Parasole

RE: Gym, Floor Crumbles Again

I think it's an insane waste of money to have to replace the gymnasium floor for the second time in FIVE YEARS! I've had pantyhose for longer. It should have been done right the first time, and the original installation company should be held accountable. Once again, CSI students suffer as money that should be put towards educational purposes is spent otherwise, and several of our sports teams are inconvenienced. It's truly a shame.  
Chrissy Deliso

While reading your article I was very disappointed to find out the gym will not be used by anyone throughout the university. I was also surprised to read that this is the second incident with the gym in the past 5 years. If they had made sure they solved the problems and maybe paid a little more to make sure the gym was completely fixed, the school would not be in this mess. With the money they could have used it on other programs that are not as funded as sports are. Personally I would like the university to fix the floor and then make another small gym for CSI students to play in. In the past I tried to get into the gym and I've been turned down because a team was in there or I was not allowed. I do not know of another university that does not let their students use their facilities. Hopefully when the gym is finished again, the school will schedule hours so students can use the gym.  
Michael Abdelhaq

I would just like to say it's disappointing to see once again that the conditions of our buildings are falling apart, or have been left ignored to the point where the whole gym floor needs to be fixed. CSI needs to become more aware of its campus' needs, because it affects its students directly. If not, students will

continue to transfer to other schools that take better care of them.  
Cristina Rapisardi

As I read the article "Gym Floor Crumbles Again" I am trying to fill myself with hope and anticipation that the reconstruction will begin immediately. According to the article, the gym is a very important component to the college. In order for CSI athletes to play on "home-field advantage" and be able to practice their game, sport, or even exercise, this gym floor needs reconstructing ASAP. Due to the teams having to practice elsewhere, it may cause distraction and unavailability of the players. The relocating of physical education students also may hinder lack of participation. Obviously, this gym is a central part of the college for everyone. In addition, the floor was repaired only five years ago and it is still having similar problems, proving one thing — they need to pay better attention and take care of the issue.  
Melissa Hayden

I must add to this article that it is not just the gym floor that is crumbling in that building, but the machines (treadmills) are also broken. Last semester, 2 out of 4 treadmills were broken, and remained so throughout the semester. It's a shame when one knows how much money each student is paying for this needed equipments.  
Bah Abdulai

RE: Parking Lot Pampering

The College of Staten Island does have a parking problem; everyone knows that. When we complain, that does not make us lazy. I live in Brooklyn; I already have to leave early. I shouldn't have to leave earlier for a reason like parking when CSI's campus is huge. It already takes a long time to enter the campus, which can make anyone late. I can park in lot 6, but why should I when my class is on the other side of campus? I'm usually on time to my classes because I leave early. If I am ever late, it shouldn't be because of something like parking. Some professors let it slide, but others do not. What do you do then? Drop the class you paid money for? Take the failing grade? It's embarrassing when a student fails because of lateness caused by parking.  
Andrea Garcia

RE: Students Furious Over Charges

In this week's issue of The Banner, I found the "Students Furious Over Charges" story most interesting. As a

student who pays tuition, the recent fees for credit card use outrage me. It's enough, we have to pay for our education, and work to pay for books, but now we are being charged to use a card for payment. They are making all this money on our fees; instead, it should be going towards our education. This was great information to include in the paper because it's something that most students are unaware of.  
Joey Scarpa

RE: Parking Lot Pampering

Josh Schwartz has cried a river deep enough for my shoes to become water-logged on my walk from the parking lot to my classroom. The insinuation that the "powers that be" don't want white people on the bus is almost as funny as the most recent George Carlin HBO special. Bus companies DO NOT design bus routes purposely inhibiting white students' ability to ride to class, or anywhere else for that matter. Landowners join neighborhood associations that petition to keep bus routes out of their residential areas and on commercial roads only. The simple reason for this is bus stops are noisy and littered by the crowds waiting for the bus. The result is lower property value. Nobody wants the bus pulling up outside their window at 3 am. Do you still want a bus route? Move. The north shore neighborhoods inhabited by "dark skinned laborers" statistically have lower home ownership rates, as well as lower car ownership rates. Simply put, the landowners don't have to deal with the noise and pollution because they don't live there. Without the bus routes, many of the residents would not be able to get to work. They would rent somewhere else. This conspiracy theory holds about as much water as a studio filmed-film moon. Secondly, if he decided to buy a car with a less illustrious name than a Lexus, perhaps a Kia, he very probably could have afforded something with fewer miles and body damage.

As a junior in this college, who has been driving to this school since the first day I started, I truly believe parking to be a major problem on this campus. I pay \$65 a semester for a parking pass and have to get here forty-five minutes before class and hope to get a parking spot. It's not that I mind walking, but the reason I pay is so that I can get a spot in the lot I want.



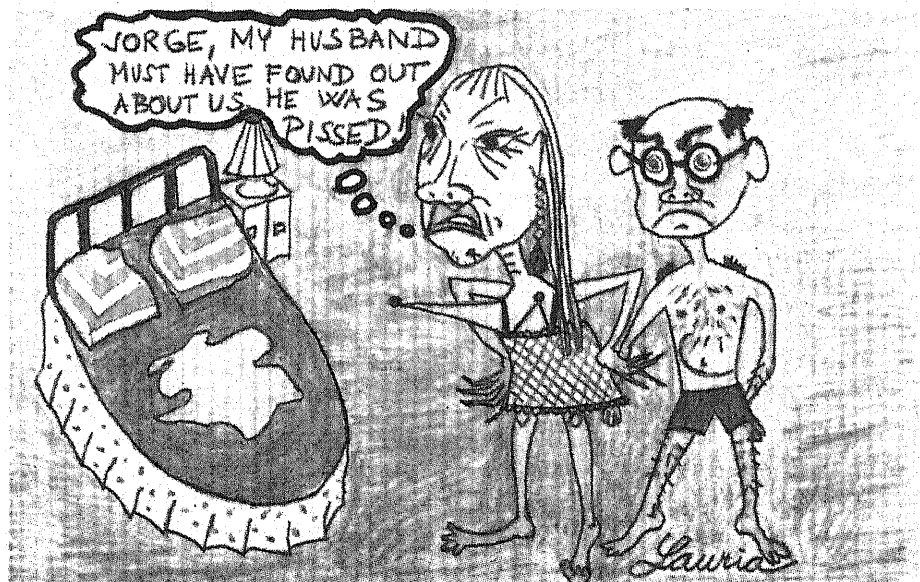
# The Comedy Club

## Short Moments with Theresa & Jorge

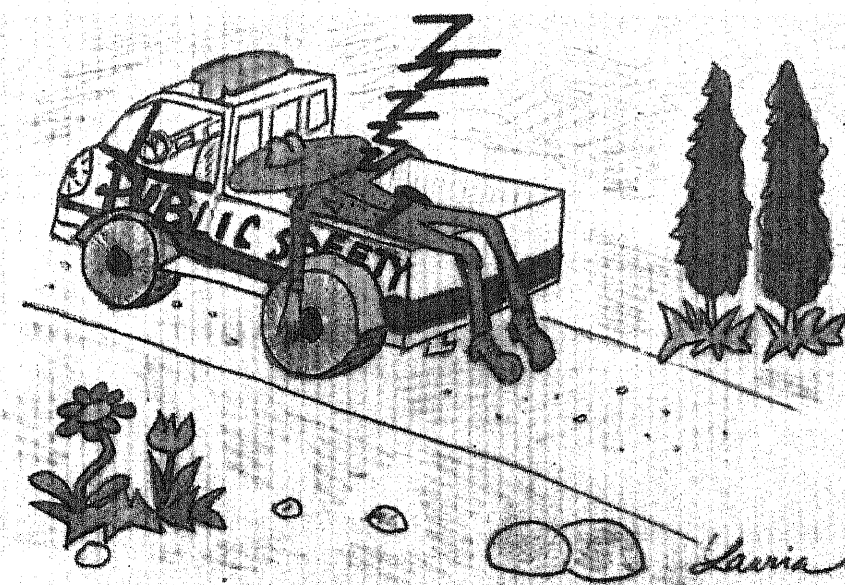
By Lucie Lauria



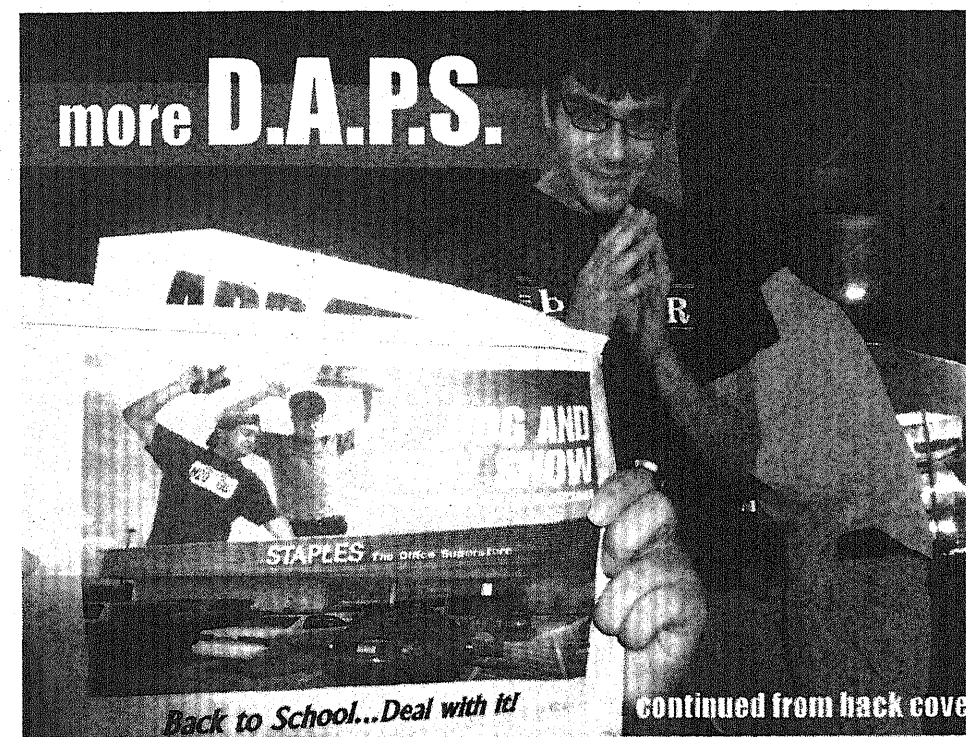
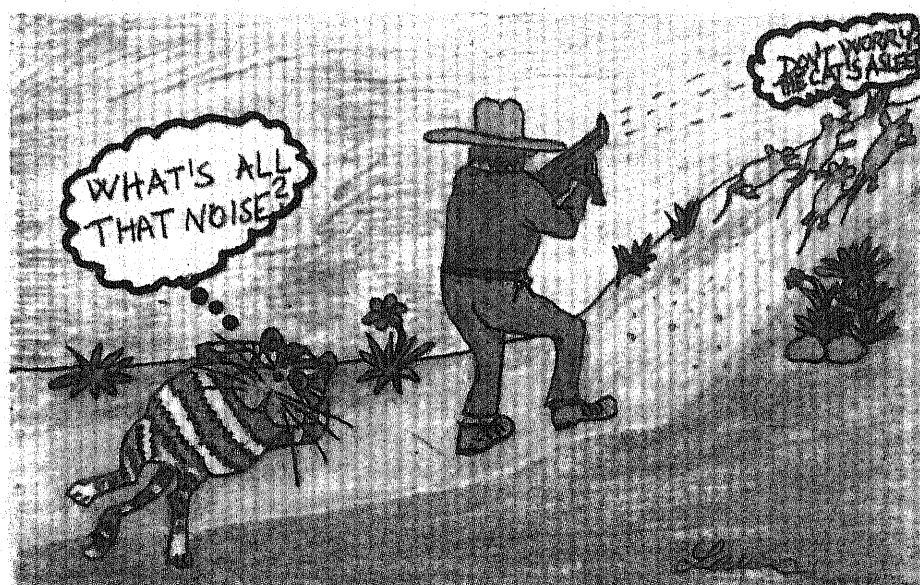
"Step it up, Rosa. My husband has a heart condition."



"Jorge, dressed like this, I am your witch, not your bitch."



24-hour surveillance.



Carlo leers over the shoulder of a reader of the Dog and Pony Show in the Starbucks in 1L.



Carlo Montagnino sat down again with the great hot dog himself for some more Q & A on the Boss of Buns' love life, new-found spirituality, and new Hollywood friends (and enemies).

**Carlo:** What have you been up to since we saw you last?

**CSI Hot Dog Guy:** I got into kabbalah, I'm not Jewish, but I am interested in Jewish mysticism. I also practice Yoga every weekend at the Y.

**Carlo:** How did you get into kabbalah?

**CSI Hot Dog Guy:** Well I was a Christian for a while, but I wanted to get out of that for political reasons. I thought about Scientology, but couldn't buy into the whole alien thing.

**Carlo:** Have you read Dianetics?

**CSI Hot Dog Guy:** No, but I read Battlefield Earth. It moved me.

**Carlo:** What's your take on this years Emmy's? Did you even watch them?

**CSI Hot Dog Guy:** I don't think the Sopranos deserved the Emmy, it should have gone to Good Eats, but that wasn't even nominated.

**Carlo:** Halloween is coming up, any plans?

**CSI Hot Dog Guy:** I will be handing pigs-in-a-blanket out to kids.

**Carlo:** Doesn't that conflict with your belief in kabbalah?

**CSI Hot Dog Guy:** No.

**Carlo:** Hot Dog costumes have been selling like crazy, what's your take on the phenomenon?

**CSI Hot Dog Guy:** Well I've made a huge cultural impact. I can go anywhere

any more; the Library, the CSI Bookstore, the Game Room. Every where I go, people recognize me.

**Carlo:** How has being so recognizable changed you, The CSI Hot Dog Guy?

**CSI Hot Dog Guy:** I've made a lot of celebrity friends, which couldn't happen before. I hang out a lot with Robert Downey Jr. and Owen Wilson.

**Carlo:** How is Owen Wilson?

**CSI Hot Dog Guy:** He's doing fine, he's happy to be healthy and our prayers go out to him.

**Carlo:** Have you seen his new movie? It has gotten some pretty bad reviews.

**CSI Hot Dog Guy:** No, I don't see Wes Anderson movies.

**Carlo:** Is that because you were overlooked for the role of Steve Zissou?

**CSI Hot Dog Guy:** Who?

**Carlo:** The main character of "The Life Aquatic."

**CSI Hot Dog Guy:** No, it's because I don't agree with his (Wes Anderson's) style of comedy. I believe that comedy should make you laugh.

**Carlo:** How's your love life?

**CSI Hot Dog Guy:** I cannot comment

**Carlo:** Why not?

**CSI Hot Dog Guy:** Partially my religion...I'm more enlightened now...I don't talk about dating. What happens in the bun stays in the bun.

**Carlo:** What are you doing tonight?

**CSI Hot Dog Guy:** Going to a surprise party, I cant say who, but it rhymes with Fernest Forgenine.

**Carlo:** Well thanks for sitting with me.

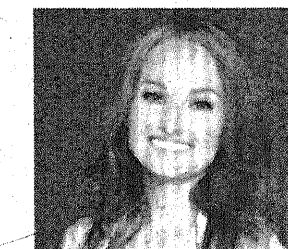
**CSI Hot Dog Guy:** Stay Kosher!

## CELEB SIGHTINGS @ CSI



"Many people don't know that I gave CSI their waffle fry recipe."

-Paula Dean



"If I wasn't so cute, I'd still not have to work because my family is loaded. Like upper Todt Hill loaded. What."

-Giada DeLaurentis



"30 Minute meals? I can't believe you idiots fell for that! Wait...what is this for? What's a Banner™?"

-Rachel Ray



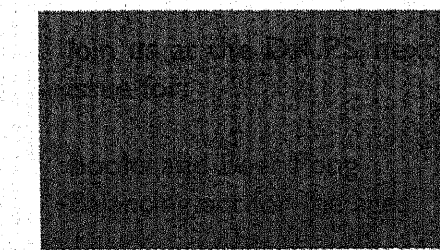
"I do not now, and have never worked for the Food Network, I am not a rapper nor have I appeared in Tiger Beat. I am the Art Director for The Banner and, without knowing that, these jokes make no sense. Last week's remarks were invented, and I should not have been quoted as saying such. Although I find Carlo Montagnino handsome, but not in the traditional idea of handsome, I would not date him. He is too tall."

-Dan Colonna



**THE VINCENT BLACK SHADOW**  
**Thursday, November 1, 2007 - Center for the Arts**  
 \$12.50 Students with VALID CSI ID, \$25.00 General Public  
 Tickets ON SALE NOW in the Center for the Arts, Box Office (1P)  
 Sponsored by WSEA, the Program Development Committee and the Center for the Arts  
[www.cfashows.com](http://www.cfashows.com) [www.myspace.com/ctf](http://www.myspace.com/ctf) [www.myspace.com/awis2](http://www.myspace.com/awis2)

### Carlo's Cute Cuddly Critters





## Wellness At CSI: Health Acknowledgement Across Campus

BY MICHAEL D'AURIA  
CONTRIBUTOR

Wellness at CSI has taken place once again. The health fair set up by the small Health and Wellness Center in 1C was used to educate students whether new or old on the importance of health. Students and Staff as well as representatives from other protective health associations were present with a table full of their products and information.

These fairs were created on the basis of educating students that may not know the best ways to keep their bodies healthy and safe from sicknesses such as cancers or STI's (Sexually Transmitted Infections). Several representatives from the school Health and Wellness Center were present as they delegated students amongst the fair. A decent amount of students were present that ranged in years and classes in the school. Whether there by their own choice to become more knowledgeable in this field or only to receive a CLUE credit, these students left a bit more educated.

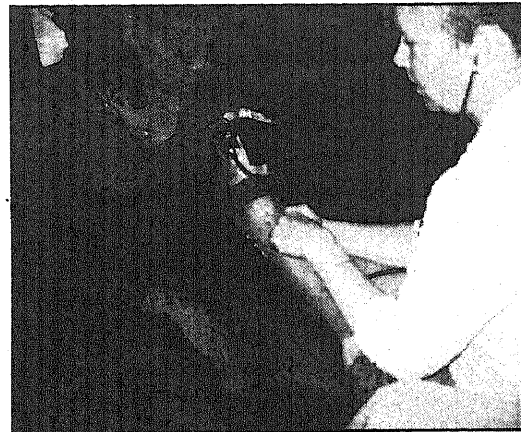
Tables were set up with students and reps from the school itself. Tables that allowed for students blood pressure to be taken, to sign up for the upcoming Halloween Blood Drive and the student health survey table. One table that I found to be quite informative was a table that was run by a student. Her table consisted of a hand made game that questions students on their knowledge of Sexually Transmitted Infections. While most students knew the majority of questions, others had left the table with

more than they had arrived with.

Health representatives from other Health Organizations such as The Place in St. George and NY Quit were present with tables full of information on sexual health and facts on how to quit smoking. Many were surprised to find places such as these two that would be enable a student to protect themselves again smoking and sexual infections for free. NY Quit is an organization that helps smokers

whether young or old, or student or worker, to quit by providing them with products and offices around them that will aid them in quitting. They offer a line of products such as the patch and gum that will aid in fighting off the urges for cigarettes. The Place is another non-profit organization that helps fight again STI's and unprotected sex as they offer free condoms and free STI testing on a daily basis.

When asked the importance of programs such as these at the college, the Dean of Students, Michael Daniels, had this to say. "I encourage them to do it as much as they can because I think students in general know about the health center and some of the wellness programs. I think this really let's them know that were there for them and that what we do is really in their best interest". The knowledge and information available at this fair allowed many to go about protecting their body from both miniscule problems such as unhealthy eating to more important problems such as diseases and infections from smoking and sexual ignorance. For more information on any upcoming fairs or any other health topics, visit the Health and Wellness Center in building 1C.



## Staten Island Shakespearean Theatre

BY JOHN ADRIAN  
STAFF WRITER

A phoenix is a bird in Egyptian mythology that lived in the desert and every 500 years consumed itself by fire to arise, renewed, from its ashes. A secondary definition is a person or thing of unsurpassed beauty or excellence, a paragon. Both can be used to describe the Staten Island Shakespearean Theatre (SIST), a community theater founded in the mid 1970s by a group of people who loved theater and the plays of William Shakespeare.

Many years ago, one of the founders told me they first performed in the back room of a tavern in Grasmere. Eventually, they moved to larger quarters, exclusively theirs, in the nurses' residence at Seaview Hospital. For many years, they worked and suffered in the nurses' residence without heat in the winter or air conditioning in the summer. They remember dressing and applying make-up in February in a room that was about forty degrees with an electric heater that they didn't dare turn on because the dressing room next door had a heater on and two heaters running at the same time would blow a fuse. The audience kept its coats and gloves on during the performance.

In the late 1980s it got a grant and two gas boilers were installed in the basement. Finally, the radiators throughout the theater were warm in winter and there was hot water in the rest rooms.

Two years ago, in the middle of its thirtieth season, a leak was discovered in the gas main that supplied the boilers and Seaview Hospital didn't have the money to replace it. SIST was forced to cancel the balance of the season and has been homeless since.

Over the past two years it has produced readings of new works in its playwright's series at the Unitarian Church in New Brighton and "Cold Readings on a Warm Summer Night" at The Muddy Cup in Stapleton.

Recently SIST received a capital funding grant of \$2.3 million from Borough President James P. Molinaro and entered into a long-term agreement with Seaview Hospital to renovate the Isolation Building on the hospital's grounds as a theater with heat, air conditioning, and other amenities to enable it to once again produce on a year-round basis. Estimated completion date, Spring 2009, when it shall, like a phoenix, arise from its own ashes. Meanwhile, it has secured the Parish Hall of Saint Andrew's Church in Richmondtown for its first full production in two years.

"Over the River and Through the Woods" by Joe DiPietro opens Friday, September 28, 2007, for a two-week-end run Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 and Sundays at 7:00. General Admission is \$18.00. Seniors and Students with ID will be admitted for \$15.00 each.

I spoke with director Dina DiPietro who said: "Nick is a single Italian-American guy from Hoboken. His parents are retired and living in Florida, but he sees both sets of grandparents every Sunday for dinner. One Sunday, he tells them he's been offered a dream job in Seattle. This news doesn't sit well. How could he betray his grandparents by moving to Seattle, they wonder. They begin a series of schemes to keep Nick around including inviting a lovely, single Irish girl to dinner as bait." Italian? Irish? DiPietro said the ethnicity doesn't matter, "This is a universal story. One that students will appreciate, relate to and identify with." She added, "Tell them to bring hankies or Kleenex. They'll need them."

For more information and reservations call 718 390-6616 or go to <http://www.sishakespearetheatre.org>.

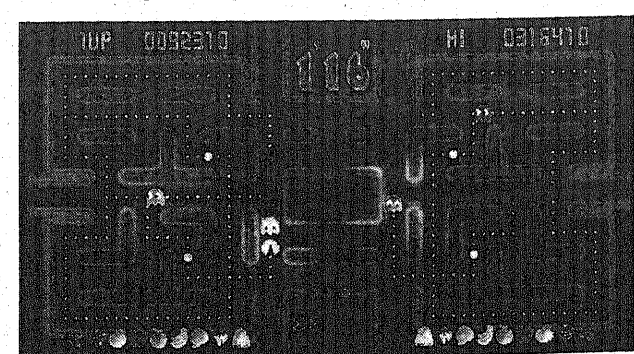
## After 26 Years, Chomping On Ghosts Is Still Fun

BY DOMINIC FIDUCCIA  
CONTRIBUTOR

Last summer, when New Super Mario Bros. was released for the Nintendo DS there really wasn't a lot of "new" as the title implied. It was really just a new take on the original Super Mario Bros. for the NES that was released way back in 1985. The same can be said of the recently released Pac-Man Championship Edition for the Xbox 360's Xbox Live Arcade. The game isn't exactly "new", but more a re-invention of what it would be if Pac-Man were released in 2007 rather than in 1980.

The basic set-up for the game is still the same. You play as Pac-Man and are trapped inside a maze with four ghosts who are after you.

What is new though is that you have to beat the maze in a set time limit. There are six different game modes to choose from, and depending on which one you choose, you will have anywhere from five to ten minutes to beat a maze. Also, Pac-Man Championship Edition is made to be a little less brutal than the original Pac-Man was. One difference is instead of



chomp on his ghost enemies, Pac-Man's power pellet effectiveness will weaken far slower than in the original version. In terms of the game's soundtrack, the

good news is that many of the classic sound effects from the original remain intact, but the siren sound that played as the background music from the original has been replaced by a new techno music pulse. The game's graphics remain in the traditional 2-D format, but are made to look both more colorful and flashier to give the game a cool, but still retro feel.

Pac-Man Championship Edition may be hated by the Pac-Man traditionalists, but it does feature the classic hectic action that is looked for and beloved in a Pac-Man game. Also, the game does feature a nice blend of old and new that keeps the spirit of the original alive and introduces the game to a new generation of fans.

## Janitor Sees Ghosts at CSI Stem Cell Seminar Soon!

BY CHRISSEY DELISO  
CONTRIBUTOR

Years ago, the site of the present CSI campus housed some of the most unspeakable horrors imaginable. Once the home of the Willowbrook State School, an institution for mentally retarded children, it was the site of an undercover expose carried out by reporter Geraldo Rivera in 1972 that shocked the nation.

Rivera revealed that many of the patients at the facility were neglected, beaten, and sexually abused by members of the school staff. Since the facility was eventually shut down in 1987, rumors of eerie occurrences and haunting have surrounded the area.

If you really want to delve into the terrifying, the creepy, the flat-out weird events that have taken place, don't ask the students. Don't ask the professors. Don't even ask the president of CSI, past or present.

Ask the janitor.

"Building 3A on campus used to be the mental hospital's mortuary," says a blonde and tan CSI janitor, Cathy Terranova. "Undereath the sprawling campus where thousands of classes take place each year, there are a series of secret interconnecting corridors, which were first put in place when the Willowbrook State School occupied the property. In the basement of each campus building, there is a door that leads to these corridors."

Like any former psychiatric facility, worth its salt, rumors have always flown about peculiar happenings at the site. But is there any truth to the myths? Is CSI home to lost souls and demented ghouls? You decide.

Although it's a little spine-chilling to learn, Terranova says that she personally came in contact with these otherworldly glimmers.

Terranova is sweet and blunt, and you cannot help but note a hint of sadness in her eyes. Terranova began her career at CSI in 1996 as a cafeteria cashier. When word of an opening as a custodial worker went around, she jumped at the chance for the security that a city job offered - pension, benefits, and of course, increased salary. Terranova says that she loves her job, but it can be quite frustrating. She must use every muscle in her slender body when she has to shovel the mounds of snow that fall on the college's walkways each winter. She also notes with disgust that

"some of the kids are slobs." She routinely picks up dozens of cigarette butts from the ground surrounding the buildings, and you can detect a note of exasperation in her voice when she says: "We have ashtrays in front of all the buildings, you know."

While cleaning, she witnesses things others have a slim chance to experience. "One day the campus was especially empty," she says. "It was summertime, and although there were summer sessions being held, the college was closed to students on this particular day. My coworker and I were taking a break and were seated at a table in our break room when an odd shadow caught my eye."

It was under the crack of the closed door of the room they were in, and she recognized it was as the unmistakable shadow of two feet. Startled, mainly because she was unaware of anyone else being in the building, she quickly pointed out the shadow to her coworker, who was quite alarmed to see that pair of shadows. He swiftly jumped up and yanked the door open, to reveal...nothing. No one. Not a soul, not a sound. They ran up and down the hall, searching for the owner of those two feet, but alas found no heard a single person.

"I was truly spooked," Terranova recalls. Another disturbing accident occurred during the summer as well. While Terranova and her fellow custodians were stripping the floors in building 5S, she was leaning against a wall when, suddenly, her shoulder-length hair started swishing oddly back and forth. Her co-workers looked at her with disbelief in their eyes, not quite sure what they were witnessing, for she was not near a door, a window, of a vent. It turned out that when the hospital was in operation, a mentally disturbed man from the facility escaped and killed a young girl, then buried her body right next to where building 5S stands today.

"My co-workers swear to this day that it was that little girl playing with my hair," Terranova says. After all the strange and chilling incidents and stories that Terranova has both heard and has had first-hand experience with, the big question really is, how does she convince herself to return every day to this creepy horror house that we call CSI?

"Easy," she says. "It's my job, and I need it."

BY JENNA CALDERON  
CONTRIBUTOR

When it comes to life these days, it's important to know what you're up against. Diseases, particularly cancer, are becoming more and more rampant, and despite how young we are as college students, it is imperative that we become acquainted with the treatment options available to us, for one can never be too sure.

One student here at the college, Patrea Patterson, felt personally affected by this and decided to take her concerns to the next level. Through the Emerging Leaders Program, a yearlong program where students come up with events to promote social change, she has set up a seminar on the topic of stem cell research. "My stepfather was affected by cancer stage four, which spread through his body," Patterson said. "Due to stem cells, it is in remission. I can call him a cancer survivor."

The particular type of stem cell research

that is going to be discussed is not the typical controversial stem cell procedures most people know of. What most people don't know is that not all stem cell procedures involve umbilical cords or anything to do with fetuses at all. Here a patient goes through what can be construed as a blood transfusion where a person's own cells are removed and frozen, their systems just about flushed out, and the healthy cells placed back into their systems once more. Well, it's a bit more complicated than that, but the point is not the procedure that has sparked nationwide debate over the last few years, but a new way of handling the stem cell breakthrough.

The seminar will be taking place on Wednesday, October 17th from 2:30 to 3:30pm in the Lecture Hall in 1P. At the seminar will be Dr. Perry Cook of the NYU Cancer Institute, one of the top institutes of its kind in the nation

## Heart of Yoga

BY JOEY SCARPA  
CONTRIBUTOR

The lights were completely out except for a small lamp, plugged into the wall, in front of the conference room in the sports and recreation center at the College of Staten Island. In the lotus position, legs crossed with his hands on his knees, palms facing upward, Ankit Christie closes his eyes and recites part of the traditional Sanskrit prayer, Swasti mantra. This is how he begins every class.

"I believe yoga, relieves suffering," says the thirty-seven year old instructor. Yoga became a way for Ankit to relieve his own personal suffering. He once again turned to yoga when his fiancé of three years left him, just this year. They were scheduled to get married this December, but after she got caught up with drug use on the campus, she left his apartment, and later on got kicked out of the college.

Yoga became a huge part of Ankit's life when he was twenty years old. His once normal life had taken a very unexpected turn when his father died in a plane crash. At age nineteen, he was asked to identify his father's body, a moment in his life he will never forget. Soon after he began to study the art of yoga and vipassana meditation. He completed an intensive one-year diploma course in yogic studies from Gujarat Vidyapeeth in India, which was founded by Mahatma Gandhi.

Spending most of his life in Ahmedabad, India, he has a great love for travel. Ankit recently took a 10-day trip to India, Rishikesh in particular (which is where the Beatles studied yoga).

"Although it was short," he says, "it

was an incredible experience and I hope to share it with anyone who is interested in going with me." With an open mind he is willing to share with and teach everyone.

Although he has a diploma in software engineering, his heart was for yoga. He ran a design and advertising agency in 1991 until 2002, when he moved to New York and worked for a high profile jewelry designer.

"It enhanced my creativity and helped me counter the extreme stress that came with my work," yoga was useful in so many different ways for Ankit.

He started at the Himalayan Institute in Manhattan and The Art New York building in Brooklyn. His entire focus now is on spreading the message of classical or traditional yoga along with offering physiological explanations for the various yogic practices. He believes that one can benefit more from one's practice of yoga and meditation if one adopts the proper techniques while performing them. Apart from staying healthy physically one can benefit a lot mentally and spiritually, eventually get in harmony with the universe.

Ankit's work has affected the lives of many others as well. "He is inspiring," says one faithful student, "I've been taking his classes for three years now."

His class is filled with all people, men and women from ages seventeen to seventy. His passion for yoga is spreading. He even teaches an instructional workshop right on campus for people who want to share their knowledge of yoga and meditation as well. He is so dedicated to spreading the word and sharing his experiences. "I have had an incredible life," he says.



# All Dogs Go To Heaven - I Hope

## A NON-FICTION STORY

The brakes squeak as we come to a stop and we pull up to our destination: The Eager Beaver Gentlemen's Club. I haven't been here in a long time, I'd say close to two years now. Knowing my friend Jaden Quinn, he was probably here last night playing cards. Either way tonight is different. Tonight is special. We aren't here for the drinks, the girls or, even the cards. It's Thursday night and the club owner has something else in store for all those familiar to these circles. Dogfight.

Walking to the entrance, the neon lighted call letters of the club send me into a flashback. Quite vivid, like an acid flashback some over the hill grunt has after too many years immersed in the drug culture. I remember the last time I was here. It was a good night; left the scene up two thousand or so. I made my profits on several grisly canine deaths. What did I care? It was money in my pocket, and hey they weren't my dogs. I was a scumbag.

"Jaden, I'm like anxious walking in here it's been so long," I said as we navigated the gravel parking lot.

"Why?" he muttered with quickness. "Bro, I got out of this shit a long time ago. Being back here just reminds me of how much of a loser I was."

"I'm here like three times a week. I never miss Dog Day Afternoon," he replied reinforcing his cavalier attitude and reminding me of my past mindset.

"Yeaaaaaa....Dog Day Afternoon! You prick..."

"Why are you laughing then?"

"Because bro you are an idiot. I feel bad laughing. Dogs are about to die for your entertainment. I'm not happy being here. I did bring some cake to gamble with though."

"You are the biggest hypocrite I have ever known", he said. This time his tone reverberated a slight disdain.

"I'm not a hypocrite. I'm here for class a--wipe," I said biting back.

"Then why'd you bring money? You are about to do the same thing I am," he said with a quiet confidence.

"Bro, you know how Johnny Whispers gets when you come to his 'establishment' and don't gamble. Plus, I'm not betting on the dogs, I'm going to play three card and C-LO."

We get to the door. The bouncer pads us down and we proceed to walk in. I hate the process, some oafish looking guy grabbing you're a-- and testicles with his mini-tank sized hands searching so vehemently as if the 'antidote' is in your crotch region.

As soon as we take a step in the door Jaden calls over his familiars. I step away as he conducts his negotiations. I assume he is validating my presence as these cosanostra looking meatballs continue to glance over in my direction. I get waved over and we proceed to head for the basement door. I

always thought the walk to get to the dog fights was interesting. We never left the building but the three rooms we went through to get there were awe-inspiring.

The trek starts in the dance hall. You go from a darkened room with naked women dancing on stage, strobe lights flashing, and the deafening music considered erotic and seductive to the champagne room. Suddenly, loud becomes silent, broken only by random moans and fidgeting. Irony would have it that no champagne is actually stored there. It's the room where desperation lives.

Guys spend insane money to sleep with these strippers, most of which are pretty grimy. Next you pass through the poker room. Standard back door casino with all the fixings. The room is smoke filled and lined with degenerates and cronies. Some of these guys are so ugly the paint is chipping off the walls. I used to be a fixture here, like the chip on the table. Wow, the life seems so pathetic now. Finally, we arrive to the basement door. The gates to perdition. The door resembles a storm cellar entrance.

The smell is quite pungent, stinging the nostrils. It smells of dried blood, sweat, and lingering rotted carcass. This basement houses death. We walk down further, exactly seventeen steps. The steps are enclosed by walls so the full breath of what ensues remains hidden. I check my humanity at the door as it has no place here.

We enter and find ourselves on the left side of the room. We pass a stack of cages filed across the ground holding all the dogs for the night. The place is packed. All kinds of people are here. Practically every demographic covered: Blacks, Whites, Hispanics, Asians, and women. Shouting dominates the chatter and the room becomes more alive with each second. The walls are concrete, grey, and unfriendly. In the center lies the pit. It howls the growls of defeated dogs and dons a floor stained crimson with blood. The floor is still warm from last week's fights.

Spanning the length of the right wall is a traditional chalkboard. What kind of school is this? Here is listed all the fights scheduled, dog names, their owners, odds, dog types, weights, records, and strengths/weaknesses. On the front wall is a row of cashiers, each backed by huge brolic men wearing all black suits with matching black shades ready to destroy anyone acting out of line. The back wall is lined with more of the same brolic men controlling the interim gambling. Before and between each fight you can play three card and C-LO.

C-LO is a three-die dice game and three card is a three card game where you are shown a card and need to spot it again after being shuffled.

The way it works. You place your bet with the cashier and then you are

handed a voucher. Assuming you win you cash it in at the end of the fight. The house makes money not only on losses but on wins as well. They charge what's called a rake for every winner. Similar to poker in casinos, for every win they pay out they take back a small percentage.

Here he is. I see him coming towards us a mile away. The guy who runs the show. Johnny Whispers. That's not actually his nickname, just a little pseudonym I came up with. If I ever called him that he'd probably beat me to oblivion. But he is your stereotypical Piza\_n. He strolls towards us with a swagger that exudes arrogance. He is wearing a velour FILA sweat suit with only a white tank top underneath, a huge gold cross with the Italian horn attached to the chain, two pinky rings, and a black grandpa hat made by Kangol. I'm already dreading this conversation because I am going to have to kiss his a--.

"OHhhh! Look what the cat done drug in...my favorite little Heb," he said with Italian bravado.

"Hey, Johnny. How are you? It's been a while," I said trying to ignore the blatant prejudice.

"This f---n' guy. I haven't seen your K-k a-- in about two years. What the f--k are you doing here?" he said as he slaps Jaden in the face with one of those 'how are you' slaps.

"Ehh, you know who came to reacquaint, maybe place a bet," Jaden said.

"Place a bet huh, this f---n' guy...sarcastic f--k. You can only bet on one condition." His tone becomes serious.

He is going to ask me something ridiculous. I hate pandering for this guy. I interrupt. "What's that? Jaden has to blow you...because I don't mind I always thought he was a fanoik," I said smiling.

"Why did Hitler have a heart attack after the Holocaust?" he asked with a s--t-eating grin on his face.

"I don't know Johnny, why?" "The prick saw his heating bill." He starts to laugh hyperbolically.

I am forced to laugh. If I don't it seems like disrespect, even though what he just said was quite insulting.

He takes me and Jaden to place our bets and then disappears into the crowd.

Bets down. We both head for the C-LO circles. As I approach the back wall I hear many familiar sayings.

"Four, Five, Six up in the mix!"  
"Come on mother f---r pimple out."  
"Come on Box...stay strong baby."  
"F--k you Tracy, you f---ing whore!"  
"Deuce's never loses."

Those are all C-LO vernaculars, reinforcing various outcomes the dice can produce. Twelve to fifteen minutes pass and a bell rings signaling the cashiers to finish their transactions because the first

fight of the night is about to start. Tonight the battle lay between a brown and tan Boxer named Gunner and an all black Rotweiler named Flash. Their blood lust becomes evident from their violent growling. Both dogs are hungry.

Another bell rings, the owners release the dogs and the unbridled carnage is set in motion.

The combination of the growls with the roaring cheers of the surrounding people almost seems melodic; like some depraved symphony conducted by the anti-Mozart. So much passion is fueled into the fight, only encouraging the dogs to become more vicious. Like a rehearsed dance the dogs go back and forth trying to seize hold of one another's neck so as to make the killing stroke. Flash gets pawed in the face giving Gunner the positioning. Moves are mad and the temporarily stunned Flash ends up on the ground scrambling for dear life. The fight continues in slow motion. Gunner has his opponent's jugular in lock jaw position gnawing relentlessly. I hear a loud noise -- the painful whimper of Flash's last bark. The crowd roars in the background, winners rejoice and losers remorse. I don't hear any of it as my focus lay on the blood streaming from the dead dog's carcass. Honed in like a laser, I feel ashamed and terrible. Ashamed that I am here and terrible because an innocent animal was just beasted. I glance over at the losing owner. He doesn't even seem all too upset. He throws his voucher down in disgust, leaving the pit without even collecting his dog's remains. I am totally shell shocked by the sheer depravity of this event. I did not miss this subculture at all. I couldn't stay for another fight.

"Yo! Jaden, I'm out bro," I said dispassionately and numb.

"Bro, that was only the first fight...where the f--k are you going?" Jaden said, surprised to hear I was leaving.

"Honestly Jaden I can't stay for this s--t. I don't have the stomach for it anymore. I'm going to catch a cab home."

"Are you sure bro?"  
"Yea, I'm sure."

I collected my winnings, said goodbye to Johnny and left Jaden to recover his losses.

All names and identifiers in this story have been changed so as to protect the anonymity of all persons and establishments involved. Any resemblance to anything real is purely coincidental.

# BANNER SPORTS

## CSI's Fantasy Sports

BY MATTHEW CIRELLI  
SPORTS EDITOR

With the current emergence of fantasy sporting leagues both for personal enjoyment and the possibility of financial rewards, I set out to establish a version of fantasy sports here at the College of Staten Island. Are the students here satisfied with our athletic department, and if not what sports and activities would the student body like to see be introduced?

An overwhelming majority of those questioned not only were in support of a Dolphin football team, but also wondered why one does not already exist. "Every college should have a football team, it brings pride and excitement to your school and it lifts school spirit," exclaimed sophomore Frank Fertitta. Junior Kevin DiMauro claims that, "I know at least a dozen kids who played high school football at the varsity level, and were recruited to play at other Division III colleges, but decided to attend CSI instead. Not only should we have a team, but I think we could most definitely have a competitive team."

The athletic department was not available for comment regarding this issue, but in their defense, fielding a new team would provide some issues. Funding and providing a field would be the main problems, although CSI is a very well funded city institution and if the issue is pressed enough by students it would most likely be provided. As for a field, there is space available but it would require many changes.

Steve Crisson a CSI Junior had a much simpler idea in the case that a NCAA level football team can not be established. "If we had an intramural team that played flag football I know I would be 100% interested in joining. My friends and I play all the time and they are also students here. I know of enough kids to even get a small league going." He went on to say that "we don't even need much equipment, just the flags and a football and we could play the games on the soccer field since you

don't really need field goals for flag football." This idea may be much more possible in the short-term, but again, the students have to press the issue with the college.

In regard to our current athletic programs, Lauren DeLucrezia pretty much sums up how well known some programs are. The sophomore whose taken CSI classes in the past boldly states that CSI "should have a track and field team because it helps people build a healthy lifestyle for the rest of their lives, and it is enjoyable and fun to watch." CSI does indeed have a track team. Perhaps the athletic department needs to improve their recruiting process, because Lauren may not be the only uninformed student on campus in regards to what sports and activities are available.

Some other sports students would like to see brought to campus included Lacrosse and a form of beer pong. "I've never played Lacrosse but if we had a team I would want to try it out," claims Junior Tim Hurley. "I know the college probably can't allow for us to have beer on campus, but to just have some cups and ping pong balls available to fool around with in some kind of a lounge would be nice," states Robert Spennato. The junior figures that "we could shoot around in between classes with water in the cups or some other non-alcoholic drink, just for fun and to stay sharp for the parties I'll be at later off campus playing real beer pong."

After my quest to see what the students want, it is clear that they would like to see some new sports and activities introduced. Now it is up to you, the students, to start getting petitions going and to make moves if you truly do want to see some of these things brought to campus. Otherwise if no one takes action, CSI will follow suit, and we may never see football or some other sports on campus here at CSI.

## Soccer Squads Struggling

BY MATTHEW CIRELLI  
SPORTS EDITOR



Goalie Tina Bellocchio makes a save in the Dolphins 3-0 loss to St. Joseph.

The Dolphin men and women both have experienced recent slumps as the men's team fell to 1-7 after their 3rd straight loss coming by the cleats of SUNY - Purchase. On the women's side, their loss to St. Joseph's LI drops them to .500 for the first time since early September, and also leaves them with a rare pair of back to back losses.

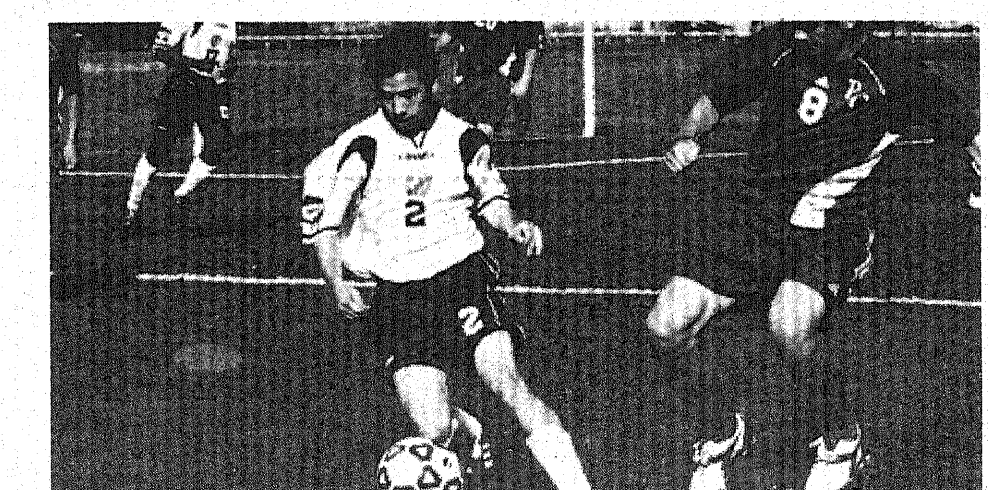
The men's most recent match against the SUNY - Purchase Panthers was tight throughout the first half of play which finished with both teams knotted at 1 apiece. The Panthers struck first, scoring via midfielder Geoffrey Robbins goal, 24 minutes into the half, but CSI's Robert Wilkes answered in the closing minutes of the half as he drove an unassisted shot into the Panther's net. The junior figures that "we could shoot around in between classes with water in the cups or some other non-alcoholic drink, just for fun and to stay sharp for the parties I'll be at later off campus playing real beer pong."

The defeat upped the men's losing skid to 3 straight, however they have showed signs of improved play. In their first four losses of the season the Dolphin men allowed 27 goals against and they were blanked offensively, as they could not manage to score a single goal. Since then they have only been outscored 10 - 12. Despite their struggles, the men are still very much in the thick of the CUNYAC division race. After

three conference games they hold a record of 1 - 1 - 1. These tough non-conference games may be key as the Dolphins enter the stretch run for the division title, with 5 conference games remaining.

After recording two shutout victories, 2 - 0 and 3 - 0, the Dolphin women had the favor returned to them by SUNY - Purchase and St. Joseph's LI as they were blanked by the same scores respectively. The Golden Eagles of St. Joseph were kept off the scoreboard throughout most of the first half as CSI's Tina Bellocchio excelled in net, but they eventually broke through 36 minutes into play. That was the lone goal the Eagles recorded in the first half, but they tacked on two more in the 2nd on their way to a 3 - 0 victory over the Dolphins. After a four game winning streak the CSI women have now dropped two consecutive matches. Like their male counterparts however, they still hold a strong 1 - 0 record in the conference with three upcoming conference games.

The opening eight games have been like day and night for the women. In the women's four victories they have dominated opponents, outscoring them 15 - 2, but in their four losses the same disparity exists as they have allowed 15 goals yet not scored.



Robert Wilkes splits Panthers' defence en route to scoring CSI's lone goal.



# DOG AND PONY SHOW



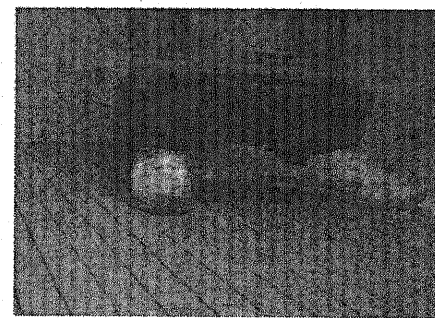
105% More Back Cover Than The Front!!!

BY CHRIS OLIVIERI & CARLO MONTAGNINO  
DOG AND PONY SHOW EDITORS

We have all heard of the waffle fries, the coffee shop, and Steve in the Mac lab. But on the largest campus in all of CUNY, who knows what other mysteries can be uncovered. We journeyed to the far reaches of the CSI campus in search of hidden mysteries that no one knew about. (That's right kids, we're redundant!) This is a tale of our journey.



The journey started as we walked out of the Banner office in 1C, which is now 105% more clean, and headed to the south buildings. Full of Tropical Citrus Vitamin Energy (by Glaceau) we trekked to Marcus Hall. Bored, because this is the nursing building, we decided to leave, but then we noticed something odd. There was a mannequin hospital! Creepy!!!



At this point Carlo was feeling the diarrectic effects of the caffeine in his Vitamin Energy drink. So we decided to head over to the Washrooms on the second floor of the 1P building. (Thanks Hot Dog Guy!) Once Carlo was all washed up, we decided to take a peak inside one of the janitor closets.

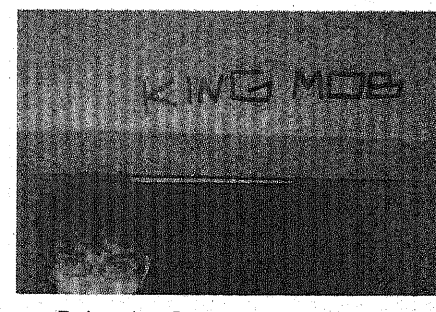
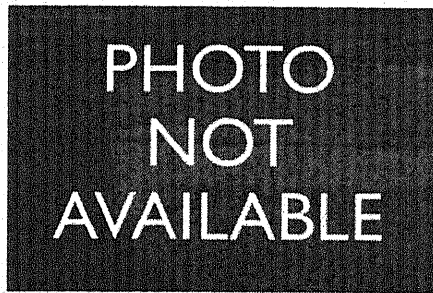


What we found inside was enlightening. The way the light hit the containers of Ajax could only be described as a spiritual experience. With the glory of custodial arts within us we ventured to the underbelly of the 4S building and may or may not have set off an alarm. (note: we are protected the the 5th ammendment.)

We then decided to visit our friends over at the 6S Lab building. The one building on campus with decent architecture. Apparently the biology department also works with cockroaches as we have seen many of them. We then learned that 6S is home to buckets of dead snakes from an anonymous assistant. Real talk.



After learning about our reptilian funeral home, we ran into something actually interesting. Unfortunately, because of those bastards at PETA, we had to go off the record. But trust us, you would have been impressed. Leave it to CSI to have such a cool thing that has to be kept hush hush. Thanks to you liberal scum!



Being the Communications students we are, we headed back to the 1P building to check out the mysterious "King Mob" Staircase. You should check it out next time you are too lazy to navigate the weird staircases in the main lobby. Ask yourself the question, is this King's name "mob" or is it a mob who's membership requires a royal bloodline?



An hour of walking around can really wear a guy, or two, out. So we headed to the Sleeping Dolphin Lounge to nap, but instead took creepy pictures of strangers sleeping. (Yes you can sleep in there.) Anyway, we gave up looking for mysteries after this. We're sorry but after all we don't get paid (and we should).

For more Dog and Pony Show, go to the middle of the banner, on the right, that's us. If you see the comics, you went too far.