

Official Newspaper of the College of Staten Island

CSI's Got Talent

The Finals for CSI's Talent Competition

BY GERARD LITTLE

The lobby of 1P was filled with students, faculty, family, and friends who travelled to The Williamson Theater to be entertained during "CSI's Got Talent" competition on April 18.

Many ticket holders were returning guests from the previous year, eager to see who would take to the stage. Only twelve students made it as finalists, prepared to wow the crowd and snatch the grand prize of \$2,500.

Sal Vulcano and Jay Miller were introduced as the masters of ceremony and were experts in uplifting the crowd with humor. Vulcano's banana eating stunt and Miller's performance in a sequenced dance suit caused an uproar of laughter.

The twelve finalists were, Abidemi Komolafe, Ben The Harpist, Chris Scarpa, Francine Bianco, Jaclyn Servidio, Katie Fasulo, Lori Claire, Michael Adme, Pat and Ari, Saffire Paige, Sami Jo Frank, and Sara Marie.

Judges looked for creativity, originality, skill of the performer, stage presence, overall performance, and audience reaction; each worth 5 points. If a performer went over the time limit points were taken off. Each contestant could earn maximum of thirty points from the judges.

Before each performance the audience was directed to view a short clip of the contestant in efforts to personalize the show.

LaGuardia High School graduate Saffire Paige took the stage first and dedicated her performance to the recent troubles in Boston.

"It was amazing, I felt like I did a great job," said Paige.

Katie Fasulo took the stage next and performed her very own version of "Hallelujah" with the audience singing along.

Michael Adme jumped on stage displaying original dance moves to the famous Nicki Minaj "Monster" verse.

Next up was graduate student Lori Claire, who told judges that she has been singing since she was young, and also changed a few lyrics to include CSI.

Music major Ben The Harpist played a sound so unique that the crowd cheered him on all the way through.

Freshman Jaclyn Servidio was next with

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The Tunnel of Oppression Enlightens Students

Words Illuminate the Dark Nature of Hate Speech

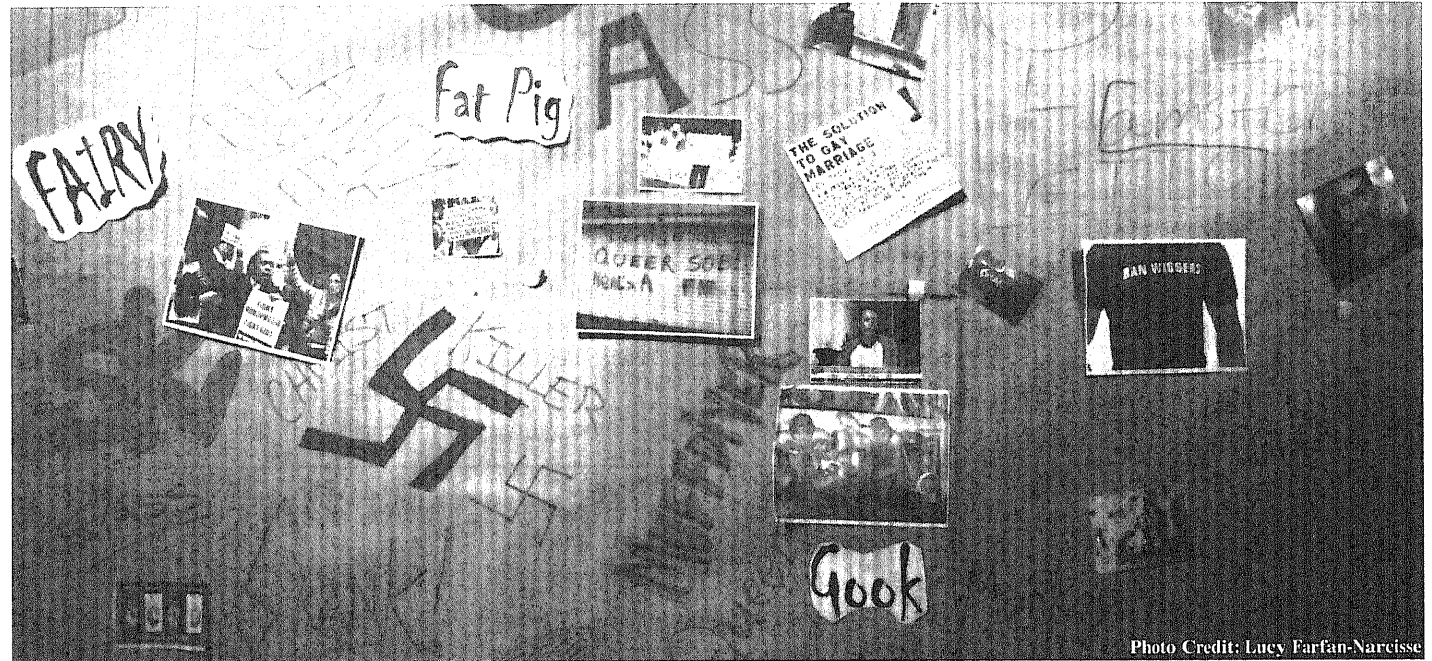


Photo Credit: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse

One of the rooms in the Tunnel of Oppression highlights offensive and derogatory words

BY MARIAH METZGER

The Tunnel of Oppression made its appearance for the seventh year at CSI on April 18. Students lined up and were guided through a 45 minute tour in 1C to experience different oppressions that people experience in their lives.

"I seriously thought someone was crying for a second, it just started so suddenly and sounded so real," said Junior Jenna Bonnarrigo. "The whole experience was really enlightening. I was heavily focused on women's oppression and never thought much about the oppressions of, for example, a gay

white man."

The program efficiently brought out the problem with stereotyping and ways to resolve it when it occurs. If people recognized when they stereotype they could recognize ways to counteract it.

"Ever since childhood, kids would call me a man or a lesbian... and would make fun of the clothes I wore. I was constantly mocked and ridiculed but I couldn't help it because it was what I could afford on clothes and I really liked sports," said Sophomore Erika Brunette, who had gone through the Tunnel. "I believe the tunnel of oppression was very successful

in proving that there is an issue at hand and it needs to be stopped. It definitely helped open my eyes to things I'd never picked up on before."

The Tunnel of Oppression consisted of four rooms. The first room had an informative video about the brief history of the program as well as a literal tunnel covered with offensive slurs. The most powerful effect in this room was the soundtrack of crying that played in the background.

The second room was an interactive

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GSA, LGBTQ, and CSI Students Reflect on Bullying

A Day of Silence Turns Into a Night of Noise

BY DAEYUNG LEE

On Friday, April 19, students and counselors gathered in the Green Dolphin Lounge in 1C to "Break the Silence" against name-calling and harassment.

The Day of Silence is a relatively new event hosted by the LBG Community and the Gay-Straight Alliance in which participants swear an oath of silence to reflect on how bullying steals the voice of its victims.

On the April 19, participants swore that, "My deliberate silence echoes that silence, which is caused by anti-bullying, name-calling, and harassment." They then remained mute throughout the entire day; sketching quick notes to friends and family for messages or using body language to stay faithful to their oath.

At 5:30 PM, the Silence was broken with

the "Night of Noise", a culminating event in to celebrate their silence with stories on how bullying affected their lives by robbing them of their voice.

While some cried, others provided support for their peers.

CSI Alumni and GSA affiliate Jeremiah Jurkowitz was asked to share his experience to the Day of Silence at the podium. He spoke about coming out as a Sophomore in High School and feeling alone. He decided to act after discovering the Day of Silence on the internet during his Junior year. "I was 1 kid out of 600. It was empowering," said Jurkowitz. "As much as it was to send a message, it was also about me, about finding meaning for yourself in it."

"Think about the 1 student who may be gaining something out of the day of silence,"

Jurkowitz instructed.

Following Jerkowitz at the Podium was Chief of Staff for Matthew Titone, Chris Powers. Titone is an openly gay politician. He was slated to make a speech at CSI but was forced to step down due to a medical issue.

Powers addressed a new resolution concerning the recognition of the Day of Silence as a holiday in the State of New York, a large step for the LBG community.

The resolution, while still voted on by the Senate, holds no real legal binding force. Instead, it is done in the hopes of raising the issue to the attention of the rest of the Senators. It is considered an initial step to propose a new bill, which will have legal force.

"We are a long way from equality," admit-

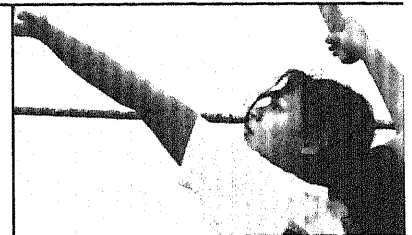
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Hot Yoga Makes Some Heat
Page 6

Grace McLean and Them Apples
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Freshman Scores Number One Singles
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CSI Celebrates its Fourth Annual Relay for Life

Look Forward to the Campus' Largest Fundraiser

BY MARIE SCARSELLA

With CSI's fourth annual Relay for Life approaching, students and faculty members are coming together to make the event a success, earning money for cancer research and raising awareness about the disease. It aims to remember those who lost the battle, while honoring those fighting to survive.

The event aims to raise \$30,000 for the American Cancer Society, and it will be open to the entire community. It will take place on CSI's Track and Field from 3 PM to midnight. Thirty teams will be participating, taking turns walking around the track to earn money for cancer research from sponsors. The walk includes laps dedicated to cancer survivors as well as cancer patient caregivers.

The walk will also feature a luminaria ceremony in which bags with candles are lit in memoriam of those who have passed from the disease, or those who are currently fighting it.

The Relay for Life will also feature games, activities, and live entertainment for those who wish to spend the day as spectators and donors. There will be a rock wall, mechanical bull, laser tag, and performances from the winner of CSI's Got Talent. There will also be food and refreshments served throughout the day.

The CSI observatory will be open the night of the relay giving an opportunity to view Saturn and Jupiter.

The Relay for Life also helps to bring about a sense of community on campus, enriching the college experience for a school that is commuter-based.

"Students are so privileged to be here at this beautiful institution," said Coordinator of Student Leadership and Development Robert King Kee. "We can learn to work collaboratively to teach our students leadership skills and have fun doing it."

Kee, along with students from various

clubs and organizations on campus, have helped to fundraise, market the event, and create merchandise to help spread the word.

"We've got amazing student leaders on this campus," said Kee. "Passions come to life and it is very rewarding."

Organizations such as the Nursing Club, Campus Activities Board, Office of Information Technology, Reason to Write, and the Alpha Club have taken part in two major fundraisers. Auxiliary services will be providing food for attendees.

Students can get involved with the relay through several different outlets. People can fundraise with the help of various clubs, visit the Office of Student Life and join teams, or create teams of their own. They can also participate simply by attending the event and donating their time and money to the cause. The suggested donation for students is \$5, and for all others, \$10.

Campus Activities Council board member

Monica Sibri became involved after losing a family member to cancer. She feels the event not only raises awareness, but has the potential to save lives.

"As soon as I started observing the collaboration and efforts from all over campus to make the Relay for Life a success, I knew I had to be a part of it," explained Sibri. "It is an event that not only helps fight back against cancer, but helps the college community to come together as a big family."

Student Andrea Curry also has gotten involved in a big way with her club Reason to Write. She has helped to organize bake sales and other fundraisers throughout the semester while growing her team.

"Raising funds that could find a cure and also the chance to celebrate those who have lost their lives or survived is most certainly a reason to be proud of our institution," said Curry. "So Dolphins, come alive, and join the Relay for Life."

Hawaiian-themed Student Involvement Fair

CSI Promotes Clubs with a Variety of Activities

BY LUCY FARFAN-NARCISSE

The palm trees and serene beaches may have been missing from the Hawaiian-themed Involvement Fair that took place on April 16, 2013 at the College of Staten Island but

school spirit and club pride and involvement was present. The 1C Plaza was transformed into an oasis of fun, complete with a rock tower, surf board game, tropical smoothie stand, colorful sand art and wooden flip flop

frame crafts, airbrush tattoos, live DJ, and a barbeque style buffet for all students on campus to enjoy. Colorfully decorated tables lined the walkway showcasing clubs CSI has to offer such as The Green Thumbs

Club, JVCC, Black Student Union, WSIA, Art Club, Psychology Club, NPRIG, A Reason To Write, Love Your Neighbor Club, A.L.P.H.A Club, Legion of Historians and Hillel Club to name a few.

TOP LEFT: Ramses Martinez attempts to conquer the rock wall while students watch and cheer him on

MIDDLE LEFT: College Activities Board representatives supervised the fair while handing out leis and other goodies



Photo Credit: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse

TOP RIGHT: Early morning preparations for the fair included firing up of the grill with burgers and hot dogs

MIDDLE RIGHT: Blackshirt Michael Black and Hillel Club Member Lauren Ovrem watch the festivities from a distance



Photo Credit: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse



Photo Credit: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse



Photo Credit: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse

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LETTERS TO DA BANNAH

Re: **How to Be a Skinny Bitch: "The Bachelorette Diet"**

Interesting article. Thanks for the advice. I've tried every diet but I think this one might work for me.
Alyssa Olivo
Junior

Re: **How to Be a Skinny Bitch: "The Bachelorette Diet"**

I completely agree with everything in this article! If you do starve from not eating then tic-tacs are definitely the way to go. I only go to the gym to meet hot guys, forget about my health. My next meal will probably be some cocaine and nicotine.
Rosanna Alaimo
Senior

Re: **How to be a Skinny Bitch: "The Bachelorette Diet"**

It is absolutely disgusting how you advertise that girls should not eat solid foods. Reach for a pack of tic tacs? How gross. This is how girls starve themselves and die of an eating disorder because they advertise models a size zero. Sex burning calories? This is why half of our school population are whores who are pregnant. Get your lazy butt off and go to the gym to work out not to have sex. Advertising such outrageous tips will make girls think they can have a skinny body by doing all of these things. In all reality it will make them a whore with an eating disorder.
Michelle Scotto
Sophomore

Re: **How to be a Skinny Bitch: "The Bachelorette Diet"**

Although your entire April Fools issue was entertaining to read, I especially enjoyed "How to be a Skinny Bitch". This was not only hysterical, but shows women that the ideal image media tells us to be is ridiculous and unrealistic
Ashley Prudente
Senior

Re: **"CSI to Deport All Geese Immigrants on Campus Illegally"**

I agree with this article. It's about time the college does something to get rid of all the geese. I have stepped in goose shit too many times since I've been here. LOL. If you need help getting rid of them, let me know.
Anthony D'Antuono
Junior

Re: **"Da Bannah"**

This by far is the funniest and most interesting issue ever printed. The sarcasm and the title of the Banner will definitely have lots of students picking up this issue unlike other issues of The Banner, which I see dozens of copies left from 5 issues ago. If The Banner wants more students to be picked up, you guys should definitely include a sarcastic part in every issue. You got my attention with this one! Great job!
Dianil Santana
Junior

Re: **"Issue 13"**

Your "April Special" was appalling. I happen to be in Professor Kaufman's Intro to Journalism class and I find him to a professor of the highest caliber; and he is an excellent example of the faculty here at CSI. As for everything else in the issue, I dare not say what I want to say because you might actually print it like the rest of the trash in that issue.
Horried Student

Re: **"Holy Shit"**

I almost believed this special April edition of Da Bannah. I'm glad the staff has a sense of humor. The article on Professor Kaufman was unexpected - who would put down Kaufman? Kidding. I think The Banner sums up a pretty diverse crowd

who are not afraid to truly and explicitly express themselves to the college population.

Jean Baak
Sophomore

Re: **Bad Professors Equals Students Who Don't Care**

I DON'T APPRECIATE YOU INSULTING MY FAVORITE PROF. LIKE THIS!! CHECK YOURSELF!! FRED KAUFMAN IS LIKE THE BEST THING CSI HAS! Like really?! "Fire his ass"?! You guys have gone too far!! If we lose Kaufman I think my heart would break and you'll be the cause! This is NOT a kiss up letter or an attempt to receive a really good grade. I am simply stating my opinion and love for Kaufman!
Best Regards
Ellen Dempster
Junior

Re: **Bad Professors Equals Students Who Don't Care**

Couldn't agree more with the article. I mean Kaufman, what an ass right? Such a joke of a class; learned absolutely nothing for my major. Loving attending a class I do nothing in.
Elissa Ramirez

Re: **Students Now Able to Earn Credits for Parking**

I think it's great that we can earn our parking. Parking is a HUGE issue on CSI's campus and students should be educated on how to handle themselves. I have seen way to many fights and fender benders at CSI.
Kristina Vendugo
Junior

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

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

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“GSA, LGBTQ, and CSI Students Reflect on Bullying”

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ted Powers. “But there are lots of ways to make noise, a lot is just being comfortable with yourself.

“Be who you are and other people will see you for who you are,” said Powers.

Powers also provided insight into the traditional methods the Senate used to provide equality for all New Yorkers. “The problem is ignorance,” said Powers. “The LGBT faces the issue that it’s very hard to change what people think.”

Amy Rogers, the Coordinator of the LGBTQ office in IC also approached the podium to give her story and share her views on the Day of Silence with her sister Courtney.

“I had a really hard time in Junior High School and High School,” confessed Rogers. “I mean, it doesn’t really happen in College but I understand why Day of Silence needs to happen.”

Lisa-Marie Scotto, a long-time veteran of the Day of Silence and current CSI student also delivered her story on bullying, evoking an emotion-filled silence throughout the lounge.

“I felt alone. I got to High School and it got worse,” Scotto shared with her audience. “Names just kept coming out of nowhere. I wasn’t out. But I did the Day of Silence every

year.”

The Day of Silence, while exclusively recognized under the Gay-Straight Alliance and the LGBTQ office, addressed bullying universally. People of all orientations walked up to the podium to share engaging stories and reflect on what silence did to their personal causes.

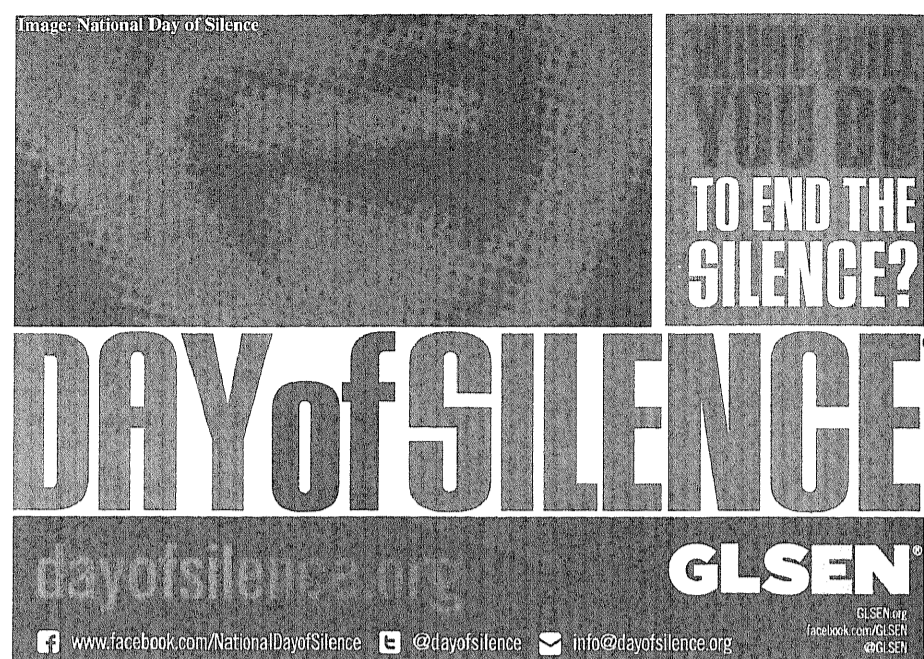
“Penny Loaker had a malformed face,” said CSI alumni Marcy Carr as she began a new story. “She looked a little different but her family accepted her.”

Loaker became an inspiration and went viral with a video to CNN after a documentary was run on the channel with a viewer discretion disclaimer preceding it.

After a long letter written by Penny to CNN, the network changed their language, apologized, and covered her for a story. She currently experiences 200-300 new followers on Facebook daily but insists she is not an activist.

“The Day of Silence is about being silent and breaking silence. It’s human nature to be silent and degrade anything considered irregular,” said Carr. “Say something, do something.”

CSI’s Diversity and Compliance Officer, Danielle Dimitrov was unfamiliar with the event. “I did research on it but I never participated,” admitted Dimitrov. “I was the Speech Cards from LGBTQ and said, ‘Oh my god,



The Day of Silence and the Night of Noise attracts attention to bullying

that’s what I’m trying to do at my office.”

Dimitrov stood at the podium and reflected on her job and her mission statement. The Diversity and Compliance office at CSI tries to enforce a respectful environment to promote mental and cultural growth through tolerance and acceptance.

“It’s Bystander Intervention,” acknowledged Dimitrov. “People are saying things and not knowing they are being hurtful. Sometimes it’s beyond what one admin at an office can

do.”

The “Night of Noise” closed with food, music, and conversation between the participants. Friends complimented each other on their bravery, while others supported those still emotional from sharing.

“You don’t know how it feels — how it feels when they go home and cry,” shared Scotto. “Maybe sharing my story will help someone stand up for themselves or someone else.”

“The Tunnel of Oppression Enlightens Students”

Continued from the front page

workshop where a computer program goes through ten pictures and you must identify which race the person is in the picture. You get four choices to select from. Groups struggled with recognizing ethnicities because some were very specific and would leave the workshop with only two or three out of the ten correct.

The third room was a game where a label is stuck on your back and your partner make you guess who or what you are. Labels ranged from “disabled mountain climber” to “American-Latino female president”.

The fourth and final room was the debriefing room. The participants in room talked about their feelings on going through the Tunnel of Oppression and how it affected them. The discussion was led by Director of Student Life Robert King Kee, Director of Diversity and Compliance Danielle Dimitrov, or Director of New Student Lift Kafale Khalfani, who is also involved with other pluralism programs on campus.

“The Tunnel of Oppression is a program that happens on other campuses as well,” said Khalfani. He said the idea behind the tunnel is to open students’ eyes and expose them to different oppressions they may or may not be familiar with. The program wants to reveal that judging people by their skin or appearance may be what society is accustomed to, but it is not the right thing to do and to really know someone you must talk to them.

“Instead of looking at someone and assuming, this person’s appearance is one way, so their personality must be this... you recognize and ask yourself the number of ways you identify instead,” said Khalfani. “You stop and wonder am I stereotyping



Photo Credit: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse



Photo Credit: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse

TOP: One of the rooms in the Tunnel of Oppression highlights offensive and derogatory words
BOTTOM: A student makes her way through the tunnel while looking at the common stereotypes that decorate the wall.

someone? How do I counteract this?”

Work and training is required for the program to run as effectively as possible. N.S.O. leaders were trained and briefed long before the event.

“Groups would go in quietly but as they

go through workshops they got more and more talkative,” said Alysa Andade, sophomore and N.S.O. leader. Andade was one of the many who ran the tours and guided groups through the tunnel.

“I’ve been stereotyped by what high

school I went too. After I told someone where I went they asked if I was pregnant or ever have been pregnant. I’ve been called a spic before,” said Andade, when asked if she had any personal oppression she had suffered.

“CSI’s Got Talent”
Continued from the front page

over 16 years of dancing experience behind her and used every section of the stage to show why she made it as a finalist.

Dedicating a song to our soldiers, Francine Bianco performed an original song that ended in audience screaming her name.

Pat and Ari performed “Whats Going On” by Marvin Gaye and it started a sing along; many people related to the song.

Next was Chris Scarpa who later told the

audience he has a fear of being on stage, however still managed to impress many.

Abidemi Komolafe shared a peaceful praise, Sami Jo Frank and Sara Marie brought the house down.

“Talent is at a whole different level this year, I would hate to be a judge,” said Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, Salvador Mena during a brief intermission, which was dedicated to the judges selecting only five to move on.

Others conversed about who were crowd favorites.

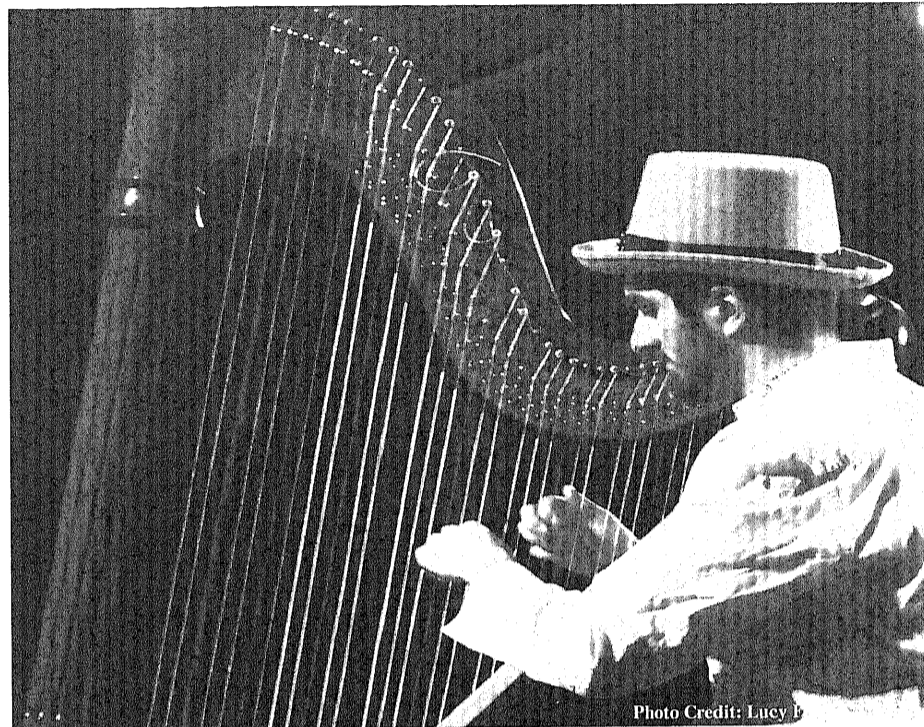


Photo Credit: Lucy



Photo Credit: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse



Photo Credit: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse



Photo Credit: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse



Photo Credit: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse



Photo Credit: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse

BANNER STYLES

Hot Yoga Makes Some Heat in NYC

Consider Yoga for Daily Exercise

BY SHAKIYA MCRAE

Hot yoga is a yoga exercise that is rapidly gaining popularity across the world. It is practiced under hot and humid conditions.

Ideally, this type of yoga is practiced in a room at 105 degrees Fahrenheit and at a humidity of 40%. The heat is meant to increase an individual's flexibility while in various poses. In a hot room, your body

works harder, which in turn removes more toxins than if you were working out at normal room temperature. Heat also softens muscle tissue, which increases flexibility.

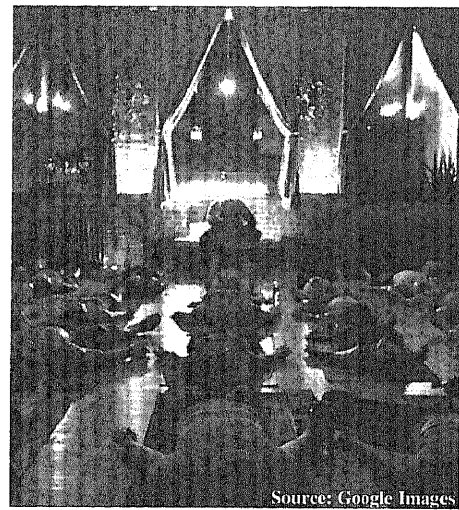
The most popular style of hot yoga in the US is Bikram Yoga. Bikram Yoga consists of a 90-minute class that includes the same 26 positions and 2 breathing exercises, in each class. Benefits of hot yoga include weight

loss, increased strength and flexibility, clarity of the mind, relaxation and improved posture. You can burn anywhere from 500 to 1000 calories in a typical 90 minute hot yoga session, depending on how hard you work, your weight, sex, and other factors.

If you plan on attending a hot yoga class be sure to bring your own mat (some studios allow you to rent their mats), plenty of

water, light exercise clothing, and a towel (you will sweat a lot!). It is advised that you avoid eating heavy meals 2-3 hours before your hot yoga session.

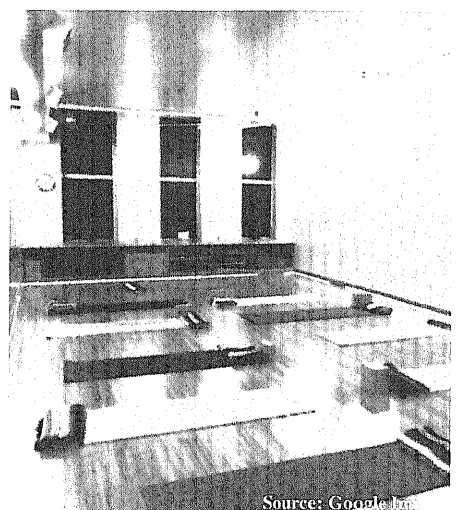
Because of its growing popularity, there are hot yoga studios popping up all over Manhattan! Here are five popular studios that offer classes that won't hurt your wallet!



Source: Google Images



Source: Google Images



Source: Google Images



Source: Google Images

YOGA TO THE PEOPLE

Probably the most well known studio in NYC, features five locations: East Village St. Marks, 26th St., 27th St., 38th St., and one in Brooklyn. It is open to the public 7 days a week. Each class asks for anywhere from a suggested donation to \$10.

DO YOGA DO PILATES

All classes at this studio are "open level" which means they accommodate to yoga students of every level! It's located at 78 Reade Street, Broadway and Church, in Tribeca. Classes are offered at 10:30am, 12:15, 12:30, 5:30, 6, 7 (M-F), 10:30am, 1, 3, 5 (Sat-Sun). \$12 is the suggested donation.

NAMASTE YOGA AND TRANQUILITY CENTER

Not only does this studio offer classes at all levels but it also offers holistic body therapies and healing classes! It is located at 336 Grand Street, Williamsburg, Brooklyn. By-Donation Classes Are at 10am (M,T,F), 12pm (Tue), 3pm (Wed). By-donation classes are of course by-donation, while all other classes are \$17.

YOGA VIDA

Offers a range of classes from masters to prenatal. Located at 99 University Place at 12th Street. Classes are offered at 7am, 10, 12, 4, 5:30, 6, 7, 7:30, 9pm (M-F, no 7am class M & F), 10am, 12, 2:30, 5, 7pm (Sat-Sun). It only costs \$5 with your student ID!!

STRALA YOGA

This hip studio is known for its impressive lineup of instructors. It is located at 632 Broadway, Between Houston and Bleecker on the 6th floor. Class are offered at 12, 2, 4, 5:30, 7 (M-F, no 5:30 or 7 on Fri), 7:30am Wed, 6pm Fri, 9:30, 11, 4:30. Each class will cost \$10.

Campus Style

BY DIANA PORCELLI



Kaitlyn Kelly
Senior

Style: Conservative, Express, Limited



Sophia Varriano
Sophomore

Style: Comfortable, Sporty, H&M, Forever 21



Kristina Ivanova
Senior

Style: Middle Eastern Markets, Central Asian Markets



Azamat Allazarov
Senior

Style: Manhattan, Dubai, Istanbul

BANNER STYLES

Olive Oil Has Endless Benefits for Health and Beauty

Uses for Healthy Lips Hair Skin and Nails

BY DIANA PORCELLI

People may think olive oil is just another household-cooking item. In an Italian household this is a very precious item and is not used in small doses. If you are not sure what this product is then you have been living in a hole. I have been told that I, "bathe in olive oil" because of my Italian background, but now its time to shut my friends up and show them that olive oil has some pretty helpful uses on your health and also some other useful tips.

Olive oil is known as a good fat. The primary fat source is a monounsaturated fat, which can help lower cholesterol. Omega 3 is also found in olive oil, which has been proven to promote brain development and mental acuity.

The phytonutrient in olive oil mimics the effect of ibuprofen that reduces inflammation, which can decrease the risk of breast cancer. Phytonutrients aren't essential for keeping you alive, unlike the vitamins and minerals that plant foods contain. When you eat or drink phytonutrients they may help prevent disease and keep your body working properly. Phytonutrients are certain organic components of plants and these components are thought to promote human health.

You don't have to bathe in olive oil every night like I am told I do but just a little olive

oil in your diet everyday can make a big difference.

Enough about the scientific facts and big words no one really pays any attention about.

Here are some uses that olive oil can be used for:

Lips - Everyone likes to have soft lips and olive oil is a good conditioner. You can make your own lip balm by adding olive oil and equal parts of beeswax to condition your lips. Even if you just put a small amount of olive oil on your lips at night, in the morning they will feel and look healthier.

Hair - No woman likes knots in their hair and every girl has been there at some point. Work a small amount of olive oil into your hair, just about a little less than a dime so your hair doesn't get greasy. Then you will be able to comb out the knots and tangles with ease. Even if it was left in your hair for a little bit longer it is still conditioning and preventing your hair from losing moisture and damage. Another trick if you don't want to put oil directly into your hair, put it into your daily conditioner. The results will be just as good.

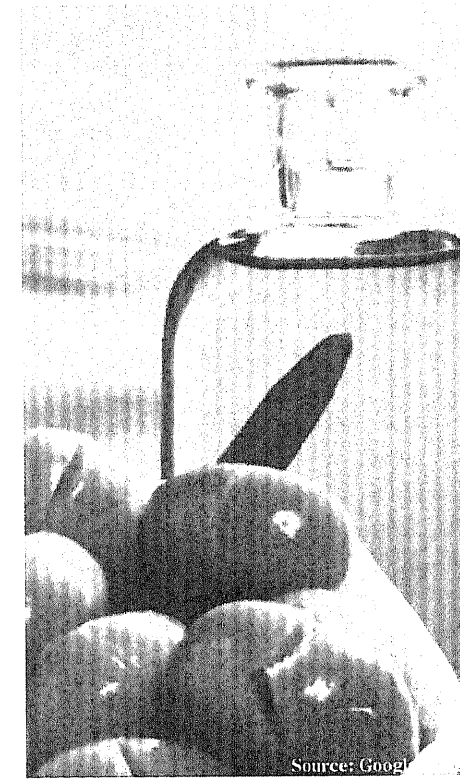
Skin - Okay here is where the whole "bathe in olive oil" joke comes into play. Anything with oil is great for your skin. If you enjoy taking baths and having soft skin put your usual bath soap in and add a small amount of olive oil to the water. Also shaving



with olive oil gives you a closer and smoother shave.

Nails - If you put a small amount of oil in a bowl of water and let your nails soak they will come out soft and conditioned. Also, this can help them strengthen and grow. When your done you can massage your cuticles with oil as well.

Eyelashes - I hear girls saying all the time



that they want thicker longer lashes. Don't go out and buy the most expensive brand or the hottest new lash growing serum. All you have to do is take a q-tip and five drops of extra virgin olive oil. Before bed wash your face as would per usual. Then dab the q-tip into the bowl or dish of oil and wipe it on to your lashes sparingly. In the morning wash your face as you would as usual.

When the Colors and the Heat Come Calling Let them Wait

How to Cope with Spring Fever

BY VICTORIA CAROCCIA

After a long, harsh winter filled with super storms and bulky clothing, Mother Nature owes us big time. Thankfully, she is sending warm weather our way, allowing us to finally bust out our spring wardrobes.

Sunshine can do wonders for a girl's fashion sense, inspiring pops of color and cute outfits galore. However, Spring Fever combined with New York's notoriously nutty weather patterns has introduced some questionable fashion trends.

Throughout my travels, I've seen this glorious weather bring out the best and worst in some girls. While some dress appropriately with light fabrics and fun color palettes, others get overly excited and sport their booty shorts and tank tops. 70-degree weather is definitely a reason to celebrate, but running around half naked is not the way to go.

It's very tempting to wear cut-offs and a crop top when they're constantly being advertised in your favorite stores. Keep in mind that retailers are always thinking ahead and promoting for the next season, which is why we see Christmas Trees at Macy's in October. Just because they're selling them now doesn't mean you have to buy them and wear them right away. You still have the 80 and 90-degree days of June through August; don't waste all of your good summer outfits now.

Since they will be selling them throughout the summer, you don't have to squeeze into the last pair because your size sold out, don't waste your money on shorts that don't fit properly. The world does not want to see you cheeks as much as you'd like to think that they do.

If you're the type of person that probably shouldn't be wearing short-shorts, and you know who you are, don't buy them. There are tons of different cuts and styles that can flatter any figure. Bermuda shorts are huge this season and come in various fabrics and patterns. They can be dressed up for work or dressed down for casual days. Their length is great for hiding imperfections and will cover up your legs until they're spring/summer ready.

Some of you have probably tried to wear tights under your shorts to deem them more April weather appropriate. I've only seen this look successfully pulled off by one person: an Asian schoolgirl. I find this trend to be incredibly tacky, but if you insist on trying it, there are a few ways to make it work. Stick with trouser shorts and neutral colored tights, black being the most fashionable and obvious choice. Try to pair the look with heels or high boots to give your legs some length. If you're trying to wear tights with denim shorts, just stay home.

Until summer rolls around and the weather really heats up, your best spring fashion choice is a dress or skirt. Unfortunately, CSI's



Photo Credit: Victoria Caroccia

campus is like a wind tunnel, and wearing a dress may not seem like the best option. Since spring has sprung, I've seen many girls accidentally pull a Marilyn Monroe that could have easily been avoided. Opt for a maxi skirt or dress, which is light and comfortable but long enough to keep you covered. If you think you're cute and brave enough to wear a short flowing skirt, be my guest. Just remember to wear boy shorts underneath, or at least have

cute underwear on. Chances are, the wind will not be kind to you.

Now that Mother Nature has finally given us a break, there will be plenty of opportunities to rock our favorite spring trends. However, Spring Fever is no excuse to throw decency and class out the window. Just remember the tried and true style tips that got you through last season along with my helpful hints and we'll all have a beautiful and stylish spring!

Disney Releases Oz The Great and Powerful *James Franco and Mila Kunis Recap a Classic with a Twist*

BY LUCIA ROSSI

Who would have thought that the old Wizard from the 1939 film would be such a handsome, sly, womanizer 20 years before Dorothy came?

Oscar "Oz" Diggs, is a con artist for money and for the hearts of beautiful women, played by James Franco. This makes The Good Witch of The West, Theodora, played by Mila Kunis, turn green because she believes she was tricked by Oz and his charms.

Oscar traveled to Oz in a hot air balloon by a tornado and is then believed to be the wizard who is destined to bring peace to the land. Oscar forces himself to convince the people of Oz that he is their hero as well as convince himself. He says he wants to be more than good he wants to be great. Oscar's two companions, a winged monkey and a wee girl made of out of china, help him along the way.

The main villain is the beautiful Evanora, the Wicked Witch of the East, played by Rachel Weisz. She frames her sister Glinda, the Good Witch of the South, played by Michelle Williams, as the one who murdered their father the Wizard of The North. Glinda then guides Oscar to fulfilling the prophecy as the Wizard of Oz so that her sisters are defeated and the land is safe for the people once again.

Keep in mind that Michelle Williams also

plays Annie, Oscars old flame from Kansas who is proposed to by John Gale, hinting that she may be Dorothy Gale's mother-to-be.

"Oz The Great and Powerful" is a movie you will either love or hate. Looking over other critic reviews it is clear that the people who disliked the film only disliked it because they believed it didn't measure up to 1939's "The Wizard of Oz."

This prequel however cannot be compared to the original because the main character is completely different, the character's circumstances are different, and most of all the land of Oz itself is different.

This film does not have the same charm and innocence as its original but that is what gives it a twist, to be intriguing with its darkness. It takes L. Frank Baum's tale and gives it a simple message to believe in yourself, a message all children who enjoy Disney movies can understand.

Disney movies also tend to have another messages if you look hard enough. One might say that the female roles of this film are so memorable because it is arguably a broadside against male chauvinism.

Because the movie is directed by Sam Raimi (Evil Dead, Spider Man Trilogy), you can expect some scary jump-in-your-seat moments. Also, expect a cameo appearance from Bruce Campbell from Evil Dead.

Anyone who enjoyed the hit Broadway show "Wicked" would most likely enjoy "Oz



Oz The Great and Powerful stars James Franco and Mila Kunis in a creative prequel to the Wizard of Oz

The Great and Powerful" because it shares a similar premise of what happened before Dorothy got there. The film captures the viewers imaginations with amazing special effects and exceptionally detailed sceneries, but no big musical numbers this time.

What's strange about this film is that we know Oscar stays in Oz for over 20 years and Dorothy went home to Kansas when she woke up from a dream. If Oscar doesn't leave

Oz, is he still dreaming? Is he even asleep? Is he dead? How did he and Dorothy even get to share the same dream? How did he survive in a hot air balloon that was carried away in a tornado? Did he not survive?

All we know is he doesn't leave Oz because he has everything he ever wanted there and he is the person he wants to be. But I can't help but wonder, what IS the Land of Oz? Heaven or a dream?

5 Reasons You Must Read 50 Things Liberals Love to Hate *A Relevant Psychoanalysis for the Politically Opininated Student*

BY JOHN FALCONE

There is no shortage of strong political opinion here in the good old U-S-of-A, and regardless of which particular political persuasion you subscribe to, you probably cannot fathom why the other side thinks the way they do: enter 50 Things Liberals Love to Hate. Discussing political ideologies can lead to an argument; which explains why most people prefer to leave their political opinions at the door, along with their religious ones, when entering a room.

The author of this book, Mike Gallagher, does the exact opposite. Being the host of his own nationally syndicated daily radio talk show, The Mike Gallagher Show, and previously authoring a New York Times bestseller called "Surrounded by Idiots: Fighting Liberal Lunacy in America", Gallagher brings awareness to the divide between liberalism and conservatism on a daily basis. If you have not already guessed, Gallagher is a steadfast conservative, which raises the question: Why should you invest your time reading a book that sounds like it is going to be nothing but the ranting of some right-wing conservative nut job? Here are 5 reasons why this book is worth your time:

1. It is extremely relevant: Every day the news is flooded with stories about the political gridlock which has plagued

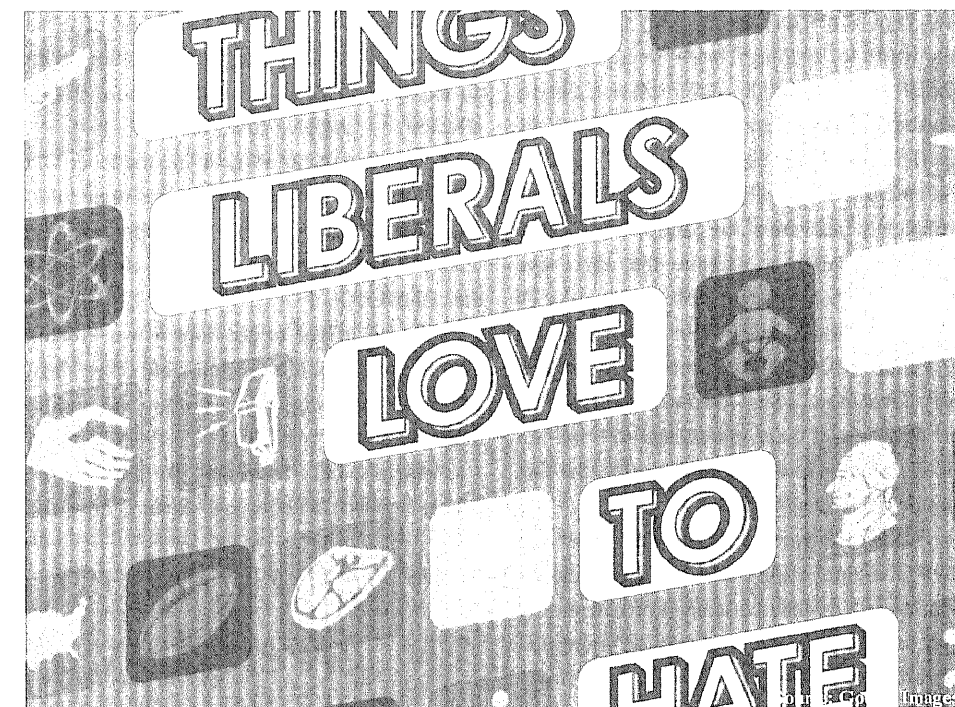
pose of this book is to simply bash people who call themselves liberals you would be wrong. This is not to say that Gallagher tries to hide his opinion, far from it, but he expresses it by analyzing each of the 50 things he claims liberals hate, not by going on a hysterical rant.

2. The list: Here is a sample to wet your palette; the following are 10 of the 50 things that Gallagher argues liberals love hating: NASCAR, Wal-Mart, Black Republicans, Science, Honesty, Pools and Patios, Immigrants, Charity, American History, and Apple Pie.

3. The arguments: After reading a sample of the list, do you find yourself scratching your head wondering how liberals could possibly hate some of those things? If for no other reason this book is worth reading simply to appreciate clever arguments that Gallagher makes to support his claims. Some of them are ingenious.

4. It is fun: Written in down-to-earth language and free of excessive political jargon, this book makes for an easy and enjoyable read. Gallagher keeps the book engaging by injecting it with the right amount of wit, sarcasm, and humor. At times you will laugh aloud.

5. This book is not a rant, it is an analysis: If you are expecting that the pur-



Congress of late, a gridlock which ultimately boils down to the different political beliefs of liberals and conservatives (and their ability to sway moderates, a.k.a. fence sitters).Ironically, this book would most likely prove to be a more useful read for liberals and moderates than it would for conservatives. For conservatives this book merely puts in print what you have been thinking all along. For liberals this book offers an opportunity to get into the psyche of a conservative, a chance to

understand your arch-enemy. For moderates this book will help you understand why liberals and conservative cannot seem to get along. Regardless of where you plant your political flag, 50 Things Liberals Love to Hate will provide an engaging and provocative read. Release of the paperback edition of the book is slated for June 25, 2013, but if you are eager to get your hands on a copy right away it is currently available in hardcover or as an eBook.

The Postal Service *"Give Up" Re-Issued*

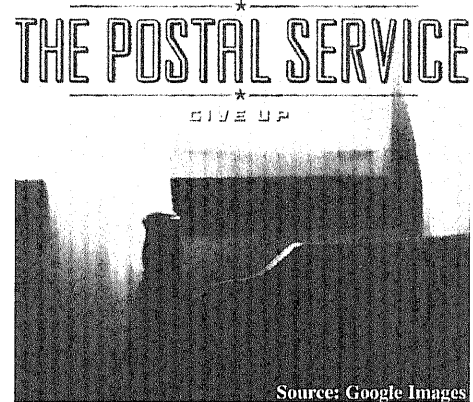
BY MARIE SCARSELLA

In celebration of the ten-year anniversary of the album Give Up, electro-pop duo The Postal Service has re-released the record with a slew of new tracks. While the album is the only one ever released by the band, it has garnered a huge following, selling over 1.07 million copies. It is the second album ever released by the label Subpop to go platinum, and is the highest selling record the label had since Nirvana's Bleach.

The re-release was pressed as a three-vinyl set: one disc red, one white, and one black. One disc contains the original ten tracks of the album, including fan favorites like "We Will Become Silhouettes," "Such Great Heights," and "The District Sleeps Alone Tonight." The other two discs feature fifteen bonus tracks, many of which were unreleased.

Along with covers of heavy-hitters like the Flaming Lips, new tracks like "Turn Around" and "A Tattered Line of String" can be found within the bonus content. The songs stay true to the Postal Service's sound, featuring danceable beats and chiming beeps and bleeps. Ben Gibbard (of Death Cab for Cutie fame) shows consistent vocal strength while showcasing his morose lyrical genius.

Also included in the bonus content are remixes, live tracks, and covers of the Postal



Source: Google Images

Service done by other artists. Iron and Wine's version of "Such Great Heights," originally found on the Garden State soundtrack, and The Shin's version of "We Will Become Silhouettes" are can both be found on the album giving the songs an interesting new twist.

The re-release of the album can be found in stores, or you can pick it up next month when the Postal Service plays two dates at Brooklyn's Barclay's Center. You may want to catch them now, because after this, the band may never tour again, leaving them to become silhouettes.

Grace McLean and Them Apples *Make Me Breakfast*

BY AMANDA V GRANBERG

On a recent trip to CSI's radio station, WSIA, to visit a friend and Thursday night DJ, I fell in love with the voice of Grace McLean that was flooding the stations speakers with harmony and delicate vibrato in every verse. I purchased her latest album "Make Me Breakfast" later that night on iTunes for \$4.99.

Beginning her singer/songwriter career in 2007, she has played in bars all over New York City with her band, Grace and Them Apples. The Apples include, bassist Justin Goldner, percussionist Hiroyuki Matsuura, and backing vocalists Kate Ferber and Liana Stampur.

Since then, Grace McLean and Them Apples have developed a jazzy/pop style that embrace Grace's often comical, always truthful lyrics and highlights her soulfully honest voice. Whether it is falling in love with her friend's roommate, or a tear-jerking ballad to her cab-driving landlord, McLeans lyrics tell a new story with each song, making each song a favorite.

"Born to musicians in Southern California, Grace McLean showed early interest in jazz voice and studied under Carmen Bradford, protege to Ella Fitzgerald, in Los Angeles and later with singer Melba Joyce, Carmen's mother, in New York," said the biographical section of McLean's website www.GraceMcLean.com



Source: Google Images

McLean's voice and style can be likened to a prettier sounding Regina Spektor, or a pop/jazz version of Tori Amos. The vocal talent however, is no comparison because McLean has incredible range and power which she expresses in every song.

Grace and Them Apples are based in New York City, and play approximately one show a month.

It will be interesting to see how the career of this latter-day love child of Lambert, Hendricks & Ross develops because it could go off in different directions. Brimming with talent, McLean could land in any number of recording categories.

The Queen of Comedy Will Never Tire of Her Throne *Joan Rivers Performs at the St. George Theater*

BY VICTORIA CAROCCIA

Comedy legend Joan Rivers has been paving the way for women in entertainment since her humble beginnings on The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson. From her over-the-top personality to her completely unpredictable wit, Rivers has proven that she's still got it after all of these years.

Last week, Joan Rivers stopped by the St. George Theater as part of her current tour. The theater was packed with fans of all ages, some who were old enough to remember Ms. Rivers as Johnny Carson's guest host and others who were too young to know her as anything but the crazy old bat from Fashion Police.

The show was practically sold out, so it took ushers a little longer to file everyone into their seats. Finally, the lights dimmed and a six-piece orchestra introduced the woman of the hour. Dressed in a floor length sequined coat, Rivers made her way onto the stage and wasted no time getting the show on the road. She promised the audience she had a wonderful act in store, but wanted to "talk" to us first.

What started out as an explicit conversation about the incompetence of American Airlines gradually turned into a full-blown rant over her hatred aimed at the elderly. Ms. Rivers made it very clear that no age, ethnic, or religious group was safe as she continued to bash on Mexicans, Asians, Catholics, Jews,

and even her beloved gay following. She even poked fun at a few of her celebrity friends, including the Kardashian sisters and her own daughter, Melissa.

Later in the show, Joan began to get adventurous. She was rolling around on the floor demonstrating a past sexual experience and even managed to climb up on top of a piano without any help from the members of the orchestra. Seeing a 78-year-old woman effortlessly toss herself around stage is not only hilarious, but also impressive. It is no surprise that Joan has maintained her status as comedic royalty.

Once she managed to get herself off of the piano, Joan thanked the audience and apologized for never actually getting to her act. Apparently she was too busy venting about all the people, places, and things that set her off. Whether she actually had an act planned or if she was just bluffing, the audience didn't seem to mind. Everyone was in stitches throughout the entire show, and Joan received a standing ovation.

As a token of her gratitude, Rivers began taking flowerpots that decorated the edge of the stage and began hurling them into the audience. People were both excited and horrified; some dove forward to catch a flowerpot from Joan while others ducked behind their seats to avoid getting hit with dirt and plastic. Once



she ran out of flowerpots to throw, Ms. Rivers gracefully exited the stage, blowing kisses and continuing to thank the audience for coming.

Just when everyone thought the show was over, Joan came back on stage, this time sporting another floor-length coat covered in hot pink feathers. The orchestra played a rendition of the Fashion Police theme song as she tried to drag a 4 and-a-half foot fake plant to the front of the stage, asking if anyone didn't get a flowerpot. As the curtain began to fall, Rivers reluctantly exited the stage and graciously thanked her audience once again.

Joan Rivers is notorious for her raunchy jokes, her take-no-prisoners attitude, and her big mouth. But it took more than all of that for her to become the Queen of Comedy. Rivers had to fight to get to where she is, and is still fighting to stay on top of her game. At one point in the show, she assured the audience that, although things may look grim, they would get better. After the loss of her husband, her feud with Johnny Carson, and practically being blacklisted by every big name in Hollywood, Ms. Rivers is a prime example that life goes on.

Silence So Loud For The First Time Uncertainty In Relationships Should Not Be Ignored

BY JEAN-CLAUDE QUINTYNE

She was a lot of things, but a “keeper” wasn’t one of them. And to this day I still don’t know whether or not she had genuine feelings for me.

Though I grew up knowing that sex is an intimate and extraordinarily beautiful act, I was completely unaware of the controversial nature that accompanies it. Despite the aggressive manner that my mother took up in order to advise my brother and I about such controversy, I ended up learning about its depressing and gory details through my own experiences.

The first of these, the mental toll that sex takes on one’s mind, happened to be the one that I encountered first.

And at the age of fifteen, the last year that I was a virgin, I moseyed on into a relationship with a girl who caused strands of hair on my right sideburn to turn grey. I was too young and too blind to be aware of the hell that slowly materialized around me until the day she took my virginity.

She was a few inches taller and three years older than me, but she had a suspense-filled personality that was addicting. She infected me with the desire to drop out of school, run away with her, and nearly forced me to become someone that I wouldn’t recognize.

With eyes that were large and dark, they simultaneously displayed a notorious case of attention deficit disorder and held an irresistible beauty. Her face was as cute as cute could be, but it lacked sincerity.

Three months into our relationship, I struggled to establish a solid foundation of trust in her. Though we spent every waking moment together during the daytime, going wherever we pleased and making out and groping each other at the back of empty train cars, it was during the night that I called her trust into question.

Though we virtually spoke every night, the conversations didn’t last more than an hour. She was always outside until three or four in the morning, frequently asking me to hold on, muting the phone, or telling me that she’d call back while bursting into laughter after hearing the voice of some guy asking her to follow him somewhere. She would always, without hesitation, agree.

She’d call back drunk every time, laughing hysterically and telling me how difficult it was for her to get into bed. There was one instance when she rambled on about how “hard” the guy she kissed was one evening. Outraged, I yelled at her, to which she giggled and said that she was just kidding.

Before she’d pass out, we’d talk about our feelings for each other, made plans for the next day, and ended up having phone-sex that featured her telling me how much she looked forward to take my virginity. That was always my favorite part of these conversations.

This lasted for a few weeks until I got fed up one afternoon. I left a letter in her mailbox that offered a method to deal with her excessive drinking, detailed my disdain towards her

being out so late and being around all of those guys, and concluded it in poetic fashion, with an explanation about how all of those things affected my “undying love for her”.

She called me after receiving the letter and asked me to come over to her house immediately so that she could tell me her response to the letter. Excited, I threw on some clothes and hurried over.

When I arrived to her door, I was greeted by a guy wearing a head tie, white dress shirt, and pants that hung for dear life to the middle of his thighs.

“Are you J.C.?” he yelled. “In the flesh”, I calmly replied, without questioning how the

A few minutes later, she showed up, wearing a bracelet from the Brooklyn Museum, smiling and holding the hand of the same guy who tossed the letter at my chest. Filled with anger, I hid behind a staircase and waited for them to enter the building.

She noticed the hat, realizing that it was mine and stood there in silence. I peered out as she stood in front of the door, now being hugged tightly from behind by the guy, repeatedly having her ear kissed, and wondering why the hat was there. After a minute or two, I revealed myself, smirking and saying with a monotone voice, “enjoyed your day out?”

They stared at me for a few seconds, not

Following that was a profound silence, to which I could hear my heartbeat increase, making breathing very difficult. I picked up my hat and started out the door.

Halfway down the street I heard her asking me to wait. She caught up and I asked her, with tears streaming down my face in the crowded street, “why didn’t you say it and shut him up? Why?” Once more she failed to respond and I continued on my way, leaving her there, and headed home.

We had not seen or spoken to each other for two weeks after that incident, until I received a text message from her one afternoon. It read, “when are we going to fuck?”

On the Tuesday that followed, the day had arrived.

I paced back and forth in my room, making the bed, vacuuming the floor, and spraying the rose scented air freshener. When she notified me that she was on her way, I sprinted to the shower, taking the fastest one of my life, and nearly got a heart attack when the doorbell rang.

I ran down the flight of stairs in my boxers to let her into the building and walked her into my room.

I couldn’t contain my excitement, sporting a plaid tent that formed just below my waist and completely forgot all the nonsense that ensued in the months and weeks before.

She asked me to close my eyes, undressing during my minute of blindness. When I opened them, she was in her underwear and climbing on top of me. “Where’s the foreplay?” I thought.

She dove in to kiss me and slid me inside of her. I then asked her how it felt. She said nothing and bit her lips. “The hell’s going on”, I wondered.

Outside of my moans and the bed’s creaks, the deafening silence coming from her was beginning to make me uncomfortable. So I sat up and placed her on her back.

She lay there, gazing at me with an emotionless stare while I showed her the physical manifestation of my love, determined to elicit a response.

With each gentle kiss upon her disgusting soft lips, I showed her fifteen years’ worth of patience. With every time I pulled her hips closer to mine, I showed her three months’ worth of tears and embarrassment. With every time I ran my fingers up and down the small of her back, I showed her the anger I felt during those nights she’d come home drunk.

And with each thrust, I showed her the loneliness I felt during the two weeks we hadn’t spoken. Still, that wasn’t enough to get her to even moan.

Dangerously close to the moment of climax, she still hadn’t said anything. Why did I keep going? So I decided to try one final time. I held her face in the soft and warm palms of my hands, kissed her with tear filled eyes, and whispered “Baby, I love you.”

Her mouth remained closed.

When I arrived to her door, I was greeted by a guy wearing a head tie, white dress shirt, and pants that hung for dear life to the middle of his thighs.

hell he knew my name. Walking slowly towards me and holding up the letter that I left for her, he asked, “the fuck is this shit?” And before I could reply, I watched him crumple the letter and throw it directly at my chest. “She’s mine” he said to me.

For a while I stood there shell-shocked. I was knocked out of my trance at the sight of her coming out of her home, wearing panties and a tank top, demonically smiling at me and dragging the guy by the arm inside.

After locking myself in my room for the next two days, she called me and made plans for us to visit the city early the next morning. I

After a minute or two, I revealed myself, smirking and saying with a monotone voice, “enjoyed your day out?”

arrived at her house at the time we agreed on, rang the doorbell twice, and ended up waiting on the porch for thirty minutes. “What the hell”, I thought to myself.

I was let into the building by one of its tenants who’d just returned from the grocery store and needed help carrying the bags inside. For the next three hours, I sat in front of her door, pacing back and forth and knocking every five or ten minutes, waiting for a response.

Realizing that she wasn’t home, I removed my baseball cap—one she said looked really cute on me—and placed it on the doorknob.

knowing what to say, until the guy started towards me. Infuriated, he yelled at me and raised his fist, ready to pound my face in. I stood there with my arms folded, glaring at her and hoping for her to do something, she stood there, snickering.

Surprised that I wasn’t flinching or positioning myself to defend myself or attack, he lowered his fist and stormed into her apartment.

Now only she and I occupied the hallway. She approached me, grabbed my shirt collar, told me, “baby, I love you so much” and kissed me. Passionately, we locked lips, choking on each other’s tongues, and throwing each other

up against the wall that separated us from her door for fifteen minutes.

The door flung open as the guy came out again. Shouting even louder than before, he appeared ready to tear my guts out. Repeatedly he asked me why I was there, to which I responded, “she and I are together, and I love her.” He burst into an irritated and angst riddled laughter and I countered by asking her to tell him that she loved me as well.

She stood between the both of us, giggling once more, with her head down, and said nothing.

Should Politics Really Matter? *The Philosophy of Relevance*

BY JEAN-CLAUDE-QUINTYNE

The process never ceases to be intriguing, observing my colleagues at The Banner debate what I consider to be the fossilized and unprecedented policies, wars, and issues of the past.

I silently watch as they tap into the dormant, undiscovered well of knowledge that they possess in their minds in order to articulate the best argument to their opponents.

Sometimes they reach for the nearest outdated dictionary or sprint to an open computer to search for information that strengthens the content of their raw idea. They run the risk of striking the nerve of their opponent that usually elicits a shouting match, chock-full of profanity-riddled remarks and insults, causing the debate that began on sincere, scholarly terms, to end with an awkward, sometimes laughable, silence.

With politics, I’ve come to understand that there are no conclusions, boundaries, or reasonable logical ends to any of the topics debated, which, to a few of my colleagues, might threaten the meaning of their existence.

People hold politics at such a high standard, taking Jean-Jacques Rousseau and J.S. Mill’s point of view—that engaging in politics

is an essential activity that should be encouraged—much too seriously.

I’ve watched as the gun control issue has spiraled out of control with idea after idea, solution after solution, bill upon bill, getting shot down. I’ve waited patiently for gay couples to obtain the right to marry without criticism or fear. I constantly have shaken my head at the lack of action being taken to deal with climate change, an issue that is avoided because of the political backlash that would follow upon the mentioning of it.

One cannot help but wonder, if she or he is paying close attention, why the importance of politics continues to be so important, and why it continues to be a staple in our society when it comes to determining the fate of the issues I’ve stated above, and many more of the pressing issues we face as a nation today.

If anything, politics, to a certain degree, shouldn’t be the red tape that we must cut through to initiate progress because it prevents us from accomplishing great and unprecedented tasks; it has compromised our potential.

Why do we allow this to happen? I’d hate to delve into a reductionist frame of mind, but this is something that should be given an increased amount of attention to. Politics was

created, like most of the theories, truths, used loosely here, and falsities that surround us. How have we hindered our capabilities for so long?

Why haven’t we incorporated the fact that human beings are simply complex animals but animals nonetheless, into the theses we conjure up before we begin every argument that we have?

We created this system, this reality we exist in, with our bare hands and curious minds, carving into stone the things we believe are “right” and “wrong” or “left-wing” or “conservative”, and all the other indecipherable political jargon that we can conjure up.

It is so hard for us to live a life as simple as an ant or a cat because we have become so accustomed to the things that we’ve believed for so long. It is nearly impossible for us to conceive of a different reality because of our collective mentality.

How difficult would it be to picture a homosexual lifestyle being the “norm” in present day society? Wouldn’t it be true that heterosexuality would be enduring the same struggles that homosexuality is enduring today?

How do we know what’s best for our soci-

ety or our nation based on whether Joseph is married to Carlos? How can we be sure that not strengthening background checks on potential gun owners won’t prevent another tragedy because we can’t “predict when or where the next attack will occur”?

We have prevented ourselves from living a stress and carefree life because of the mental strain and abstract nature for the need of politics.

I find it an extraordinary phenomenon that people can enter a room and debate for hours at a time, discussing the pros and cons of a particular idea, meticulously picking apart the controversial aspects of an issue by yelling, screaming, and whispering to one another that it “should be so” or that it’s “utterly incorrect” while managing to leave the room completely unsure of what the hell happened, and not solving the issue at all.

How often have we asked ourselves what “politics” means? The first line of the political science textbook I had to painfully thumb through during my first semester here stated that politics is “a many-sided activity which is impervious to one single definition.”

If politics is unsure of what “politics” is, then why should it be so important to us?

MIT and Harvard Apply the 21st Century to Standardized Testing *EdX Proposes the Concept of Online Testing*

BY JEREMY PASKER

Imagine taking an essay or short answer exam from the cozy comfort of a desktop computer and not under the pervasive, intruding eyes of a professor. Instead, you’re alone in the pressure free environment of your conscience. Then imagine once finishing your exam you immediately get feedback and corrections from a software program. Once done you’re able to redo the exam. Would that be something you’d be interested in?

“EdX, the nonprofit enterprise founded by Harvard and MIT to offer courses on the Internet, has just introduced such a system and will make its automated software available free on the Web to any institution that wants to use it. The software uses artificial intelligence to grade student essays and short written answers,” reports the New York Times, under the guise of the computer exam freeing professors to do other tasks.

Most of the opposition claims Dr. Mark D. Sermis, a professor at the University of Akron in Ohio, a huge supporter of the A.I. grading system, is from professors of esteemed universities. Dr. Sermis seems to believe they’re all out of touch with the realities unfolding in an evolving education system.

“Often they come from very prestigious institutions where, in fact, they do a much better job of providing feedback than a machine ever could,” Dr. Sermis said. “There seems to be a lack of appreciation of what is actually going on in the real world.”

Not quite, Dr. Sermis. With all due respect to your PH.D. scholarly experiences and several published books, this is a terrible idea. I’ll repeat, a terrible idea. For one, computers cannot gage

the nuances of human creativity. Computers cannot adequately recreate the critical thought that goes into deciphering varying correct answers. Multiple choice and scantron exams maybe, but the obvious pitfalls arrive after you ask complex tasks of technology with only simple capabilities.

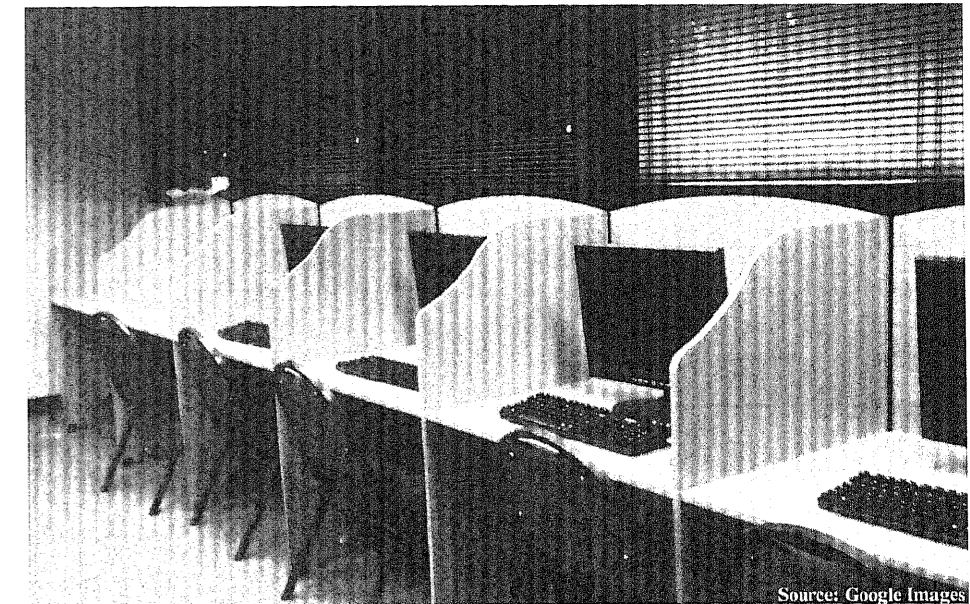
“Let’s face the realities of automatic essay scoring,” a petition by Professionals Against Machine Scoring of Student Essays in High-Stakes Assessment statement, signed by the likes of Noam Chomsky, reads in part. “Computers cannot ‘read.’ They cannot measure the essentials of effective written communication: accuracy, reasoning, adequacy of evidence, good sense, ethical stance, convincing argument, meaningful organization, clarity, and veracity, among others.”

Even in the most extreme cases, I would rather a grad student grade exams over the flawed interpretations of a computer program.

Admittedly, the concept of immediate feedback is enticing. I picture working through the technical aspects of prose and the fundamentals of original ideas via immediate repetition as a plus. For writers it’s frustrating when forced to wait several weeks for a response from a professor dealing with, on several occasions, hundreds of students — and other times, never receiving feedback at all.

“One longtime critic, Les Perelman, a retired director of writing and a current researcher at M.I.T., has drawn national attention several times for putting together nonsense essays that have fooled software grading programs into giving high marks,” reports the NYT.

“My first and greatest objection to the research is that they did not have any valid statis-



Testing Rooms similar to the one shown above would provide students with a chance to self-evaluate during an exam according to MIT and Harvard

tical test comparing the software directly to human graders,” added Mr. Perelman.

This idea isn’t original. Many for-profit companies offer programs for grading written tests. A few states also — Louisiana, North Dakota, Utah and West Virginia — are allowing similar grading software in secondary schools. In other cases the software is used as a “second reader,” to check for accuracy of human graders.

Ultimately, I see this leading to further replacement of natural universities, campuses, social communities, extracurriculars, merging communities, differing perspectives, group studies, peer reviews, dorm life and replaced by online campuses with none of the those essential institutions for efficient college life.

We’re currently witnessing a gradual transition from an authentic learning experience to one that’s cheap and convenient.

Before our own eyes, we’re swapping libraries out and replacing them with Wikipedia. I hope you see it as much as I do, the replacement of face to face verbal interaction requiring courage, on the spot creativity, and social intelligence (in more than informal settings) for a virtual world of keyboards, chatrooms, and microphones.

Pedagogy requires an intimacy unsuited for a computer. Education varies per situation. Software is not capable of the same complex adaptability that’s seen from people so I’ll pass on the artificial intelligence.

BANNER SPORTS

Freshman Scores Number One Singles on CSI's Women's Team *Staten Island's Top Recruit Boosts CSI Dolphin's Reputation*

BY JEAN BAAK

The CSI women's tennis team made a huge comeback to compete in the CUNY Athletic Conference championships against Hunter College on October 24, 2012, at the National Tennis Center in Flushing, Queens.

CSI's first singles member, a freshman from Notre Dame Academy, led the team to its most victorious season since 2006.

Sabrina Bragerton-Nasert, 18, scored the number one singles position on CSI women's tennis team in the fall of 2012. She did not expect to start as the top player in her beginning season. Bragerton-Nasert claimed that she identified herself as a lone, singles player.

"I always felt more comfortable with the pressure being on myself," said Bragerton-Nasert. "I enjoy the independence when I'm the one controlling the court."

Since 2006, the CSI women's tennis team had barely surpassed the CUNYAC quarterfinals and semifinals round. Other CUNY competitors, such as Hunter College, Lehman College, and Baruch College, blemished CSI's reputation as a worthy opponent in the CUNYAC tournament.

Prior the arrival of their current number one player, the Dolphins formerly remained in the shadows with a losing record of 7-10 in 2011. CSI lost to Brooklyn College with a score of 1-5 in the CUNYAC semifinals. With success, CSI would have competed against Hunter College and earned a chance at winning the championships again.

According to CUNY Athletic Conference history, CSI women's tennis had not won a CUNYAC championship since late 1998 and 1999, while the Hawks of Hunter College had consecutively taken home the crowned title from 2000 to 2012.

Coach Paul Ricciardi of the CSI team recruited the Notre Dame Academy graduate in hopes to regain their top status. Bragerton-Nasert amassed a leading record of 9-6 (5-2 CUNY) during her first year at CSI, helping the team to qualify for CUNY championships. The Dolphins depended on the lead singles' consistent strokes. Bragerton-Nasert's safe play frustrated her opponents, provoking them to return and fight for every ball. She often relied on her signature down-the-line backhand to finish off a point.

Captain Ilona Stoyko, the most experienced player on the team, praised Bragerton-Nasert's focus, dedication and maturity within the season. The freshman especially impressed Stoyko during her first match against junior Shena Joseph of Hunter College. Bragerton-Nasert dominated Joseph in the first set by 6-3 and held strong in the second by a score of 3-6, but Joseph ultimately defeated Bragerton-Nasert 6-3 in the third set. The starting freshman gained great respect from the team captain with her calm demeanor on the courts.

"Sabrina has always been positive, I never saw her in a bad mood," said Stoyko. "She puts in one hundred percent."

Bragerton-Nasert's diligent efforts paid off when the CUNYAC named her as a First Team All Star at the conclusion of the 2012 fall season. Bragerton-Nasert had only picked up a tennis racquet five years ago. The young athlete first drilled with her late father in her community, prior to taking free lessons at CityParks Foundation with Coach Bill Noonan. Bragerton-Nasert's three-year experience under the program before joining CSI expanded her competitive edge at the

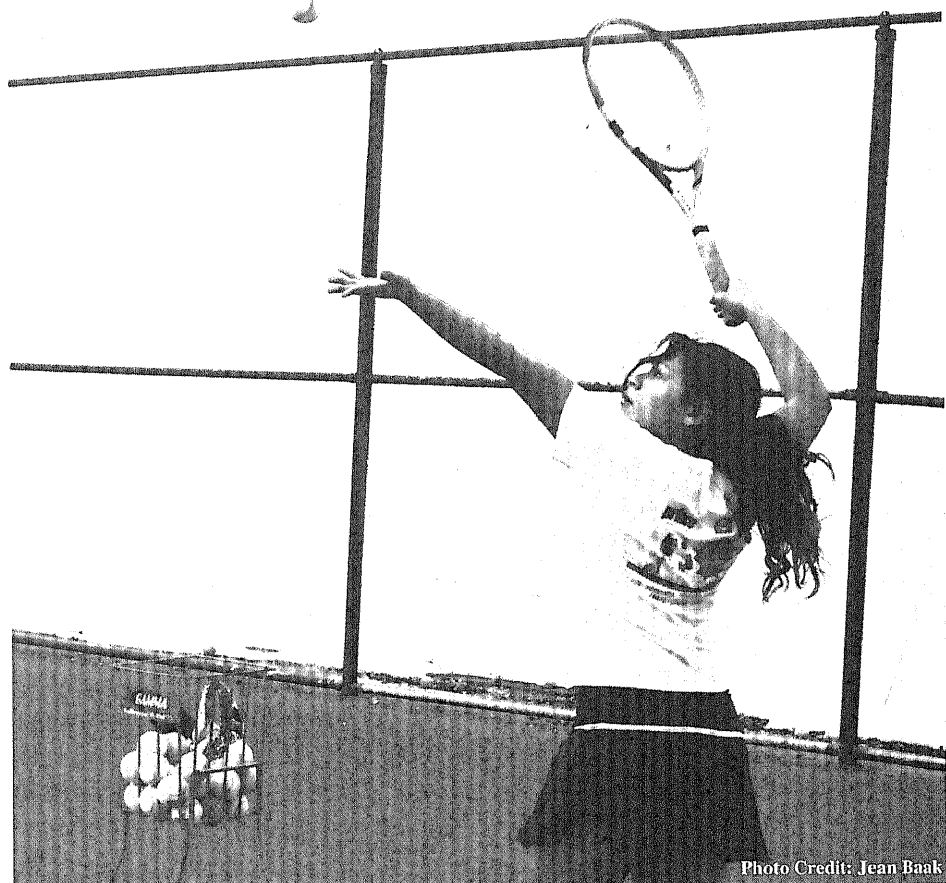


Photo Credit: Jean Baak

Sabrina Bragerton-Nasert warms up with a few practice serves
college level.

Bragerton-Nasert received the Billie Jean King Junior Achievement Award by CityParks Foundation at the National Tennis Center in August of 2012. Mike Silverman, the director of CityParks Foundation, chose Bragerton-Nasert from a group of junior honorees throughout the five boroughs to represent its program. Women's tennis legend, Billie Jean King, herself awarded the young athlete at the banquet.

The CSI women's tennis team ended their recent season as runner-up of the 2012 CUNYAC championship – the farthest the

Dolphins have reached in years. This served as the biggest highlight for the CSI team, as the Dolphins hope to remain and prevail as tough competition. Bragerton-Nasert's strong presence and playing ability has helped instill confidence among the other team players. The Dolphins will compete in three off-season games in the upcoming March and April months to prepare for their 2013 fall season.

"I like to think of tennis as a life lesson," said Bragerton-Nasert. "Even if you're down in a game, you're not out. It doesn't mean you've lost."

Men's Tennis Eight Game Winning Streak Comes to an End *CSI-Baruch Tennis Rivalry Heats Up as Playoffs Approach*

BY MIKE PAPANDREA

Tempers flared late in the game, but in the end, the Dolphins found themselves on the losing end of a 7-2 contest. Before the games could be completed, CSI Tennis head coach, Paul Ricciardi, had a few words for the Bearcats players, who he felt had been disrespecting his team throughout the match.

"I think I let my emotions get the best of me," explained Ricciardi. "But at the same time they haven't handled themselves well all match with a lot of code violations and different things that my team doesn't do. At the same time I shouldn't be yelling at them."

Ricciardi's actions may have led one Baruch player to taunt CSI after he won his match. From court four, he smacked a tennis ball with his racket all the way to the first court and shouted "Three years undefeated 12 ed at CSI!"

The statement angered the entire CSI team. One player nearly ran onto the court to confront the Baruch player but was held back by teammates.

The Rivalry between the two teams dates back to last year, when Baruch ended CSI's season in an intense semi-final matchup. If the Dolphins performance on Monday was indicative of anything, it would be that this year's team may suffer a similar fate. That is, unless they can improve on their doubles play.

The Dolphins fell behind early, dropping all three doubles matchups. After Baruch clinched the victory by going up 5-0, CSI started to show some life with some close singles matchups. CSI's Dan Ursomanno would come back in the second set of his singles match with Philip Bleustein.

After losing the first set, 6-4, he would

win the second set, 6-3. The marathon third set would go to Bleustein, but CSI did show that they could play tight knit singles matches with Baruch. Senior, Nick Zikos, continued with that theme against Daniel Ovechkin in the pole position.

Zikos won the first set 6-4, but Ovechkin took the second with a 6-4 mark of his own. It was a showdown for the third set, as the two hard serving players were neck and neck the whole way. Zikos would come out on top, 11-9, to give CSI its second point.

"Both of us have pretty big serves," said Zikos. "So basically it comes down to who's gonna hold and if you get that one lucky break then that's the match right there."

CSI would walk away with the loss from possibly their only competition in the CUNYAC conference. When the playoffs come, CSI can expect to face the Bearcats again

soon, although with the tension in the air, you would have thought Thursday's matchup was being played for the championship.

"As we are talking right now someone is breaking a racket," said Zikos. "It's definitely playoff atmosphere. There's a lot of tension."

CSI's record is now 8-6 overall with a 5-1 record in conference play. The schedule only calls for three more games until playoffs begin on April 24th.

This regular season loss can only help CSI moving forward for when they play games of greater importance. Coach Ricciardi and his men should know what to expect for the next time they face Baruch.

"This had the feel of a playoff match," said coach Ricciardi. "I'd be sure we'll see them again in the playoffs so we're looking forward to it."