

THE BANNER

New Contracts For Faculty and Staff

CUNY and the PSC Agreed on a Proposed Contract

BY NICHOLAS RIZZI
STAFF WRITER

The Professional Staff Congress, the union for faculty and staff, reached an agreement with CUNY for a new contract to be voted on between the faculty and staff by September 2.

The proposed contract comes after faculty and staff has worked without one since September 19, 2007, according to Dania Rajendra, a spokesperson for the PSC, and also, as previously reported in *The Banner*, members of the PSC protested outside 1C for higher wages. Rajendra added that it's not unusual for them to work without a contract this long.

"It's a strong contract," said Barbara Bowen, the president of the PSC in a telephone interview. "It has gains in many areas we prioritized."

Among the new provisions of the contract, CUNY raised the salary for faculty and staff across the board. According to the contract, all employees will receive a total of a 10.5% increase in salary starting with 3.15% on September 20th, then compounding 4% on October 6, 2008, and ending with 3% on October



Photo by William Kline

Barbara Bowen, the president of the PSC, center, protesting outside 1C with PSC members last semester. The new contract gives faculty and staff a 10.5% raise.

18th. Also increases on the top step for full-time titles by 13.8% and adjunct titles by 16.7%.

The contract also created a new fund up to 2.5 million dollars for parental leave starting October 5, 2008. "It was the first time CUNY created a fund for paid parental leave," said Bowen. "The lack of paid parental leave was seriously hurting their ability to recruit."

However, the contract did not make

as much progress with changing the adjunct professors' job security as the PSC would have liked, according to Rajendra and Bowen. "[We] really wanted to win more job security for adjuncts," said Rajendra in a telephone interview. "It wasn't among the victories."

"The adjuncts can teach for many years and be very successful," said Bowen. "But without job security, the college can toss them aside."

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Tuition Costs Rise With Tech Fee Hike

Inflation catches up with fee for the first time

Students cite a lack of representation

BY WILLIAM KLINE
CO EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

CUNY's Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees voted unanimously in a July meeting to raise student technology fees, thereby increasing tuitions. Although no voting member turned down the measure, it didn't pass without opposition.

Effective this semester, full-time students will pay \$100 per semester, a \$25.00 increase, for computer and Internet access, and wireless connection. Dues for part-time students will climb to \$50, up from \$37.50. It is the first time that CUNY raised this particular fee since its inception almost 7 years ago.

"We are never interested in extending fee structures or tuition levels," said CUNY Chancellor, Matthew Goldstein to the Board. "But, I would say this is a compelling and necessary case."

Chancellor Goldstein attributed the need for the tech-fee increase to the spike in student populations, a rapidly changing digital atmosphere, and the demand for more complex machinery. This has caused the costs to exceed by 20%, Goldstein said.

Despite instituting what Chancellor Goldstein called a "modest" bump in fees, the resolution met resistance both before and during the meeting. Students gathered on a hot Manhattan sidewalk outside CUNY headquarters to denounce the referendum, in which, many said, students were vastly uninformed.

Little over an hour later, University Student Senate Chairperson, Robert Ramos, a student representative to the board, argued that a vote in the summer months largely hid the issue from students. Although he did not have a vote on the board, he voiced many of the dissatisfaction uttered by other students.

"The process did not involve stu-

Continued on page 4

CSI Gets Two VP's as One Resigns

BY WILLIAM KLINE
CO EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In a few months, the CSI administration has received a facelift

The college announced in May that Dr. William J. Fritz will serve as CSI's Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Milton Santiago as the Vice President for Finance and Administration. Last week, the college formally announced the departure of Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Carol Jackson.

Both announcements were made on the CSI web site.

In a year of a major administrative shakeup, the changes signal a transformation moment for the college.

Three days after the formal investiture of Dr. Tomas Morales at May's commencement, CSI published the news of the appointment of Dr. Fritz and Milton

Santiago on its web site — similar to the announcement of VP Jackson's resignation.

Milton Santiago will replace the former VP for Finance and Administration, Angelo Aponte, who announced that he would step down in February.

In August, the college celebrated former VP Aponte's service in a ceremony that overflowed guests from the cafe in 1C. Meanwhile, the college may start preparations for a similar toast to VP Jackson, who, according to the web site, enjoyed a 17 year run at CSI.

VP Jackson's resignation is effective as of August 29. Michael Daniels will serve the post in the interim while the



Dr. William J. Fritz Milton Santiago

Photos BY
csi.cuny.edu

college's search committee finds a suitable replacement, said the announcement.

The *Banner* couldn't reach the new VPs for an interview in time for the publication of this issue.

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American Democracy Project

Obama Takes 'Seven Homes,' Home

BY MAX TSIRING
ADP EDITOR

"Whenever a man has cast a longing eye on offices, a rottenness begins in his conduct." - Thomas Jefferson

Even though McCain doesn't quite know exactly how many houses he owns, he managed to wake up this past Thursday with a five point lead in the polls. That same morning McCain was asked how many houses he owns, to which he had no reply. Obama quickly jumped on the offensive in hopes of further painting McCain as a rich and senile white man. In reference to McCain's 7 alleged homes, Obama claims there is "... a fundamental gap," between McCain and the common people that would prevent him from properly addressing the nation's pressing issues as president. Having the money to afford seven houses isn't the issue. All politicians at that level are rich so it's a moot point. The real gold lies in asking the public "just how senile do you have to be to forget you own seven houses?" Some may say that it's trivial and won't be any more effective against McCain than calling Bush dumb before the '04 elections. But, "I don't know how many houses I own," as a soundbyte can be a haymaker in Obama's hands.

When asked how many homes he has, poor McCain could've done better by just saying any number that came to mind. Saying he owned 37 homes and being wrong would certainly be better

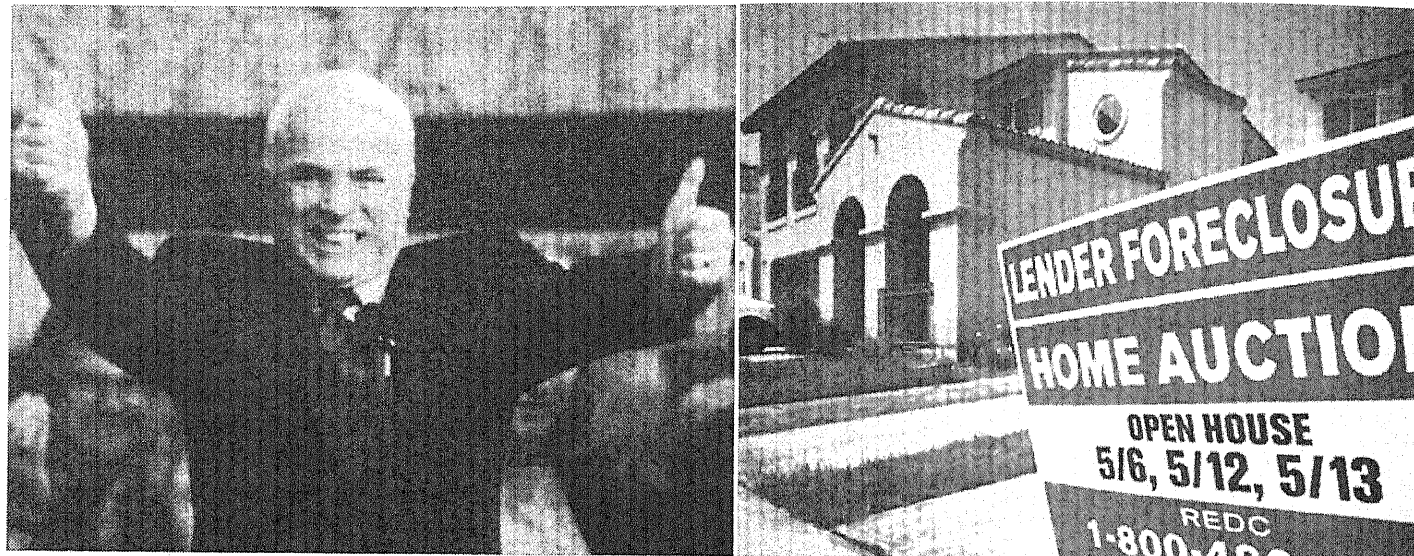


Photo by oldmanmccain.com

Photo by stuckinmiddle.wordpress.com

than looking like a shady amnesiac. First thing his camp said in response was "For five years McCain had one home—a prison cell," a predictable statement that should've been accompanied by a drum roll. Whether this defense does more good than bad at this point is uncertain. Political writers such as Newsweek's Howard Fineman believe that the camp's incessant pulling of the P.O.W. card is "trivializing McCain's sacrifice." If we don't see Obama calling McCain out on this in the next few weeks for this, we'll certainly see the media do it for him.

So is Obama going to be able to use this issue to help secure a lead in this race? This is the kind of issue that if mishandled will excite Obama's fan base but do little to convert swing voters. McCain was on Countdown recently

agreeing with a pundit that restarting the draft would be a good idea. Is that not good ammunition for the Obama camp?

Obama should be running clips like that in ads across all 50 states. McCain isn't nearly as charismatic as Obama and often appears to almost froth at the mouth when unprepared for an interview. On top of that there's a plethora of McCain gaffes to utilize. I understand Obama doesn't want to stoop to harvesting McCain's goofy YouTube clips, but from the looks of this "7 homes" thing, that ship has already sailed.

Forget that these are the kinds of personal attacks Obama said he wouldn't stoop to. Election season is winding down, and McCain relentlessly accusing Obama of being an out of touch uppity celebrity unfit to lead the free world calls

for some dirty plays. On one hand people want to see Obama keep his dignity, on the other hand they don't want another John Kerry situation. I remember how painful it was to watch Kerry take the high road during his debates with Bush. His war experience was relentlessly put in question and you couldn't go two minutes without hearing the word "flip-flop." Yet, Kerry never fired back. I don't think we have a similar situation because Obama isn't as complacent and, judging from his debates, his tongue is sharper than Kerry's. Here's to hoping Obama is smart enough to know a clean campaign isn't going to win him this election. Not because I'm already certain Obama deserves the presidency, but because it would be a shame to watch the Republicans take another term without a fight.

Will our troops come home soon?

BY DHANISH JOHN BABU
STAFF WRITER

Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki said that there will be no specific decision on a U.S. withdrawal from Iraq unless it sets a date or deadline for the troops to withdraw. The US had recently announced that there would be no troops in Iraq after 2011. But both parties have agreed that there are some issues they are concerned with. A major concern is the fact that trying to keep the US troops immune from the Iraqi national laws. Al-Maliki's statement said that he will not allow any more bloodshed in the region. White House spokesman Tony Fratto said that discussions are ongoing between the two nations. "We're optimistic that Iraq and the U.S. can reach a mutual agreement on flexible goals for U.S. troops to continue to return on success -- based



Photo by sitfu.blogspot.com

on conditions on the ground -- and allow Iraqi forces to provide security for a sovereign Iraq," said Fratto. Meanwhile, a Multi-National Division-Baghdad soldier died last Monday after being shot during a patrol in northern Baghdad.

This brings the total number of U.S. troop deaths in the Iraq war to 4,147. According to officials violence in Iraq during the third week of August took at least 30 lives.

A suicide bomber struck during a party for a recently freed prisoner west of

Baghdad on Sunday August 24, killing 23 people and wounding 30 others, an Interior Ministry official said.

The bombing took place in Hawaz, about 18 miles west of Baghdad, with women and children among the dead and wounded, the official said. The U.S.-backed Awakening movement, made up largely of former Sunni Arab insurgents recruited to fight Islamic jihadists loyal to al Qaeda in Iraq and other militias, has been a frequent target of suicide attackers in recent months. U.S. commanders credit the movement for much of the sharp reduction in violence over the past year, though jihadists have denounced its leaders as traitors and vowed revenge.

The question arises in front of the world and the US. When will we withdraw our troops? The coming presidential elections, will prove crucial to this debate in the coming days.

Former CSI English Professor Leads SI Pride Parade

BY JOHN ADRIAN
COPY/ARTS EDITOR

Unlike the two preceding years the first Saturday in June 2008 dawned clear and very warm. An auspicious omen for honoring CSI's own Arnie Kantrowitz as Grand Marshall of the 4th Annual Staten Island (Gay) Pride Parade and Festival.

The first three Staten Island gay pride parades and festivals were held on the boardwalk and in the park at Midland Beach.

This year the Staten Island Pride Planning Committee (SIPPC) decided to move the festival into the Cromwell Center in case it rained for a third year in a row. Then the question was, "Where to hold the parade?"

A route through Saint George and Tompkinsville was decided upon that would take the parade past the Richmond County Ball Park, the St. George Ferry Terminal, the new Staten Island Lesbian Gay Bisexual

Transgender (LGBT) Community Center at Victory Boulevard and Bay Street, over the Hannah Street Bridge and into the Cromwell Center. A request for a parade permit was completed in November 2007 and submitted to the New York Police Department (NYPD) for approval.

The SIPPC then waited and waited and waited for the permit. Finally in April 2008 the permit was denied because the NYPD claimed to lack the manpower to manage the requested parade route.

Negotiations between the SIPPC and NYPD were entered into and an alternate route, from the Clifton SIRT station along Front Street into the Cromwell Center was offered by the NYPD. This was essentially the same route the Black Heritage Parade was given in 2007. The SIPPC deemed this route unacceptable because it forced Staten Island's LGBT community to march in an area where it would be invisible, which was part of the reason for moving the parade from Midland Beach

to Saint George and Tompkinsville, along the weed choked waterfront with warehouses on one side and the all but abandoned homeport on the other side. The NYPD was adamant--take it or leave it.

The SIPPC got letters supporting its request for change of venue from the Staten Island NYC Council delegation, both NYS Senators, all three Staten Island members of the NYS Assembly and City Council Speaker Christine Quinn. The NYPD still declined to grant a permit.

Somehow the New York Civil Liberties Union heard of the NYPD's intransigence and threatened a law suit. A week before the parade the NYPD suggested a compromise: Marshall the parade in the Saint George Municipal Parking Lot. March up Central Avenue, up Hyatt Street, down Saint Mark's Place, across Victory Boulevard, over Bay Street and over the Hannah Street bridge to the Cromwell Center.

The compromise was accepted. The

parade would be much more visible, would pass only one short block from the SI LGBT Community Center and end-up at the Cromwell Center. While not as good a route as the one requested, it was very much better than the one the NYPD originally offered.

The weather was beautiful. Professor Kantrowitz rode with his partner of twenty-five years, Lawrence D. Mass, M. D. and internist specializing in addiction medicine, chauffeured by a former student in a Mustang convertible.

At the festival Professor Kantrowitz received a citation from the New York State Assembly, presented by Assemblyman Matthew Titone, for his more than thirty-five years of leadership-by-example as a proud, out, gay, man who taught thousands of students at Staten Island Community College and The College of Staten Island, and served as co-advisor to the CSI Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Association, forerunner of the CSI Gay Straight Alliance.

New Student Government Administration Not Playing Games

SG Plans a game room overhaul

BY DAVID GINSBERG
STAFF WRITER

The CSI Student Government has decided to use money coming from the student body in order to make improvements to the fitness and game rooms.

According to Nick Imbornone, Vice President of the Student Government, the money for the fitness room will go towards new stationary machines.

"We got the approval we were looking for," Facilities Manager Anthony Avena said.

The game room will also undergo some changes. The upcoming removal of the arcades makes room for other games that the students might enjoy. Although the removal of the arcades might hurt some, the additions to the game room should help ease the loss.

"We're adding pool tables, foosball, and air hockey," Peter DeCrescenzo, President of the Student

Government said. "The game room will rent out Playstation 3, Wii, and Xbox 360. We're putting the money towards places that promote student life."

However, being on the Student Government isn't all fun and games. DeCrescenzo and Imbornone have concerns about the communication, or lack thereof, on campus.

"There's a lack of communication between students, student government, faculty, and administrators," DeCrescenzo said. "We want constant communication among everyone. We want the whole campus on the same page."

"Their [the faculty and administrators] job is to be willing to hear our information," Imbornone said.

DeCrescenzo and Imbornone have high hopes for CSI and hope to spread cognizance around campus,



Photo by William Kline

Peter DeCrescenzo, President of the Student Government, who help decide to put consoles and new game tables in the game room, removing the arcades.

especially in terms of scholarships.

"There's so many scholarships that people don't know about," DeCrescenzo said. "We want to make everyone aware of every route, whether it be financial or something else."

"The Student Government is offering more scholarships now,"

Imbornone added.

Communication was among the things that the president and vice president stressed as a necessity to move the school forward.

"We need the students to become aware of our business," Imbornone said. "Our business is their business."

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Tech Fee Hike (from front)

dents at all," said Ramos. "They were not consulted on whether we should have an increase. They were not consulted on how much it should be. They were not consulted on what it should be used for. Student Life officials may have been notified. But, they did not do their job of notifying the students."

CUNY had told each individual college president of the potential tech-fee increase, said Chancellor Goldstein. Each president should have contacted Student Affairs, whom would publicize the information.

"Vice Chancellor Ernesto Mulave wrote to each president to alert them that we were thinking about bringing this to the board this summer," said Chancellor Goldstein, "to alert their chief student affairs officers, and to do what they could to educate the students about what they planned."

In a letter dated July 31, ten days after the trustees meeting, CSI addressed the increase. "We apologize for the late notice," wrote Bursar Michael Baybusky in the letter. "But, as mentioned, this resolution was just recently passed." The "late notice" came within days of when students would have to make their final payments for fall classes. Students who already paid would have to pay a balance before class resumed.

Chancellor Goldstein made the point that individual institutions could omit the add-on from the bill of a student in need of financial assistance. He mentioned that students could find fiscal solace in the recently boosted Pell Grant, a federally financed grant program. The maximum grant will increase by \$421, according to the July minutes of the Student Government meeting.

The Technology Fee has been a contentious among students at points in its 6-year history. Formerly, the tech fee was intended for students only. Gradually, the fee funds has expanded to meet the technological needs of facul-

ty and staff. Critics of this practice claim that encompassing teachers, clerical staff, and administration into the fund diverts money from a reserve that should serve student benefit.

Ramos took issue with the expansion of this fee include faculty and personnel use at the meeting and expressed concern that the fee would inevitably go to fund faculty research projects alone, a traditional argument against this type of expansion.

But, Vice Chancellor Mulave challenged that argument and cited the need to build up CUNY's network. This means that administrators could access wireless connection and the CUNY-based net

"Certainly, it is not for a teacher or administrator to have a larger LCD screen in their office," VC Mulave retorted to an earlier accusation by Rep. Ramos. "There is a system of checks and balances built in. Each of the technology plans are approved by me to make sure that they're not those type of things."

At one point, Ramos suggested that

the committee delay the vote until an August session. He said that he hoped to give students the opportunity to understand the issue and "raise the cloud of suspicion" that hovered over the vote.

"I would take issue with the respect to suspiciousness," said Chancellor Goldstein. "There is nothing untoward here."

Members of the board argued that pushing the vote back would prohibit CUNY from investing in \$5 million worth of upgrades; less than half of the expected \$11 million take from the fee increase. Chancellor Goldstein pointed out that it would make more sense to have the resolution in place before the academic year starts.

"I will assure everyone in this room," said the Chancellor. "No money will be spent unless a legitimate plan is conceived and has the open participation of all students."

New Contracts (from front)

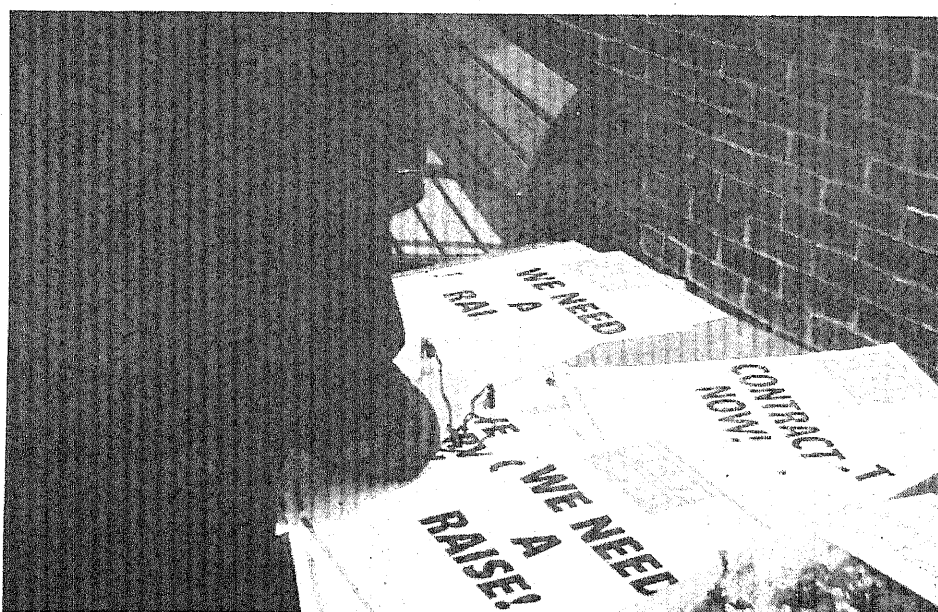


Photo by William Kline

Union members outside 1C last semester signing a petition for a raise.

The contract created a pilot program for new student mentor programs. "Most competitive college students get a lot of hands-on learning," said Bowen. "We believe CUNY students are entitled to the same assistance as students in Harvard and Yale."

New provisions in the contract were a new sick bank - allowing teachers to give their sick days to another teacher who needs them - and the ability to use sick days to care for a family member.

One hundred new lecture positions were created for adjuncts and the PSC improved salaries for positions that have been underpaid for a while, according to Bowen.

Under the new contract some doctoral students and adjuncts will be eligible for health care. Also teacher's e-mail

address can now be used to discuss union matters and retired professors can still have access to their old e-mail accounts.

"Our working conditions are students' learning conditions," said Bowen. "If we don't have decent support for the work we do, the students suffer."

"All of it will enhance the experience of CUNY for students," said Bowen. "It marks a new beginning for faculty and staff."

"Without job security, the college can toss them aside..."

An Introduction For CSI Freshmen

The three day orientation gives students a tour of campus facilities



Photo by William Kline



Photo by William Kline

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Gay Pride on Staten Island

BY JOHN ADRIAN
ARTS/COPY EDITOR

The 4th Annual Staten Island Gay Pride Parade and Festival was held in Midland Beach and was hosted by former CSI professor, Arnie Kantrowitz. Read the full story on page 3.



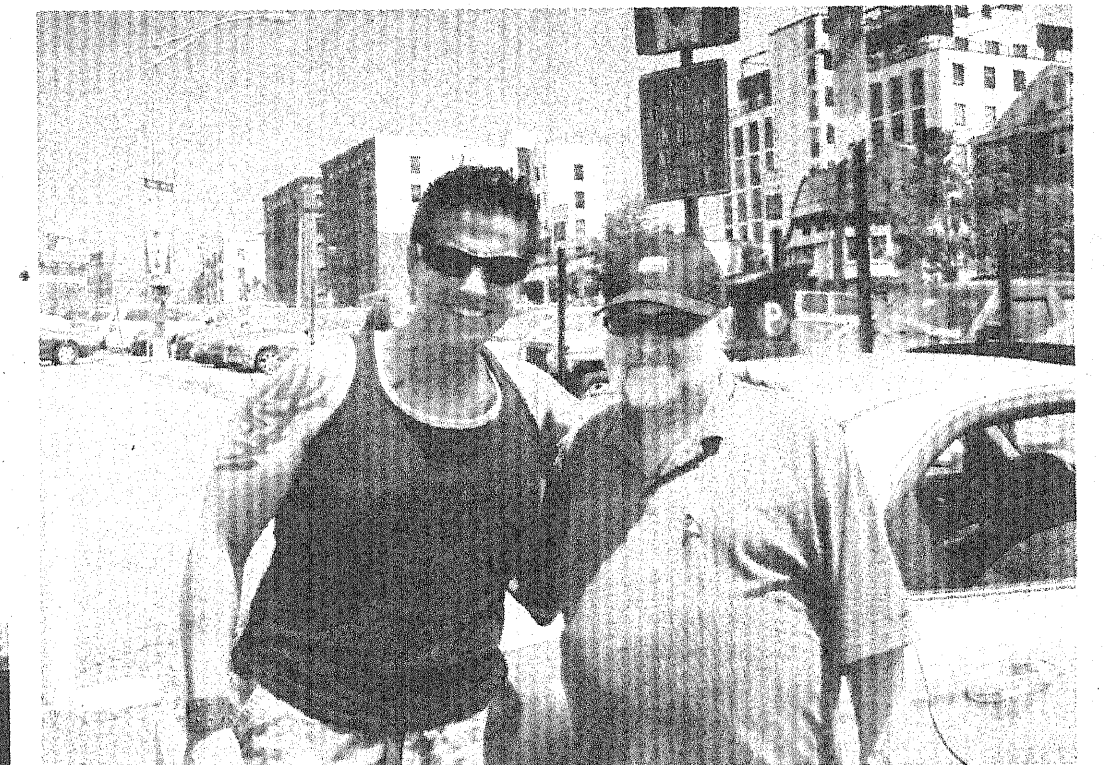
Stonewall Democrats march on St Mark's Place



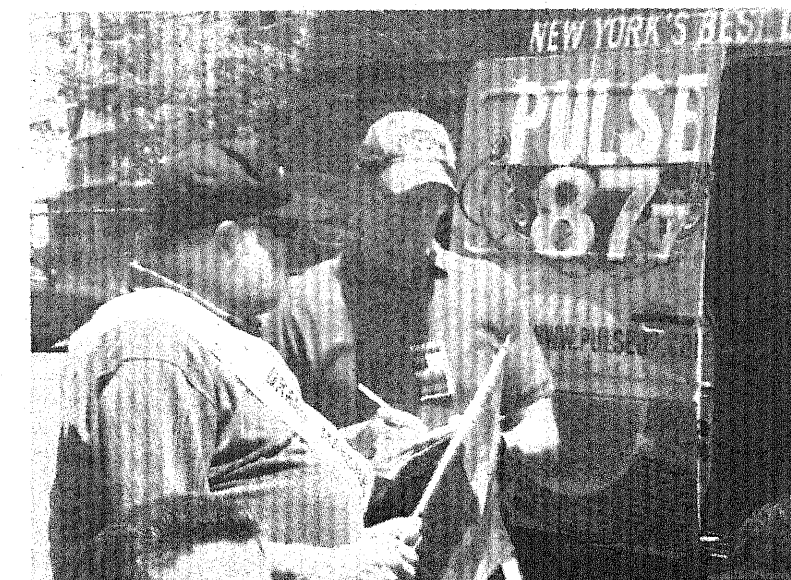
City Council Speaker Christine Quirri and State Senator Tom Duane



CSI Prof Katie Cumiskey and wife, Robin Garber



Prof. Kantrowitz and his chauffeur.



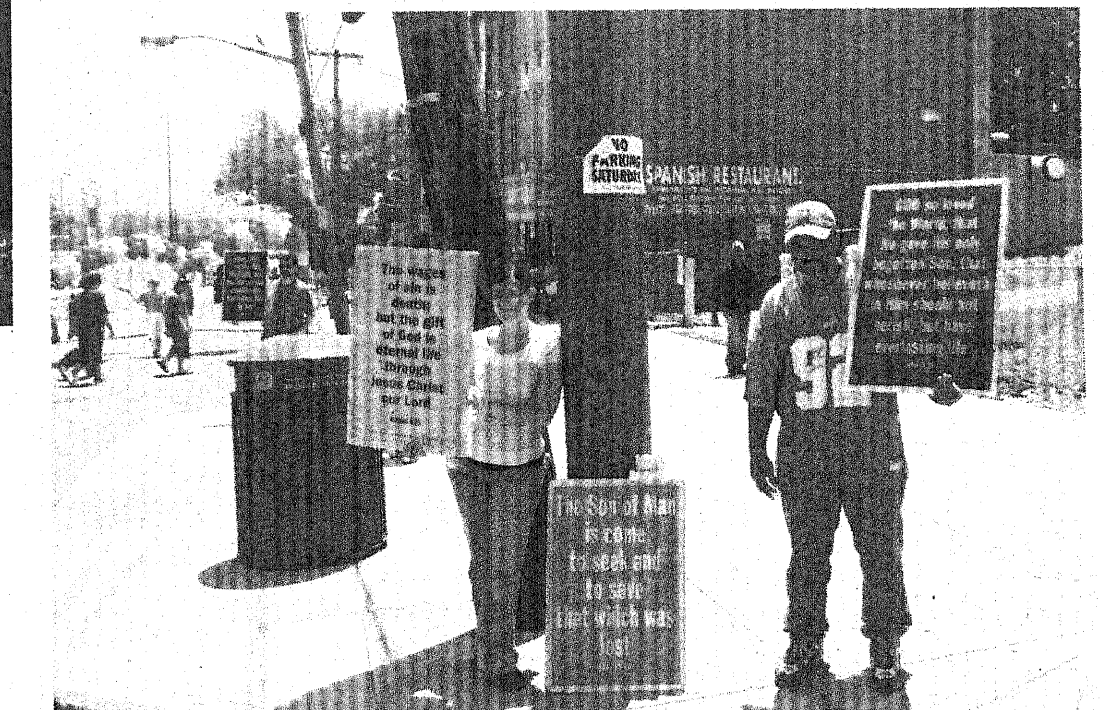
Prof Kantrowitz grants an interview.



Arriving at the Cromwell Center.



Arnie Kantrowitz, Grand Marshal.



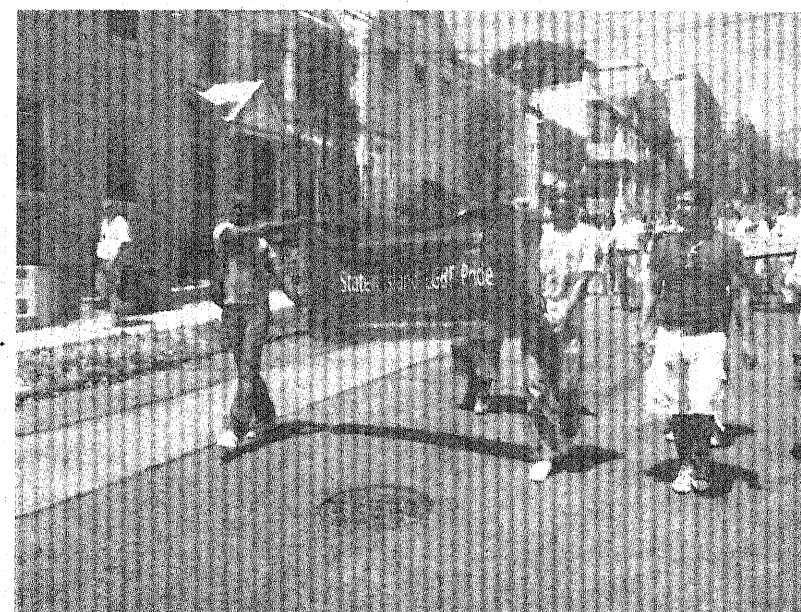
Protestors picket at Bay St. and Victory Blvd.



Sen. Duane and Speaker Quirri.



Bauer, Palladino, and Martinez.



Community Health Action Employees and Volunteers.



The Grand Marshal and his entourage.



Rank and file marchers.

SEX AND THE ISLAND

You are cordially invited to read on . . .

BY EMMA HERNANDEZ
SEX COLUMNIST

Saturday night found me all dolled up in a hunter green and black A-line dress from H&M, a black shrug cardigan and black wedge-heeled sandals by Bitten (SJP, what's up?). I accessorized with a wooden bangle bracelet, a matching beaded necklace and my eyeshadow and eyeliner matched the hues in my dress. I sat at the end of the table in the back corner of the room, running back and forth between my seat and the open bar for more drinks, nursing a strong blueberry mojito, blowing bubbles out of the small plastic vials left scattered on the table as party favors, batting my eyelashes and smiling at the cute boy sitting two tables away, writing silly messages on the table cloth, taking even sillier pictures with my friends and singing along to the Spice Girls and AC/DC.

I was at an engagement party.



Photo by x2d.xanga.com

"It had something to do with the mojito, the 3 shots of Jager and the three 24 oz. cans of beer I had consumed in under an hour (did I mention it was an open bar?)..."

There were balloons shaped like diamond and gold engagement rings suspended above the tables and guests showered the couple with gifts like clever flat wear designed with G: clefs as handles and exotic cutting boards made out of real bamboo. And though it wasn't exactly your typical stuck-up engagement party (the DJ played Depeche Mode and the Clash and for once, I wasn't the only pierced/tattooed girl in the room), the party favors were nothing but traditional. A pillow wrapped in tulle, decorated with wedding bells and bows, announced the date and the couple's names, then large letters directly in the center spelled out the word "Happiness". Maybe it had something to do with the mojito, the 3 shots of Jager and the three 24 oz. cans of beer I had consumed in under an hour (did I mention it was an open bar?) or maybe it had to do with the fact that I had just pulled myself together after (yet another) failed relationship only weeks before, (or maybe it was a combination of the two), but I couldn't

help but feel cynical.

Who says being in a relationship/marriage is the end all, be all form of happiness?

Maybe I'm just jaded.

Right after the spring semester ended and I was done with my finals, I found myself with (gasp) free time on my hands. And I couldn't think of any other way I'd rather waste it than with Big. Yes, despite the fact that he stood me up in Philadelphia back in April, I still forgave him and decided to give him another chance. And things were good. The days I wasn't working or hanging out with my

"Who says being in a relationship/marriage is the end all, be all form of happiness?"

friends were spent with Big, crossing bridges between Staten Island and New Jersey every week, going to shows, watching horror movies, and making out in the back seat of his car. We caught fire within the first week (that's always the case with us) and after two months, we burned out. (Again, always the case.) It was over as fast as it started and I was a wreck. I spent seven days and seven nights in bed, crying and listening to the saddest songs Chris Conley has ever written.

But I had to snap myself out of it.

Why was I letting him affect me this way? Why did I feel like my world was falling apart now that Big was gone when I was getting along perfectly well without him before?

Okay, I'll admit, being with Big made me feel happier than I had felt in a long time. But it really wasn't worth all the trouble in the end because every day I spent without him, getting over him was enough to cancel all of that out. Then I realized, so what if Big was gone? I have everything else I need. I have a family who always supports me no matter what, I have a job that I love, I have a year left

of school and I'm one step closer to my goal of becoming a music journalist, and I have an amazing group of friends who are always there when I need them. If you have all those things going for you, who needs boys?

The engagement party was for a co-worker and I couldn't help but watch her every now and then. She glowed, dancing around the room, visiting tables and always smiling. She looked so happy and I was happy for her. But what works for one person might not work for another and maybe I'm just not the kind of girl who needs a boy to make her happy.

Upcoming Events in The Center for the Arts (Building 1P)

2008 New York International Choreographers Festival
Saturday, September 13 - 8:00 pm - Williamson Theatre - 2 hours, including intermission
Sunday, September 14 - 3:00 pm - Williamson Theatre - 2 hours, including intermission
Tickets: Free, reservations required, call CFA Box Office 718-982-2787. The New York International Choreographers Festival, a two-day free event produced by the Staten Island Ballet, promises to take local dance audiences to new levels. The famed choreographer's original works will be performed by his own international touring troupes, WALKERDANCE, along with a program of four other new works by the Staten Island Ballet, offering audiences one of the city's few, fully staged dance festivals that's totally free.

The Art and the Elephant
Saturday, October 4, 2008 - 3:00 pm - Williamson Theatre - 1 hour, including meet and greet in the Atrium. A CFA Kids Event. Tickets: \$10,12,15. From the creative team of The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley comes a new family musical based upon Bill Peet's children's classic about the power of one good deed. One of Walt Disney's greatest storypersons, Peet was responsible for illustrating, storyboarding, and producing such animation greats as Dumbo, 101 Dalmatians, and much more. Sponsored by Senator Andrew J. Lanza.

New York Philharmonic Ensembles
Monday, October 20, 2008 - 7:30 pm - Springer Concert Hall - 2 hours, including intermission
Tickets: Free, reservations required, call CFA Box Office 718-982-2787.
This year's concert features Ludwig van Beethoven's Septet in E-Flat major, Osvaldo Golijov's Lullaby and Dolna, and selected tangos by Astor Piazzolla. Made possible through the generosity of Dr. Michael Shugrus, CSI Emeritus Professor of English.

Ingrid Michaelson - Home
Wednesday, October 29, 2008 - 8:00 pm - Williamson Theatre - 2:25 hours, including intermission and CD signing in the Atrium. Tickets: \$30 - Only CFA members discount offered. CSI students can purchase specially-priced tickets through CSI Office of Student Life starting Monday, September 8th. Limited availability. Born into a house of all things artistic, Staten Island native Ingrid Michaelson makes a hometown stop on her North American tour to play music from her new CD and single, *Go On*. She'll be playing with a full band including Allie Moss, Bess Rogers, Chris Kuffner, and Elliot Jacobson. From *Grey's Anatomy* to much more, this independent artist is achieving milestones previously unheard of for an artist not signed to a major label. The lucky winner of the CSI Battle of Bands organized by the CSI Campus Activities Board will open. For information on the Battle of the Bands, contact: cab@mail.csi.cuny.edu, 718.982.3268. Organized with the CSI Office of Student Life, the Campus Activities Board, and WSIA Radio.

The Comedy Club

Back to School

BY VINCENT FORTE
HUMOR CZAR

Hahahahaha! You silly geese have to start going back to school—wait a minute; so do I!

Ah, the first few weeks of school. There's nothing quite like it. The smell of freshly unwrapped notebooks and manila paper, the sound of a child breaking a No. 2 pencil in distress and boredom, and the feeling of constantly having sh*t to do. The stress brought on by an awkward mix of upcoming exams and a fear of failing out. Yeah, there's nothing in the world quite like it. I've always held in my cranial reserve a few tricks of the trade that have helped me through tough times at school. Now, my fellow students, they can all be yours.

First of all, remember to always make a good first impression on your teachers. I'll never forget when I was in fifth grade. My friend Steven wanted to be a wise-ass. So, he snuck up behind the teacher and kicked her in the shins. She tripped and fell on to the floor while we all laughed. We were little bastards.



Photo by brentschoonover.com

Did I mention that my teacher was 56 years old? Did I also mention that Steven was never seen in school again?

Another excellent tip for surviving the first few weeks of school is to always remember to pack light. Don't over-fill your backpack with books you don't need (like Jane Eyre...God that was a pointless and a go-nowhere excuse for a novel). You should never carry more than you have to. Otherwise, you will start to sweat as you hulk your way up the stairs and into your classroom. This will lead the other students to think one of two things: You are getting too fat and

can hardly walk without breaking a sweat or they'll assume that you just rushed to class after a futile attempt at masturbating in the men's room on the first floor

Speaking of futile attempts at masturbating. Never, under any circumstances, get an ego. I, for one, never want to end up being that guy who thinks he is funny and wants everyone to know it. I knew a d**chebag like that once. He came into school one day dressed in a chicken suit. He literally thought that he was funnier than Dane Cook (who, for the record, I never found funny either). Well, because I went to St. Joseph by-the-Sea High School, a sizable portion of my class was made up of guido a**holes who had no concept of wit or humor and found him to be hilarious. I never felt so filled with rage then when kids would laugh at him. What was my point again? Ah yes; Um--I--ah--hmm--I was an angry young man in high school? That works. I'll go with that.

Get to know the habits of the cafeteria soup-of-the-day. If you only take just one piece of my advice, please, let it be this. Learning what days different soups are served means the difference between having your day brightened by

a big cup of hot chicken corn chowder or having your great day dampened by a sub-par Italian wedding soup. When the soups are good, they're easily the best the state of New York, nay, America has to offer. But when they're bad, they are not even worth eating for free.

Make friends with the Student Government. Get involved with them, get elected, and then you gain The Power. What exactly is The Power? The Power is stupendous, monumental, uplifting, enlightening, powerful. It gets you laid, baked, and hammered--at the same time! Actually, it just lets you put forth future school agendas and operations. But it still might be able to get you laid (if you play your cards right).

Last, invest in paper. That's right. I said it. Do you realize how much paper this school uses up in just a single day? A lot. When I say "invest" I literally mean take all of your life-savings and bet the farm, house, children, and everything else on paper. With the money you'll make you could quit school and start a convent of followers that hang on your every word and will do anything you want. Anything. Vin? Yes, anything (even an**).

CSI passes Florida State as "Party School" Champ

BY DENNIS GAFFIGAN
CONTRIBUTOR

The perennial power house of party schools Florida State University was unexpectedly removed from the position that it attained over the past few years.

Students and alumni of Florida State are understandably upset about this years result and they are questioning the AP's statistics. (Since no Statistic Majors graduated from Florida State, they are hiring an independent firm.)

The upstart College Of Staten Island (CSI), part of the City University of New York system, shocked the "Party" world by clinching the honor of being the "Best Party School 2008".

A CSI spokesperson said that we owe a lot to the new President of CSI, Dr. Tomas D. Morales. Students and staff know that Dr. Morales lives "La Vida Loca", and his popularity continues to grow.

In an exclusive interview with The Banner, Dr. Morales was quoted as saying: "Academics, schm academics, we are here to party! We have new dorms coming and we need to recruit some serious party students from outside Staten Island. Let's face it," continted

Morales, "we already have one of the great Nursing programs in the country, a Science and Engineering department that cranks out well qualified graduates, a teaching academy that will bring talented students into the NYC School system, but every body

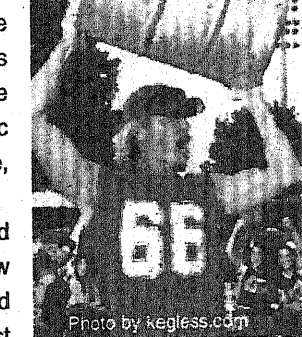


Photo by kegless.com

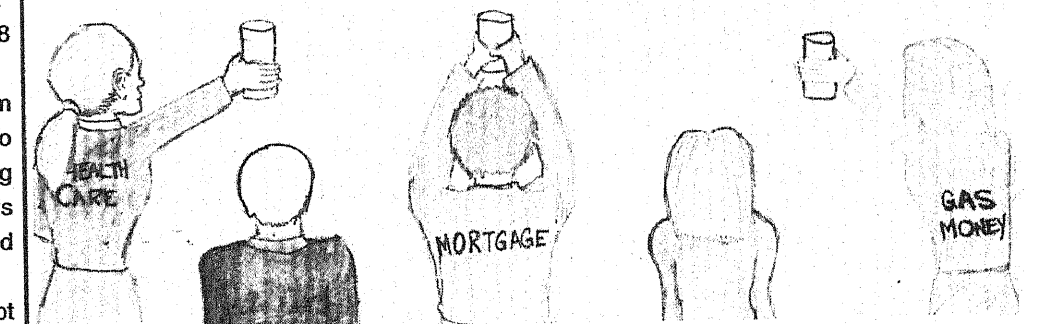
takes that for granted" "This school needs a new image," says Dr. Morales. "We are the 2008 Party School."

Dr. Morales also has a long term commitment to sports. "We need to develop a competitive Beer Pong League, and we are talking Division I this time, yeah baby!" Dr. Morales high fived this reporter.

The Office of Student life will accept the 2008 Party School award. The ceremony will be televised on ESPN2, September 4, 2008 at 8:30 PM.

Politickles

BY FRANKIE TORTORELLO & WILLIAM KLINE
CONTRIBUTOR



BANNER ARTS

Local Music Returns To Local Radio

BY VINCENT FORTE
HUMOR CZAR

Bands like Paragraph, Virgo Loves Cancer, and Avon Junkies are on my local radio! How did that happen? Over the past year, I've been checking out different places and meeting new people. Through it all, I've noticed one constant theme: the need for exposure.

First, a little background on myself. My name is Vincent J. Forte, otherwise known by my handle "The Mighty Vin." Why "The Mighty Vin?" That, my children, is a story for a different time. I am a DJ over at WSIA .88.9FM. You know, Staten Island's own radio station that broadcasts out of the College of Staten Island. What? You say you've never heard? It's probably because they stopped playing local music by local artists a while ago.

You see, I used to be an avid listener of WSIA back when they promoted local artists. When I first joined, almost a year ago, the place, to its credit, seemed lively enough. But I could tell something was amiss. A cog in the gear was still missing. So I went about my life and slowly moved up the ranks at WSIA.

It was during this time I joined The Dog and Pony Show (www.dogandponyshowwebsite.com). It's basically a local comedy collective that operates off of the above web site. Getting exposed to all of these great artists first-hand was, without a doubt, the turning point in my late-teenage life.

It didn't hit me at first. I would go to places over on Van Duzer and watch artists perform. After their sets, I would make small talk with them and ultimately bring up the fact that I worked over at WSIA. The normal reaction was something along the lines of: "Oh, didn't they used to play local music?" or "I remember being interviewed by someone there—years ago." Most would even go so far as to say that they listened to WSOU rather than WSIA (both stations with similar formats; people would still rather listen to something abroad than local).

Quite frankly, that didn't sit well with me. Now, having networked with some of these bands, I started gathering interviews. Inviting bands to come down to the station and play live-sets. It's the old adage: Build it and they will come. If I got the bands to come on-air, they would

inform their fans. Their fans would listen. Boom! That's X-amount of people who are now aware of the station and might keep listening, or even — gasp — tell more people to listen.

This "strange, new tactic" worked. I remember the first time I aired my interview with Paragraph. I received a plethora of calls. Calls from excited people; Excited that a band that they hear over at the clubs and read about in AWE were finally on the aural medium of radio. It was a nice feeling to know that people were starting to realize the potential of having a local radio station.

This invigorated me in a way that nothing else has in a long time. So I continued to score local acts. From Paperbombs to the Wahoo Skiffle Crazies and even comedy groups such as Mancrush (Casey Jost, Tim Duffy, Kevin Devlin).

Pretty soon I was voted in as WSIA Music Director. The ball was finally in my court to make a serious power-play. The first day on the job, I drove over to The Advance and was greeted by AWE staff writer Ben Johnson with a handshake and a box full of local music with the intent of having it played over

WSIA's airwaves. It's been about two months since that day. Last Tuesday it became official. All of the local music had been reviewed, filed, and labeled. It was finally ready for it all to get played.

The following day at exactly 4:00pm I played the very first local song in a new era at WSIA. That song, "Let Me In", by Avon Junkies was a very symbolic title for a very symbolic day: the day local rock music made its return to the radio.

As I continued to spin the rock that day, I was receiving a steady flow of calls to the WSIA studio from the likes of Tom Connors (Paperbombs), Sean (The Great Unwashed), Ezra (Kilgore Trout is Dead), Phoebe Blue (Kool Kidz) and Casey Jost (Paragraph). All praising the return of local rock. This, my friends, was indeed a great day for all.

What happens now? Now, we wait. Wait to see if word of mouth really does travel fast. Hopefully, the fact that many local artists are taking notice of WSIA again will mean that other artists will also take notice and want their music played for a new and budding audience. Like local bands, local radio needs to be nurtured and supported if it is ever going to thrive.

How to Make a Nerd Sick of Comic Book Movies

BY NICHOLAS RIZZI
STAFF WRITER

While we at CSI settle into our new classes and await the upcoming movies for the Fall and Winter, let's look back and the best and worst movies of the Summer; and try to think of a time when people still made movies about something other than comic book characters.

Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull

The summer started on a really bad note with George Lucas continuing his crusade to anger the fans of his movies with Indiana Jones. The movie had some good parts, and started nicely enough picking up with Indy fighting the communists now, which was a nice change putting it in Cold War setting. However, the movie began to completely leave the religious myths of Raiders of the Lost Ark and The Last Crusade and making the archeology take a back seat towards the middle. With a completely annoying plot twist and ending, that didn't fit the Indy universe at all, Shia LeBeouf annoying everybody, and effects

that look less realistic than the original ones, Indy's latest outing earns the title of most disappointing title of the summer.

The Incredible Hulk

The Incredible Hulk was Marvel's attempt to right the wrong of Ang Lee's horrible Hulk, which they do mostly. It was nice to have them not show the cause of the Hulk's predicament in so much depth as the first one, and actually have Bruce Banner actually go into the Hulk more.

While Edward Norton served as a great upgrade to Eric Bana, the film was far from perfect. The Hulk and Abomination still look laughable on screen, but all in all Hulk take two fixed the problems of the first and was a decent summer pop corn flick, even if it took its time getting to the action.

Hancock

Will Smith brought back the not so much missed "Willie Weekend" this Fourth of July with Hancock, a look at a drunk superhero attempting to straighten his life up. With good, funny acting from Smith, and a great supporting role from Jason Bateman, fleshing out their characters nicely. It was also nice to see a more realistic, comedic take on the superhero genre that's currently being bled dry by Hollywood. The second half of the movie, however, left little to be desired and the big plot twist was at first confusing, and then went straight to

being annoying. It also decided to kill the funny that the first half was doing so well. Hancock felt like a big summer blockbuster without much of a story, or a very interesting one, and with certain comic book movies — Iron Man the new Batman series — showing the potential to tell great stories it's hard to try to forgive Hancock because the battles are cool.

Hellboy II: The Golden Army

Guillermo del Toro comes back to comic book creator Mike Mignola's amazing world with Hellboy II: The Golden Army, the sequel to an underrated comic book movie. In this outing, del Toro isn't adapting a Mignola story, like the first, but creating his own original story with the characters. The story is enjoyable, the action sequences are still some of the best in the comic book genre, and Ron Perlman still plays an amazing Hellboy. However, this movie seems to rely more on new monsters and elaborate sets than the first one. The film's visuals are much lighter than the first one, and the apocalyptic nature of the Hellboy world is sometimes in the rear-view mirror but rarely comes out as fully as it should be — it's one of the most interesting parts of the comics and the original movie. Overall, a strong second outing, but the loss of David Hyde Pierce's voice as Abe Sapien hurt the film a little, however, the new main character added, Johann Krauss — voiced by Family Guy creator Seth MacFarlane —

was a great addition to the already strong ensemble of characters.

The Dark Knight

"The Best Movie of the Summer"

We end our journey with easily the best movie of the summer, and the best movie in the superhero genre; the sequel to the well-done but a little over-rated Batman Begins, The Dark Knight. The movie simply raises the bar for all superhero movies, which even the amazing one — Spiderman, Iron Man, and the original Tim Burton Batman — don't even come close to. It's more than just a caped crusader running around fighting a bad guy. It's a stunning crime drama and a psychological look at good and evil. Heath Ledger delivered an amazing performance as The Joker, easily beating out Jack Nickleson's great portrayal, and Ledger doesn't make The Joker feel over the top, like many comics and movies do, but bring the scariest, deranged side of the character that some comic creators have done so well to realization. That's not to take anything away from all the other actors, who all delivered the performances their characters needed, its just Ledger had the most interesting character to work with. It will be hard to not compare other comic book movies to this one for a long time. It did every thing a Batman movie should, and left out the things that killed other adaptations of Batman.

BANNER OPINION

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR; YOU MAY GET IT

What is CSI's biggest Concern? Parking or Walking?

BY DENNIS GAFFIGAN
CONTRIBUTOR

The story goes that at last years freshman orientation, a question was asked of incoming students, "What are your concerns about CSI?" The largest concern was the "lack of parking".

The new students did not experience a year or even a month at CSI, and parking was their main problem? Not academic advisement, not high textbook prices, not even the quality of food at the Student Center. Parking was the problem? Walking is also a "major" issue with current students.

I disagree with most people on this subject. WALKING IS THE PROBLEM, NOT PARKING.

In my three years at CSI, I always found a parking spot. One day I had to park in lot 6 and WALKED for a grand total of 8 minutes to the Center for the Arts, 1P.

I bring this issue to your attention since we are not only students at CSI, we are customers of this institution, and



Photo by upload.wikimedia.org/

the Administration wants to please its customers. In order to placate demands for more parking spaces, plans are being talked about to provide about 100 more spaces near the delivery side of the student center, 1C.

The cost of asphalt, union labor and

environmental impact studies for tree removal and drainage may cost over a million dollars. Think of it. A million dollars of scarce resources to provide 100 spaces on the north end of the campus, not in the south end where most parking issues are evident. The south end just

does not have any space, unless you want to level the Math Building, and I personally have no problem with that.

Let's spend resources on improvements to the gravel lots, and the main road. The administration should be commended for trying to fix a problem, but the real problem is don't arrive at the south end of the campus for a 10:00AM math class at five minutes to ten, and expect to find a spot. This will not happen, unless the parking fairy looks kindly on you that day.

Drivers complain about leaving their air conditioned cars on the gravel lots, and trek the huge distance to a class. It's only a few minutes walk. Time it yourself. If it rains, you will get wet, and your life will go on.

My concerns are for the students that depend on public transportation and the loop bus to arrive on time. Standing in the cold waiting for buses is no fun.

Dennis Gaffigan is a Student Government Senator

Not Who and What, But, When and How Rouses Tech-Fee Protests

A News Analysis/Opinion:
It wasn't only \$25 that stirred up the tension

BY WILLIAM KLINE
CO EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It wasn't so much the amount of the increase of the student technology fee, nor the prospect that tuitions would climb, that angered most students. It was, as University Student Senate Chancellor Robert Ramos put it, the "cloud of the suspicion" that spawned much of the rejection swirling around the July vote by CUNY trustees.

As much as they may not like it, students understand the complications that arise when running an institution. If you've survived a black-out this summer, you understand the strain that a downed computer or a general lack of electricity can cause.

We need computers. We need the Internet in order to YouTube videos of The Colbert Report. When Wikipedia fails, we need J STOR. When we clear out our G-Mail inbox, we'll finally check that crusty old CSI account. All of this costs a lot of money unless you're a celebrity and can hook up a free Mac.

In February 2002, CSI determined that it would be unable to cover the costs of student access to technology. It charged each full-time \$75.00 and each part-time paid half—\$37.50. That fee remained constant until July, when CUNY's Executive Committee voted to increase that by \$25.00 for full-timers. Part-time students will now pay a flat \$50.00.

Multiple reasons justify the CUNY move.

First, student populations have gone up, which has created more of a demand for access to computers and Internet access. Remember those busy days during finals when all of the terminals were filled up? Now picture that with several more hard-drive hawks circling and stalking the PC's as if they were spots in parking lot 3.

Software, hardware, and computers need continual updates. Last year's Razr is this year's iPhone. As we do less and less with our hands, we spend more on that which we do on the screen. Many students have access to equipment worth much more than \$50 or \$100.

Let's face it, CUNY is not an institution bloated with excess capital. Governor David Paterson recently

announced that he planned to cut 1 billion dollars from the State budget. As a result of that plan, CUNY would lose \$50 million in state funding. This leaves the University in a financial pinch of sorts.

So the fee hike itself, makes perfect sense at this point, over 6 years later. But, the lack of sufficient disclosure undercut student trust on a particularly contentious issue.

Most CSI students found out about the hike thru a letter with their semester bill, which informed them of the increase. When the university-wide student representative finds out while at work, only days before the meeting, it raises questions about timing, or at least preparedness. No student knew unless they looked real hard. During the summer, that's not likely.

So when Chancellor Goldstein took offense to what Ramos called "a cloud of suspicion," it wasn't that any heinous conspiracy was suspected. It just seemed as if the timing prevented any real student mobilization. And despite the fact that CUNY alerted each college of the fee hike, they should have made sure each institution followed through on their instructions. Instead, they shirked responsibility by basically passing off the blame on Student Life.

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Submit your articles to 1C- 228, or email them to:
The.BANNER.CSI@gmail.com

BANNER SPORTS

CSI Athletic Director Jason Fein Resigns

Takes Same Position at Drew University

BY CSIDOLPHINS.COM
NEWS SERVICE

The College of Staten Island's Office of Intercollegiate Athletics is losing its most valued member. Jason Fein, Director of Athletics announced his resignation, effective August 31, 2008, to accept the same position at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey.

Fein was with the college for nearly a decade, including the past three years as Director of Athletics, has seen a host of successes during his tenure, as well as a meteoric personal climb at the institution and in his professional endeavors. He began his position at Drew University on September 1.

"It was a very tough decision to leave CSI," said Fein. "After nine years, I'm leaving with great memories. I was lucky enough to work with some of the most dedicated people in all of intercollegiate athletics. I will certainly miss all of my great colleagues. We owe our success to the efforts of the group as a collective unit."

Fein was at the epicenter of CSI's athletic progression beginning in 1999, when he became Assistant Athletic Director and Sports Information Director under then Athletic Director Dr. Harold Merritt.

During his tenure, he was instrumental in the creation and development of the CSI Athletics Website and its various publication efforts. Along the way, he was responsible for game day management and scheduling for 10 NCAA Division III intercollegiate teams.



Photo by csidolphins.com

In July, 2002, Fein was promoted to Associate Athletic Director, where his involvement in the department and in professional organizations began to reach far beyond sports information.

He was an organizing force behind the annual CSI Golf Outing, the largest athletics fundraiser the campus ever adopted, and he worked hand-in-hand with the CUNY Athletic Conference's Goodwill Tour, which takes an annual conference all-star team overseas to compete internationally while holding instructional clinics for local underprivileged children.

He co-chaired the ECAC Sports Information Directors of America's annual workshop in Staten Island in 2003 and earned a spot on the organization Board of Directors, serving as President in 2007. Along the way, he was a driving force behind the creation CSI's women's soccer team in 2004, one of three sports added under his tenure.

When Dr. Harold Merritt left CSI in 2006, the College called on Fein to become Director of Athletics. In June of 2006, Fein was awarded the Inaugural College Sports Information Director's Association (CoSIDA) Rising Star Award, which is given annually to a trailblazer among sports information professionals. Additionally the CSI added Men's and Women's Cross-Country to its varsity sports in 2007.

"There is certainly a lot to be proud of," added Fein. "We added three sports and are on the verge of adding two more (Men's & Women's Track & Field). Our student-athletes' average grade-point average is higher than the general student population. Retention and graduation rates improved. We opened a student-athlete study center and implemented an academic progress plan. We have enjoyed a great relationship with the community and elected officials as well as youth leagues on Staten Island as far as using the CSI facilities. There's a lot to love at CSI."

A graduate of Brooklyn College, Fein holds a Bachelor's Degree in athletic training and a Master's Degree in sports management. He spent three years as the Assistant Athletic Director and Sports Information Director at BC before coming to CSI in 1999.

The thought of leaving CSI was something the 38-year old native of Brooklyn, New York, hadn't considered, until Drew University opened its search for its Director of Athletics.

"You're always on the lookout for a great opportunity for you and your family and this was certainly that," he added. "I am leaving behind a great deal, but this is something where the timing was just right."

Drew University, an NCAA Division III program sponsoring 19 intercollegiate sports, participates in the Landmark Conference. Fein is replacing Dr. Connee Zotos, who spent 14 years as the institution's Athletics Director before stepping down from her position to accept a faculty appointment at New York University.

Fein said he is grateful to CSI for offering him the opportunity to grow and excel as a professional, and supporting his decision to start anew at Drew University.

"I really would like to thank President Morales for having confidence in me and I feel the direction of the CSI program under his administration is only going to go higher and higher," he said. "His commitment to the athletic program and the student-athletes, as far as a school president, to me, is unprecedented. He is visionary, and I know he will help the athletic program continue in the right direction."

Fein, who currently resides in Dumont, New Jersey, with his wife Cecilia and son, Zachary, was not shy, however, about the lasting affinity he will have for Staten Island.

"I always felt like Staten Island was my adopted home, maybe because I spent more time there than at home," he laughed. "But I will miss it."

Another Year of Dolphin Football

A HUMOR PIECE

BY DENNIS GAFFIGAN
CONTRIBUTOR

There is a chill in the autumn air. The smells of grilled sausage and burgers fill parking lot #6 and CSI Dolphin Football is back! This year the Dolphins have a great chance to make one of the major Bowl Games (think Roses).

Over 61,345 fans will pack Dolphin Stadium, which is renamed this year as "Ralph's Ice's Stadium," for the 7 scheduled home games. A CSI tradition of sold out games continues on Staten Island. Wagner College will never top that!

Head Coach Hank Bukowski is excited about the team's chances this season. "We lost a lot of Seniors last year, but most of them were over 30 and

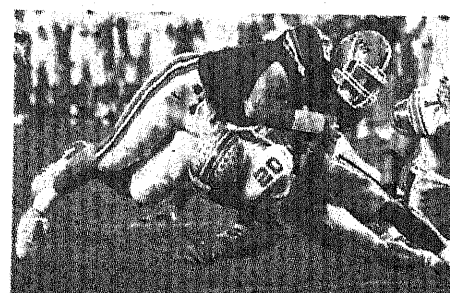


Photo by orbitcast.com

they were getting old anyway." Bukowski is thrilled about his new, young team, "We recruited a slew of Farrell boys, all we had to do is tell them we play Tottenville every Saturday, and they come out ready to kill."

The season will end with the traditional homecoming game. The Dolphins will play the Wilfred Beauty Academy, an event not to be missed.

Scheduled Home Games (all sold out)

9/6 Notre Dame (NBC)	3:30pm
9/13 Michigan (NBC)	3:30pm
9/27 Purdue (NBC)	3:30pm
10/4 Stanford (ESPN)	1:00pm
11/1 Pittsburgh (ESPN)	1:00pm
11/15 Navy (NBC)	3:30pm
11/22 Wilfred Beauty Academy (Homecoming Day, Alumni and Senior Day)	12:00pm
(NBC)	
Come early, tailgate and earn Clue Credits	

Upcoming Events

Tennis

Women's
9/4 4:00pm Staten Island vs. Farmingdale State College

Soccer

Men's
9/6 at 3:00 pm and 9/7 at 2:00 pm
Centenary Tournament-Hackettstown, NJ
Game 1 vs. Purchase State
Game 2 vs. Centenary College

Women's

9/5 vs. NJ City Univ. (HOME GAME)

Cross Country

9/7 vs. Baruch College Invitational Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx 11:00 am (men)
10:00 am (women)

Compiled from csidolphins.com