

Official Newspaper of the College of Staten Island

Student Bill Of Rights: ~~REJECTED~~

*Three Votes Short of Getting
Our Homework Back*

**BY MIKE PAPANDREA &
STEPHEN KLEIN**

The last chance for Student Government to sway the College Council to endorse the Student Bill of Rights failed, missing the necessary faculty support by three votes.

At the College Council meeting on April 19 the Student Government President, Kevin Storberg, tried to amass thirty-eight hands of faculty members in order to pass the Students' Bill of Rights. The bill was rejected after several faculty members felt it gave students too much power.

The bill, which includes the rights for students to appeal a final grade and consult with full-time faculty about academic matters, may have pushed away some votes.

Student Government has been trying to get the Bill passed since the beginning of the academic year.

At the meeting, Storberg received only thirty-five votes for, with twelve against, and ten abstaining.

"Who is going to know what their rights are?" said Storberg, who presented the Student Bill of Rights. "And advocate them for our fellow students?"

The Student Government, with its twenty-five elected representatives, is mandated to protect the rights and welfare of all students at CSI. Their mission statement also includes a method by which they participate in academic policy and curriculum.

Some faculty members, including Professor of Political Science, Mark D. White, voiced their arguments against the bill during the meeting. Unlike the rules currently in place, concerns arose because the



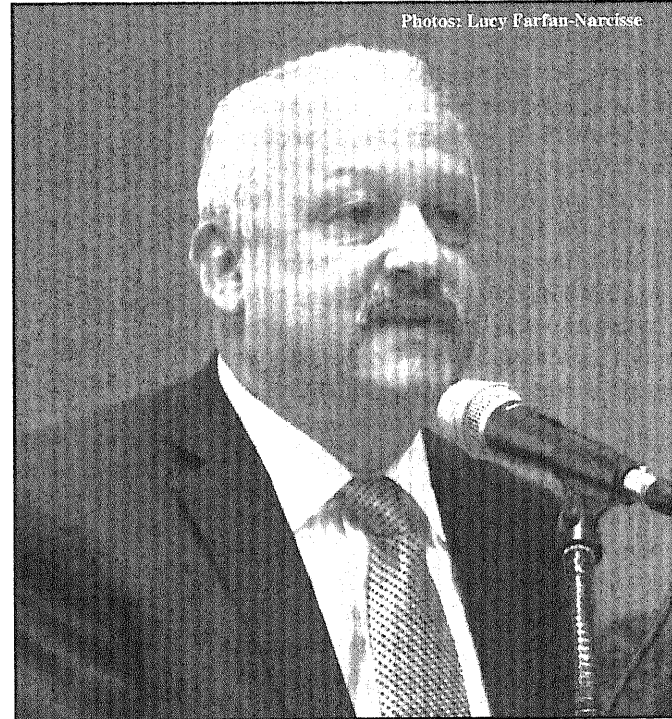
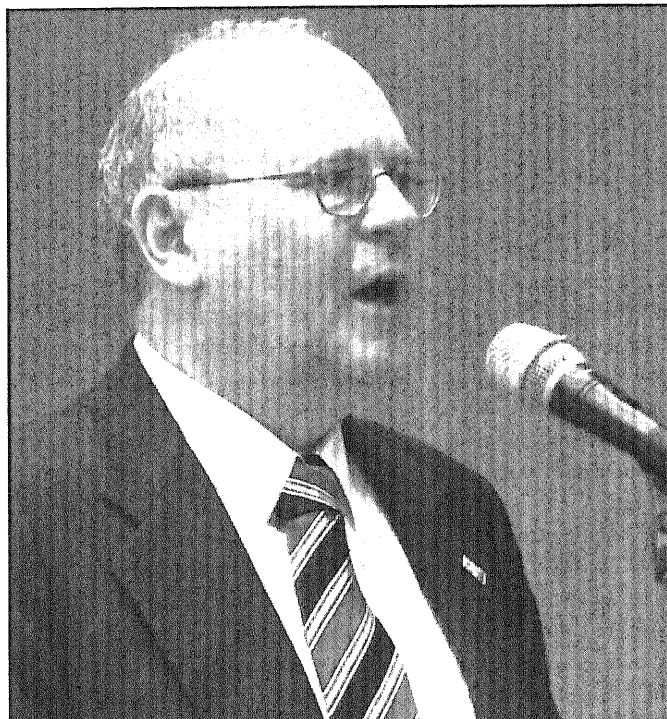
Photo: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse

The Student Bill of Rights was rejected at a recent college council meeting, missing the necessary votes by three. SG President, Kevin Storberg, Right and Vice President Jesse Rodriguez, Center talk with Vice President of Student Affairs, Ramona Brown.

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No Confidence Repealed By Executive Committee

Faculty Argue Procedural Flaw



Photos: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse

President Morales (right) and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, William Fritz defended themselves at the Faculty Senate's meeting on March 22.

BY MARK REVELLO

The much disputed 'No Confidence' motion adopted by the CSI Faculty Senate was nullified by the executive committee last week.

The motion of 'No Confidence' was put back onto the Senate floor because of the decision that the vote was procedurally flawed.

President Morales and Dr. Fritz were not present at the assembly.

Some faculty disagreed with the executive committee's decision. They argued that

the rules of procedure that the Senate body follows were properly executed and that the result of the vote of 'No Confidence' should stand.

"The rules of order state that an objection to procedures must be raised at the time that the breach of procedure occurs," said Professor George Sanchez, of the Drama Department. "I respect the will of the executive committee, but it was a legitimate vote because no objections were raised."

Other professors at the assembly dis-

agreed with Sanchez. They argued that the procedures of the previous Senate assembly were improperly followed and agreed with the executive committee's decision to put the motion back onto the floor for discussion and re-vote.

"Robert's Rules of Order does not speak to mistakes, only to reconsidering votes," said Marianne McLaughlin, of the CSI Association. "We have to say there was a misstep on the part of the people counting votes."

The issue has yet to be decided.

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"Green Thumb" Students Use Dr. Seuss as a Lesson for Earth Day

*How Healthy
is our Campus?*

BY JEREMY PASKER

Regardless of minor differences in race, religion, culture and political affiliation, everyone can rally around the ambient effects contributing to Earth's plight.

The garden is adjacent to the Campus Center and is a stratagem of the "Green Thumbs." Those vegetables, fruits, and herbs could eventually supplement the produce purchased from the cafeteria. The dream scenario of Joe DePaulo, President of the Green Thumbs, and

its members is to build a greenhouse on campus in order to prolong the growing season.

Another program outside CSI that mimics the need for organic farms is "The Student Farm Project," which is an urban farm organization, established by Nora Painten, stationed in Brownsville Brooklyn. Nora is intent on providing a local neighborhood, without fresh produce markets, with inexpensive organic food alternatives.

"The Student Farm Project," partnered with Brooklyn public



Photo: Jeremy Pasker

Michael Black, Vice President of "A Reason to Write!" a newly chartered writing club at CSI gave a reading of Dr. Seuss' The Lorax to raise awareness about Earth Day.

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The Legacy of American Imperialism and Its Blowback

BY M. MILEY

The war, or as it would be correct to call it, the occupation of Afghanistan continues into its 11th year with projected to go into a 13th year before we start to bring home combat troops, we must consider the legacy of our involvement there will have and the violent backlash the population has received us with.

In part I speak about the rash of assassinations of US forces by Afghani security forces, with the latest even being the murder of a US Special Forces soldier being killed by his Afghan counterpart. These so called "green on blue" incidents account for 20 percent of all NATO casualties in Afghanistan. With an especially high profile killing earlier this year when an Army Major and another soldier were shot execution style in the back of the head on an Afghan army base.

General John Allen, commander of US and NATO forces in Afghanistan, in the past has warned against the "the insider threat" facing those US personal training the Afghan security forces. As typical after one of these killings the Taliban has claimed responsibility for this latest attack. General Allen has responded to those claims by stat-

ing, "The Taliban of course takes credit for all of them, when in fact the majority are not ... a direct result of Taliban infiltration."

This is actually one statement I'm willing to give the military the benefit of the doubt about and consider that, they might just not be lying to us on this one account. Since while over the last six years as Al Qaeda has effectively been destroyed as an organization; which poses the question, with Osama Bin Laden dead, and Al Qaeda neutralized, why are we still in Afghanistan? Not to digress too much, but the reasoning now is to create a stable Afghanistan. A noble goal indeed but one that at this point is not achievable by the US since the ideology that the Bush White House was married to is incapable of creating one a strong central State and two was interested only in the creation of client states for the US, but now I'm straying too far.

While Al Qaeda has been destroyed the actions of US and NATO occupation forces has lead indeed lead to a resurgence of the old government of Afghanistan, the Taliban, allowing them to paint themselves as heroic resistance fighters to the US, much like the Mujahedeen that fought the Soviets in the 80s. Which shows why counter insurgency warfare (COIN for short) has been described as learning to eat soup with a knife, or at least COIN

operations for an outside occupation force, part of what makes fighting an insurgency in Afghanistan and the last COIN war we fought in Vietnam is that at the end of the day, we have a home to return to while the resistance doesn't, they're fighting for their homes. Which more or less means if you're going to go the major combat route, with bombings and what can be described as a terror campaign, as opposed to a more civil "Hearts and Minds" approach dooms you to failure, whereas the latter might just succeed.

We've been here before, only the last time we were we had a populace that wasn't going to be bullied into supporting expansive wars, or supporting "our troops", hell the last time "the troops" were among the loudest voices against the war and of empire. We have to come to realize that, well hell if many people aren't just going to admit to the idea that imperialism and the creation of empire is a bad thing, since well rampant human rights violations are not really considered good things unless you're an amoral sociopath.

But we have to admit, we are bad at winning the peace. We can win the war, no problem, we won every single battle we were involved with in Vietnam, and even the 1968 Tet Offensive was a failure for the Viet Cong, with a measure of success only being achieved

in the city of Hue, but even that was rolled back. The real victory in the Tet Offensive was a psychological one. Meanwhile in Afghanistan we've had a few moments that could be considered their own Tet Offensive, from simultaneous mass attacks on NATO targets across the country, to as the Wikileaks documents showed many Forward Operating Bases, being nearly overrun by the Taliban or other insurgent groups. The difference is Tet was broadcast on TV and talked about by Walter Cronkite. Meanwhile today the media colludes with the military to either not report these things or more often than not these incidents as well as many other important military workings like what last Thursdays lunch menu was are classified and locked away.

We can either come to the realization that doing all we can to keep our "half felt empire" together is only going to hasten its fall, or the idea of empire in its self is a dehumanizing, criminal endeavor, or we can ignore it and keep on trying until we collapse into an open totalitarian state, instead of the soft hidden one we are right now. Only we the people can make that choice, not the self-selected ruling class that dominates our politics and the Nuevo- Aristocracy that the Capital class likings itself to.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: "Dorms Start to Build on Campus"

The fact that the school didn't do a better job of notifying students of the demolition of the handball/basketball courts just shows their inability to reach the student body. They emailed a letter roughly a week before they were closing down the courts and think that that was fair enough warning. Those courts allow students to stay active and enjoy being outside at a time where our society has reached a point of extreme laziness. They absolutely need to rebuild them and fast.

Mike DeMarco,
Senior

Re: "Dorms Start to Build on Campus"

This is an interesting topic. Who'd even given that a slab of cement had such an impact on the CSI community? It's probably one of the most talked about issues. Tuition goes up, that gets forgotten about in a day. A handball court being removed, doomsday!

Jason Zahil,
Senior

Re: "CSI's NYPIRG Fights for Tuition in Albany"

I still can't believe congress is arguing for the tuition hikes. They believe just because there's a lack of student loans, they have every right to increase the tuition by \$300 every semester. Are they trying to make students drop out of college?

Sarah Aladhamy,
Junior

Re: "CSI NYPRIG Fights for Tuition in Albany"

I'm glad The Banner is covering the budget in Albany and student efforts to influence it. We really need to make voices heard to insure affordable tuition.

Kevin Elkins,
Senior

Re: "Sex and the Island"

I love Dae's Sex and the Island article. They are interesting and funny. I'm sure they're relatable to many other guys. It's great that he's not afraid to say what truly happened in his articles.

Nicole Pagano,
Junior

Re: "Anti-Suffrage: The One Woman Show"

I think this was a great article. It is a great reminder to women that we once didn't have all of the rights we do today and that we should be grateful to those women who fought for our independence. I think it's great that CSI holds events like this, and they should continue to do so.

Lauren Cerisano,
Junior

Re: "Miss California and Her Golden Laptop"

This story as hilarious! It is so well-written and entertaining. There is a clear level of self-comfort in the writing making it an awesome read.

Marie Scarsella,
Junior

Re: "CSI Cafeteria Uses Caged Chicken Eggs, Human League to Petition"

I found this story to be interesting. I did not know that our cafeteria uses caged chicken eggs and I feel it's better to use eggs from non-caged chickens. The article mentions how students are protesting and if there is any kind of petition being signed about it. I will sign it.

Andrea Cacace

Re: "CSI Cafeteria Uses Caged Chicken Eggs, Human League to Petition"

I am happy to see attention brought to the campaign for CSI to use cage free eggs. Even though economically it will be harder, it's important to have healthier food as an option in the cafeteria. Even a small step like switching distributors can cause a big impact and maybe other universities will follow.

Amanda Granberg,
Junior

Re: "CSI Cheerleaders Take CUNYAC Title on Home Court"

I was really happy to see an article recognizing cheerleading on campus. I have competed at CSI before and it was nice to see recognition for a team on the college side. High school cheerleading gets so much press especially on SI. I think Jessica did a great job acknowledging the girls' hard work and dedication to a sport that needs more attention.

Alexandra Altieri,
Senior

Re: "A Summer in Rome"

I really hope this article makes students take advantage of CSI's study abroad department. Studying abroad is something so special that you keep with you forever. Majority of the students here aren't aware of the study abroad department or are afraid to get out of their comfort zone. Students should take advantage of this amazing opportunity instead of ten years from now saying "I should have."

Ariana Induddi,
Junior

Re: "A Summer in Rome"

This is an interesting article because it talks about traveling abroad and the experience the student had in Italy. There are not many students that travel or would like to so I think this article is an eye opener to those students. It is a positive article which that can draw students in and maybe even make them want to plan a trip or even want to live somewhere else.

Caroline Panga

Re: "Dean Koontz's 77 Shadow Street - Where Nightmares Become Reality"

I really enjoyed Sharon Cruz's book review. I am a big fan of Dean Koontz and I did not read this so I am looking forward to reading it after seeing and reading Ms. Cruz's article.

Jessica Pifalo,
Junior

Re: "The Right Spring Look to Enhance Your Features"

I loved this article because spring fashion is exciting and fun. The article says "don't be afraid to brighten up your face and make your features pop." Today's trends are all about bright bold colors and not playing it safe. A bold color lip stick mixed with a cat eye is a perfect spring combination.

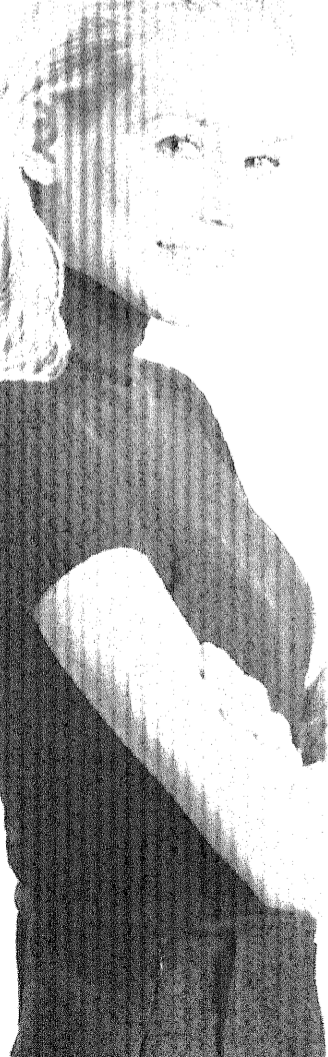
Natasha King,
Junior

Re: "A Summer in Rome"

I think the study abroad program is an amazing thing to have. It gives students (such as Ariana Induddi) an opportunity of a lifetime. I think The Banner should publish more "study abroad" students who went to different places. Showing/telling their stories may make more students interested.

Rachael Weiner,
Senior

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Accounting Club Tells Students The Right Tricks to Land a Job

BY BRADLEY POPKIN

Are you a big fish in a little pond? That was the important career question asked by former CSI accounting student, Laurie O'Byrne, who spoke to a large group of accounting students on March 29th in the Green Dolphin Lounge about her experiences in the field.

"Paying homage to some of the finest professors and sharing my experiences with students was really important to me," said O'Byrne.

O'Byrne is a senior level executive, who became a certified public accountant a few years after graduating.

There were many students who packed into the green dolphin lounge that night.

"Mrs. O'Byrne gave students information about the accounting profession that we normally do not learn in class," said President of the accounting club Adejoke Adegoke. "I can use the techniques described in my own search for a job."

During background checks it's normal for employers to look at Facebook accounts. It's important to know the risks of having one, a risk O'Byrne feels is not worth it. One of her suggestions is to 'sanitize' your facebook and all other public posts.

Upon her graduation in 1988, O'Byrne had her sights set on large public accounting firms. She had already began marketing herself to potential accounting firms before graduating. One of the first things out of the gate your going to need to do is to prepare a



CSI Alumni, Laurie O'Byrne, spoke to students on March 29th in the Green Dolphin Lounge about her experiences in the field.

resume and network. Internships are an excellent way of networking and building your resume. You have to view things from an employers perspective and ask yourself what can I offer them? A tip of Laurie's was to practice a mock interview.

"You should anticipate questions and formats, also research the companies you're looking at," said O'Byrne.

The most important thing is to not get discouraged. Regardless if you believe your getting the job or not a follow up and a thank you done by e-mail is a good touch.

Learning new skills could open up a whole new path.

"Students left the presentation with lots of tips beneficial to their careers," said Vice President of the accounting club. George Paragham.

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

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

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Photo: Lucy Farfan-Naraisse

CSI Professors propose the 'Vote of No Confidence' against President Morales on March 22.

"No Confidence Repealed By Executive Committee,"
Continued from the front page

Room 119 in 1C was humid and noisy as more faculty and administration were present than the last assembly. Each seat in the auditorium was filled with some faculty and students standing sin-

Robert's Rules state that a motion can only be called to the floor if it is seconded by another member of the body. After the motion is seconded, 2/3rds of the faculty senate must vote to call the question to the floor. If the question was successfully called to the

Jacqueline LeBlanc. "The minutes of the meeting reflected this fact and as a result the motion is unresolved at this time."

The executive committee's decision to rescind the motion raised discussion among the faculty senate. The debate that occurred

"The rules of order state that an objection to procedures must be raised at the time that the breach of procedure occurs," said Professor George Sanchez, of the Drama Department.

gle file along the sides.

The executive committee of the faculty senate represented by the acting chairperson Jacqueline LeBlanc, reviewed the minutes of the 65th senate meeting during which the "No Confidence" motion passed.

The Executive Committee oversees the actions of the senate and said that the vote to call the question was improperly recorded and the motion was still active on the floor because of a procedural error.

floor by more than 2/3rds vote, it must only pass by a simple majority to immediately be put into effect.

Leblanc and the executive committee found the minutes of the assembly reflected that the vote to call the 'No Confidence' question had not passed the 2/3rds vote required to bring it to a majority vote.

"When we voted to call the question to the floor, we did not have the 2/3rds majority that was required," said Chairperson,

Lenore Vazquez. "It was a waste of time," said Lenore Vazquez.

"Student Bill of Rights: REJECTED,"
Continued from the front page

bill had not been reviewed by attorneys to determine any liability standpoints. There were also concerns about certain citations and their postings with certain faculty members preferring amendments to them even though it is impossible to do so with a citation from the Board of Trustees.

grade is against city policies.

Others declared that the Student Bill of Rights was unnecessary, as the details are very similar to the rules currently in place for students.

The Student Handbook currently contains nineteen pages of rights and responsibilities that also give students protection from faculty, discrimination, stalking and sexual harassment. There are

Members of the faculty objectively felt that giving students these rights without corresponding responsibilities imperils their own rights to control their classes and issue grades. The idea of this potential issue may have led to several of the abstentions and nay votes, as they felt as if it was an unrealistic approach.

Faculty members who voted for the bill to be passed became dissatisfied with

"Universities have Bills of Rights for their students," said Student Government President, Kevin Storberg. "CUNY does not have a single one."

"We're not going to post the citations," said Meagan Derbyshire, Academic and Curricular Affairs Commissioner at the Student Government. "They're boring to read and unnecessary."

Some thought that irresponsible students would use this Bill of Rights in ways that could not be imagined. Others claimed that the right to appeal a final

CUNY procedures specifically for handling student complaints about faculty conduct. However, there are no mandated rules regarding challenging final grades.

Faculty members voiced their opinions in what was a disorganized meeting. One of the faculty members stated that if someone is to get their rights, they should earn it.

"Rights are usually inherent," said Storberg. "Nobody has to take a test."

the restriction on time and attempted to postpone the meeting. That proposal, however, also came up short in votes.

Storberg left that meeting with a bill that was not passed. We may see him and his Student Government team back in the near future with a new Student Bill of Rights. After all, he only sees it one way.

"Universities have Bills of Rights for their students," said Storberg. "CUNY does not have a single one."



Photo: Lucy Farfan-Naraisse

Student Government President, Kevin Storberg, spoke on behalf of the Student Bill of Rights, which was rejected at a recent College Council meeting.

"Green Thumb" Students Use Dr. Seuss as a Lesson for Earth Day
Continued from the front page

school PS 323, teaches adolescents the benefits of a healthy diet and an even healthier lifestyle. The amalgamation between Nora Painten and PS 323 entails that classroom lessons be held outside in Nora's urban farm.

"If we take care of mother nature she will take care of us," said Toyin Oladiran, a CSI senior and president of Autonomous Students United, a new club at CSI.

Oladiran emphasized the need to think about the long term rewards of better environmental competence rather than settling for instant gratification. "[Pollution] is what happens to you, not just what happens. [Earth's affliction] needs to be made tangible," said Toyin

Oladiran. "[We] change the overall culture by scaring [people] into reality."

According to the Clean Air Council, in 2008, the average amount of waste generated by each person in America per day was 4.5 pounds; 1.1 pounds of that was recycled, and .4 pounds, including yard waste, was sent to composting. In total, 24.3% of waste was recycled, 8.9% was composted, and 66.8% was sent to a landfill or incinerated.

Culminating CSI's unofficial Earth week was the reading of Dr. Suess' "The Lorax." On Behalf of the newly chartered student organization "A Reason to Write!" Their Vice President, Michael Black, narrated the tale.

Zara Kittel, a CSI alumni, spent a month volunteering with Willing Workers on an Organic Farm (WVOF) in Vermont getting taught how to harvest.

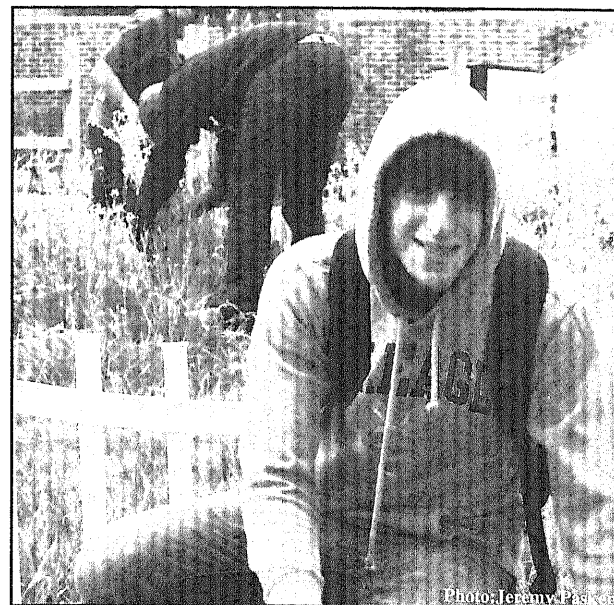


Photo: Jeremy Pappas

Joe DePaulo President of CSI's "Green Thumbs" organization hopes the vegetables, fruits, and herbs planted in the garden outside IP could eventually be used in the cafeteria.

"It's up to us to motivate each other to reuse and go natural," said Kittel.

Andrea Curry, President of "A Reason to Write!" was more crude and to the point about the matter.

"People are retarded; they don't know how to treat the environment," said Curry. "The uneducated aren't taking responsibility."

Perfect summations to the meme of Earth Day are those themes prevalent throughout "The Lorax." The cogent narrative about green grass and clean clouds, coupled with the vivid illustrations of wet ponds, "truffula fruits" and "humming splashing fish" forcefully and relentlessly hammers home the point that above all else, "unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better."

BY SHARON CRUZ

CSI faced the ambitious and strenuous process of reaccreditation. Middle States accreditation determines whether CSI maintains the ability to continue offering degree-granting programs and keep its doors open to the 14,000 students currently attending.

Reaccreditation, the process by which an outside organization evaluates a college or university on their ability to meet the required criteria of excellence, is an opportunity for CSI to ensure its students are receiving the education expected from higher learning institutions.

The Middle States evaluation for reaccreditation has been under the supervision of two co-chairs, Dr. Susan L. Holak, Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness and Professor of Marketing and Dr. Richard G. Powers, Professor of History, who have both been selected by President Morales.

"As the Associate Provost I've worked with 130 people and working groups, making sure CSI is in compliance," said Holak, who over the last four years, assumed a leadership role.

Working with the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, a non-governmental organization, CSI has aimed to meet the Middle States standards of excellence.

According to their website, their goal is, "To ensure quality assurance and improvement through the process of accreditation via peer review."

CSI has outlined an ambitious timeline that involves conference meetings, orientations, and planning and drafting proposals for reaccreditation. These plans have helped

Middle States Review for Reaccreditation

Two Year Process Comes to an End

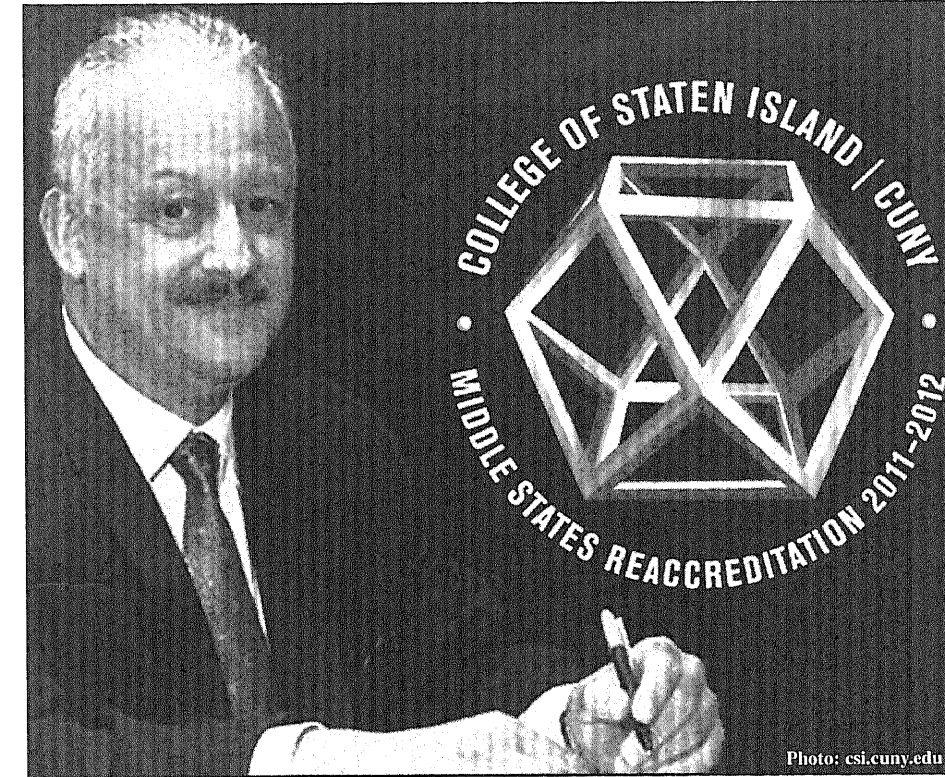


Photo: csi.cuny.edu

The Middle States Commission will come to a decision this summer of whether or not they will grant CSI reaccreditation for the next ten years.

President Morales ensure the expansion of the campus by building a two-story student living residence hall and new learning facilities in the Library.

"The process is rather intense. It requires the effort of all departments and selected peers and students," said Holak. "By the end of the process we had accumulated around 5,000 documents, detailing budget, bylaws and student catalogs."

The Self Study process is an option that includes, "Comprehensive with Special

Emphasis design option with a special emphasis on developing and strengthening assessment and evidence based decision making to continue building institutional effectiveness."

CSI was able to address some of the weighty issues that have been affecting the CSI community for some time. Between April 1 to April 4, CSI invited seven individuals, which were selected from similar Middle States zoning area, to review the college. This was an opportunity to demonstrate CSI's compliance to Middle States requirements.

The self-study evaluation report, which details the college's efforts, highlights the plans and improvements CSI hopes to make.

The reaccreditation process, involving 44 staff, 50 faculty, and 56 students, who through focus groups, town hall meetings, college wide electronic surveys, and web discussions, evaluated CSI through Middle States 14 standards of excellence.

These standards are required by Middle States and are enforced in an effort to force colleges and universities to uphold the high quality education that college and university students expect. The standards include Mission and Goals, Institutional Planning, Resource Allocation, and Institutional Renewal, Institutional Resources, Leadership and Governance, Administration, Integrity, Student Admissions and Retention, Student Support Services, Related Educational Activities, Faculty, Educational Offerings, General Education, Institutional Assessment, Related Educational Activities, and Assessment of Student Learning.

"Reaccreditation is an opportunity for retrospection, introspection, analysis and renewal." Morales states that the reaccreditation process goals are to focus on, "Student learning, integrity, transparency, and planning," President Morales wrote on the colleges Middle States page.

The reaccreditation process, which started in late 2009, will come to a close this summer. Middle States will, after evaluating the Self-Study, come to a decision of reaccreditation for CSI for the next ten years.

"It has been a massive effort by all those involved. I'm very proud of what we have accomplished," Morales said.

A Professor and His Rude Professions

Lee Papa, The Unconventional Educator

BY RACHAEL WEINER

Dr. Lee Papa is well known amongst the English majors at CSI, as well as off campus with many writers and performers. Papa, a professor for 9 years, lives a double life. During the daytime, he teaches, and at night, he works on his own pieces of work.

Papa teaches Creative Writing, Modes of Fiction, and Playwriting Workshop at CSI. In the introductory stage of Dr. Papa's class, he does not initially tell the students that he is a writer or performer. While in front of the class, he doesn't hold back his personality. That is also how he runs his political blog, The Rude Pundit.

"Acting is fun, and I love to do it," said Papa. "But I get the most satisfaction from writing and directing."

The Rude Pundit is updated almost every day and has thousands of readers. Though it is about politics, he'll talk about any topic from Rick Santorum, to "Greed, Rage, and Woman-Battering at Mardi Gras." Papa's Twitter account, @rudepundit, which is also updated daily, has over 11,000 followers. On Twitter, he posts his thoughts that aren't long enough for a full blog entry.

The New York Times has even called Papa, "A tornado of a writer."

"Writing is joy and agony, often both at the same time," said Papa. "Which, of course, makes it the most exciting."

In 2005, Papa's one-man show was presented at the New York International Fringe Festival. He wrote and performed in a skit called "The Year of Living Rudely," which is based on his blog. His show sold out before it opened to the public. This was the first time that has ever happened at any show during the Fringe Festival.

For about seven years he worked on another play titled "Heterosexuals." In 2010, he returned to the Fringe Festival with his finished product.

"It was an exploration of the sex lives of three people: a husband, a wife, and a female friend who becomes the husband's lover," Papa said in an email.

Daniel Volis, a junior and English major, is currently in Papa's Creative Writing class. "It's not every day that you have someone that is so well known in their field teaching you," said Volis. "I definitely feel honored." This is Volis' first time having Papa as a professor. His sister had Papa years ago and told him he "HAD" to take the class as soon as he finds an open section because of Papa's personality.

Many students who have taken his class believe he is very blunt and that he is a great professor. Volis is pleased with his decision of taking Papa this semester.

"I think it would be great to see my professor perform in a skit," said Volis. "I can tell



Photo: Rachael Weiner

Professor of English, Lee Papa, balances being a full time professor and working writer and performer.

my friends, 'Hey, that's my professor, he's awesome,' and make them jealous."

Papa is currently at work on two plays. One is just a flat-out comedy, where as the one he is almost done with is a site specific piece that will involve a great deal of audience inter-

action.

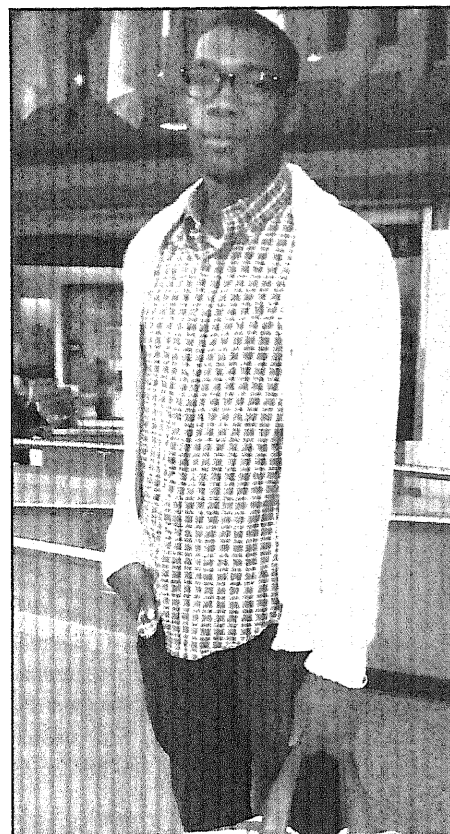
Anyone interested in his future plays have to wait to hear the details.

"Not to be coy or a jerk," Papa said. "I would rather not discuss the details until drafts are done and they're ready to be read."

BANNER STYLES

CSI Fashion Who's Got the Best?

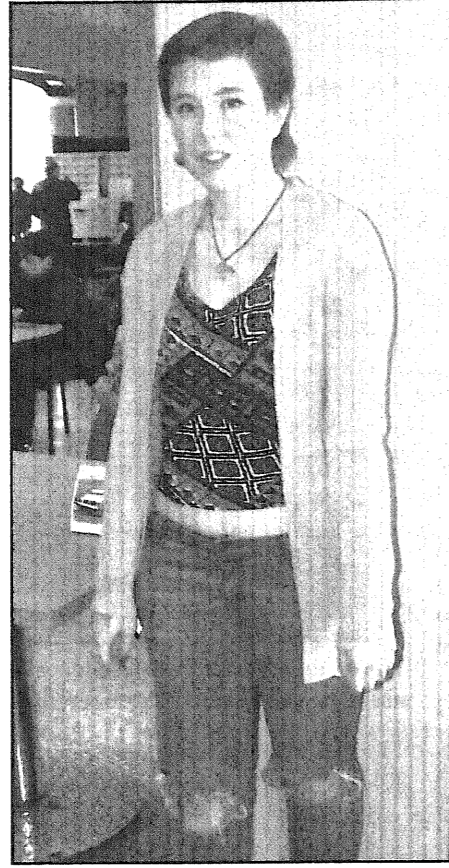
BY AMANDA GRANBERG



Tony Salako,
Age: 23
Major: Business Management
Style Icon:
"My style icon would definitely
Ralph Lauren."



Gailann Adeleke
Age: 18
Major: Nursing Major
Fashion Advice:
"The trend I'm following this semester
would be color blocking, mixing bright
colors together."



Kaitlin Jardine
Age: 20
Major: Cinema Production Major
Fashion Advice:
"The one trend I am obsessed with this
upcoming season would be florals."



Chris Long
Freshman
Age: 20
Personal Style:
"I'm not into style icons or trends. I
don't care if something is this season or
five seasons ago, if I like it I'll buy it."

Get Your Groove On

CSI's Dance Program Prepares for Spring Dance Recital

BY ERIN MEEHAN

CSI's Dance Program will be providing students, family, and friends with a recital at the Williamson Theatre to demonstrate the skills students learned from the spring 2012 semester.

The show is directed by Charles Thomas, dance coordinator, and instructors Niambi Keyes, and Walter Rutledge. Keyes has been teaching dance for a little over thirteen years.

Ashley Journey, a Ballet and Modern Dancer who has been dancing for nearly fifteen years, will be performing this year with Rutledge's Ballet class.

"I always get excited about performing because I know my family will be there to support me," said Journey.

According to Keyes, some of the songs that will be featured during the performance are "Diary" by Alicia Keys, "Breathe Me" by Sia, a piece by Maria Mena, and a song by Frank Ocean. The types of dance that will be performed are Modern, Ballet, Salsa, Jazz, Afro-Haitian, Choreography, and Improvisation.

Professor Charles Thomas will be performing percussion on his Tumbadora (Conga) for his Afro-Haitian dancers. This type of drum is played with the hands and is usually used for Afro-Haitian Folkloric Dance.

Rutledge planned to have a live pianist perform for his students, but due to lack of stage space will use recorded classical music instead.

CSI's set designer recommended that Rutledge should not use a live pianist because of this problem. During Rutledge's class, she also explained to the ballet students that she will use primary colors to create different colors on stage.

Costumes were not designed by the professors for last year's performance.

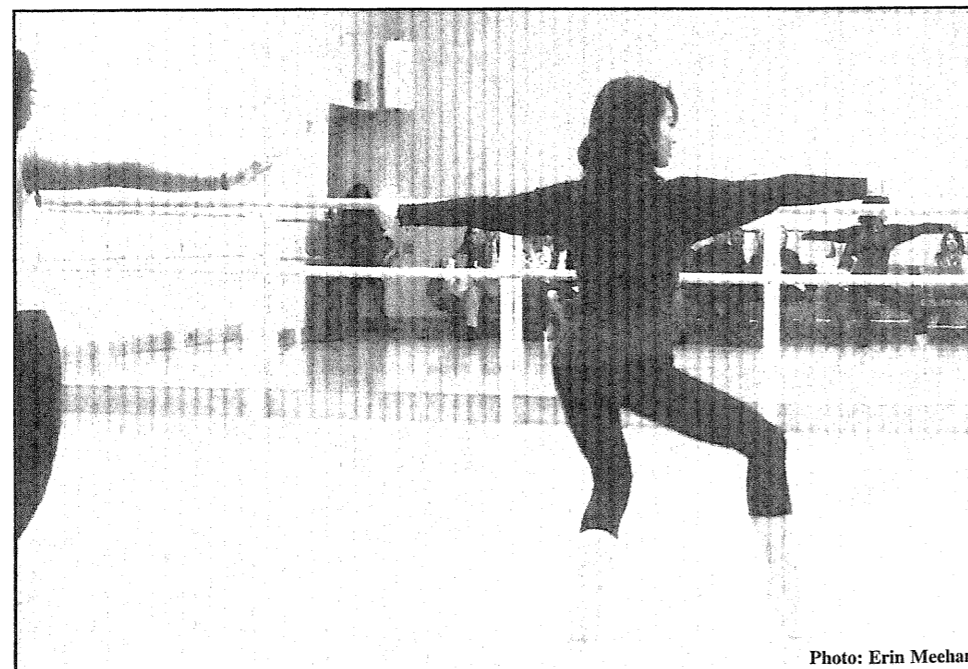
"Students are responsible for their own costumes," said Keyes. "It should be very colorful."

Some of the more experienced dancers from the recital and CSI's newly forming Dance Company participated in a pre-concert to display excerpts from the pieces that will be performed for the recital.

The Ballet class will be dancing to two classical tracks. The performance will consist of the eight positions of the body Cecchetti.

According to Keyes, last year's audience consisted of over 200 people. Keyes expects this year's turn out to amount to an even higher number of audience members.

"I'm just performing with the Ballet Class taught by Professor Rutledge this year," Journey said. "Because the company is just getting started this semester and



Samantha Wong, sophomore and Salsa dancer, danced to "Aguanile" with three other Salsa Dancers to show an excerpt from their choreography routine for the Spring Dance Recital during the pre-concert at CSI in the dance room on April 26.

we're trying to get more people."

Christopher Koehler is a member of the Improvisation class and will also be performing in the recital. He performed an excerpt from his class's piece during the pre-concert in the dance room at CSI.

"Improvisation is about exploring and freeing raw expression," said Koehler.

The dance students continued to prepare for the recital after the pre-concert. They watched themselves in the mirror and went over every move.

The Dancers will be performing at many dif-

ferent levels, from a beginner to an advanced level. Some of the participants have had no background in dance prior to the dance class taken this past semester.

According to Professor Rutledge the one person who makes a mistake will stand out because that person will break the evenness of the accompanying dancers.

Attendance to this spring concert will be \$10.00 to the public and \$7.00 to students at the CFA box office on the day of the performance.

"Dance is fun to me," said Journey, "but I take it very seriously".

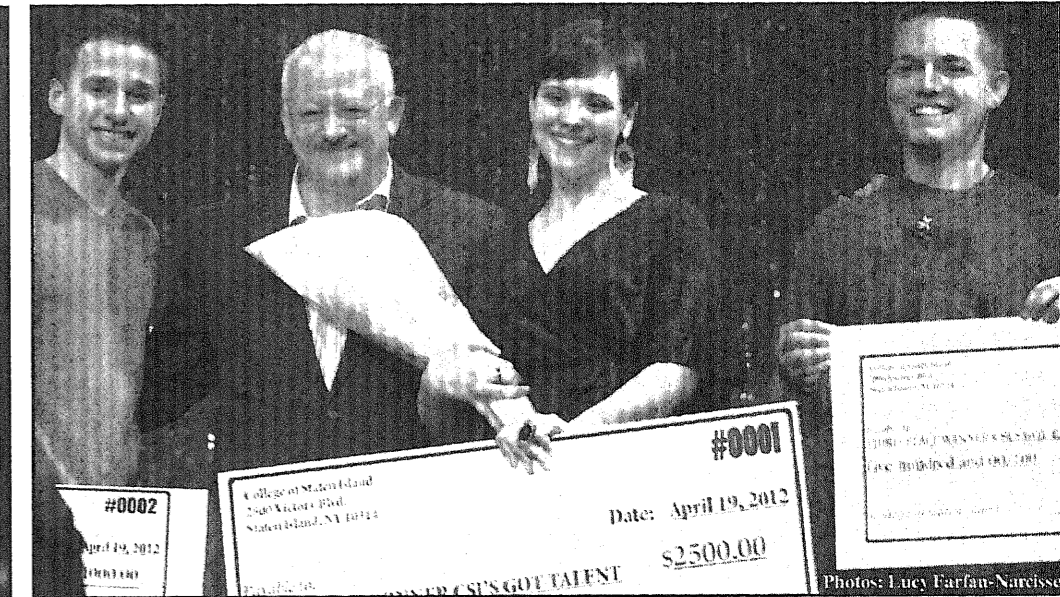
BANNER ARTS

CSI Crowns Their Most Talented

Impractical Jokers' Star Co-Hosts, Singer Alexa Cristiciello Wins \$2,500 Grand Prize



Alexa Cristiciello (left) wins the "CSI's Got Talent" competition with her performance of "Don't Rain on My Parade." (Right) The winners of the CSI's Got Talent Competition pose with President Morales after being presented with their grand prize checks.



BY ANDREW DILORENZO

Twelve students with different talents competed against one another for a shot at winning \$2,500, but only one of them was crowned the winner at the finale of "CSI's Got Talent."

The finale was held in the Williamson Theatre on April 19, in front of about 300 people that included fellow students, faculty and members of the CSI community.

The concept behind "CSI's got Talent" came from Ramona Brown, Vice President of Student Affairs, whom has seen the concept of a talent show work at City College and wanted to replicate its success. In mid-February, the search was on for the next big thing, as over 100 students came out and auditioned, with twelve being selected for the finale.

"It was hard because everyone showed us why they should be part of the show," said Chris Soriano, student judge and WSIA-FM's personnel director. "But I believe we made the right decision in the final 12."

Those twelve students included singers, instrument players, dancers and a yo-yo enthusiast.

"It felt great to find out that I was a finalist of the show, and it was even better to find out I'm performing in front of my peers," said junior Katie Fasulo, who performed an original track for her showcase.

The two and a half hour event was hosted by two comedians, local talk show host Jay Miller and Sal Vulcano, who can be seen currently on TRUtV's Impractical Jokers.

"I was thrilled to be asked to host the

show, and everyone was very supportive of me," said Vulcano.

"Sal [Vulcano] asked me to co-emcee with him and I was very excited for it, but I did not expect the high levels of excitement from the audience and contestants," Miller added.

That level of excitement was carried throughout the night, as the three-staff and two-student judges knocked the final 12 down to the final 5. Those five were Alexa Cristiciello, a senior who received a standing ovation for her performance of "Don't Rain on My Parade," from the musical, *Funny Girl*, and Giovanni Crespo, a junior who wowed both the judges and audience with his yo-yo tricks and his vast knowledge of Michael Jackson lyrics.

In the end, Cristiciello was crowned the first place winner of the show, winning the grand prize of twenty five hundred dollars, followed by Crespi in second place and vocalist Troy Weekes in third.

"It's wonderful! It's been a great time and I'm happy for everyone who was involved in this," Cristiciello said after her victory.

When asked what she is going to spend the money on, she replied, "Headshots."

For the faculty, the goal of the finale was simple: success.

"This show brought a lot of students and faculty together, and it is great school spirit overall," said President Morales after the show. "I was just suggesting that we have a dance show next year."

"CSI's Got Rhythm?" It could work.

Student Photographers Capture Staten Island for CSI's Library Archives What Really Makes Staten Island So Unique?

BY MARIE SCARSELLA

Following a slew of reality TV shows that have created a stereotype of Staten Island, CSI students photographed the area to portray it in a more personal way for the Library Archives and Special Collections photo contest.

The contest, sponsored by the Office of Humanities & Social Sciences, the Office of Science & Technology and the College of Staten Island Archives & Special Collections, has been accepting submissions throughout the month of April. Any CSI student was able to enter a submission, as long as their photograph met the guidelines and Staten Island-based theme.

The winning photograph, which will be on display in the library beginning May 3, will be accompanied by a statement from the artist explaining his or her view of what makes Staten Island special and how their photographs illustrates its unique and interesting qualities.

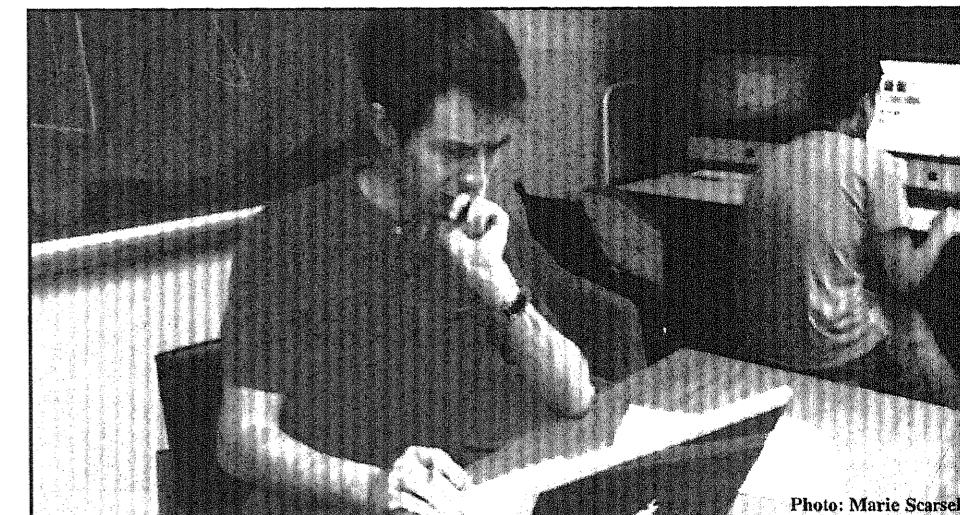
Along with being displayed, the photograph will be stored permanently in the CSI archives, as well as presented to the winning artist as an exhibition print.

The entries were evaluated upon their ability to show a distinction between Staten Island and other areas. The borough, which is one of the more suburban areas of New York City, is often overlooked by CSI students, who tend to view it as unexciting and commonplace. The participant's ability to make the typical exciting through things such as angle, framing, and medium will determine a winner.

Photography student and contest participant Jason Malone feels that his photo does a good job at doing that.

"I took a very abstract photo of the Staten Island Ferry in the traditional style of Zoe Strauss," he said. "I feel that it really captures the beauty in something that we often see as mundane."

The photos will be judged by three photographers: Gerard Franciosa, proprietor of My Color Lab and known for his printing skills; Larry Racioppo, photographer for the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development; and Stephen Mallon, a photographer known for his work in industrial photography, as well as being part of CSI's Visiting Artists' Workshop in the



Contestant of the Library Archives and Special Collections contest, Jason Malone, edits his photo of the Staten Island Ferry, which is his depiction of Staten Island's originality.

photography department.

The Archives and Special Collections department feels that with their collective strengths, the judges will be able to come to a conclusion of which photo identifies most with the contest's theme and is most deserving of a spot in the history books.

"The contest is designed to get CSI students to look closely at Staten Island and express their understanding of the place," said professor and archivist James Kaser. "The CSI Archives and Special Collections document the history of Staten Island and the contest photographs added to the collection will

become important for historical research for future generations of scholars."

According to photography student Cassie Teixeira, this is necessary for the next generation of scholars, raised on reality TV and its Staten Island stereotypes.

"It's great to see Staten Island through the eyes of the people who live or regularly visit it," she said. "It is so frustrating that people view it as the Jersey Shore of New York. There is so much more to it than people who believe in the stereotype realize, and hopefully having these photos in the archives will help future students re-

BANNER ARTS

Banner Spotlight: Laura Stevenson and The Cans

BY MARIE SCARSELLA

While Brooklyn may be known for its underground flare and number of emerging artists, none seem to be quite like the rising folk-pop outfit, Laura Stevenson and the Cans.

The band, which infuses the upbeat quirkiness of typical indie-pop with the depth of acoustic folk and blues instrumentation and vocals, has recently established a name for themselves, not only among Brooklyn's snarkest of critics, but across the country.

CUNY Queens graduate and native Long Islander, Laura Stevenson, almost seems to have been destined for a music career. With her grandfather being the composer who created well-known tracks such as the Christmas favorite, "Little Drummer Boy," a grandmother who was a singer with jazz legend Benny Goodman, and a boyfriend that is part of the veteran punk group Latterman. She took her first step into the music world in 2005, when Jeff Rosenstock, former of the Arrogant Sons of Bitches, asked her to be a part of Brooklyn's D.I.Y music collective, Bomb the Music Industry!, in which she contributed vocals and keyboards. While she was also performing solo, it was during this time that her own project, Laura Stevenson and The Cans, began to take shape.

Recruiting members from Bomb the Music Industry!, as well as other friends along the way, Stevenson began working on

her first studio recording with the band in 2007. The album, simply titled *A Record*, was released for free one year later through Jeff Rosenstock of Bomb the Music Industry!'s label, Quote Unquote Records.

The album, which showcased Stevenson's lyrical talent and knack for elegant usage of arpeggios and strumming patterns, was warmly received among the local crowd. It was eventually picked up by Asian Man Records and given a proper CD and vinyl release, while still being available for free mp3 download.

Following the release of *A Record*, the group continued to tour and release tracks for various 7" vinyls, splits and collections. Their consistency and effort soon led to their signing with indie label Don Giovanni Records, which is known for being home to popular acts Screaming Females and Lemuria.

The band's second full length was released through Don Giovanni Records in April of 2011, titled *Sit Resist*. It was with this record that The Cans were able to fully develop a full-band sound, focusing on heavy instrumentations as opposed to *A Record's* raw, acoustic feel.

The album also came with the release of singles, and in turn, music videos. The first single, entitled "Master of Art," is an upbeat yet heavy-hearted tune, written as a plea to Stevenson's boyfriend and Cans' bassist Mike Campbell. She croons about

their personal issues pertaining to the band's intensive touring schedule and her desire to complete her master's degree in fine arts, pleading for him to be patient with her so that she can complete her education before extensively touring the country.

The video, for which all set work and painting was done by Stevenson herself, was released on the internet and generated quite a bit of buzz for the band.



Laura Stevenson and the Cans performed at Baruch College on April 8, 2011.

Since then, the band has extensively toured the country with indie buzz bands such as Fake Problems, Into It. Over It, and Andrew Jackson Jihad, and has even established a fanbase overseas after touring various parts of Europe.

You can catch the band playing in Brooklyn and Manhattan's hottest venues whenever they aren't touring. Their next appearance will be with Bomb the Music Industry! at NYU's Strawberry Festival, which is free and open to the public in early May.

Photo: Marie Scarsella

SEX AND THE ISLAND

144 hours of Regression

How I Fell in Love and Kept on Falling

BY DAEYUNG LEE

I've only had 1 meaningful relationship in my life. It lasted for 6 days.

I think my longest relationship was 3 months long. I ended it because the girl was beginning to bore me, and by beginning to bore me I mean that sex was out of the question. But I was only an asshole because how callous I was after those 6 days.

6 days, in my opinion, is long enough to know how much someone means to you. It's long enough because it's 72 hours of thinking and dreaming of her, it's 4320 minutes

eyes. She did this weird thing when she laughed, she put her finger under her nose with the others pointing toward her eyes and I loved that too. And when you were talking to her, she was always shifting her weight back and forth like she was ready to run somewhere.

I feel like we started dating for those 6 days because she felt bad for me, I was diagnosed with depression and walked around like a zombie, fluttering around and wishing to be high, drunk, or dead. And because I was so confident about myself, I was sweating like hell was coming when I asked her if she'd, "be

"The girl was beginning to bore me, and by beginning to bore me I mean that sex was out of the question."

of being happy and content with life. Sure, it's short but that's what happiness is, short.

She wasn't overly attractive; she dressed down every day and hid her brown eyes behind bits of green plastic. Her eyes were comically large, large enough that when I sat next to her in my History class, I could see myself in them. I loved that full attention you know you're getting when you're reflecting straight back from a girl's

my girl," because I'm a 1920's gangster and this was Chicago.

We tried all that mushy crap, well, I did at least. It seemed as if she was mortified to be seen with me, which was strange because she had maybe 7 friends, where as the entire school loved me, hated me, and hated to love me. I was worried before I asked her out and one of my exes asked me if I was serious about her. I was though.

Feel Hot without Getting Baked by the Sun The Horrors of Tanning and Safe Beauty Alternatives

BY ERIN MEEHAN

It's time for a change, we must not keep ignoring the fact that tanning beds and over exposure to the sun is deadly.

"Australia has the highest melanoma rate in the world, with 400 people dying each year. The International Agency for Research in Cancer has classified tanning beds as a grade one carcinogen -- the same ranking as smoking," said *The Daily Telegraph* in Australia.

This is a result of many people disregarding all the messages being sent out by the media to stay away from UV rays. The only way to prevent use of tanning beds in New South Wales Australia is to ban them completely in 2014.

Not only are these rays cancer causing, but they also advance the rate of aging.

"The sun's ultraviolet rays can be damaging to the skin's collagen (a protein fiber) and elastin, a connective tissue, both of which work to keep the skin firm and resilient," said June Weir in an article for *The New York Times*.

Still not convinced? Even with all the products on the market, people are determined to continue use of tanning beds.

Reuters News reported that Scientists at the Yale School of Public Health in New Haven, Connecticut found that young people who tanned on the indoor beds had a 69 percent increased chance of suffering from early-onset basal cell carcinoma.



Photo: Google Images

Basal cell carcinoma is type of non-melanoma skin cancer that grows slowly and painlessly and is caused from sunlight or ultraviolet radiation. This is the most common form of skin cancer in the United States and according to the American Cancer Society, 75% of all skin cancers are basal cell carcinoma.

Yet, you may still want to achieve a tan, but how can you do it without inflicting harm upon yourself?

Alternative routes to get that sun kissed look are currently gaining popularity. There are several products on the market to prevent aging and sun damage that simultaneously provide a healthy, natural looking tan.

An at home tanning system made by Luminess Air provides a tan that lasts and it doesn't come in a can. This kit provides tanning solution and an airbrush machine. It can be purchased online at Luminessair.com

Mystic Tan Perfect Tan Kit for Body is another option to attain a natural looking, sunless tan, so lather up with this serum instead of tanning oil this summer!

Global Warming: Fact or Fiction? A Profusion of Lies and More Lies

BY SHARON CRUZ

The truth remains, global warming is real. All we have to do is turn on the television and watch the latest news on the chaotic warning signs of global warming.

It's essential though to have a clear understanding of what global warming is. It is the rising temperature of the Earth's surface. The rise in temperature is caused by the increasing rise in greenhouse gases, which are developed by deforestation and the burning of fossil fuels.

The theory behind global warming is widely accepted by scientists throughout the world, especially in industrialized nations. Even though scientists have noted that greenhouse gases are the cause for global warming, individuals may chalk it up to pseudo-science.

This includes Rael Jean Isaac, who in her latest book, *Roosters of The Apocalypse: How Junk Science of Global Warming Nearly Bankrupted the Western World*, she tries to mount evidence against it. The 88 pages of "evidence" tries to convince readers that these "roosters" (individuals who "initiate and build support for" movements that create apocalyptic scenarios) as manipulating and money hungry power players.

Now what does the excerpt from the book have to do with global warming? Well, according to Isaac, a whole lot. The Xhosa tribe destroyed their way of living and surviving based on the prophecy of a 15 year old girl. Isaac connects the obedience of the

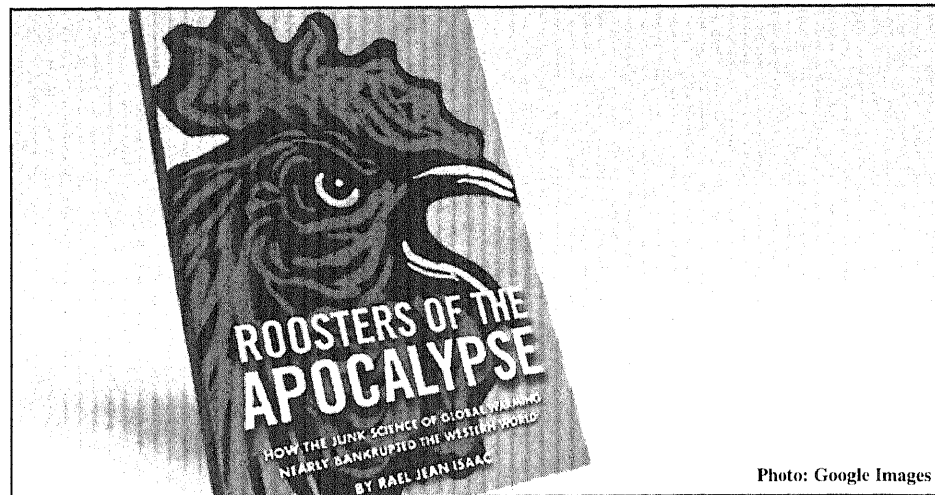


Photo: Google Images

Rael Jean Isaac's latest book, *Roosters of The Apocalypse: How Junk Science of Global Warming Nearly Bankrupted the Western World*, challenges the theory of global warming.

Xhosa tribe to destroy their cattle and crops to the obedience people have in believing global warming. The roosters, the politicians, CEO of companies, scientist, and even the President of the U.S. are essentially lying 15 year old girls that demand outlandish responses from its people. A bit far fetched.

Although the books presents, what Isaac believes, concrete evidence, it fails to give a real culprit to the global warming issue. The tactic of complete ignorance of the issue and announcing that it's all a figment of imagination is not proof. Isaac presents a strong case of pseudo evidence. This book fails because it selectively presents a fraction of evidence but

chapter after chapter, merrily points the finger.

Isaac, whose education can compete with the best of best, sadly presents information that suite the Heartland Institute, the publisher of the book. Heartland Institute is a conservative and libertarian "public policy think tank," and is affiliated with the Cooler Heads Coalition. The CHC's defines itself as "an informal and ad-hoc group focused on dispelling the myths of global warming." Isaac, who received payment for writing this deplorable book, pushes a heavy bias in favor of the Heartland Institute and the affiliations they hold. This bias, which is clearly evident throughout the book, leads itself to an extremely opinionated narrative,

when it should be presented as an unbiased argument against global warming.

My issue with this book is the condensing way Isaac presents individuals who choose to believe in global warming. Her excessively academic and sarcastic tone depicted entertaining reading. The information that Isaac presented underscored the intellect of the reader and demeaned the very process of book writing. I will not deny that Isaac wrote an intelligent piece of work, however, distasteful and disturbing it was.

The other issue I had was Isaac's need to use barn animals to make her point. Why these animals found itself in this book, I don't know. The idea Isaac puts forth is whoever believes the "roosters" call of apocalyptic global warming are sheep, mindless drones of humanoid people who desire the need to believe in something or fight something. What Isaac fails to understand is that the human community does not need data, science or politicians to tell them global warming is real. We see it. Most of all, the dangerous side effects ruining the earth are being felt by millions of people. What response does Isaac, Heartland Institute and Cooler Heads Coalition have to say to those individuals?

The book, in summary, was offensive to my intellect, and I would not in good consciousness, recommend this book. Since Isaac has a deep seeded need to relate humans to animals, I will recommend one for individuals who love to dispel known facts: hyenas.

Banner Recipes: Quick Meals for the On-The-Go Student

Lets face it, it's hard to be a college student and eat healthy. Here are a few ways and recipes that are healthy and easy to prepare. Simple enough for a stressed college student without much time, yet still delicious to want to eat. Here are a couple of ideas:

BY NICOLE PAGANO



Taco Salad

Who doesn't love tacos? This is a delicious salad version that's light and filling.

1 pound ground beef
1 package of taco seasoning
1 medium head lettuce, shredded
2 medium tomatoes, seeded and chopped
1 cup of any bean of your choice
4 to 5 cups whole grain corn chips or nachos (crushed)
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
1/3 cup of any Spanish oil based dressing (you can also use salsa)

Cook brown ground beef in a skillet and drain well. Stir in taco seasoning. Combine beef, lettuce, tomatoes, beans and cheese in a large bowl. Mix in dressing and add chips or nachos in last so they don't become soggy. Enjoy!



Berry Parfait

This has always been my go to dessert. Fruit is a healthy snack and has its own natural sweeteners. Paired with honey it is the perfect combo!

2 cups of assorted berries of your choice
1 cup of granola
1 cup plain yogurt
2 tablespoons of honey (add more if you want, its all natural)
Whipped cream, if desired.

Put the yogurt on bottom of glass or parfait cup, layer berries and granola on top, do so until filled. Then drizzle on the honey and add a dollop of whipped cream if you would like. Then enjoy, it's that simple!

BANNER OPINIONS

Ask Sandra: She Has All the Answers...

The Banner's Resident Advice Columnist Answers CSI's Toughest Questions

BY SANDRA CHAMOUN

Dear Sandra,
How can we, as students, deal with Professors who are just plain terrible at their jobs? Dropping classes is just a burden, but having to deal with professors for a full semester is stressful. Do you have any advice on how to deal?

Dear Concerned Student,
Professor's personalities can truly make or break a class, but we as students do have more power than we think. We can't control the professor but we can control our actions. Be respectful, go to tutoring and office hours when needed and remember that the semester tends to fly by faster than we anticipate it to.

Dear Sandra,
I am having trouble sleeping at night. How am I supposed to fall asleep when all I can do is think about school and life while I'm in bed? What can I do to clear my mind?

Dear Sleep-deprived,
It is important to keep our responsibilities in mind, but at the time of rest it is best to train ourselves to let go of the worries, which of course is easier said than done.
1) Doing deep breathing exercises before you sleep not only helps to clear your mind, but it will increase oxygen flow to your brain, allowing you to think clearer and relax.
2) A lot of times when our mind is restless, our body is restless as well. Right before bed, try taking a warm shower to relax your muscles and allow you to unwind from your day.
3) Exercising or taking a yoga class at least once a week can help us sleep better at night.
4) I recommend limiting caffeine, which over excites our muscles as well as our heart beat hours after we drink it. Excessively caffeinated beverages can also interfere with our ability to get into a deep sleep (REM sleep).

Dear Sandra,
I haven't seen my Grandfather in over four years. He has never tried to build a relationship with me and only communicates with my on family occasions, and even then we run out of things to say in what feels like 2 seconds. I just found out he has colon cancer and needs surgery and chemotherapy. Should I visit him? Should I even bother? Does my not really connecting to this news make me a bad person?

Dear Relationship Mender,
My advice for you comes from being in a similar situation myself. Your inability to connect to this news about your grandfather does not make you a bad person, it just makes you a hurt person. You have unresolved issues with the relationship, or lack thereof, with your grandfather. However, despite what might have occurred in the past, I advise you to visit your grandfather. In this moment he needs family more than ever and it is better to be the bigger person than the remorseful one. If you do not visit him, I worry that you will live with the regret of not trying.

Dear Sandra,
My friend and I have flirted with each other for year and we recently started dating. I really like him but I feel like he will not take things further because he is afraid of ruining our friendship. How can I get him to get over his fears and ask me out already!?

Dear Friend,
For this situation I would recommend a more indirect approach because he is your friend and if you outwardly bring it up, the conversation might make things awkward. Since he is the guy in this duo, it is best for him to make the first move in order to make things go further. Women deserve to be chased, not to be the chasers. If the conversation about friendship comes up, then try to state your confidence that it will not make things awkward. Anything more of a direct move is best to be initiated on his part.

Sandra Chamoun is senior and psychology major at CSI. You can reach her at the Health and Wellness Center in 1C where she is a peer counselor.

Ubisoft's I Am Alive Should Be Dead

New Downloadable Title Doesn't Live Up to Today's Standards

BY STEPHEN KLEIN

While containing some interesting and innovative elements, I Am Alive simply doesn't have the elements of a great game.

Downloadable titles via PlayStation Network and Xbox Live Arcade offer innovative and rewarding experiences. One game that was recently released to these platforms by Ubisoft got only half of that right. Like other downloadable games, I Am Alive offers something that you don't seem to find in today's retail games anymore: A true survival adventure. The biggest problems with I Am Alive are that it is lazy, unentertaining, and not very fun.

For example, the story is barely there and it feels like an afterthought. Not to mention that whatever little story is there is poorly told. You might be asking what the story was even about in the first place. It's about this "event" that occurred, presumably an earthquake of some sort, and the world is now struggling to survive as the protagonist searches for his family. Believe it or not, it's not nearly as emotional as you would think.

Now, let's dive into the mechanics. There is credit to be had for I Am Alive's interesting and realistic mechanics. For example, while a third-person perspective game, the camera will switch to first-person for aiming and shooting. There is a stamina bar for performing certain actions, similar in concept to Dead Island. You could also use an empty gun as a scare tactic and you will walk through dust storms which are both cool ideas, but only in theory.

Now, what hinders this, you ask? For one

thing, the dumb enemy AI and controls can frustrate. The moment you drop your empty gun, enemies will attack you as if you never had it. As far as the controls go, the unique control set works well for the most part, but climbing is finicky and the camera can be annoying. It feels like the game isn't responding well to where you want to climb or how you want the camera at times.

What's worse is that it's so easy to lose your way in I Am Alive even with the map. That might not sound like a big deal, but when you're rummaging through a dust storm as it depletes your stamina and health and you don't have much of an idea as to where you are headed, it's a very cheap death. In fact, the overall lack of direction and amount of cheap deaths in I Am Alive will make you want to put the controller down and walk away.

As a game that is all about survival, there is a scarcity of items. That works, but in order to help others throughout the game, you will need to find the right items for them. The rarity in finding them, however, is bad design. Why make the items to help these people so hard to find? How are you supposed to help them if you couldn't even find what they need?

Also, as a post-apocalyptic game, the presentation is interesting, but only to a certain degree. This goes for the graphics as well which are okay. They are bleak yet fitting. Some effects like the glare from the sun look nice if slightly overdone. Other effects like the aforementioned annoying dust storms leave much to be desired.

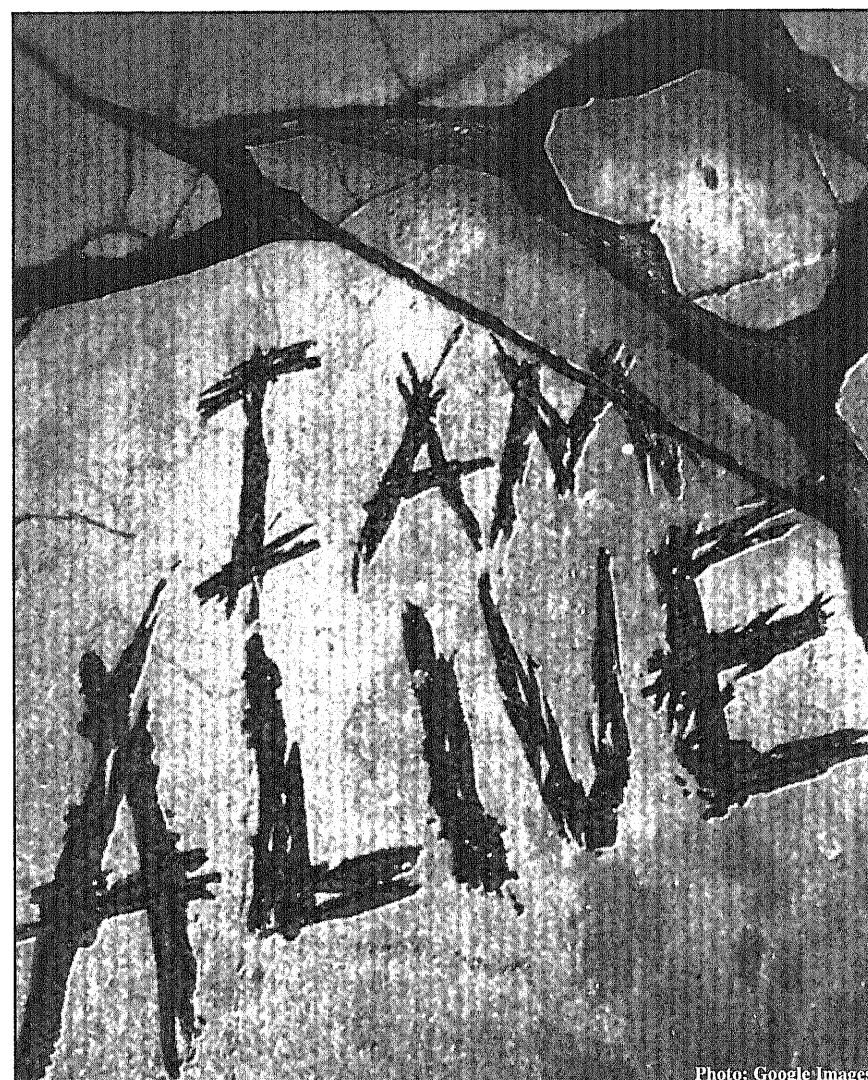
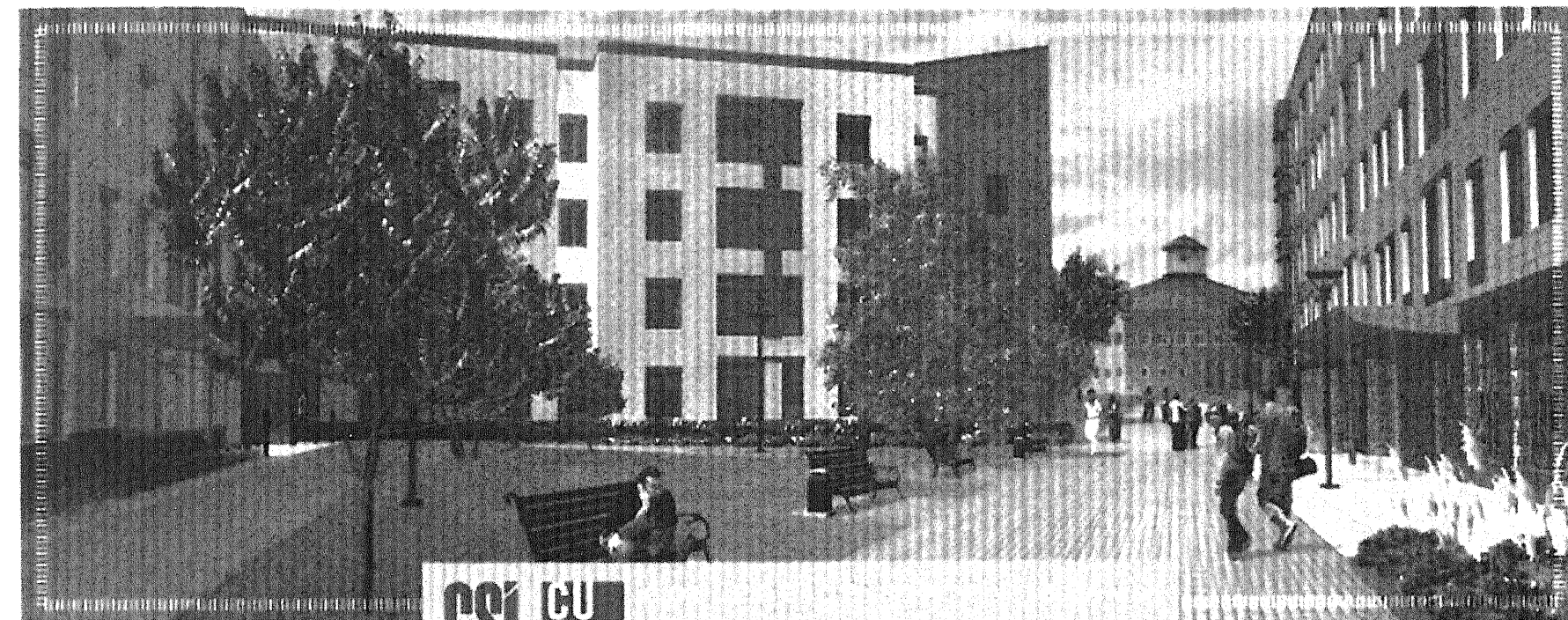


Photo: Google Images

I Am Alive, a new downloadable title via PlayStation Network and Xbox Live Arcade, is lazy, unentertaining, and not very fun.

You have to give credit where credit is due. I Am Alive is one of the worst innovative adventures this reviewer has played in a while. It may be an intense and gritty experience, but it is also one of the year's biggest disappointments. I Am Alive gets a 6 out of 10.



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BANNER SPORTS

Dolphins Score Big For Breast Cancer Awareness, But Fall in Play

The 9th annual Grace Hillery Game totaled a record \$7,400, but the Dolphins Lose to Drew 7-5

BY JESSICA PIFALO

The Baseball complex at the CSI was lit up in pink for the 9th annual Grace Hillery breast cancer awareness game on April 25. The Dolphins took on visiting Drew University but fell short with a final score of 7-5.

However, the real winner of the night was breast cancer research. Between fundraising by selling T-shirt, raffles, 50/50, and generous donations, the Dolphins tallied in a new record total of \$7,400 for breast cancer research.

Before the action on the field, Anthony Hillery a CSI baseball alum whose mother Grace Hillery, lost her battle to cancer early in 2004 greeted many guests including President Dr. Tomas Morales, Provost Dr. William Fritz, CSI Athletic Director Vernon Mummert, and members of the Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Institute. Shortly after Hillery was presented with a \$1,000 check from the One-On-One Rehabilitation Services.

"I'm speechless, it's really humbling," said Hiller, overwhelmed by the amount of support these past nine years each year for this event. "Everyone has done an incredible job these past 9 years, from CSI to the Staten Island Community."

Two ceremonial pitches were thrown by

Diedre DeAngelis, Principal of New Dorp High School, and St. Teresa School Family Guild President Mrs. Tami Dicostanzo, then finalized by words from Head Coach, Mike Mauro.

On the field, the Dolphins trailed 2-0 after the first, however with the help of Sal Todaro and Luis Ortiz RBI singles the Dolphins gained some momentum in the 2nd inning tying the score 2-2.

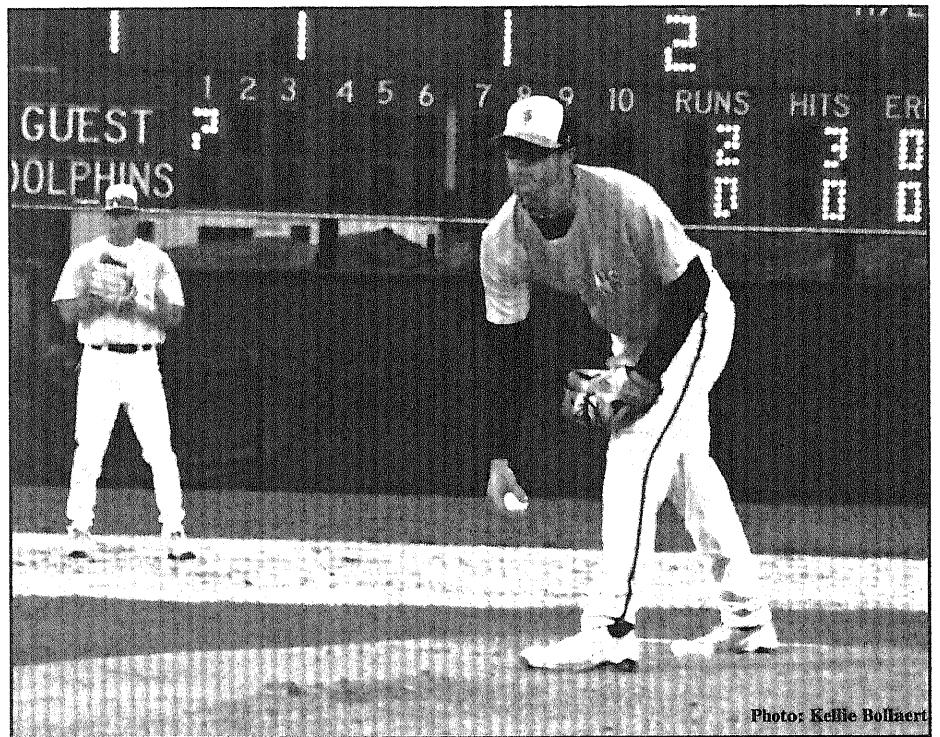
The Dolphins struck again in the bottom of the 4th where Ortiz was at it again singling to center field, sending Dan Lynch home, pushing the Dolphins in the lead 4-2.

The Dolphins did not stop from there. A single by Henry Roman to left center advanced Ortiz to third base, and Will Difede brought him home with a single up the middle putting the Dolphins ahead 5-2 at the end of the inning.

The Dolphins fate turned for the worst, early in the top of the sixth inning when the Rangers powered back by picking up two runs and would then repeat with two more in the top of the eighth.

The Rangers would add an insurance run in the 9th to secure the victory.

Despite the loss the Dolphins were proud of the amount of money raised for breast cancer research.



Dolphins senior Casey Mulligan tossed a solid 5.2 innings but took the loss against Drew University

"It's always good to play for a good cause," said senior Henry Roman. "It's great to hear that we raised a record amount, it's sucks that we lost but it's a great feeling that we raised so much money."

During the 7th Inning, Hillery took the field to address the crowd thanking everyone for coming out, and contributing all the hard work. Followed by Hillery's address, Phyllis Eisenberg sang a wonderful tribute of the song

"Amazing Grace." "The fact that we are here trying to help people, makes it all worth it," said CSI Head Coach Mike Mauro.

The Dolphins will begin their post-season, in sights for a third straight CUNYAC Championship. They enter as the number two seed in a four team double-elimination tournament. They will face No. 3 seeded John Jay College Thursday, April 26, at MCU Ballpark in Brooklyn, NY.

Men's Tennis Falls in CUNYAC Semi-Finals

CSI Dolphins Defeat Brooklyn College and Advance to CUNYAC Semi-Finals only to lose to #1 Baruch

BY JESSICA PIFALO

The famous Billie Jean King USTA National Tennis Center played host to the semi-finals of the Men's CUNYAC-Hospital for Special Surgery Championships on Sunday April 29th.

After a convincing victory over Brooklyn College in the quarterfinals, the Dolphins ran into the top seeded buzz saw that was the Baruch College Bearcats.

Baruch dominated the match in almost all facets winning 5-1 and ending the Dolphins season.

CSI's lone bright spot on the otherwise grim result was a win in the match from number 2 doubles Nick Zikos and Dan Ursomanno, 8-6.

The Dolphins got to the semi-finals with a victory over the Brooklyn College Bulldogs 5-2 in the quarterfinals of the Championships.

CSI came out of the gate early leading 2-1 after an 8-6 win from the duo of Zikos and Vladislav Romanov. Continuing the Dolphins triumph, the team of Ursomanno and Riad Hami captured an 8-4 win over the Bulldogs.

Brooklyn finally got on the board after a

victory over Dmitriy Vituk and Austin Kapentanakis with a score of 8-6.

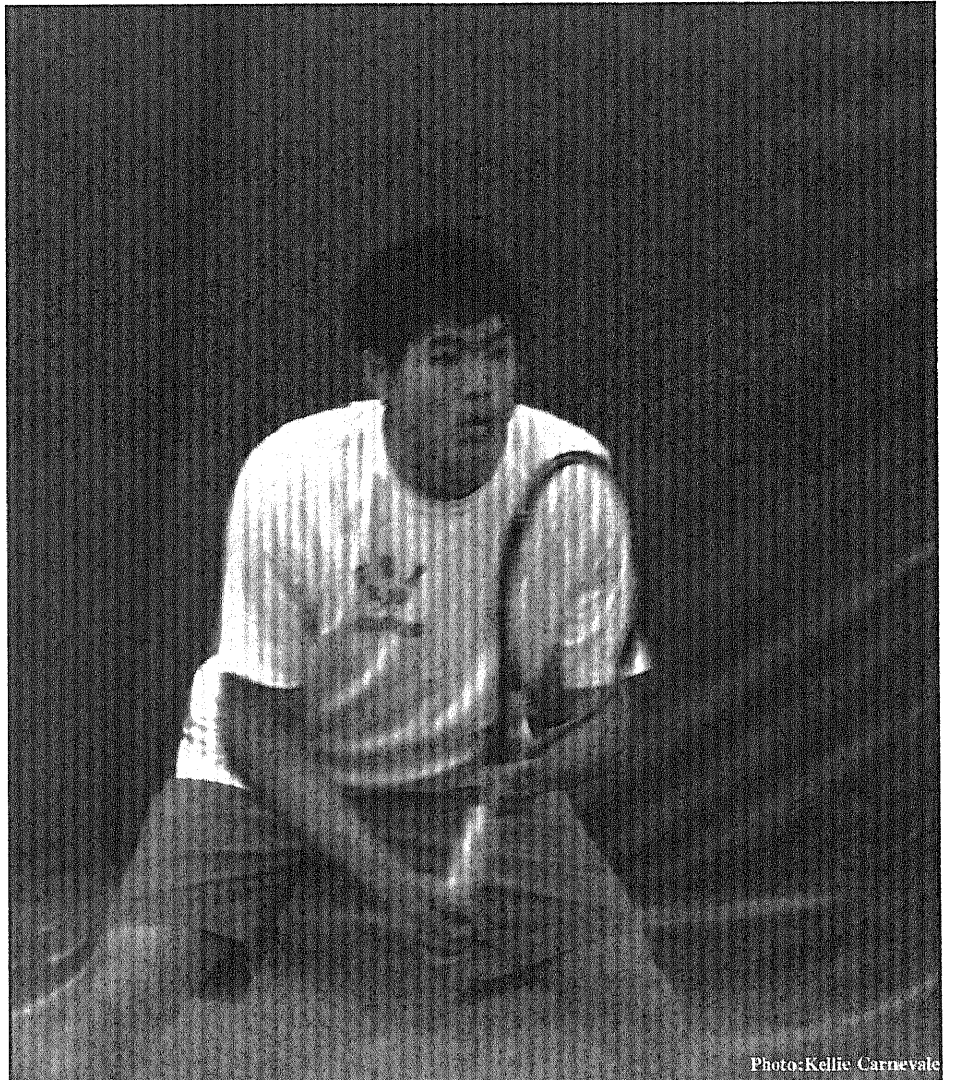
Moving onto singles action, the Dolphins gained a win at the number one spot from Zikos with a score of 6-2, 6-0. That was followed by a win at the number two spot from Hamai with a score of 6-2, 6-0, which gave the Dolphins the commanding 4-1 overall lead.

In the number three spot, Kapentanakis was down in his first set, but regained control and pulled ahead 6-2 in the match.

The Bulldogs attempted to close in on the Dolphins after Romanov lost in the number 4 spot 6-1 and Vituk lost the first set of his match, 6-4 and would trail 5-1 in the second.

Winding down to the number six spot, Oscar Wu sealed the victory, powering through the set with a score of 6-3, 7-5, to send the Dolphins to the 5-2 victory.

The Bearcats are the favorite in the Championship sitting with a record of 13-2 overall, and coming off a 5-0 victory against CCNY. Baruch will face Hunter College for the CUNYAC Championship on Thursday May 3rd at 5pm.



Oscar Wu helped power the Dolphins to a 5-2 victory over Brooklyn college to put them in the Semi-Finals Sunday against Baruch.