

# The Banner

Official Newspaper of the College of Staten Island

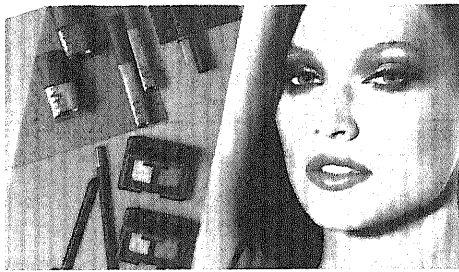
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Issue # 16



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## Foreign Languages Tutoring Department Oversees Change Faculty, Staff, and Tutors Talk About Family, Culture, and Technology



Photo Credit: Daeyung

### Tutors of the Modern Languages Media Center take a break after a meeting for a quick photo opportunity

BY DAEYUNG LEE

One of the perks of being a CSI student is access to the free tutoring available on campus. However, attending tutoring has a negative stigma.

"I just didn't need it," admitted Freshman Ariana Xhelili. "But I would go if I did."

Other students share Xhelili's opinion on tutoring. But this is the sentiment that Director of the Modern Languages Media Center (MLMC), Valeria Belmonti, foresaw.

"Tutoring presents not only an opportunity to review grammar structures and vocabulary, but it

also gives a chance for students to interact with native speakers, learn about those cultures and practice speaking skills," said Belmonti. "It is important that they are aware of the wonderful resources available to them if necessary."

But the MLMC tutoring lab is a different breed altogether when compared to ones in the Library, IL, or the math department in 1S.

Upon entering the lab in 2S, students are met with opportunities to attend local events on campus, to join a foreign language club such as the Italian or Spanish club, and the opportunity to sit down with a tutor for a quick lesson in Spanish,

Italian, French, Arabic, Mandarin, and American Sign Language (ASL).

Yet these tutors are different than the ones experienced in other labs. Sitting down with an MLMC tutor is akin to sitting down with an engaging professor, one who is knowledgeable on the basics of the language such as grammar and conjugation of irregular verbs, but is also familiar with the culture.

A trip to the MLMC is like a trip to a foreign country. The room is decorated with popular magazines from around the world. Tutors gather and

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## Staten Island Continues to Suffer in Drug Epidemic

### From Opioids to Pills, Teens Enroll in High School

BY BRADLEY POPKIN

On March 31 in the Center of the Arts Executive Director of Camelot Counseling Luke Nasta delivered an emotional speech to students and faculty on the topic of opioid abuse on Staten Island. Also in attendance, and speakers of the afternoon, were Professor David Goode of Sociology, Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Cilia, and patients of Camelot.

"I started out as high school dropout from Port Richmond. I've lived this and I've studied this," said Nasta, who has been the director of Camelot for 38 years.

Nasta has battled addiction with heroin and has seen the landscape of the borough change. He has been at the forefront of the battle against this epidemic and has been recognized for his

efforts on multiple occasions.

"Five years ago, I wrote a letter to the opinions section of the [Staten Island] advance, to parents," said Nasta. "I said, there's a new way of getting high and it's with prescription medication."

Often misconceived, many teenagers and parents underestimate the highly addictive, powerful qualities of opioids. Essentially heroin in powdered form, youth are taking these drugs and are facing the same risk as if they used a bag of heroin, claims Nasta. The main difference between the two drugs are the after-effects. Because pills take time to absorb into the body, the process of them wearing off is also gradual. He points to lack of concern as detrimental to their children's well-being. Throughout his

speech, Nasta emphasized the importance of owning the problem.

"If you don't do anything about it, then don't call me to attend the funeral," said Nasta. "If you can't get above this thing, then you will have earned your pains of conscience. In many cases, it will never get better but certainly you have no chance if you don't intervene."

The number of overdose deaths have risen and in comparison with other boroughs, Staten Island ranks three times higher in deaths by prescription pills. Between 2005-2011, the island saw a 261% increase in overdose deaths from prescription painkillers.

Nasta brought two patients, Nick and Matt who are 22 and 18 respectively, who gave

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## Men's Basketball Coach Tony Petosa Leads by Example

### Doing it the Right Way

BY BRADLEY POPKIN

In the award-laden office of CSI men's basketball coach, Tony Petosa stares at his computer screen concentrating on apparel he plans on purchasing for his team's upcoming season. For Petosa, there is no off-season. The day following their loss against York College in the 2014 CUNYAC Championship game, he had wanted to scout but fortunately was able to have an assistant make the trip.

"My season began the day after we won [the ECAC Championship]," said Petosa. "It absolutely kills my personal life. I'm easily here from September through the end of March."

Behind the storied coach sits a Staten Island Advance clipping of one of his former coaches, the late Thomas Keenan. Keenan coached Petosa during his Junior and Senior campaigns at CSI.

"He was so far away," said Petosa. "Every six months or so I'd give him a call. He was a good person."

Petosa is fresh off of a record setting 28-3 season that concluded with an ECAC Championship victory over Kean University and will be inducted into the Staten Island Hall of Fame in May. Before his head coaching career at CSI, where he has racked up five CUNYAC Championships and 400 wins, Petosa forged an award-winning basketball career at the school that began in his teenage years.

The future CSI great began playing basketball at the age of eleven where he began his career playing at Our Lady Queen of Peace.

"Things were different, they had intramural leagues at my grammar school," said Petosa. "They had CYO and stuff like that."

Petosa, a self called late bloomer, entered Monsignor Farrell High School where began to take the sport seriously. Petosa honed his skills under Tony Rafaniello who is the winningest coach in Staten Island high school basketball history with 511 games.

"I was very well coached as a high school player," said Petosa. "He has a great knowledge of the game and brings a lot of intensity."

Before there was a Tom Keenan, Petosa played his first two years of college basketball under head coach Evan Pickman. Pickman, a former scout for the LA Clippers, coached the Dolphins for six years compiling a 127-42 record. Petosa was a starter for all four years at the school.

"Pick made me hungry to become a better player," said Petosa. "By the time I had left, I felt I

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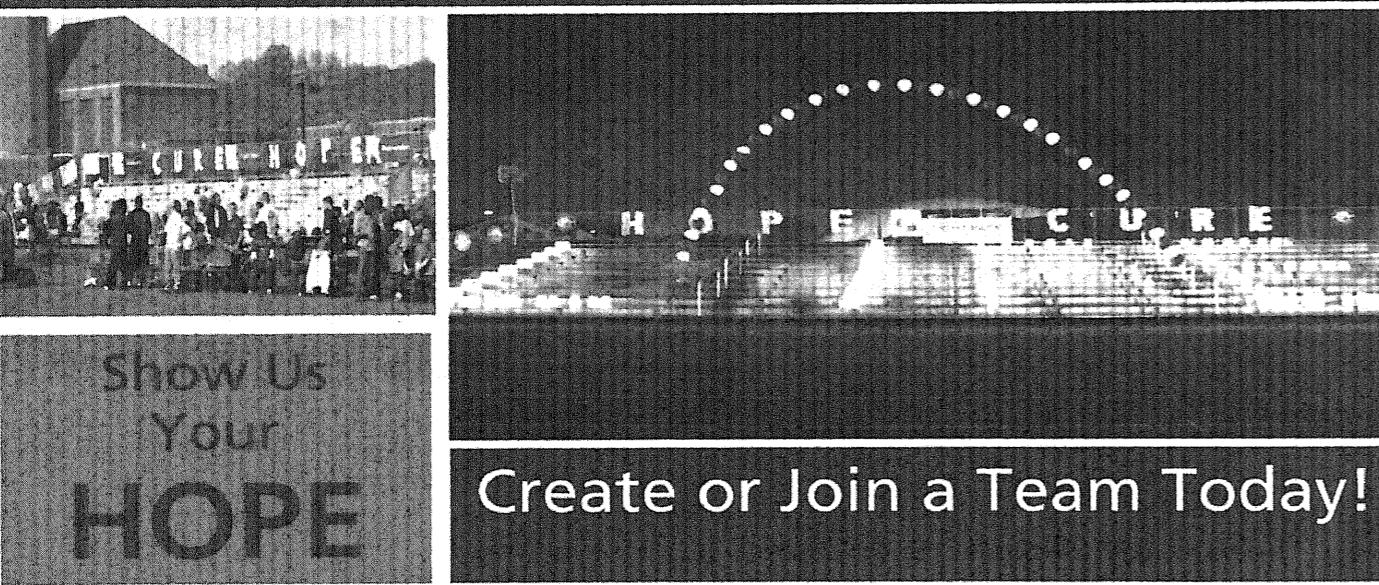
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### "Tony Petosa Leads By Example" Continued from Front Page

was as good as anyone in this area. Whatever improvements I made over the course of my four years here were because of Pick."  
 The 6'6 Center, although Petosa took on other

the Stallions both years.  
 "We added Tony to the team as a local guy because you need 10-12 guys for practice," said Pickman. "He handled himself against very, very good players. He turned himself into an above average Division-III player. He could play for a lot



Petosa as a younger student athlete for the CSI basketball team

positions, says he didn't become gifted overnight. "I had almost no athletic ability," said Petosa. "I played multiple positions, I wasn't really a Center. I was probably a better perimeter shooter than a post-player and by the time I was done [at CSI] I was a better post-player."

Petosa played and started in 28 games as a Freshman averaging 8 points and 6 rebounds. The team won the conference but lost in the ECAC tournament. As a Sophomore, the team received a birth in the NCAA Division III tournament.

"My Sophomore year we didn't win the tournament [CUNYAC]," said Petosa. "We went to the nationals because we had such a good year. Being able to compete against the best teams in the country, we were very fortunate."

Petosa's run at CSI included winning the CUNYAC championship three times and started all four seasons. In his senior year, Petosa won the ECAC tournament and a CUNY Tournament MVP Award. Today, he is still the career leader in rebounds with 982.

"As a Senior you want to be recognized by what you do," said Petosa. "You take a little bit more responsibility for the wins and losses."

Both coaches were instrumental in Petosa's success as a coach. His ability to mold kids on the court and motivate academically deserves a lot of thanks to Pickman and Keenan.

"Keenan was really laid back and Pick was very fiery," said Petosa. "I'm kind of in the middle between the two of them."

Pickman, whom Petosa calls Pick, is now head coach of the varsity program at the Abraham Joshua Heschel School in Manhattan, and had nothing but praise when recalling times when he coached the big man.

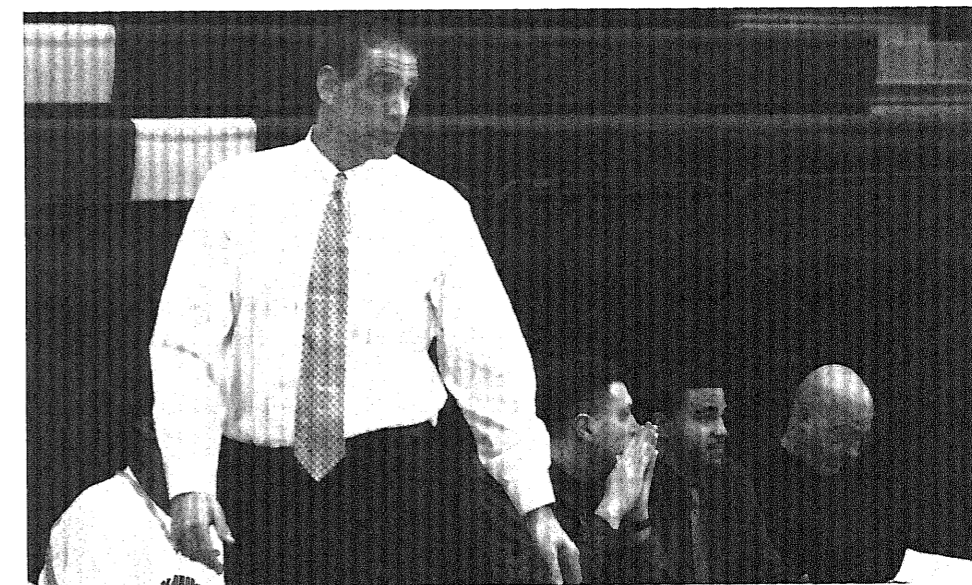
"I recruited him out of Farrell High School where he was a good player. [In] my last two years at CSI he started every game and was sort of a role player. He rebounded, he fit in. After I left, he became a great player," said Pickman. "He wanted to be a shooter [laughs]. When he left, he was outstanding. He learned to incorporate a presence inside. He became a complete power forward."

"I still talk to Pick on a fairly consistent basis," said Petosa. "I'll reach out to him once a month and see how he's doing and just talk to him. Sometimes it's about basketball, sometimes it's to see how he's doing."

The pair continued their relationship even after Pick left the bench. Pickman became the General Manager of the Staten Island Stallions, a team formerly a part of the United States Basketball League from 86-87. Petosa played with

of Division-I teams and proved it playing against division one players in the summer league."

Petosa would later give up his playing career for one as a teacher and coach. The future hall of famer spent 18 years teaching at Lafayette High School, Brooklyn before coming to Tottenville in 2007. He returned to CSI to become a part of previous coach Howie Ruppert's staff for a couple of



Coach Petosa offering up some advice and plays from the sidelines of the court

seasons.  
 Petosa initially declined the offer to become head coach of the Dolphins but due to the persistence of Ruppert, the coach who happened to be leaving at the time, was convinced to step in. Coaching alongside Petosa would be close friend and mentor Matthew White, whom the CSI alum credits with much of his success coaching.

"Matty spent 17 years as my assistant coach," said Petosa. "[He] got the job at the age of 50 and worked until 67 and was an amazing person."

White died nearly four years ago after succumbing to a battle with kidney cancer.

"Everything that I am as a basketball coach is because of him," said Petosa.

Petosa's first four seasons got off to a rough start where he amassed a 48-58 record.

"My first six years I didn't think I knew anything I was talking about because unless you win it's hard to validate what you're trying to do," said Petosa.

In his fifth campaign, things took off. In 1995, the team boasted a 20-7 record but didn't win the CUNYAC until the following year. Petosa took home CUNYAC Championship honors following the 1996 season. John Cali, a CSI hall of famer, was an integral part of the team that season and over the next three seasons.

"That was a great season, we weren't expected to do much. We lost 3 or 4 starters that year," said Cali. "We came together as a team and coach gave us a shot to become a good team."

The team followed that season up with a loss to Baruch in the CUNYAC Tournament and in 97-98; Cali went down with a hairline fracture in his back.

"I went to road games and most of the home games," said Cali. "I felt like I left him alone [Brian Gasper]. He was a junkyard dog and heart and soul of the team."

In what would have been a devastating way to end a basketball career, Cali was able to medical redshirt and play in 98-99. The team finished 17-11 and beat York to win their second championship under Petosa. However, the wins do not seem to matter to him.

"I just don't enjoy winning. I'm always looking to move onto the next game," said Petosa. "That's really my personality and if anything it's a flaw. My philosophy is when it's all over and I decide not to coach anymore, that's when I think I'll look back at all I've done and probably still be a little bit critical."

Those who know him best, like former players, think they have him figured out.

"It's not about winning with him," said Matt Franzreb, forward (97-01). "It's about doing the right thing on and off the court and the wins will

and support every year as much as I can."

The team would plateau for the majority of the start to the 21st century. Petosa's teams would go 92-70 between 2003-2008; then hitting rock bottom with a 6-20 performance in 2009. The Dolphins lost three times to York in the CUNYAC postseason during that span. Sean Weismuller a key component of the team had transferred to rival Brooklyn in the early months of the 07-08 season.

"A lot of people think it was problem between me and coach," said Weismuller. "[We] butted heads because both of us were intense. I get really excited on the court. He was tough to get a laugh out of."

Weismuller transferred to be closer to his father whose health began to fail. He remains in touch with several players from the team.

"We lost a couple of other kids because of injury and personality but what ended up happening was Jordan, who was a Freshman that year, really became our leader for four years," said Petosa.

Jordan Young, a 6'5 center from Wall Township high school in New Jersey, became the centerpiece of the team's resurgence.

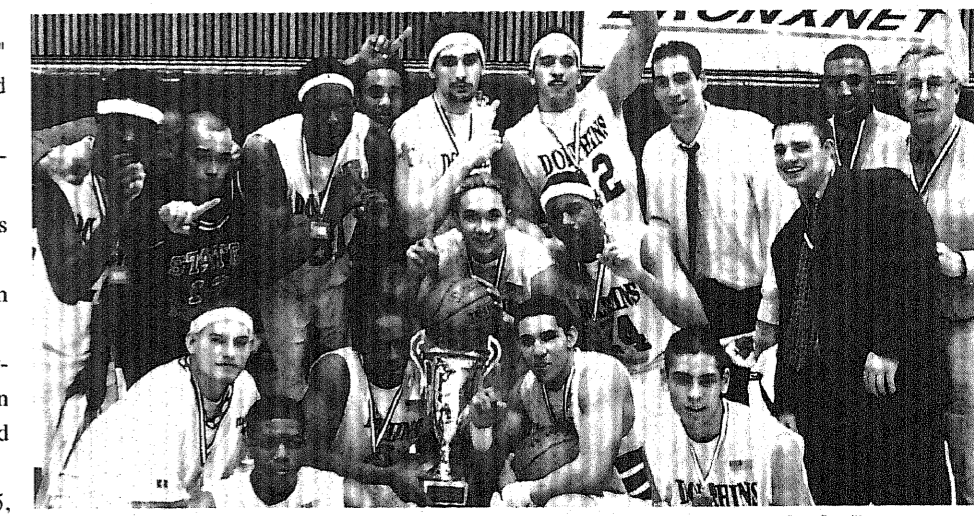
"[He had an] unbelievable feel for the game, just reacted really well, played with a lot of confidence and tenacity, great footwork, a very high-character person," said Petosa. "I honestly think he would've chosen three other schools but we just got fortunate and he had a great career here."

Young remembers the recruiting process and speaks highly of his past coach and current bench mate. He's been an assistant coach alongside Petosa for the past two seasons.

"He actually told me during my senior year [of high school] that I would have a starting spot," said Young. "[He's] a good coach, friend and mentor. He wants to be your friend first and then your coach."

Petosa's squad improved each of the next two seasons but lost to Baruch and John Jay in post-season play. Meanwhile, the team received strong play from Dale Taranto and added standouts, TJ Tibbs and Bloochy Magloire over the course of those two years. Tibbs, a graduate of St. Peters high school, was an impact player under Petosa averaging 16 points, 6 assists and 4 rebounds over two seasons. He formerly played basketball for Monmouth College before settling in at CSI.

"[After St.Peters] I was looking for somewhere to go and he tried to recruit me out of Monmouth and then again in Wagner College," said Tibbs. "In 2010, I reached out to him. I always wanted to play for coach [Petosa] but didn't want to go to CSI. He's a mentor; I look up to him as far



Coach Petosa celebrates a championship win with the men's basketball team

year, Petosa created the Tournament of Heroes which is held at the end of every year.

"These guys meant a lot to him. I played in other leagues with some of them, like Terrence Aiken, outside of CSI," said Franzreb. "I come by

as how he carries himself as a person. I was actually at school a week and a half ago to talk about things as far as my career; I'm on a path to become a college basketball coach."

History was made in 2012. The team strung

Continued on Last Page

talk international politics or compare American culture to other countries. Lab hours are scheduled and students take tests or complete homework assignments over the computer.

In a sit-down with these tutors the first thing that is notable is how close-knit everyone seems to be. Despite the various ethnicities and cultures they align to, they sit amongst each other as friends and colleagues. Each belts out the MLMC mantra towards tutoring: "repetition, patience, critical thinking."

Talking amongst themselves, they reveal a common interest toward helping students. Further than that, they show their interest toward promoting the MLMC as a safe place. They assure everyone that the lab is a family, and they are committed to introducing students as members.

"I was born in the Dominican Republic, I came to the States six years ago," said MLMC tutor Holdalitz Brito. "I've been back every semester since I was 16."

Every tutor in the lab shares a story like Brito, on their background and why they dedicate their time to tutoring.

"A professor recommended me after they found out I used to work with kids in the after-school program. I'm a native speaker that needed work on grammar. I started tutoring and it gave me an explanation behind everything," admitted Brito.

Roa Harizi, a tutor for French and Arabic, recollected on her immigration to the US over four years ago.

"I wanted to use something from my country, I saw students failing, discouraged, and needing help," added Harizi. "I felt that my help would lead them to finish the semester very well."

The idea of helping others is central to the idea of tutoring. All of the MLMC tutors admit to feeling the need to push others and provide assistance.

"Helping students pass is important,"

exclaimed tutor Anoushka Sefu. "I grew up in France but I was born in Gabon and moved to the States at the end of 2010 in November. With the knowledge I had from home I felt that it allowed me to help others."

For some, the need to help is so powerful that they do it without the \$10.97 per hour paycheck that tutors receive. Jurandir Chan is a volunteer at the MLMC, having moved to the US four years ago from Brazil.

"As a tutor you address specific questions in language but you learn from them as well," said Chan.

The give-and-take mentality towards tutoring is seen often. The tutors admit that learning a language goes beyond being fluent. For some of the staff, going beyond involves strengthening their skills in English.

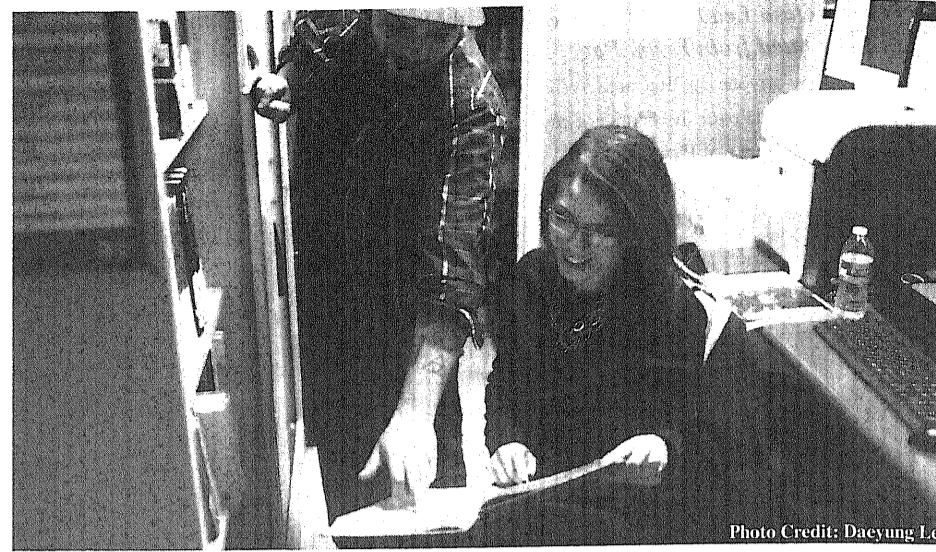
Jie Fei and Yaran Tan are the MLMC's newest additions to staff, both working as Mandarin tutors.

"The class professor recommended us," said Fei who had come to America in 2008. "We enjoyed it because we know more students. We figure its more than just us tutoring them. They're good at English and we're good at Chinese. We all can improve."

At the MLMC, some of the tutors have earned the opportunity to apply their skills toward a new role at CSI. Annalisa Susca, an MLMC tutor for five years, and Katina White, a tutor for twelve, have become adjunct lecturers in addition to tutoring.

"You can learn so much from tutoring," admitted Susca. "You learn how to be patient and how to have a one-on-one conversation. Working here as a tutor gives you insight. After repeating these lessons with students over so many years I've learned exactly where students are having difficulties in learning Italian."

"The tutoring lab is a place where students come for a relaxed environment," added White. "It's difficult because there are different relationships. Tutoring isn't the same thing as being in the



Spanish tutors Yarlene Hernandez and Wilberto Dones review a conjugation

classroom. You have to act accordingly."

The variety of students and tutors at the MLMC already adds to a thriving and educational community. But the MLMC may be one of very few tutoring labs to journey into the 21st century.

Technology has found a new importance in the lab.

"WeSpeke and DuoLingo are two free technologies that anyone can access from any smartphone or computer with internet access. They are becoming popular names in Computer-Assisted Language Learning, which is the field that the media center assists with," explained Belmonti.

DuoLingo is an app available for free on Apple and Android platforms. At first glance it seems to be a Rosetta Stone-based learning program. But constant use of the app shows that it feels like a video-game and quickly becomes addictive as you make your way through lessons in prepositional phrases, verbs, and basic sentences. Available for those who wish to learn French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, English, and Italian, DuoLingo was nominated as the best Apple app in 2013.

"Students occasionally ask us for additional resources like websites, worksheets, media tutorials, software. We have now incorporated DuoLingo in the pool of resources we can suggest to students when asked," said Belmonti.

Another big tech change is a website called wespeke.com.

"WeSpeke is a social network where users seek conversation partners for talking about a subject while also practicing a language. Users can look for conversation partners according to subjects," explained Belmonti. "For example, if you have an assignment on a current news or world event, or you are researching a foreign book or artist, and you are interested in French too, then WeSpeke can find a French person interested in practicing English that also would like to talk about those subjects and share views with you."

With the opportunity to strengthen language skills, learn about different cultures, and even use some incredible technology, the MLMC is trying to reach out to other students who are hesitant about the tutoring experience at CSI.

"Make the most out of your college experience at CSI," declares Belmonti. "We live in NYC and there are people from all over the world. There are going to be other people with the 4.0 GPA. But there are less people with a 4.0 and mastery in a foreign language."

Richmond County District Attorney's Office and has seen a large amount of cases involving possession or distribution of prescription drugs.

"I do see, on a very daily basis, the prescription pill epidemic that is unfortunately here," said Cilia. "I see doctor shopping cases and a lot of forged prescription cases. We're working with federal agencies, other district attorney's offices and the mayor's task force to work on this problem."

Doctor shopping is when a person goes to multiple doctors to get the same prescription filled in a thirty-day period. In June 2013, a phlebotomist from Dongan Hills was arrested and plead guilty to attempted third-degree possession of a controlled substance. Christine Oakes, 41, was arrested as part of a sweep of arrests involving doctor-shopping that further implicated 15 other Staten Islanders.

A program called D-CAP, Drug Consequences Awareness Program, was implemented in Criminal Court in 2012. The program targets teenagers who don't have a criminal history and are being charged with a misdemeanor.

"It's basically a one day program where [they] meet with family members of people who have died of drug overdoses and from the medical and law enforcement communities," said Cilia. "A lot of times kids think that this pill isn't going to do the same amount of damage as shooting something into my arm."

When it comes to felonies there is the Staten

Island Treatment Court Program. Instead of being tried and convicted, an abuser can be referred to either a residential or outpatient program, depending upon the particular person. Normally, a person will start at a residential level and graduate to an outpatient program, according to Cilia. Dealers and abusers can potentially have their cases dismissed upon completion and recovery.

"It's a big incentive and the alternative is that you go to state prison," said Cilia.

Nasta has also lobbied for support to open up new residential treatment facilities for the last four decades but to no avail. In the span of roughly forty years, he has only been able to open two programs.

"The community won't embrace the problem or admit that it's there," said Nasta. "They won't support people like myself that want to save lives, instead they paint me with the same brush as the addict. I'm bringing the problem to their neighborhood."

Abuse still occurs but not to the same extent. The price per pill of oxycontin, oxycodone and hydrocodone has risen to one dollar per milligram. The crackdown on prescription drugs has led abusers to turn to heroin. Heroin-related deaths skyrocketed 84% between the years 2010-2012. The combination of prescription drug and heroin-related deaths accounted for the deaths of roughly seventy Staten Islanders in 2012, according to NYC Dept. of Health reports.

# BANNER POLITICS

## Supreme Court Unleashes the 1% for Campaign Funds

Political Donations Now Considered "Free Speech"

BY CLIFFORD MICHEL

On Wednesday April 2 the Supreme Court made a final decision in the controversial *McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission* case. The court ruled in a split 5-to-4 vote to expand the maximum amount an individual can directly donate to political candidates and committees.

Previously, federal laws capped the amount of money any one person can donate during a two-year election cycle at 123,200 dollars. The final decision now allows a single person to donate \$3.6 million dollars in an election cycle.

The decision was made on the grounds that limiting the amount of campaign donations one can give out is equivalent to limiting an individual's First Amendment rights.

Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. argued for the controlling opinion, stating that, "there is no right more basic in our democracy than the right to participate in electing our political leaders. Citizens can exercise that right in a variety of ways. They can run for office themselves, vote, urge others to vote for a particular candidate, volunteer to work on a campaign, and contribute to a candidate's campaign. This case is about the last of those options."

The conservatives of the court disagreed that a possibility in the increase of influence in the political process, spurred by massive campaign

donations, does not trump limiting an individual's First Amendment right.

"Many people might find those latter objectives attractive. They would be delighted to see fewer television commercials touting a candidate's accomplishments or disparaging an opponent's character. Money in politics may at times seem repugnant to some, but so too does much of what the First Amendment vigorously protects. If the First Amendment protects flag burning, funeral protests, and Nazi parades -despite the profound offense such spectacles cause- it surely protects political campaign speech despite popular opposition," Roberts continued.

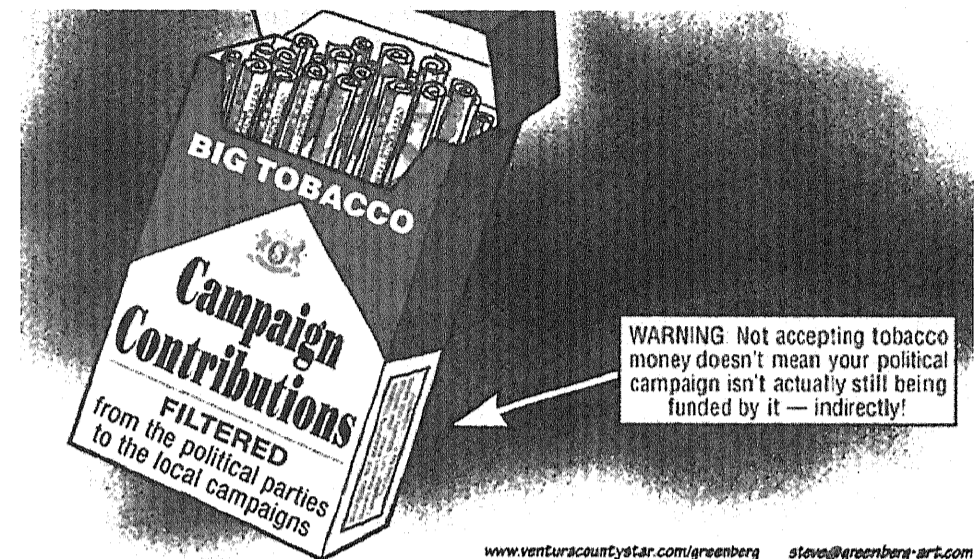
In an extremely rare occurrence, which hinted at the polarized state of the Supreme Court, Justice Stephen Breyer was joined by Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor as he read his 30-page dissent from the bench.

"[The majority's] conclusion rests upon its own, not a record-based, view of the facts. Its legal analysis is faulty: It misconstrues the nature of the competing constitutional interests at stake. It understates the importance of protecting the political integrity of our governmental institutions. It creates a loophole that will allow a single individual to contribute millions of dollars to a political party or to a candidate's campaign. Taken together with *Citizens United v. Federal Election Comm'n.*, today's decision eviscerates

our Nation's campaign finance laws, leaving a remnant incapable of dealing with the grave problems of democratic legitimacy that those laws were intended to resolve," said Breyer.

Roberts insisted that the points brought up in the dissertation were represented in his ruling and added that Breyer's points were speculative. He concluded that it would be up to Congress to address any loopholes.

The ruling was reminiscent of the Supreme Court's 2010 ruling on *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, a decision that did away with limits on campaign spending by corporations and unions. The ruling showed its influence



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The ruling was reminiscent of the Supreme Court's 2010 ruling on *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, a decision that did away with limits on campaign spending by corporations and unions. The ruling showed its influence

approximately \$640 million.

Yet, Pakistan's initiatives to take on the Taliban and terrorist cells in the region, as well as support other United States initiatives have been less than forthcoming. Our modern relationship with Pakistan started in response to India's alignment with the Soviet Union during the Cold War, in order to gain a stronger foothold in the region. Now that the Cold War is over, part of the aid money that goes to Pakistan is to avert conflict between India and Pakistan, according to BBC News.

With Operation Neptune Spear, the NATO-U.S. operation that successfully killed Osama Bin Laden, relations between Washington and Islamabad have diminished greatly as some in the United States speculated that the Pakistani government may have known about Bin Laden's hiding in Abbottabad, Pakistan and may have even assisted him.

Naturally this has also created a conflict of interest in the foreign aid department. While we do have a humanitarian outreach to Pakistan through foreign aid, we still have strategic reasons for giving aid as the United States tries to hold on to as many allies in the region as possible.

In 2012, according to USAID, Russia has received approximately \$293 million in economic assistance and China has received \$49 million. This just highlights how far the \$48.4 billion in foreign aid reaches across the world. Whether this is seen as a waste or a strategic necessity, American influence via economic aid cannot be ignored.

Conversely, not every foreign aid situation is as straight-forward as the Ugandan dilemma. Take for instance the situation in Pakistan. According to the USAID Foreign Assistance Database, economic assistance to Pakistan in the fiscal year 2001 was approximately \$92 million. In the fiscal year 2012, this economic assistance increased to

highlighted the divide between ideology and strategy in the economic foreign aid market the United States participates in.

For instance, the Ugandan government signed into law on February 24 anti-gay legislation, the Ugandan Anti-Homosexuality Act, which effectively outlaws any kind of same sex relationships or behavior and brings down harsh penalties which have included life imprisonment and even the death penalty.

President Obama, among other world leaders, has denounced the new bill. According to Al-Jazeera, "The United States is Uganda's largest donor, sending more than \$400 million in aid annually in recent years. If Museveni signs the bill, the U.S. could find ways to register disappointment over the law."

In other words, aid money can be used or withdrawn depending on a country's ideological or government policies. Nonetheless, in the circumstances of Uganda, the United States will not be so eager to rush to pull funding. As, according to Al-Jazeera, "Uganda depends on donors for about 20 percent of its budget", there would probably be hesitation due to the consequences involved in pulling millions of dollars in development aid from the country.

## USAID & Economic Assistance in International Relations

BY MICHAEL ROACH

American foreign policy in the post-Cold War era has been the defining tightrope act in today's global politics. There have been calls from both "doves" and "hawks" on this issue, with President Obama's administration treading a fine line between the two extremes.

However, in a dynamic and polarizing arena such as international diplomacy, staying in a "middle ground" can be worse than taking a side.

As we've seen, military intervention can be quite a tricky situation: intervene in one situation and you're a warmonger, if you don't intervene in another you'll be criticized, not to mention the economic costs of either choice.

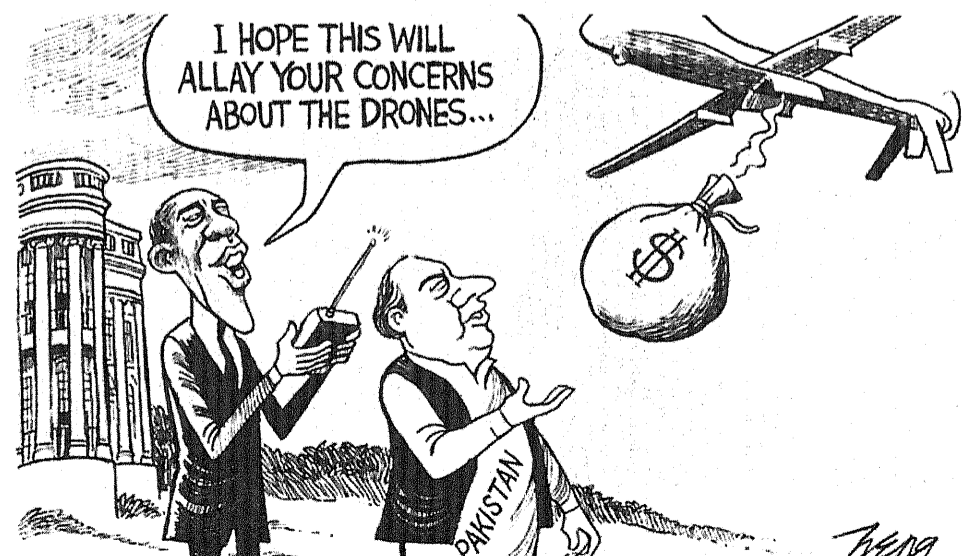
"Damned if you do, damned if you don't" foreign policy at work.

Economic assistance to other nations, on the

other hand, carries with it fewer consequences than military assistance, mostly due to the lack of coverage economic transactions get in the press and American discourse.

Yet, economic assistance carries with it as much symbolism and impact on the international political discourse as military acts. The lending or transfer of funds to a foreign government is not just done for humanitarian reasons; it also serves as a subliminal endorsement of those governments' policies. The term "endorsement", however, carries with it a dual meaning: the approval of that government's policies or ideologies and a "contribution" made to that government in order to develop friendly relationships- a.k.a. a bribe.

Recent events have prompted across the country a review of what we give and, more importantly, who we give it to. This review has



## "Staten Island Drug Epidemic" Continued from Front Page

lengthy speeches based on their history of prescription drug use. Both have been in treatment for eleven months.

"I started using prescription painkillers when I was 19 years old, I was going out with this girl who was messing with them and I was very curious," said Nick. "First it started out as recreational use but then turned into an everyday thing. I wouldn't be able to function without it."

Nick has two jobs and is in the process of rebuilding the relationship with his family. The difference between the pair and their usage is how it started, Matt began using prescription drugs after he began selling them.



Carl F. Feren, Residential Director of Camelot Counseling Center

"When I was 15 I started selling prescription pills, and eventually I wanted to try it out. It all started to go downhill from there," said Matt. "I've been arrested about eight times. I went to jail for a little bit."

Matt obtained his GED, went to a trade school and is now looking for a job. According to Cilia, there is almost one overdose per week. The problem appears to have found its way onto campus.

"We have a huge problem here on campus," said Goode. "We don't get data but we hear stories. I can tell you that anecdotally there's evidence that shows this is not something that CSI is immune from."

Cilia has spent over eight years at the



Photo Credit: Larry Matreno

# CAMPUS STYLES

## Celebrate Spring Break with Seasonal Cocktails

### The Best Drinks for Spring and Summer

BY VICTORIA CAROCCIA

Spring Break has finally sprung, and what better way to ease the stress of the mid-semester than a refreshing cocktail. Midterm exams and final paper deadlines call for hard liquor. So if you're legal, spread some spring cheer with these delicious cocktail recipes.

The best way to transition your palette into the warm weather is with light, refreshing, fruity cocktails. Z Two in Tottenville offers a variety of specialty spring cocktails, including the Raspberry Cosmopolitan and the Mango Sling. These and other cocktails for just \$7 each during their happy hour, Monday through Friday from 2:30PM-6PM.

If you don't feel like trekking all the way to the South Shore, these cocktails are easy to make in the comfort of your own home. To make a Raspberry Cosmopolitan, all you need are 2 ounces of Stolichnaya raspberry vodka, ¾ ounces of triple sec, 1 ounce of cranberry juice, and 1 ounce of lime juice. Mix these ingredients, shake well, and serve chilled in the cocktail glass of your choice.

For the Mango Sling, you'll need 4 ounces of Absolut Apeach, 2 ounces of simple syrup, 1 ounce of lemon juice, 1 ounce of peach liqueur, and a slice of mango. Toss some ice and the rest of your ingredients into a blender, and once they're good and blended serve in a chilled wine glass.

Another excellent selection of spring cocktails comes from Pepper Jack Grill on Manor Road. Their menu offers drinks with creative names and delicious blends that will satisfy even the pickiest bar patron.

Some "shaker-tinis" they offer include High Voltage, made with citrus vodka, peach schnapps, and iced tea. One of their seasonal drinks, the Sweet Leaf, is a house special mojito made with fresh mint, muddled limes, raspberry liqueur, rum, simple sugar, and club soda.

There are a million and one ways to make a deliciously fruity spring cocktail. But if you're looking for something a little more traditional, then sangria will do the trick. Pepper Jack also has a staggering sangria menu that will allow you to celebrate spring break the right way.

Their White Rabbit sangria is a light and refreshing blend of Sauvignon Blanc wine and peaches. Their Whole Lotta Rosie is a pomegranate sangria made with Merlot, which is a bit heavier but still offers a rich and fruity taste.

If you're looking to try these and other drink selections from Pepper Jack, check out their happy hour specials. On Monday through Thursday from 4PM-7PM, Friday from 2PM-7PM, and Saturday from 2PM-6PM, you can get a shaker-tini for \$7 and a pint of any sangria for just \$5.

Everyone knows that girls love warm weather and fruity cocktails. However, these



White Rabbit Sangria sitting on the bar of Pepper Jack Grill on Manor Road

sentiments may not be shared by their male counterparts. If you want to toast to spring without getting slack from your friends, there are plenty of spring seasonal beer options to preserve your manhood.

Adobe Blues on Lafayette Avenue has one of the most extensive beer menus in the country. Their seasonal beer menu offers a variety of ales, IPAs, and stouts to set your taste buds into a spring frenzy. Blue Point's Spring Fling Copper Ale is a blend of malts that mesh German barley and American hops to provide a smooth, refreshing taste. Troeg's Nugget

Nectar offers a more hoppy, bitter taste for those who crave a bit of a punch.

In honor of the spring premiere of Game of Thrones, Brewery Ommegang offers two seasonal beers named after the show. The first, Blood and Fire, gives off an aroma of raisins and spices with a sweet, dry taste of ripe fruit. The second, Take the Black Stout, was named in honor of the Night's Watch and has a dark look with a deep taste.

Whatever poison you prefer, these cocktails, sangrias, and beers are sure to give you a serious case of spring fever!

# BANNER STYLES

## Tips & Tricks for Spring Makeup Looks

### Corals and Lilac's - An Unlikely Pair

BY AMANDA V. GRANBERG

Put away the powders and break out the pastels to revamp your everyday makeup for the warmer weather. Often times in winter we focus on matte skin with dark lips or eyes. This spring is all about glowing skin and barely there makeup, as almost every other spring. However, as we focus on dewy skin and highlighting our cheekbones we can incorporate all those crazy eye shadows and eyeliners we put away last fall.

A smoky eye will always be a go to on a night out but bright colors are sneaking back in this season. Whether it be a full on lilac eye or a hint of light orchid, it will freshen up any look. Sometimes even a thin line of a light blue or purple colored eyeliner will do the trick.

Remember that blue mascara you had in the eighth grade? It's coming back, purple and blue lashes can be the perfect pop of color for an everyday bare makeup.

Last year coral lips were seen all over. This year takes it up a notch with bright orange lips. Now, an almost neon orange lip might be a bit intimidating but can still be worn in but a little toned down. Find that perfect shade and apply one stroke to the bottom lip and blend out to create a washed out tint. For the more daring girls, apply a little of your left over foundation or a light concealer on lip and let it dry, then the color payoff is just what you imagined.

Another trend from middle school is making its way back - white eyeliner. A lot of beauty girls now use that trick of putting a nude or



The Nars spring collection feature purple eyes, coral lips, and dewy skin

white color in the waterline to make the white of your eye look larger. A stroke of white on the upper lid will create a minimalist look and allow a colored or black mascara to have a canvas that will make it show.

Last but not least, skin. In winter we reach for matte silicon based primers. In the spring you can instead reach for a liquid luminizer. This can either be worn over your primer or replace it. If that seems too heavy on the skin mix a drop or two in the foundation you are using for a less obvious glow.

Beauty blenders and makeup sponges will be your best friends as temperatures creep up for summer. These little miracles are easy to use and are perfect for Bbcreams, light coverage foundations and tinted moisturizers. Wet the

sponge with some warm water, squeeze out most of the excess and blend in the foundation with short patting motions. The water in the sponge will help the makeup blend out in a light coverage. If you like a dewy finish this will make its way into your routine quickly since the water reflects of the skin.

Another use for the beauty blender and a big trend this spring is liquid stain blushes. Powder blushes in the summer can become to dry looking and slide off while your running around in the sun but liquid blushes will create a tint that looks natural. If going back to foundation with your beauty blender use some cleanser, brush cleaner, or even a little shampoo to clean out your sponge.

As always, remember an SPF!



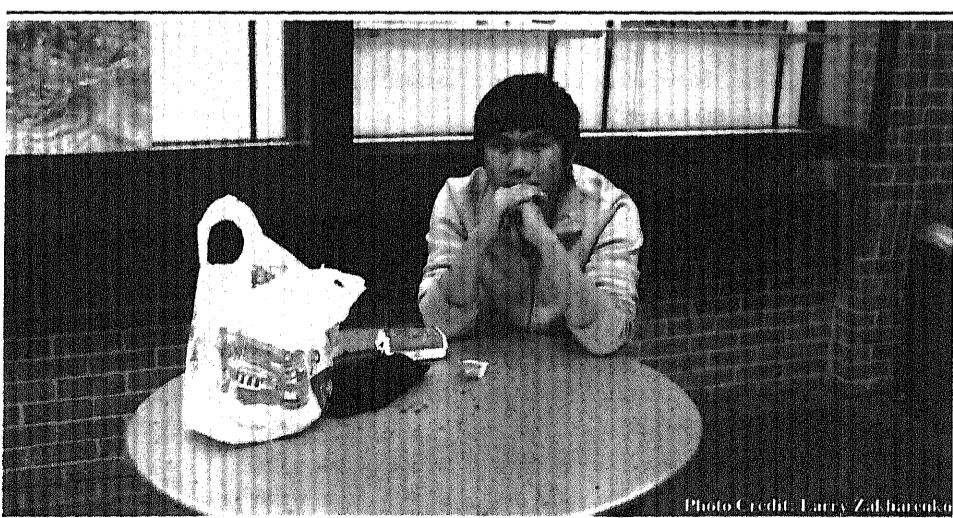
Youtuber MakeupByAlli shows how to use a beauty blender for an even finish

BY AMANDA V. GRANBERG & LARRY ZAKHARENKO

## Humans of CUNY



Alfredo Vega - Loop Bus & Ferry Shuttle Driver - "Nah I just work here, I wish I could go here. I have a daughter that turns two in August."



Xiao Chen Lan - Sophomore  
"My Professor said I have to go to CSI's Got Talent, so I'm waiting to go there..."



Anthony Ingargiola, 18 - Freshman  
"Life goes on, my teacher in high school said that once, gotta keep going on"



Jeff Li, 24 - Junior Engineering Major & Daisy the Dog  
"This actually isn't my dog, its my girlfriend's, she's in class..."

## An Original Fashion Sense Has Galloped Into Town

### Lasso the Cacophony of the Streets, Urban Cowboy Style

BY JEAN-CLAUDE QUINTYNE

It is rare, but have you ever seen a Black cowboy? No, I'm not talking about leotard-wearing Bart from *Blazing Saddles* (1974), I'm talking about a stylish, Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn kind of cowboy. To tell you the truth, I've only seen one, and to reveal exactly where I saw him would give away the mysteries of his reflectional, original style—the Urban Cowboy.

So, without delay from this most exclusive and exquisite of styles, allow me the pleasure of breaking it down. As we make the transition to spring, it's natural that people abandon their heavily layered jackets for ones that are lighter and sleeker. These types of outerwear serve as the accent of the Urban Cowboy outfit.

On a chilly day, a thigh-length cotton or polyester sweater or coat that isn't too thick compliments the jeans and shirt, which I describe later, and offers the right amount of warmth to combat the chill of a fifty degree evening. Tailored blazers also sneak into this category, for those business-casual-feel kind of days. Blazers and sport coats add a professional look to the rebellious tone of this outfit.

As I have watched my preferences for clothing mature, I've been heavily attracted to dress shirts. Despite the fact that I am upset that the Urban Cowboy style has caught on to my preference, dress shirts add an intriguing dimension to the style.

Whether they are tucked in or out depends

on the wearer, but it won't look too "cowboy" if it isn't a long coat, or if a blazer is decided to compliment the outfit. Wear it as is, just as Sam Elliot's character did as Patrick Swayze's mentor in *Road House* (1989).

However, if the dress shirt is tucked in, highlight it with a skinny tie because this sets the outfit aflame. Strive for dark, solid color ties, for they need to match the other components of the outfit. And if it is desired that there be designs on the tie, keep them subtle. Thick stripes don't look badass.

Pants, specifically jeans, make or break Urban Cowboy style. They are the glue that holds the outfit together. Stay away from acid-washed jeans, primarily because some companies use a technique called "sand blasting," an

intense industrial buffer that abrasively sprays jean-particles into the air that workers inhale and get sick from, and because they sour the taste of the outfit, making it look tacky and plain damn ugly.

Make it a priority to purchase fitted, solid color denim jeans. Boot-cut or skinny jeans hint at the mysterious nature of Urban Cowboy style. Depending on the kind of shoes worn, try to find out whether or not high-waters or baggy cuffs will give the shoes the credit they deserve.

Watches, rings, chains, and other accessories need to have an adequate amount of thought put in before wearing them. Too little or too much essentially kills the impact of the style. Go for simple, analog watches instead of elementary school-style digital ones.

Wearing two rings on one hand says, "the bus was going too slow so I kicked the driver out the window and got everybody to work on time" while wearing one ring suggests that, "I rigorously filed my taxes yesterday."

The territory most avoided, and the one that almost never works out, is the one of the hat. How many times have people seen that one guy wearing that obnoxious cowboy hat while waiting for the ferry at St. George Terminal or navigating the maze that is Penn Station? The odds are that if you have, you probably thought, "what the fuck is he doing?"

To pull this off Urban Cowboy style, buy a fedora, don't even think about purchasing a "10 Gallon" hat. And no, I'm not talking about those too-tiny-for-their-own-good hats that call themselves fedoras and their even tinier brims, I'm talking about Michael Jackson "Billie Jean" I'll-moonwalk-your-ass fedoras, the ones with the brims that suggest, "I'm too cool for school." These never fail in putting a stamp on the Urban Cowboy outfit. They say, "Yeah, I'm badass. Do something, I dare you."

Last and certainly not least are the shoes. If the right shoes are not worn, it's best to forget about everything I discussed earlier. Search—and yes, I mean search. Go on an odyssey, even for hard boots, ones with buckles and pointed tips. And make sure they "clap" when they hit the ground, this way there's no question as to whether or not you're horsing around.



Source: humansofnewyork.com

# BANNER ARTS

## Superheroes Invade Washington Square Park

*Pillow Fight for Vengeance and A Worthy Cause*

BY JONATHAN CABAN

Washington Square Park was the epicenter of a brutal battle on Saturday April 5. People gathered together in the early afternoon, carrying pillows and wearing costumes. In unison they took out their cell phones and began counting down from fifteen as if engaging in some strange ritual. After reaching one, the calm crowd began to attack each other with their pillows. Sounds like something from *The Hunger Games*? Well it wasn't, because it was the Ninth Annual NYC Pillow Fight sponsored by the non-profit group Newmindspace.

Newmindspace originated in 2005, by creators Kevin Bracken and Lori Kufner, when they were art students at the University of Toronto. The goal of the organization was to create free unique public events to get people outdoors. Other events sponsored by the group are Lightsaber battles, Bubble fights, and art installations.

The pillow fight is their most famous and popular event going on nine years strong. The event happens in cities all over the world including Toronto and London. Initially, the event here in NYC was held in Union Square but was soon moved to Washington Square Park for the larger space.

The weather was perfect on Fight Day and would guarantee a large turnout. The theme this year was Superheroes vs. Supervillains. Participants dressed up as their favorite characters and arrived with pillows in hand. It was like Comic Con without the panels and overpriced celebrity pictures. When walking to the park the



Photo Credit: Jonathan Caban

fight could be seen a block away. The fight began promptly at 3PM and would last approximately two hours.

"It usually ends around five depending on how the NYPD is feeling," said Bracken.

The NYPD had a strong presence in the park during the fight. Larger groups were across the street, by the main entrance, and even on top of the Washington Square Arch. They looked amused by the fight as they were seen taking pictures from their posts, but despite their laid back attitudes they were ready to intervene if things got out of hand. There were several moments where it looked like the cops would end things any minute by the way people were attacking each other with their pillows.

There were rules when it came to the fight. Only people with pillows were targets, take off glasses before participating, and don't attack

anyone with a camera. A spectacle like this is naturally going to inspire people to take pictures so it was advised to watch where you swing. At the same time, it's also the responsibility of the person to watch where they take pictures. The closer you get to the "arena" the higher chance that your camera could get smashed. I had to switch positions several times to avoid random bouts of combat that would erupt near me.

Many of the participants were rowdy including a group that was taking shots from a travel sized Patron bottle. However, there was one group that could easily make a chaotic scene turn peaceful and that group was children. Kids accompanied by their parents or guardians also came to partake in the pillow fight. Kids tended to stay on the outskirts of the fight area but were brave and attacked their targets without fear.

The rowdy adults however took it easy and

allowed the kids to attack with little to no retaliation on their part. This simple act turned the tide when it came to spectators who were complaining about the "violence" taking place in the park. Seeing how easily the rowdy bunch turned peaceful made haters into fans. Two elderly women were watching and initially looked annoyed but within minutes were laughing and moved closer to get a better view of the fight.

One thing New Yorkers love is a free show. Besides the many pillow fighters and cops around, the park was full of people who came from all over simply to watch. Whether they were standing on benches away from the fight area or right on the fringes of it, spectators were watching with intense concentration.

Some were even taking bets on who had the best costume, best fighting skills, and best tactics. One fan favorite was a man who had written "Free Hugs" on his pillow. When people moved closer to redeem their hug, he would strike! It was the perfect trap. A woman sitting on a man's shoulders soon earned another fan favorite spot. While he moved through the crowd, she would strike from above everyone.

When the fight ends, a cleanup is organized that way Washington Square Park will be left spotless. The pillows are then donated to homeless shelters throughout the tri-state area. Essentially everybody wins; people get to have an old-fashioned pillow fight while donating to a worthy cause.

The next Newmindspace event is a Bubble Battle that will take place in Union Square on June 14.

## Infamous Sequel Smokes the Competition

*New Game for PS4 Becomes the Series' Best*

BY STEPHEN KLEIN

With *Infamous* back and better than ever before, Sucker Punch has crafted what's possibly the most fun experience I've ever had in an open world superhero game.

I've always enjoyed Sucker Punch's games from *Sly Cooper and the Thievius Raccoonus* to *Infamous 2*. When Sucker Punch announced their next game in late February of last year at the unveiling of the PS4, it was pleasantly surprising to see that it was a new *Infamous*. Without spoiling anything, it was certain that *Infamous 2* was the ending to the series as a whole given that both of its endings were extremely different and seemed like a conclusion.

Not only does *Infamous: Second Son* look downright gorgeous in terms of the graphics department, but it plays extremely well. Sucker Punch has done an excellent job of giving the player creative superpowers out of typically mundane things. Without spoiling anything, you do get powers based on smoke and neon light, but you also get a couple of other powers based on everyday things.

I have to admit that the story was great too. This is an even more dramatically tense and emotional take on *Infamous* that we haven't real-

ly seen before. Troy Baker, who plays the protagonist Delsin Rowe, does a particularly excellent job as always in terms of voice acting and humorously mimicking a 24 year old graffiti artist.

However, *Infamous: Second Son* is not without its imperfections. The story starts off slow with too many cutscenes. In addition, while I think that the karma system works relatively well and allows you to bend the story towards being good or evil, the evil portion doesn't

always work in this case. To elaborate further, the plot itself and Delsin's motivations for doing what he does are almost contradictory to his lust for killing and power.

I still strongly recommend playing *Infamous: Second Son* twice for the good and evil results, even if the evil side doesn't always work nor does it make as huge a difference as it did in *Infamous 2*.

In terms of gameplay, *Second Son* gives players a good amount of content. It's expansive,

but not too overbearing that it can't be completed. The problem with the content provided is that it can get repetitive since it's not as robust as traditional side missions are.

The game does offer downloadable side missions such as Cole's Legacy and Paper Trail, but you can only get Cole's Legacy under certain circumstances such as a Limited Edition copy and Paper Trail is a series of ARG-style missions. In other words, for Paper Trail, you're not just completing missions in-game, but trying to unravel mysteries through the Paper Trail website with new content each week.

Like some of the side content, the combat can get repetitive as well. For a game that's so focused on different superpowers, it's a shame that for the amount of extreme fun that I was having, after a while, I felt a hint of monotony. At least the DualShock 4 is utilized in interesting and immersive ways, but some of the utilizations feel a tad gimmicky and are a bit too much.

Despite its faults and shortcomings, I cannot stress how fantastic *Infamous: Second Son* is. It's not only the best *Infamous* yet, it's not only Sucker Punch's best game yet, it's the best PS4 game yet and is a shining example of what experiences are possible on it. *Infamous: Second Son* is awarded with a 10 out of 10.



Source: Gamestop.com

# BANNER ARTS

## On The Road with CAB Presents Matilda The Musical

*Roald Dahl's Classic Comes To Life On Broadway*

BY LUCIA ROSSI

Ten year old Paige Brady rocked the Broadway stage in the role of Matilda with a vivacious personality and powerhouse voice on April 2nd.

CSI's Campus Activities Board (CAB) organized a trip to the Shubert Theatre at 225 West 44th Street for \$25 a ticket, including transportation via express bus.

*Matilda* is about a five year old precocious little girl who loves to read and overcome obstacles caused by her family and school. She is extremely intelligent and uses her talents to help her teacher Miss Honey reclaim her life, stand up to her bully of a Principal Miss Trunchbull, and also take revenge on her emotionally abusive parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wormwood. Oh, and Matilda also realizes she has telekinetic powers.

When show begins and the actors begin to speak, we see the first major difference in the show from the movie, they're British! This is because the show first originated from England. It is a surprising twist and it gives the story a different background.

Miss Trunchbull is hated because of how terribly cruel she is to all the other characters, but Broadway challenges the audience's opinion. Her character is turned into a mockery by making a persona that is much sillier than the movie. She is a very masculine woman who is



Source: nytimes.com

played by a male actor with huge fake breasts and is the ultimate villain who makes you laugh and cry.

The characters of Matilda's parents are different as well. Mrs. Wormwood is a salsa dancing fanatic who only dances with her Spanish partner Rodolpho.

Mr. Wormwood is a sly scheming car salesman who wears this green striped suit and has wild greaser-like hair. They both had such charisma on stage, like a comedic Bonnie and Clyde. Mr. Wormwood wanted a son, so he constantly refers to Matilda as "boy" and Matilda just responds with "I'm a girl!"

The set of the stage is constantly interac-

tive with the dancers and actors. There are swings that Matilda's classmates swing on, and a wall made of letter blocks that dancers climb up on while the desks of the classroom rise up and down the floor of the stage.

"The way that they set up the stage was incredible," said Mark White, a previous CSI student who accompanied CAB.

The actors were also interactive with the audience by running in the aisles and blowing confetti in air. The cast of children are definitely Broadway worthy. They are professional, extremely talented, and did their own stunts.

"Those kids were amazing!" said Kelyn Potes, Co-Chairperson of CAB. They were

## Marvel Studios' Latest Film An Instant Hit

*Beware the Winter Soldier*

BY JONATHAN CABAN

Marvel's cinematic universe continues on with its latest feature *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*. It is the third entry under the banner "Phase Two" which will continue on with August's *Guardians of the Galaxy* and will conclude with next year's *Avengers: Age of Ultron*.

The movie stars Chris Evans, Scarlett Johansson, Sebastian Stan, Cobie Smulders, Anthony Mackie, Robert Redford, and Samuel L. Jackson. Many of these actors, with the exception of Mackie and Redford, have appeared in Marvel films before and reprise their earlier roles.

Winter Soldier accomplishes what a good sequel is supposed to do, surpass its predecessor. *Captain America: The First Avenger* has been cited by fans as the weakest of the "Phase One" films but Winter Soldier just might be one of the strongest in "Phase Two". It already has the distinction of having broken the April box office record with \$96.2 million in earnings.

Set after *The Avengers*, Captain America (Evans) now lives in Washington DC and works with government agency S.H.I.E.L.D as a full-fledged agent while still acclimating himself to the present. However, he soon discovers a dangerous conspiracy within S.H.I.E.L.D which will affect not only the film itself but also the television series, *Agents of SHIELD*, which is currently airing on ABC. Cap has assistance against the conspirators from Black Widow (Johansson),

Col. Nick Fury (Jackson), Agent Maria Hill (Smulders), and new character Falcon (Mackie). Another plot point in the film is the mysterious Winter Soldier (Stan), a familiar face to Marvel fans and a character from Cap's past.

For a superhero film, it has a very intense political thriller aspect to it. If you took Captain America out of it, this film could've been a spy movie along the likes of *The Bourne Identity*. It kept you on the edge of your seat wondering who the good guys were and who the conspirators were.

Like other Marvel films, there were many references to the other films. Characters such as

Tony Stark/Iron Man (played by Robert Downey Jr.) and Bruce Banner/Hulk (played by Mark Ruffalo) were name dropped several times throughout the story. There was also another Marvel character that was quickly mentioned who hasn't appeared in any of the films so far. This was a quick Easter Egg for true comic book fans and a slight hint at the future for "Phase Three".

The film was enjoyable and action packed. The only thing that could've been added to this film was character Clint Barton/Hawkeye (played by Jeremy Renner in *Avengers*). He's a S.H.I.E.L.D related character and already known

to audiences, so his addition would have been excellent. His absence was unexplained in the film. Other than that, this movie was fantastic.

Winter Soldier does an excellent job connecting to the other Marvel films but at the same time making it his own story. If you've been following the Marvel films and have secretly wished for a great action scene with Nick Fury, then this movie grants your wish. The scene shows just how badass he is and why he's in charge of S.H.I.E.L.D.

Many familiar characters returned for this film and solidifies the connection between the films. Some critics felt that all these characters took the attention away from the titular main hero, but in fact these characters added to the storyline perfectly. All these films make up the Marvel Cinematic Universe, so it's completely normal that they would pop up in each other's movies.

Just like every other Marvel film, there are two scenes after the movie ends. The first mid-credits scene was directed by Joss Whedon and contains major plot hints for the next *Avengers* movie. The quick after credits scene shows a possible hint at what the next *Captain America* movie will be about so make sure to stay after the movie ends even if other foolish patrons leave. Marvel's not finished with Cap's story because *Captain America 3* is already in the works and will tentatively be released May 6, 2016. I'm sure you're dying to go see it.



Source: marveltoynews.com

## Hyperbole &amp; the Straw Man in American Discourse

BY MICHAEL ROACH

The national discourse in recent years has varied between the world of fantasy and the often neglected real world. Due to fanatic media outlets and ignorant lawmakers in Washington, America finds itself burdened with non-important distortionary policies.

Whether these unimportant issues were manufactured or just a result of years of misinformation and ignorance there remains the fact that America as a country, and a part of a global community, needs to resolve petty issues in order to progress.

For instance, the penultimate struggle between Republicans and Democrats, in the form of markets and corporations, highlights an outdated model of governance held by some politicians that have been draining the resources and morale of the nation for far too long.

With the election of George W. Bush to the presidency, and even before then, into the administrations of Clinton and Bush Sr., came a neo-renaissance of non-regulatory policies and pro-corporation initiatives; perpetuated by an ideological return to the golden age of Republican politics championed by the beloved "gipper," Ronald Reagan.

These policies, perpetuated throughout the very end of the 20th Century, have been directly linked to the events such as the housing bubble and the subsequent financial crisis in 2008-9 as well as fueling the growing income gap within the country. According to the Congressional Budget Office top earning households, otherwise known as the omnipresent 1%, increased their incomes by 275% in 2011. This in a society where some live paycheck to paycheck.

Although I recognize that a predominantly free market and capitalism are the best ways to progress society and fulfill the wants and needs, and that if a person earns her wealth, than I will be among the first to defend that person and her achievement. It has become a sad fact in this country that corporations are referred to as "people" and money is equated with "speech."

It seems in this country we have allowed an overt crime such as corruption to leak into the fabric of our democracy in a very covert way. From Supreme Court decisions such as Citizen's United to the most recent campaign finance decision, *McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission* in which on April 2 2014 the court decided to remove aggregate individual spending on elections meaning limits imposed on wealthy donors have now been discarded.

The problem: this decision essentially boils down to the more money you have, the more sway you hold over the electoral process. Our democratic system has been turned into a subscription system. Our free package comes with one vote but you can go for the super platinum electoral donor plan and that gets you a lot of benefits – hell, spend your way to office. In the majority opinion written by Chief Justice John Roberts he stated, "...we have made clear that Congress may not regulate contributions sim-



Source: talkingnote.blogspot.com

ply to reduce the amount of money in politics, or to restrict the political participation of some in order to enhance the relative influence of others."

Of course Justice Roberts, if certain candidates didn't have the large amounts of cash to throw at television ads, flyers and posters, door to door electioneering, and attack ads I'm sure their "relative influence" would decrease, but wouldn't you agree that's due to their fundamentally awful political platform?

It seems the court has decided that "political participation," which is blatant corruption, is fine as long as you do a good job of hiding it and Congress doesn't catch you.

No, I'm sorry Republicans, free speech and first amendment rights for corporations and wealthy individuals aren't the problem here, it's that everyone else's vote in this country is now devalued that much more by the inflation of campaign finance and nothing is stopping this plutocratic march.

Personhood in regard to corporations has long been a focus of contention between the two ideological points on the spectrum. If corporations are "people" and money equals "speech," then the law should apply equally to mega-corporations as much as any other individual. Most recently, General Motors recalled 2.6 million cars due to faulty emission switches and has been blamed for at least 13 deaths. This flaw has been known by GM since 2001 and was studied by their internal review department for four years. Repairs were reported to cost only 57 cents. And they did nothing.

So far, all GM has received in punishment is a slap on the wrist in the form of a Congressional hearing. I predict at most a fine. And that's the real travesty, that people's lives can be put at risk without their knowledge and GM, which is a "person," will not face criminal charges. Just like in the aftermath of the 2008-9 banking crisis.

Irony also has a part to play in this absurdity when various groups advocate on behalf of these large corporations. Take straight-forward journalistic reporters Sean Hannity and Rush Limbaugh, who espouse the troubles of the barely-working class. High earning CEO's and corporations who are just are being persecuted unfairly by socialist policies.

When a false pretense makes its way to Capitol Hill it manifests into subsidies and tax

breaks. The whole concept of "corporate welfare" serves as a slap in the face for people who can't even gain access to real healthcare. How can anyone talk about the lack of availability to social services, such as "Keep your government hands off my Medicare," when they advocate giving millions of dollars of subsidies or tax breaks to billion dollar companies who quite frankly don't need the lift from Uncle Sam.

This especially doesn't make sense when many of these companies create unregulated externality – which in the socioeconomic definition means negative side effects inflicted on others as byproduct of business. In the case of GM, the externality would be the deaths caused by a bad business decision, a decision made outside the power of those who died but a decision that ultimately proved fatal to the said party.

One prevalent externality which especially in recent time has become ever more poignant is pollution. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, in 2013 the four largest energy sources the United States derives its energy from are Liquid Fuels/Petroleum at 35.97 quadrillion BTUs or British Thermal Units, Natural Gas at 26.22 quadrillion BTUs, Coal at 18.31 quadrillion BTUs, and Nuclear/ Uranium sources at 7.93 quadrillion BTUs.

Not a clean fuel industry in sight unsurprisingly. The oil, gas, and coal industries are the biggest companies, get the biggest subsidies, have the CEOs with the biggest paychecks, and retain the biggest grip on America's energy consumption.

Also relatively banal yet distressing is the fact that these industries are without a doubt the biggest polluters in the United States. According to Mother Jones, the top ten polluting sources in the United States are all coal power plants. Close behind, according to Forbes, are oil giants Exxon and BP, and Dow Chemical/Industrial.

Between air pollution, fracking, and water pollution caused by runoff wastewater chemicals, the externality of pollution has been hard hitting. One only has to look at the great environmental damage occurring in China, due to a rapid increase in their manufacturing and energy supply sectors, to see what potential threat CO2 and toxic emissions can do to affect

everyday life.

Nevertheless, the most dangerous thing facing the United States on this matter is not the emissions or even the polluters. It's the deniers. Like the abolition of slavery and the adoption of publicly funded healthcare, America is once again behind the rest of Western industrialized countries when it comes to climate science.

The pollution and the bad policies are only side effects of the disease of ignorance that has plagued this country for far too long. The mere fact that in the year 2014, a whole 44 years after the founding of the Environmental Protection Agency, the President has to stand in front of the American people during his State of The Union address and affirm the validity of climate change as a signal that change needs to occur and quickly.

The disease of climate change denial comes in many forms, all equally toxic to the objective of combating issues facing our environment. First up, the lobbyist; usually an employee of an oil or coal company pushing legislators to keep a blind eye to externalities while hustling for that extra subsidy to go on exploratory surveys in foreign countries that aren't exactly friendly to the United States.

Next, the Fox News watcher/climate denial apologist who uses common phrases such as, "How can there be global warming if it's snowing right now?" or "There has ALWAYS been global warming!" These climate experts, often marketers trying to pitch climate denial or just ignorant people, religiously cite that there "hasn't been a consensus in the scientific community."

News flash! There has been a consensus for a very long time. According to a study conducted by John Cook and other researchers at SkepticalScience.com entitled "Quantifying the consensus on anthropogenic global warming in the scientific literature," Cook found that not only do 97% of scientists agree that global warming exists, but also that it is human-caused.

The last groups of people that do inadvertent harm are apathetic people. This happens to be the majority of Americans. While I fall on either side with apathetic people in most other issues, climate change is one issue where we cannot afford to leave environmental issues on the backburner of American discourse.

A new Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change study states that if there isn't a "slashing [in] global emissions by 40 to 70 per cent by 2050 from 2010 levels", then "temperatures will increase by about 4 to 5C... a level that could reap devastating effects on the planet."

We don't have time for ignorance nor do we have the time for empty arguments about the "persecution of corporations." It's quite simple, either we eliminate unfounded debates from our national discourse or suffer growing inequality and risk the health of our planet. These are not hard solutions. Since when has accountability, responsibility, equality and a healthy environment become lofty ideals only fit for a literary utopia? Come on, we're better than that.

## This is Why Nice Guys Don't Always Finish Last

*Chivalry Isn't Dead, It Was Just Hiding From Embarrassment*

BY VICTORIA CAROCCIA

Throughout cinematic history, good girls have fallen for bad boys.

In *Grease*, Sandy donned spandex and smoked cigarettes for her leather-clad love interest, Danny. In *Dirty Dancing*, Baby snuck around the woods and lied to her parents to have the time of her life with Johnny. In *10 Things I Hate About You*, the stone cold heart of Kat was melted by a sexy, mysterious out-of-towner named Patrick.

*Scientifically formulated by Hollywood and carried out by young men aged 16-25, the bad boy formula contributes to the asshole archetype we can't avoid.*

Although these films all had relatively happy endings, falling for the bad boy doesn't always provide fairy tale results in real life. Most of the time you're left cold and alone with only a tear-stained pillow and your thoughts to keep you company.

Our mothers all warned us about dating bad boys, but why can't we resist?

There's a simple explanation: the bad boy formula. Scientifically formulated by Hollywood and carried out by young men aged 16-25, the bad boy formula contributes to the asshole archetype we can't avoid. Basically, all you need to be a bad boy is confidence, nonchalance, and selfishness. Combine those elements with tattered clothes and a nice vehicle and you've got yourself a bad boy of your very own.

Like mama always said, bad boys only want one thing, and once you give it to them, they toss you to the side and move on to the next. But what if you don't give it to them, you ask? They lose interest and still toss you to the side. You're damned if you do and damned if you don't.

I've been with my fair share of "bad boys." None of them wore leather, smoked cigarettes, or rode a motorcycle. They were, however, selfish, mean, and immature. Their "I don't care" attitudes led them to ignore my text messages and take my devotion for granted.

I would give them my heart, and they would throw it in a blender to spice up their protein shakes.

After ending my first real relationship with my boyfriend of three years, I knew I needed some kind of change. I decided to play the field a little and see what my options were. I spent a few weeks talking to and hooking up with a variety of guys.

Each one of them was fun to be with, even more fun to look at, but none of whom were boyfriend material. One in particular stood out among the rest, and we'll refer to him as Mr. Big.

I've known Mr. Big for a while and never thought of him as anything more than an

acquaintance. But after a night of drunken dancing and shenanigans, things started getting a little more intimate.

He texted me every day and would hold a conversation until the wee morning hours. He was funny, sarcastic, and like the bad boys of my past, didn't seem to give a fuck. He tried giving me the "I'm not like other guys" speech, but I was able to sift through the bullshit and took him for what he was: an asshole.

Mr. Big and I spent an evening together

drinking wine and making out until dawn. Although we didn't actually have sex, I left his house feeling happy. I was pleased to see his enthusiasm when he asked to see me again the next day. We continued to text each other throughout the next day, so I wasn't too disap-

pointed when he declined my invite to hang out with our friends at a bar the night after.

Over the next few days, Mr. Big felt distant. He took nearly half an hour to respond to my text messages and was dodging my casual invites left, right, and center. I didn't know what happened. I wrote it off as a clash of personalities and a busy schedule, but he later assured me his "phone was broken."

Eventually, Mr. Big faded out of the picture and I was left confused and a little bummed. I'm used to guys going silent after sex, but the fact that he couldn't even wait that long made me question his logic.

A few weeks later, I met another guy who we'll call Aidan. He was nowhere near my usual type, but he was extremely smart, cute, and well versed in Adobe Blue's beer menu. We got along really well and were making out in the middle of the bar by the end of the night.

In the weeks following, Aidan took me on dates and held car doors open for me. He even waited outside my front door with an umbrella to escort me in the rain. I was completely dumbfounded: men like this still exist? Sure, guys always did nice things for me, but it was only if there was something in it for them.

I like to consider myself good at detecting

bullshit, but I wasn't getting anything on my radar. Aidan seemed like he genuinely enjoyed doing these things for me, and although they're small, they made all the difference to me.

After about a week of seeing Aidan, I met up with a few friends at a bar to catch up. One of the patrons, to my surprise, was Mr. Big. He greeted me with an awkward wrap around and kiss on the cheek and seemed happy to see me. He looked adorable as usual, wearing a bright colored dress shirt that complimented his eyes and a smile that brought me right back to that Thursday night in his basement.

I was polite and asked him how his "busy" life was going. After a few minutes of small talk, we eventually broke off into our separate friend groups and remained cordial for the rest of the evening.

I texted Aidan throughout the night, asking his opinion on what beers I should try. Suddenly, I glance up at the door and notice him strolling towards the bar as he assures me he'll "buy me something good." The two of us had mutual friends in attendance, so it wasn't

*I've been with my fair share of "bad boys." None of them wore leather, smoked cigarettes, or rode a motorcycle. They were, however, selfish, mean, and immature. Their "I don't care" attitudes led them to ignore my text messages and take my devotion for granted. I would give them my heart, and they would throw it in a blender to spice up their protein shakes.*

completely ridiculous seeing him there. However, I couldn't help but feel paranoid about Mr. Big and Aidan getting wind of each other and reenacting a fight scene from *Sex and the City*.

Mr. Big and I kept our distance for the remainder of the night until he came over to say goodbye. At that point, things between Aidan and I were still calm and casual, so I no longer felt the anxiety of a potential bar brawl.

However, that feeling of confusion and sadness started bubbling back up inside. Why did Big stop talking to me? Why does he have to look so cute tonight? When is Aidan going to start treating me like an asshole?

My friend Charlotte accompanied me for the long drive home. We sat and thought of some possible reasons as to why Big dropped off the face of the Earth.

"Maybe he's intimidated by me. I mean, I do have a tendency to come on a bit too strong," I said.

"You're independent," said Charlotte. "You're ballsy enough to make the first move and he may not be comfortable with that. If that's the case, then fuck him. Not literally, of course."

I thought about what Charlotte said and reminded myself of why none of my other relationships with assholes worked out. If Mr. Big was willing to just leave me hanging like that, then he's not worth getting hung up over. I never saw him as relationship potential, so why was I so concerned with what he thought and why he disappeared? Instead, I should be focusing my time and energy into Aidan, who has a great job, sparkling blue eyes, and waits for me outside in the rain like a fucking fairy tale character.

Aidan and I ran into Mr. Big once again at the same bar, only this time we weren't that discreet. I wore one of my hottest dresses and gave Mr. Big a smile and an eyeful of cleavage. By the end of the night, when Aidan was buying me drinks and holding his arm around my waist, Mr. Big knew he was beat. Just because I'm dating a nice guy doesn't mean I need to be a nice girl.

Everyone gets mixed up with a bad boy at one point in their lives. Believe me, it's fun while it lasts. But once they start playing games and disappearing, you'll start to realize why they're bad in the first place.

As you get older, you tend to overlook the assholes and go back to those guys who always made eye contact with you when you spoke, responded to your text messages in a timely fashion, and treat you with the love and respect you deserve.



Source: hollywood.com

# SPORTS

## Dolphins Destroy Vaughn College in Double Header

BY CLIFFORD MICHEL

On Sunday April 6, the College of Staten Island played Vaughn College in a non-conference doubleheader at Tomas D. Morales Field. The Dolphins swept the Warriors in tremendous fashion with a score of 24-0 in game one and 20-0 in game two.

Freshmen pitcher, Josh Bernstein, made the start for the Dolphins. Bernstein fanned out the first three batters in the first to bring it to the bottom of the inning. The Dolphins would start off the scoring immediately after Vaughn College's shortstop, Adrian Zamora, bobbled what should've been a routine out.

Instead, CSI's Phil Ciprello dashed to first and catcher, Josh Palmeri, scored the first run of the game. The flood gates were opened and the Dolphins talent greatly overshadowed the inexperienced Warriors. Ciprello advanced to third base and eventually scored due to several wild

pitches by Vaughn College starter, Zamora. Nick Delperte, Will DiFede, Chris Falcone, Greg Manassa and Chris Ramanaukas, all scored easily to make it 7-0 after the first inning.

Junior right fielder, Difede, showed tremendous power, knocking a deep double into center field. He'd be driven home right after by Manassa's single. Manassa was quickly able to put himself into scoring position by racing to second base after another wild pitch by Zamora. Falcone singled, bringing Manassa home. Delperte stepped up to the plate and swung the bat confidently, as he drilled a triple to bring Falcone back to home plate. The Dolphins tacked on four more runs after the second inning, leaving the score 11-0.

The Dolphins continued to rip through the Warriors as they had another big inning in the third as they were able to score seven runs on four walks and RBI doubles on the back of fresh-

men second basemen, Anthony Mauro, and first basemen, Francis Munoz.

The scoring continued in the fourth inning as the Warriors continued to be plagued by their errors. Freshmen centerfielder, Anderson Acosta, and freshmen catcher, Mike Allocco, both advanced into scoring positions off of errors. Both ended up scoring unearned runs to help the Dolphins to a phenomenal 21-0 lead. CSI finally slowed down, scoring one run in the fifth and two in the sixth to win the match 24-0.

In game two, the Dolphins started out modestly by only scoring one run in the first inning. The game quickly broke open in the second inning, with CSI scoring eight runs. Vaughn College's starting pitcher, Gensi Beltre, showed a lack of command as the Dolphins scored on wild pitches and balls tossed right down the middle of the plate.

Senior designated hitter, Ramanaukas, rallied the crowd with a powerful swing that looked like it a home run but bounced off the fence for a two RBI double. In the fifth inning, Acosta doubled to right field allowing Tilso Brito to score.

After another wild pitch Acosta slide home for the second run of the inning and Mauro made his way home as well after Moran grounded out.

After the fifth, CSI was held scoreless due to several pop-ups and a grounder. CSI won the match with a tremendous score of 20-0.

The double-header was Vaughn College's first official baseball match in school history.

With the win, the Dolphins are 10-7 overall and 3-1 in conference play. The Warriors dropped to 0-2 on the season.



Dolphin Pitcher John Pignatelli lines up the Vaughn batter preparing for a strike

### "Tony Petosa Leads By Example" Continued from Page 3

together a 19-game win streak, capturing a CUNYAC Championship win over Medgar Evers, en route to a berth in the NCAA tournament. The highly touted Dolphins that year were filled with talented names. The team also received help from the mid-season acquisition of Lameik Black. Black averaged 8 points and 5 rebounds over 17 games.

"2012 was a phenomenal group, a tight knit group of kids," said Assistant Coach Chris Peterson. "They worked their asses off in practice. Some practices were even more competitive than games."

The following season history repeated itself. After a 19-5 regular season record, Petosa's team defeated John Jay to win the championship and would continue their run of dominance in the CUNYAC in 2014, despite missing Seniors guards Jonathan Chadwick-Myers and Magloire for the first 8 games.

"It was entirely my fault. I slipped up in the classroom and had to deal with the consequences," said Magloire. "He was 100% honest with me. [He's the] best coach I've had [and] developed my game into what it is now."

After starting 1-2, the team won 24 consecutive games including lopsided victories over Baruch and Medgar Evers. The team would falter in the CUNYAC Champion versus York losing 87-

84. To the dismay of Petosa and many supporters, the team was not given a bid to the NCAA Tournament.

"I just think it was a bad decision by the NCAA, the selection committee was very unfair to our program based upon our conference," said Petosa. "Our season shouldn't have hinged on us winning that tournament. Once we got to 23-2 or 24-2 we should've been an automatic [bid]."

Despite the disappoint, Petosa and his club moved onto the ECAC tournament where they conquered NJCU, Stevens IT and Kean to win the championship.

"We didn't play great throughout the ECAC's," said Petosa. "We played good enough to win."

As the team moves on and players graduate and new roles open up, Petosa is tasked with meddling with a roster where Javon Cox, Will Fonseca and Frankie Schettino return and have added experience under their belt.

"This year [2014] we really pushed the ball because we had a point guard who could push the ball and we had guys he throw it to on his wings," said Petosa. "If we don't have that next year, we have to walk it up and try to keep games close."

With Seniors like Chadwick Myers, Dylan Bulger and Magloire graduating; there are voids that need to be filled. One spot Petosa is comfortable with is Point Guard. The Freshman sensation Schettino snagged D-III All-Freshman Team honors and helped lead the Dolphins to a 23-2 regular

season record with 9 points, 7 assists, 4 rebounds and 2 steals per game.

"We're not going to be deep next year. We're not going to bring in six kids with the ability of the ones we're losing," said Petosa. "I'm going to do the best I can to bring in good kids, high-quality kids. I need to bring in a number of them; one or two possibly, three and four is not easy."

Petosa added, "It's hard to recruit public school kids because they don't have the academic grades to get into the school. Our standards for the baccalaureate program are very high."

Petosa will be entering his 25th season as head coach of the men's basketball program at the college this November. The full-time teacher has a 10 month old daughter Alexa and wife Dalia at home.

"I call this a labor of love, I love doing it but at the same time it impacts my personal life immensely," said Petosa. "I don't have holidays off, I don't have Christmas off. I get to go to my sisters house for Christmas and while I'm there I'm watching videos of games that we have in two days or making phone calls to recruits on Christmas Eve."

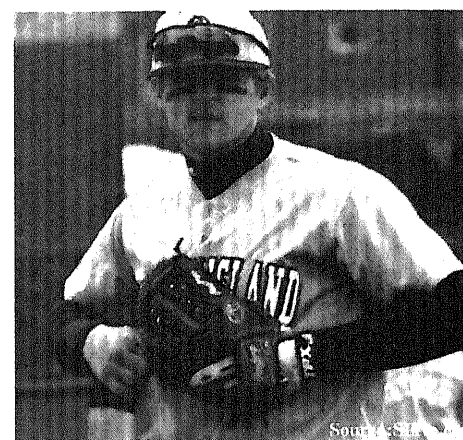
According to a 2011 CUNYAC benchmarking study, the average yearly salary for head coaches of men's teams at CSI is \$8,267.

"This was as a difficult year as I've ever had coaching wise," said Petosa. "I feel that if I wanted to I could coach another 15 years easily. There's no question I still have the desire."

## Inside the Dolphin Tank

### Meet CSI Men's Baseball Infielder Chris Ramanaukas

BY JESSICA PIFALO



**The Banner:** How's the season so far for you, any big moments?

**Chris Ramanaukas:** We're doing pretty well so far, we are just getting into our conference play. We played Stevens Tech last weekend, which we split with them. They just transferred into our conference this year and they're a big rival.

**TB:** Coming off a huge season last year, what are some of the team goals this year?

**CR:** Moving forward we look to win the conference again, anything less would be disappointing especially because this year winning a conference means you get an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament, which we never had before.

**TB:** You had a very successful season last year being recognized by D3 Baseball as an All-Star, what would top that as a senior?

**CR:** As far as personal performance I just want to perform like I did last year and repeat as First Team All-Region.

**TB:** How old were you when you first started playing baseball?

**CR:** I started when I was five years old, my dad introduced me to the game and he never forced me, I took to it naturally.

**TB:** What gives you the drive to go out there and play everyday?

**CR:** I just love the game, it's a passion of mine, you know. Everyone has a passion and baseball is my passion. Growing up playing, making the high school team that was a goal, and getting recruited into college.

**TB:** Why CSI?

**CR:** I originally went to Queens College for my first two years and it didn't work out over there, so I figured I'd come home and play with the kids I played with in high school.

**TB:** Would you say the transition from Queens College to CSI was definitely the right one?

**CR:** Oh definitely, I'm having a blast here. It's the best decision I've made. The team has great team chemistry, we're all friends and we all hang out outside baseball.

**TB:** Favorite Baseball player?

**CR:** Derek Jeter, of course he's a role model for a lot of kids.