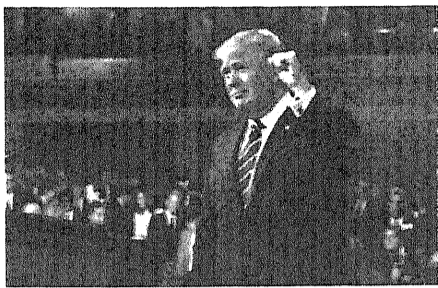


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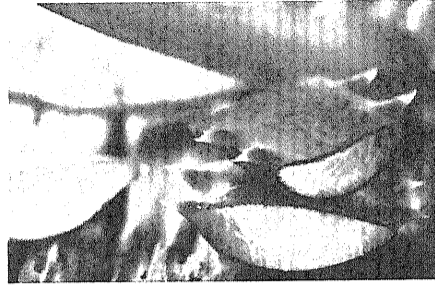
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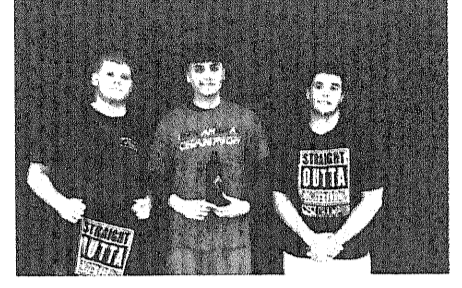
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CSI Hosts March Madness Contest Winners Receive Multiple Prizes

BY VICTORIA IFATUSIN

On March 9, 2017, two new scholarships, Student Government Scholarship and Student Government Study Abroad Scholarship, were put into place at CSI.

This agreement was unanimously decided as the College of Staten Island's Student Government and the College of Staten Island's Foundation put these scholarships into effect.

These scholarships were agreeably confirmed by the Student Government President, Joshua John Ulloa and Executive Director of the College of Staten Island Foundation, Khatmeh Osseiran-Hanna.

Students that are eligible for the Student Government Scholarship must be full-time undergraduate students, with a minimum of a 3.0 GPA. Such students must also be from a state that is not New York, for this encourages out-of-state students to apply to the College of Staten Island.

Although, a maximum of three New York State residents that are schooling at the College of Staten Island can also be awarded this scholarship.

\$2,500 is allocated to an out-of-state student, while \$1,000 is given to a New York



State resident. \$25,000 was used to establish the scholarship as a source of funds.

The Student Government Study Abroad Scholarship is available to students who are also full-time undergraduates with a minimum of a 2.75 GPA.

The applicant must have an interest in international academia as well.

A total of \$15,000 went into the scholarship, as each student is awarded \$1,000,

along with a trip to the country of the student's choice.

Joshua John Ulloa, the President of the Student Government, has been working for a long time for this scholarship to be implemented. Of course, there were roadblocks during the execution of the plan.

Yet, the ideas of the scholarships came about as the Student Government noticed students wanting to travel abroad, but did

not have the sufficient funds for it, as well as housing being available to out-of-state students.

He further mentions that the Student Government is "supporting our students, encouraging them and advocating for them" during their college careers. Of course, support is needed to motivate others to do more

Continued on Page 5

CSI Student Premieres Film at Atrium

A Q and A with "Martini Shot!" Filmmaker, Matthew Provenzano

BY VICTORIA IFATUSIN

Imagine being able to have your first film presented in an actual movie theatre. Exciting, isn't it? This dream happened to CSI's Matthew Provenzano, a 21-year-old communications major, who premiered "Martini Shot!" at the Atrium on March 29th.

Provenzano said that he has been interested in film for as long as he can remember.

His work, "Martini Shot!", is an hour-long film that portrays the troubles of directing a movie through the main character, Ryan Wise.

Ryan makes the attempt of directing his

own movie with the hopes of being able to go through the acting and recording to get to the last shot: the Martini Shot.

The Banner sat down with Provenzano in a recently. Below is the complete Q and A.

Q: Tell us a bit about yourself.

A: My name is Matt Provenzano. I'm a senior at the College of Staten Island and I'm a filmmaker. I've been a filmmaker for as long as I can remember.

Q: Can you give us a brief summary about your film?

A: "Martini Shot!" is about a young filmmaker named Ryan and he's trying to desper-

ately create a movie of his dreams but there's the ever growing odds stacked up against him because everything that could go wrong in filmmaking goes horribly, horribly wrong for him and he's dealing with a cast of less than talented people.

Q: What inspired the title "Martini Shot" from?

A: So, in filmmaking terms, Martini Shot is literally the last shot that you record for a film.

So the film is all about Ryan trying to get to that last shot and finish the film.

Q: Would you say that this movie por-

trays the difficulties of directing and shooting a film?

A: Yeah, absolutely. When I tell people that I'm a filmmaker, their response is always like "that's so cool, can I be on set?" I wanted to show what filmmaking is actually like and what it means to be a director and to be a storyteller and that just despite the stress that makes you want to pull your hair out, it's worth it.

Q: The fury, the anger; is this what director's go through? And as a director, have you ever gone through a fit of anger?

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CORRECTION:

The original version of The Banner's Issue 10, Issue 11 and Issue 12 misstated the name of the publication's Sex and Relationships Editor. She is Alissa Mangiacapre, not Jessica Passione-Sanchez.

The original version of The Banner's Issue 11, Issue 12 and Issue 13 only listed Justine Carucci as a Copy Editor. Mangiacapre also serves as a Copy Editor.

College of Staten Island

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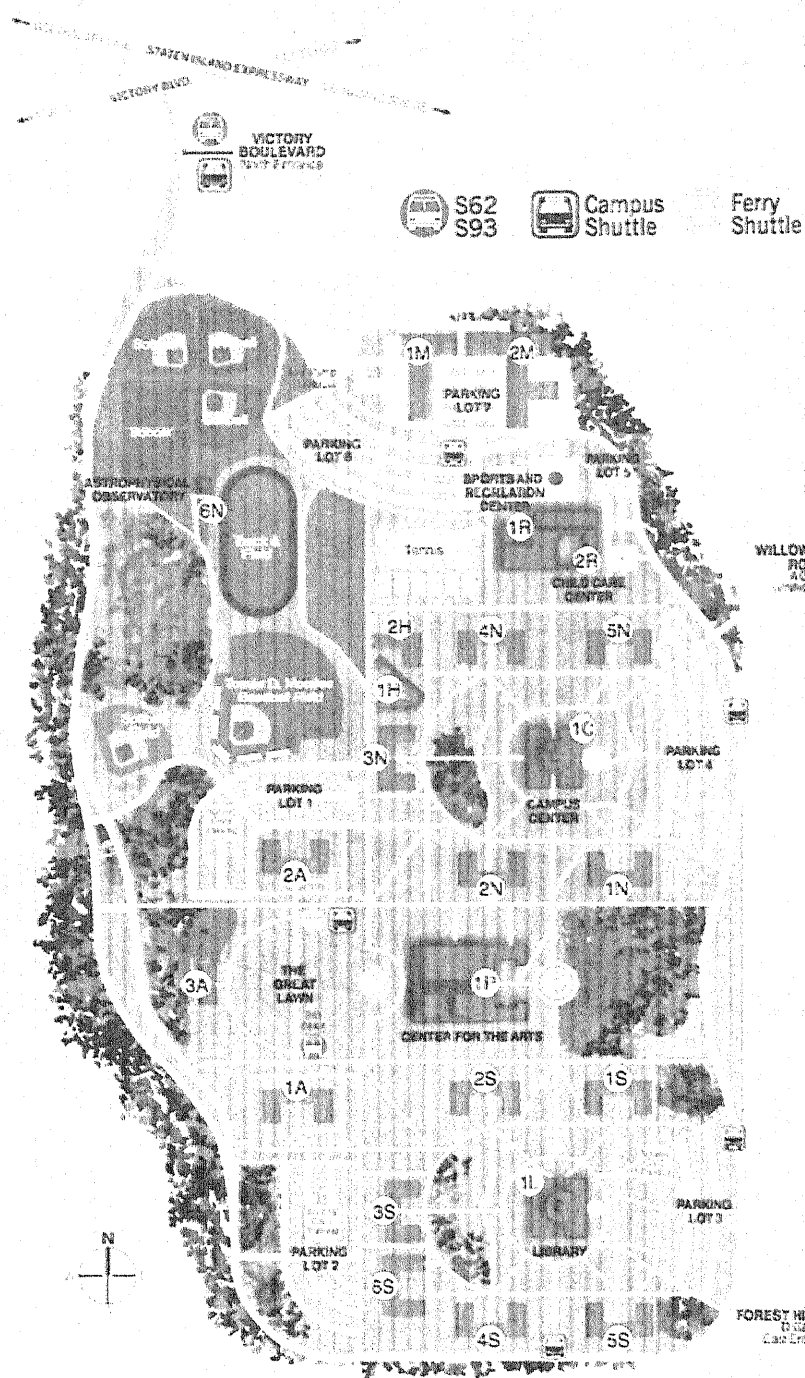
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BANNER POLITICS

America First: President Trump's Budget Plan

Making Sure the Taxpayer's Money is Used to its Highest Potential

BY REGINA E. ROMANDETTI

President Trump recently released his budget blueprint plan. The plan was worked out between the President and the budget director, Mick Mulvaney. President Trump says in the blueprint:

"A budget that puts America first must make the safety of our people its number one priority—because without safety, there can be no prosperity."

Mick Mulvaney addresses the American people in the "America First" budget. He states that the blueprint is not a full federal budget. It just gives the public a view of the President's priorities.

The main points President Trump addresses in his budget plan that he has openly discussed with the American people during his campaign. He promised to "Make America Great Again" by protecting the nation's people financially and physically. The President expressed a desire to put America first by keeping more of America's hard-earned tax dollars here in America.

President Trump plans on increasing defense spending without increasing federal debt. He also plans to increase immigration enforcement. The blueprint also includes building a wall to protect the American borders. There will be an increase in funding to address violent crime and to reduce violent drug abuse.

The budget for the Department of Defense will be \$639 billion which is greater than any other country. President Trump increases the department of defense by \$52 billion for the 2018 budget. The president states in his budget blueprint that the core of the plan is to rebuild the nation's military, without adding to the federal debt.

President Trump believes it is vital to prepare America's courageous servicemen when they are called to fight for our country. The Department of Homeland security will have a budget plan of \$44.1 billion dollars. This money will go to strengthen border control.

President Trump's budgets gives the Department of Education \$59 billion dollars in funding.

This budget will safeguard the Pell Grant, that most college students receive yearly. This will maintain a \$13 billion funding to support students with special needs.

President Trump focuses on management to make the government work for its people. His plan is for federal agencies to manage programs and delivering services effectively. He will manage federal agencies in devoting



Source: stateimpact.npr.org

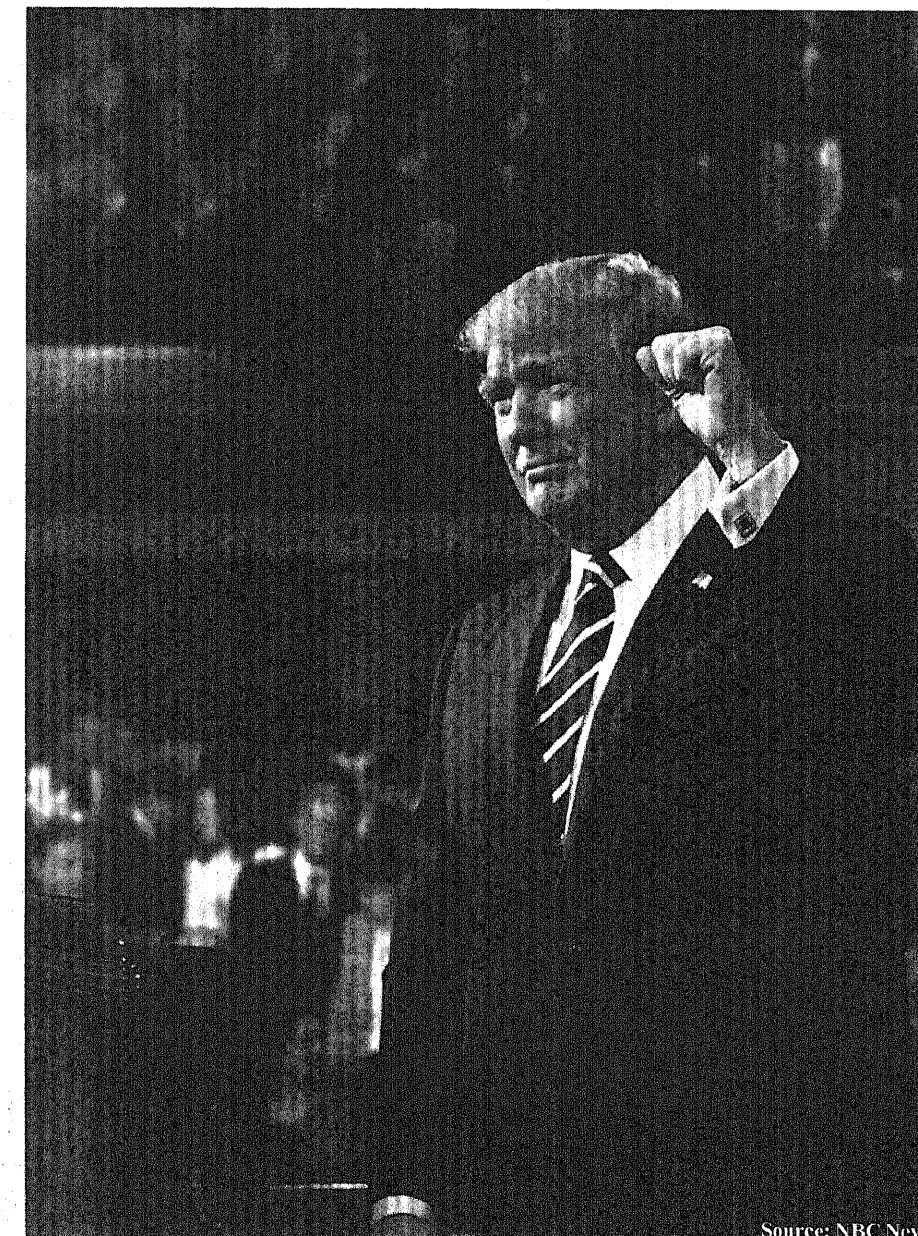
a greater percentage of American tax payers' money productively. President Trump also plans on improving cybersecurity.

President Trump's budget for the Department of Agriculture is \$17.9 billion. The budget includes safeguarding the nation's supply of meat, poultry and egg products, by funding the Food Safety and Inspection Service. The budget also includes a \$6.2 billion to serve women, infants and children (WIC). This is to ensure that women in crisis are able to feed their children and themselves.

The Department of Commerce is funded \$7.8 billion, which will help increase economic growth by strengthening the International Trade Administration's trade enforcement and compliance functions. This budget plan maintains the National Weather service forecasting capabilities by maintaining effective operations.

The Department of Health and Human Services budget is \$69 billion dollars. A part of this money will help to insure that Americans who suffer from substance abuse could access treatment. Money will also be invested into the mental help of our nation's people.

This is just a blueprint plan and could be changed to accommodate the American people more effectively. Presidents have budget plans for the country, like families have budget plans for their homes, to make sure money earned is being used efficiently.



Source: NBC News

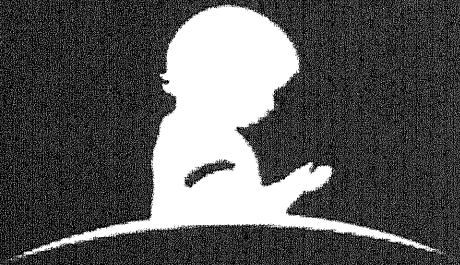
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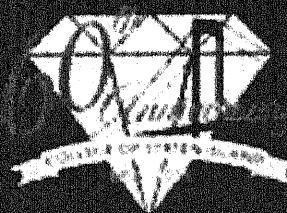
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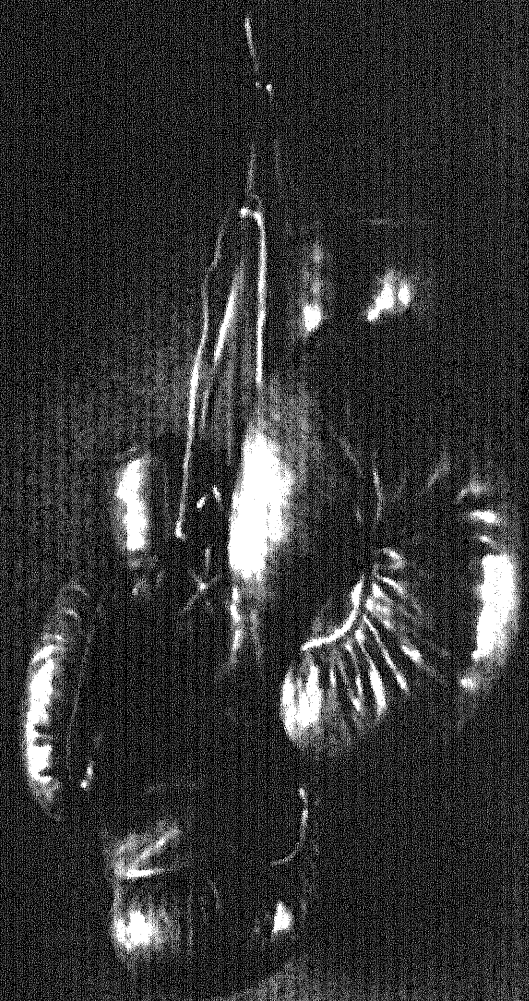
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BANNER NEWS

"SG Funds New Scholarships" Continued from Front Page

during their academic years.

No one is limited to this opportunity, as the President urges students to "be aware that they can come to the Student Govern-

ment and keep asking questions about those scholarships to make sure they can apply for them."

Kristine McNally, a freshman at CSI explains, "it's a good experience for a student to be exposed to other parts of the world and

other parts of the country to get a feel of what they want to do."

A Mechanical Engineering Junior, Morkus Abdelmaseh, mentions that he would definitely be intrigued to study abroad, even though his parents wouldn't allow him. It is

still pretty cool."

Alyssa Pappalardo, a Senior in Business Management, points out it is great for out-of-state students, "because we have dorms." The students agreed that the creation of the scholarships was an excellent decision.

"Public Safety Says It's All Good" Continued from Front Page

A: I wouldn't say all directors go through it, and if they do they go through it in different ways.

If you see in the film, Ryan shoots through a destructive way to get his anger out, but I've never totally had bouts of anger like that but I've never gone as close to what Ryan does.

Q: This was a movie in a movie, where did you get the idea for "Love is Blind" (a film in the movie)?

A: My thing with Ryan is that I wanted to show that he doesn't quite know what he's doing, so, if you kind of pay attention to the lines that he's writing and that the actors are acting out in the film, you realize they're not great.

They're kind of very cheesy and talk about love and stuff, so I tried to come up with a film that any amateur filmmaker would try to make and usually the first thing people think about is love because people like that, people like boy-meets-girl and yada yada.

So, I wanted to make a film that, if you actually pay attention to what the film is, it's really not great.

Q: What are some of the dominant themes in the movie?

A: Probably hope and dreams and what

it means to pursue what you want to do and what you love because, I made this film for everybody it's not just for the director or the filmmaker, it's for the artist.

You're going to struggle through it immensely it's going to be tough, it's going to be hard, you're going to hate every single minute of it, but in the end it can be worth it and if you have that little surge of creativity and excitement after it's all done, then I think it's worth it and that's what I meant to do with "Martini Shot!"

Q: Would you, in a way, call it a love movie, because there was a lot of intense eye contact between Ryan and Taylor (characters from the movie), and was there anything between them?

A: The whole thing with that is that, Ryan is also not supposed to be the smartest guy in the world.

So, when everything is going wrong in his filmmaking career and just Taylor was the final nail in the coffin he doesn't need this right now and he finds out that this person he likes is going after his brother.

And even at the end when they're recording they're lines and she finds out "this is what he feels about me?"

It's not supposed to be a love story, if anything this is supposed to be the opposite. This is just Ryan being kind of dumb.

Q: How did you feel when you found out that it would be played at the Atrium?

A: The Atrium is a very important location for me; I have a very good relationship with the people who run the show over there. It wasn't for me, I didn't want to premiere it for me just so I can struck my own ego.

A lot of people worked on it so I just wanted everybody to see it with their family because there's nothing like seeing it on the big screen and pointing out to your friend that scene was so hard to film.

It was a lot of fun and it meant a lot to me because I've been going to the Atrium my whole entire life.

Q: How can CSI students relate to your film?

A: Yeah sure, I definitely think so. What I've been hearing a lot from people who have seen the film is that it's very accurate to amateur film making when you're just starting to perfect the craft and trying to get your hand in there.

So for anybody who goes to CSI, especially majoring in Communications or Cinema Studies, and they're trying to pursue the arts in cinema or anything like that.

I made this film for them, hopefully, people will leave the film with a resurgence of creativity.



Source: SII Live.com

The Other Side: Social Media Might Kill Your Career

BY VICTORIA PRIOLA

Victoria Priola, former Lifestyle's editor at The Banner has decided to join the team once again! As a 2016 graduate, Priola has seen a slice of life from the "other side," if you will.

Her goal is to attempt to prove that in some way, somehow, CSI might actually prepare you for real life.

From the early 2000's when mommy-blogs and eMags roamed the web, people have used the Internet to spread a message, advertise themselves and connect with those they wouldn't meet in their immediate circle— which is amazing for those living in small towns trying to reach a wider audience.

When it comes to the job hunt, I'm thoroughly convinced LinkedIn was made my the

employment Gods. From the overflowing list of available positions filtered by keywords to the resume' style organization, a recruiter will come across your profile in no time. For college students looking for their first internships or full-time positions, this is a miracle.

I took a course in the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism's January Academy two years ago, taught by personal branding professional Toddi Gutner, about building your brand.

Hearing her lecture on the importance of self-worth when job hunting was so inspiring because most of the time, the conversation is geared towards what the company you're applying for can do for your resume.

Once you discover the unique edge you have over other applicants and what you can

bring to the company — not vice versa — you'll feel more confident through the entire process.

Social media is the number one way to show employers what you can bring to the table without physically dying a word to them. And to no surprise, most of Gutner's conversation led back to the power of social media and how, unfortunately, you're only as good as your buddies.

Gutner explained to the class just how important it is to treat your career as a business and how you have control over what the world sees when they research you.

But as much as it can help, it can hurt. I don't mean to go all Black Mirror on you but technology can easily backfire on humanity.

The Muse reports that 92% of companies

looking for new hires turn to social media, according to Jobvite, DirectEmployers.com and business.time.com.

The same report says that one in three employers reject candidates based on something they found on their social media.

If you're looking to put that Naruto fan fiction you wrote in 2009 or that cringe-worthy MySpace you had to rest, no need to panic.

With a simple e-mail or phone call, most sites have no problem erasing old content that may hinder your ability to get an IRL job.

If you leave this article with nothing else, leave with this: You might think that keg stand bikini photo makes for a cute #ThrowbackThursday but your future employer will probably disagree.

BANNER LIFESTYLES

The Bitter Beauty of Aloe Vera

Uses and Functions of the Spiky Plant

BY VICTORIA IFATUSIN

Roses, daisies, tulips and lilies are plants typically associated with beauty and are lovely when worn in one's hair. But what about aloe vera?

Known for its odd and spiky shape along with its bitter taste, it is a plant that is often ignored. Despite its funny look, this "wonder-plant" has many purposes good for intake and external factors of the human body.

Aloe vera is a plant that comes from the plant genus Aloe. It usually blooms in tropical climates with hot weather such as West Africa and Indonesia, cultivated for agricultural and medicinal reasons.

The plant dates back to Egypt, where it was originally used for medicinal uses. According to an article published in the Indian Journal of Dermatology, ancient Egypt referred to the plant as the "plant of immortality," due to its many duties. It eventually sprung out to be utilized therapeutically in countries like China, Japan, India, Greece and Mexico.

Aloe vera heals sunburns.

Research has shown that aloe vera is a great lotion used on sunburns and mild burns. It treats the epithelial level of skin. The upper layer of cells that cover the body. Due to the nutritional and antioxidants that are included

in the plant, the burn heals faster.

It prevents acne.

Auxin and Gibberellins are two hormones that are found in aloe vera that supply wound healing properties that reduce skin inflammation. According to MindBodyGreen.com, "aloe is used to effectively heal chronic skin problems such as psoriasis, acne and eczema."

It serves as a moisturizer.

For people with an oily skin complexion, aloe vera is their go-to application for their skin.

For women, it is recommended for the face before the application of makeup to prevent the skin from drying.

For men, aloe vera can be used after shaving as it can heal small cuts caused by a razor.

It acts as a heartburn relief.

According to healthline.com, "1 to 3 ounces of aloe gel at mealtime could reduce the severity of GERD (Gastroesophageal reflux disease)." Since the plant is low in toxicity, it serves as a safe and gentle remedy for heartburn.

It helps to lower blood sugar.

Aloe vera can be taken for heartburn relief. It can also be taken to reduce blood sugar. According to a study in Phytomedicine: International Journal of Phytotherapy and Phytopharmacy, two tablespoons of aloe vera juice can cause blood sugar levels to reduce in people with type two diabetes.

Aloe vera serves as a laxative.

The plant also aids digestion, as many researches and tests have been tried with successful results.

Most results showed that the gel of aloe vera was able to relieve constipation and allow digestion.

As one can see, aloe vera is truly an all-purpose plant. The list of positive effects this plant has on the human body is virtually

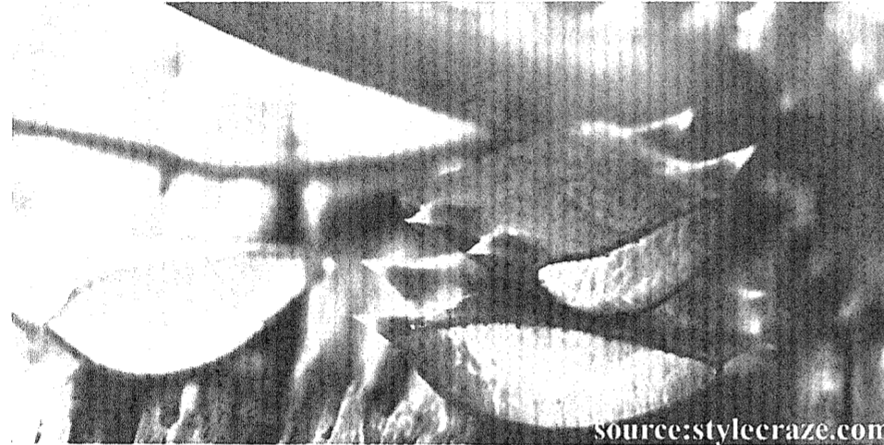
endless.

You can drink it, eat it, moisturize with it, calm irritated skin and so much more. It's a great holistic alternative for individuals who aren't comfortable using over-the-counter products to combat common pains.

Another great benefit, is the plant's ridiculously low price.

Instead of buying a pre-formulated aloe vera gel from a health and wellness store, you can go to almost any store with a gardening section such as Lowe's or Home Depot, and buy your very own aloe vera plant for less than 20 dollars.

If you're looking to make a small yet significant change in your life, add aloe vera to your daily routine. You will not be disappointed.



source:stylecraze.com

To Chop or Not to Chop?

The Never-Ending Struggle of Keeping Your Locks Long or Cutting Them Off

BY BRIELLE SPARACINO

Spring has finally arrived, even if it hasn't felt like it lately. Typically, the debut of a new season translates to personal changes.

For us women, a common change is switching up our hairstyle in preparation for the warmer half of the year.

Whether a "change" means going to get a simple trim and a couple of layers, it could also mean cutting off five to ten inches of dull winter locks.

A number of women I know (myself included) have recently chopped their hair to make a more dramatic statement, but many women still opt to keep their gorgeous long tresses this time of year.

Everyone has their own preference and their own reasons for said preference, but if you're undecided on what hairstyle to choose to get you through Spring and Summer, here are some of the pros and cons of having long and short hair.

One of the benefits of having long hair is the warmth it provides, especially during this time of year.

Since the weather is still bouncing between 40 degrees and 70 degrees, it's nice when long hair is able to keep your neck warm, in addition to wearing a hat.

However, a drawback of having long hair is how static-y it can get, especially when you have to wear a hat or fuss with it when putting on a heavy winter coat.

Another benefit of having long hair is that you have free reign to style your hair any way you'd like. Top knot? Not a problem. French braid? No sweat. A simple ponytail? Piece of cake. With long hair, the amount of styling possibilities are endless. All you need is a scrunchie and the occasional bobby pin, and you are set. A second drawback to having long hair, though, is the maintenance.

While having long hair is great for an abundance of styles, the amount of time it takes to dry your hair can vary for each individual (and that's not including the time it takes when using other styling tools like the blowdryer, flat iron and or curling iron).

One last benefit of having long hair is that it doubles as a security blanket for when things get tough. It does sound silly, but there are lots of people who openly admit their long hair is a comfort to them.

It's nice to know that you have a shield from the world once in awhile, even if it's more of a metaphorical one. A final drawback of long hair, however, is that it sheds. Everywhere.

Wherever you look, you're bound to find at least ten strands of hair that happened to have left your head at some point.

A benefit of short hair? The convenience. From personal experience, it is immensely satisfying to cut the amount of time it usually takes to wash your hair in half. You're also using less product, which saves you money

in the long run. A setback to having it though, is once you cut it, you can't go back to your long hair for quite a while unless you pay for extensions. It is only hair, but some are more attached to their locks than others.

Another benefit of having short hair is how much lighter you feel without carrying around unnecessary dead weight. It's a great feeling physically as well as emotionally; you feel like a new person once the cut is complete. A con of having short hair is the limited amount of conventional styling options you have. When you've got short hair, clips, mini elastics and bobby pins are your best friends; you really need those guys to keep your hair in place and out of your face.

A third benefit of short hair is the extra confidence you have the potential to gain! When you have short hair, there's nothing left to hide behind. Therefore, you can show people the blunt, take-charge side of you all the time. A final drawback to short hair though, is that it requires just as much maintenance as long hair, but in a different way. Instead of spending all of your money on deep conditioning treatments, you'll have to make standing appointments for trims in order for your hair to grow out as healthily as possible.

There are so many positives and negatives when it comes to changing up a hairdo, but you have to take the good with the bad and roll with it. Regardless of whatever hairstyle you do end up choosing, you'll always look fabulous.



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BANNER LIFESTYLES

Commentary: Cruella De Vil is So Outdated Switch to Cruelty-Free Makeup for Your Soul, Face and Wallet

BY BEREN SABUNCU

Life is prettier when you don't incite violence. Negativity breeds negativity and as such, violence taints those who cause it. It taints their very being, changes them as people. Not one human on this planet is doomed to bring darkness, they rather haphazardly are tainted by negativity. This causes the person to be violent, dark and to have a stained soul.

The thing about violence is that it is sneaky and one never fully understands the extent of their actions until it's too late. A perfect example to show the sneaky nature of violence would be make-up. What could possibly be wrong about make-up?

Simply put, for the connoisseurs, make-up is an art form and a way for one to enhance beauty. At the very least, make-up is a way of feeling more confident. Yet, so many companies still refuse to be cruelty-free.

These companies still test on animals. The animals used in laboratory testing are bunnies, hamsters, mice and dogs. It wouldn't be okay if they were cows, but it's more eye opening for some that the animals used for testing are actual pets they might have.

It is the same logic people have when they eat meat. If it's a cow or a non-domesticated pet, then it is okay to eat. This in itself is cruel to some, but lab testing is cruel to most. Regardless, the companies tend to sweep their cruelty-free approach under the

rug. The mainstream media is hushed and people are diverted.

This is a very powerful and rich industry, and when it is about money some people sadly leave their humanity at the door. For the aware customer that does their research, as well as the readers of this article, cruelty-free brands are not hard to find. Not only are these brands cruelty free, they're also better for your skin.

The term "cruelty-free" tends to mean that these brands utilize more organic ingredients than their violent counterparts.

Make sure you have no allergies to the ingredients and see the perks of a more organic approach to make-up.

The pain these poor animals feel is indescribable. These animals are shaved and rubbed with all sorts of harsh chemicals. This is inhumane and we, as a society, could do so much better.

At this point, there is absolutely no reason for the companies not to step up and switch from animal testing.

Animal testing could be substituted with lab testing, which doesn't hurt. Types of Lab testing include In-Vitro (test tube) testing, stem cell testing, tissue culture testing and computerized testing. All of the previously mentioned are completely cruelty free.

There are a myriad of large companies that still test on animals, some of which are

unexpected, as one would expect better from them.

These companies certainly can afford transitioning to cruelty-free testing methods and are consciously standing on the wrong side of history. Shame! Big companies that still test on animals include but not aren't limited to L'Oréal, Max Factor and Dial.

Fret no more, as there are a lot of cruelty-free brands that are affordable and very chic.

These brands, which could be strongly endorsed, not only because of their cruelty-free approach, but also because of their beautiful products include, but aren't limited to: Too Faced, E.L.F. and Lush. Not only are these brands cruelty-free, they're also easy on your credit card and are very pretty.

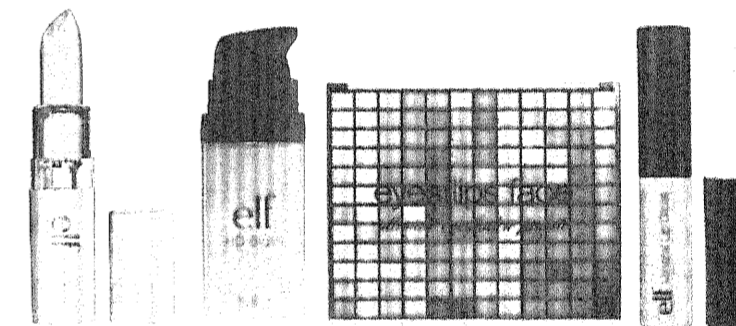
When it comes to loving animals, don't be so hard on yourself. Leading a completely

vegan lifestyle is very hard for so many people. Cruelty-free makeup is not about being vegan. It is about avoiding unnecessary violence. It is about not letting darkness taint your soul.

It's really not as simple as an issue that barely scratches the surface, like makeup. It doesn't hurt to care about things. It actually pays off in the end when you care about the animals and it makes one feel powerful when there is change incited by them.

So many companies have switched over to the cruelty-free side because of customer awareness.

You have the power to change the world, even if it's one tiny step at a time. For more extensive lists of cruelty free brands, visit PETA's website. As previously stated, it doesn't hurt to care about things, but it hurts not to.



Source: Mic.com

I Don't Want to Get Married

Family and Societal Pressures on Marriage in a South Asian Community

BY KINZA KHAN

Hello, my name is Kinza Khan and I would like to start this piece by stating how much I don't want to get married.

I live in a south Asian household and am of Pakistani descent. Both of my parents have lived in America for about 25-30 years, and while in many ways they have adapted to this country, the expectation of traditional marriage is one way in which they have not.

The amount of pressure I have begun to feel due to me getting older, has increased because I am now at the prime age to get married. The funny part is, it's not my parents who are mentioning this to me. Sure, my mother has mentioned it once or twice, but she now realizes that it would be almost impossible to marry me off.

The reason for this is because I am not a cookie-cutter mold of a typical young girl in my culture. Several of my relatives have pointed out that I am too outspoken, too loud, not mature enough and so on.

Personally, I am no longer affected by these statements anymore. At this point in my life, I am finally happy and content with the way I am. But it took a long time to realize that.

Growing up, I wasn't exactly what you

call a "good" kid. I always made a mess of things, spoke way too much and got into fights. These things are frowned upon in the south Asian community, and that, combined with my height and slightly darker skin tone (which actually does make a difference in our community), I wasn't exactly the best candidate for marriage.

My "bad" habits just worsened as I got older. I still speak out when told not to and I have an eclectic group of friends, none of whom are Pakistani or Muslim. I bring up topics to my parents that in most households would be considered taboo. I also like to challenge my relatives, making it more and more clear to them that I refuse to be bound by this cookie-cutter image.

The idea of marriage in our community does not just blossom at the ripe young age of 23 for us girls. It starts when we are about five years old, when the older generation of female relatives look down on us. That is when the judging starts. "Sit this way, not that way! No no, don't talk too loud!" and "Oh, she's a little out there. You'll have trouble with that one," are just some of the many phrases my mother has had to hear about me.

I constantly feel like I am trapped and I am sure I'm not the only girl in my commu-

nity who feels this way. I put emphasis on the word "girl" because guys have it easier. Guys in our society don't have to deal with the pressure of getting married. They could be 35 years old and still be considered young, but god forbid a girl reaches the age of 29. She's no longer eligible to be married anymore because she's considered too old.

Not only are girls pressured into the idea of marriage, but if they find a boyfriend who is Muslim and of the same culture, she's frowned upon when dating him. That's not considered appropriate at any age, apparently.

It seems like until women in our culture get married, we're on constant watch. The pressure doesn't end there though. Once you are married, the pressure of being a good daughter-in-law, the pressure of having kids and being a respectable member of your new family arise as well.

Understandably, the pressure can end up being way too much for some young women. We're told to be a certain way without being allowed to think otherwise, and this is one of the main reasons we end up rebelling and fighting the system later in life. We're taught to behave a certain way and if we don't, we can't live up to the expectations of being the

"perfect" daughter.

For the outside world, it's harder for people to understand the struggle to live this way, but it can best be explained by stating that it's a lifestyle that we weren't able to choose.



BANNER ARTS

Lions and Tigers and Bears: NO MORE!

America's First Entertainment Empire Will Be Closing After 146 years

BY REGINA E. ROMANDETTI

A time before the internet, the radio and television, the only form of mass entertainment was live performances such as the circus. Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus is the most famous circus act today, and after a 146 years it will be saying its final farewell on May 21, 2017.

The Ringling Brothers first started in 1871 by five out of the seven brothers in Baraboo, Wisconsin.

The eldest brother became so mesmerized by his first experience after attending a show that they started their own performances in their backyard.

The brothers started the circus with a \$1,000 loan to start traveling.

The first means of transportation was a horse and wagon. Have you ever heard of the saying "when the circus comes to town?" In 1888 the circus started traveling by train. This helped the Ringling brothers double their show in size.

The circus added an aquarium with seals, a museum and even a hippo. The circus train became its own city named Ringlingville. It had its own post office where a clown would deliver its mail daily.

The Brothers wanted to extend their business, and that feeling of excitement, further across America. They purchased

the Barnum & Bailey circus in 1907 to get the east coast to clown around.

The circuses were run separately until it became too much to juggle and they were merged together in 1919.

That's how the name became The Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

The Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus was sold to other ringleaders throughout the years.

The circus had to change during its time to keep up with the newer generations.

Special effects were added to grab the attention of the audience.

The circus is nothing like its original performances. The recent circus shows give the feel of a Broadway production via added storylines.

The circus is the only place where you can eat cotton candy while watching clowns juggle and lions jump through rings.

The circus is a wondrous and magical place.

A place where all generations could gather together and be in awe. That's how it stayed in business for so many years.

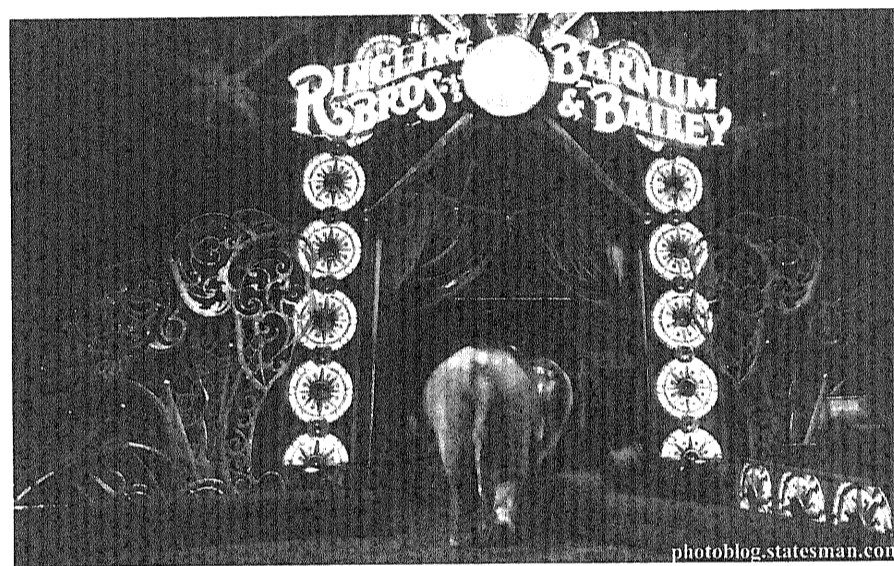
The world is not the same place since the circus first came to town.

Worker laws have been added to protect the people in the show. Animal rights activists have been protesting the safety of the animals. These are some of the factors why the circus needed to change.

The circus was known for having elephants parade around wearing elaborate garments and head gear with feathers and sequins.

Animal activists believed it was unfair for the animals to be working and due to much controversy, the circus retired its elephants.

The elephants retired to 200 acre reservation. It costs \$65,000 a year to maintain one elephant. They now receive pedicures and baths often.



The show must go on without the elephants. Sadly, the circus only went on six months after the retirement, before they announced they will be closing.

One of the biggest factors in closing the circus were that they couldn't beat city hall to keep their elephants.

It's sad to say that "The Greatest Show On Earth," with all its history and memories, will be saying its final farewell.

Soon, smaller circuses will be following their lead and closing.

It's unbelievable to think that future generations will never see a circus live.

So ladies and gentleman, boys and girls, children of all ages, let's not let the circus become a distant memory.

"Power Rangers" Brings the Grit and Humor

A Potential Beginning for the Power Rangers Cinematic Universe

BY KENNY VELEZ

Saban's "Power Rangers" has a lot to offer for a future franchise, but as a start it could have been much more fulfilling.

Five teenagers: Jason (Dacre Montgomery), Zack (Ludi Lin), Billy (RJ Cyler), Trini (Becky G), and Kimberly (Naomi Scott), find rainbow colored rocks known as the Power Coins in a mine after Billy blows it up.

The Coins lead them to a spaceship buried underneath their hometown of Angel Grove, where an alien named Zordon (Bryan Cranston) and a robot named Alpha (Bill Hader) await them.

Zordon tells them that they are the Power Rangers, a group of superheroes who must defend the Earth from Rita Repulsa (Elizabeth Banks), a former Ranger who betrayed former Ranger Zordon and wants to destroy the Earth.

In the first half of the movie, the scenes either took place in a colorless day remi-

niscent of "Man of Steel" or in pitch black night. The movie is too dark, so dark that it was hard to tell what was going on in some scenes. The only exception being the scene where they go underwater for the first time, this is the only place where some color is seen.

In the second part, after all the Rangers morph for the first time, the movie becomes much more colorful similar to "Captain America: The Winter Soldier" did.

The cinematography is a mixed case. Sometimes it does unique things: such as in the beginning of the movie where the camera spins around inside Jason's car as he is chased by the police before crashing. Other times, it becomes the typical shaky cam movie.

The action scenes also leave a lot to be desired, considering that Power Rangers has had a history of having real-life martial artists play the main characters.

Adding to the movie's dark atmosphere,

the Rangers have more angst than their show counterparts.

For example, Jason Scott is a former football player who sabotages his own career, Zack Taylor takes care of his dying mother while living in a mobile home, Trini Kwan is a loner who struggles with being gay, etc.

Also, Billy Cranston is on the Autism Spectrum Disorder. Speaking as a fellow man on the spectrum, it's nice to see the first big budget superhero on the spectrum. I may not be an expert on the all things spectrum, but I will say this: when he did his "Die Hard" reference, he censors himself in a way that seemed realistic.

Zordon is more of a jerk in this version. In the beginning, he only wanted the Rangers to morph so he can come back to life and defeat Rita himself, deciding that the Rangers are incompetent due to their inability to morph. Eventually, he proves himself to be noble after giving up his second chance at

life in order to save Billy.

Rita Repulsa is the main villain in this movie, and the only villain who speaks. She spends most of the movie as a creepy looking old woman murdering civilians and stealing their gold. Elizabeth Banks does a fine job of bringing this villain to life, making her creepy and hammy.

Goldar is wasted in this movie. He only exists here so he can be revived by Rita and fight the Rangers. He should have been voiced by an actor so Rita can have someone else to interact with and give both characters some depth.

Overall, this movie is evoking the imagery of the Marvel Cinematic Universe. For example, Jason David Frank and Amy Jo Johnson from the original Power Rangers make cameo appearances, similar to what Stan Lee does in Marvel films. Power Rangers wants to be the start of a Power Rangers Cinematic Universe, and it has more than enough material to do so.

BANNER ARTS

"Beauty and the Beast:" The Fastest-Selling Family Film

A Disney Classic Comes to Life on the Big Screen

BY LUCIA ROSSI

As bad as remakes usually are, this somehow does not apply to the live-action remakes of our favorite childhood Disney stories, especially this year's "Beauty and the Beast."

Directed by Bill Condon, this romantic-fantasy takes everything from the original cartoon film that was loved and transforms it into something much more.

With A-list actors, vividly detailed computer graphics, new songs created by the original composer Alan Menken, and plot points that extend the backgrounds of the characters further, this film went to infinity and beyond with expectations.

For young and old audiences, this film doesn't disappoint with Emma Watson's surprisingly sweet singing voice and Dan Stevens's blue-eyed beast, finally belting his own tune.

The Beast's song, "Evermore" grabs at your heart strings with its lamenting tone and lonely lyrics. Josh Groban's version of the song is also just as moving on the film's album available on Spotify.

Many added aspects to the film give you more perspective and fills in previous plot holes, which made it all the more satisfying.

You find out what happened to Belle's mother, actually see how the prince becomes the Beast, learn about the prince's royal family, hear a song about how the servants feel about being under the curse, see just how involved the enchantress really is and much more.

Other minor changes helped to make the story more realistic, like Gaston (Luke Evans) being an ex-war Captain which explains his bloodthirst.

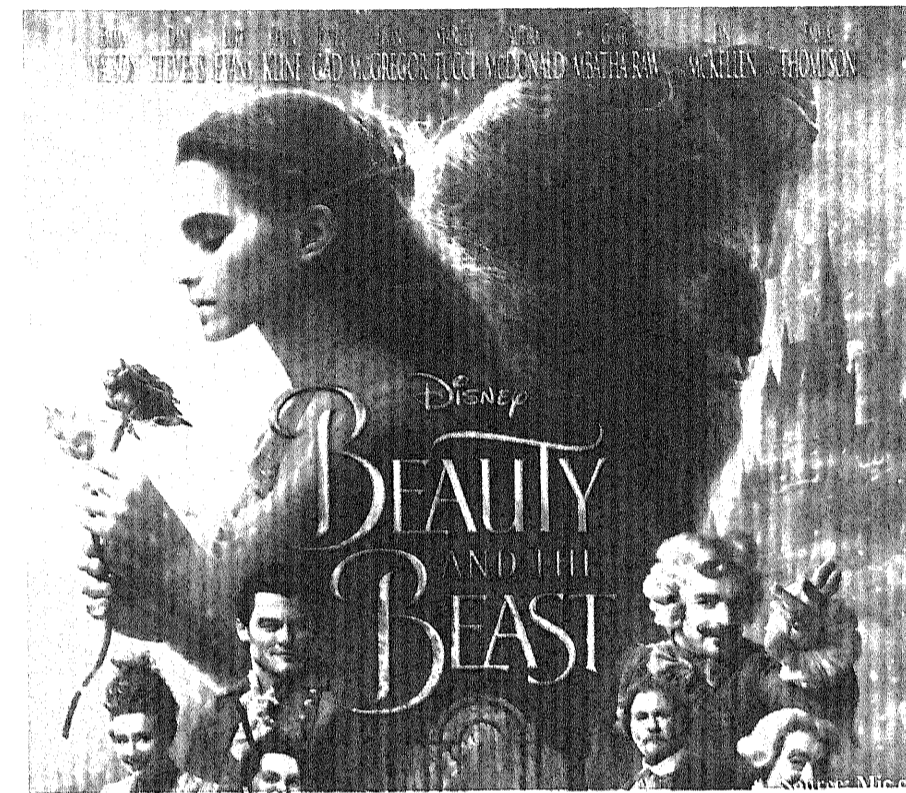
Belle also turned out to be the inventor of her family this time around; her father Mau-

rice (Kevin Kline) made money by working as an artist and tinkerer.

There was also the controversy of LeFou (Josh Gad) being outed as gay, which makes perfect sense as he constantly praises Gaston. Although the American Family Association had over 50,000 signatures boycotting the film just for this fact, the supposed "gay"

Kellan, and Emma Thompson as Lumiere, Cogsworth, and Mrs. Potts gave the performance life with their humorous, sensitive, and positive personalities.

Nothing hits you harder in the feels like that classic ballroom scene with Belle in her notorious yellow dress and the Beast in his royal blue suit. Emma Thompson then sang



scene was blown way out of proportion when it was merely two men dancing.

No one even mentions the transgender moment where a male character was happily dressed as a female during the village mob scene at the castle. Disney is clearly embracing diversity.

The supporting actors added magic to the film with their singing skills and revamp of "Be Our Guest." Ewan McGregor, Ian Mc-

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An Obscure, Yet Empowering Play

An Overview of the Bewildering "Far Away"

BY VICTORIA IFATUSIN

Although the play "Far Away," written by Caryl Churchill, is somewhat confusing, it is most certainly thought provoking, leaving audience members wanting more.

CSI's production was directed by Professor Maurya Wickstrom who referred to the play as "haunting, mysterious, ambiguous" and "hard to understand" for one has to "think about it a lot."

"Far Away" has been interpreted into many different conclusions by viewers as they try to understand its deep concepts.

"Far Away" was written by the renowned British playwright, Caryl Churchill. It is set in a society where everything in nature is currently at war.

Our own society by presenting that on stage.

The plot begins and ends with scenes created by Wickstrom, a protesting ensemble.

The scenes portray the uniting of victims (from various points in time) to fight against the horrifying conditions of the world, embodying a sense of: when we fall, we shall rise again.

From beginning to end, it depicts a world of hell and horror, where violence is rampantly spread in the society and all over the world.

Wickstrom's additions highlight the themes of terror, war, dictatorship and disillusionment that are present in the original material.

Act one revolves around a discussion about what a young girl, Joan, has previously witnessed in her guardian's home.

She is silenced and made to believe that she is wrong about what she thinks she saw. Eventually, she grows up and begins working as a hat-maker in a factory with a man named Todd.

A romance blossoms between the two as they talk and create hats.

The whimsical hats they make, are to be worn by brutalized POW's during the parade. In the end, the brutality of this world cannot be masked by colorful hats.

The entire world, and all its species, are fighting against one another, to the point where one must question which side the river itself is on.

The play is surreal. It is wrapped in a series of events that can be difficult to comprehend.

Yet, the theme of "empowerment" could be extracted from it. The play signifies the

ate a new, strong, modern Belle.

Watson also did research on her character to find out if Belle really does have Stockholm Syndrome as viewers have claimed. Ultimately, she disagreed because she, and Disney, see Belle as empowered and being much more independent.

The difference is that Belle always had control and a choice.

She could have made her escape at any time she wanted to, but chose not to because the Beast gave her what she didn't have in the village: acceptance and an understanding of who she is.

He gave her the tools to explore and be the person she wanted to be.

Beauty and the Beast's relationship was more intense in this film because you could see how well they work together as a couple.

He supports her love of books, they both read and discuss literature, he provides her with the means for the adventures she longs for, and she teaches him how to be the man he really wants to be. There were two things that bothered me.

The first being that there was a lot of stress put on the added scene when Beast helped Belle find answers about her past.

It was because he did that for her that she loved him and may not have admitted her love in the end if this had not happened.

This was made clear when she tried to explain to her father how she felt about the Beast when captured.

The second thing being the ongoing role of the enchantress which, although filled plot holes, also insinuated that nothing that happened to Belle and Beast was by coincidence but by her manipulation.

Even so, this was by far Disney's biggest live-action film yet and there's many more to come.

power to fight and go against officials and situations that are not in favor of the citizens.

The music and sound design, coordinated by AJ Parascandola, resonated perfectly to suit the tone of every act.

All members of the cast gave their best performances. It made the audience feel as if it was all actually happening in real life.

Harper, played by Alecia Clark, a Dramatic Arts and English Writing sophomore, had a real impact on the play.

Her twitches and yells pushed the audience to pay close attention.

"Far Away" reminds us that we are living in a world where there is terror and pain.

Thus, the only way to have the opposite effect is to fight back and let our voices be heard. When we fall, we have and will always, rise again.

BANNER OPINIONS

School Spirit

CSI Students Weigh in on Club Ideas and How to Improve Morale on Campus

BY BEREN SABUNCU

Nobody could accuse CSI of not being full of school spirit. Although campus life is slowly developing, extra curricular activities are not usually preferred.

CSI is a commuter school, and a community commuter school at that. Its status means that after-school activities are not priorities of the students.

There are so many clubs and so many diverse and lovely events that are lacking in the participation area.

We've asked students of CSI what clubs and events they would prefer to have in CSI. There were interesting answers, yet we also got several "I don't know" and "I don't care" answers. The following answers belong to those who know what they want, and those who care what CSI offers.

Latif K. has said, "I would like to join clubs involving women/cultural diversity. I guess anything with history, or even a cause club. We have too many typical clubs in my opinion. I'm already part of the Japanese Society Club so I consider that a good head start. In short, I'd love to see more cultural diversity."

Pairing cultural diversity with causes is actually a great idea, and one that could be very fruitful. Some students had a more artistic approach to the question.

Aisha H. stated, "I believe a TV Station Club, or a Movie Club would be extremely interesting. A Book Club could be nice too!" Pairing hobbies with clubs could create a more enthusiastic student body, and is actually a great idea.

Salma E. had a creative approach, "I feel as though Make-Up Club would be very fun!" as did Reena R. when she added, "A Fashion Club could be very interesting. An event could be a Fashion Show."

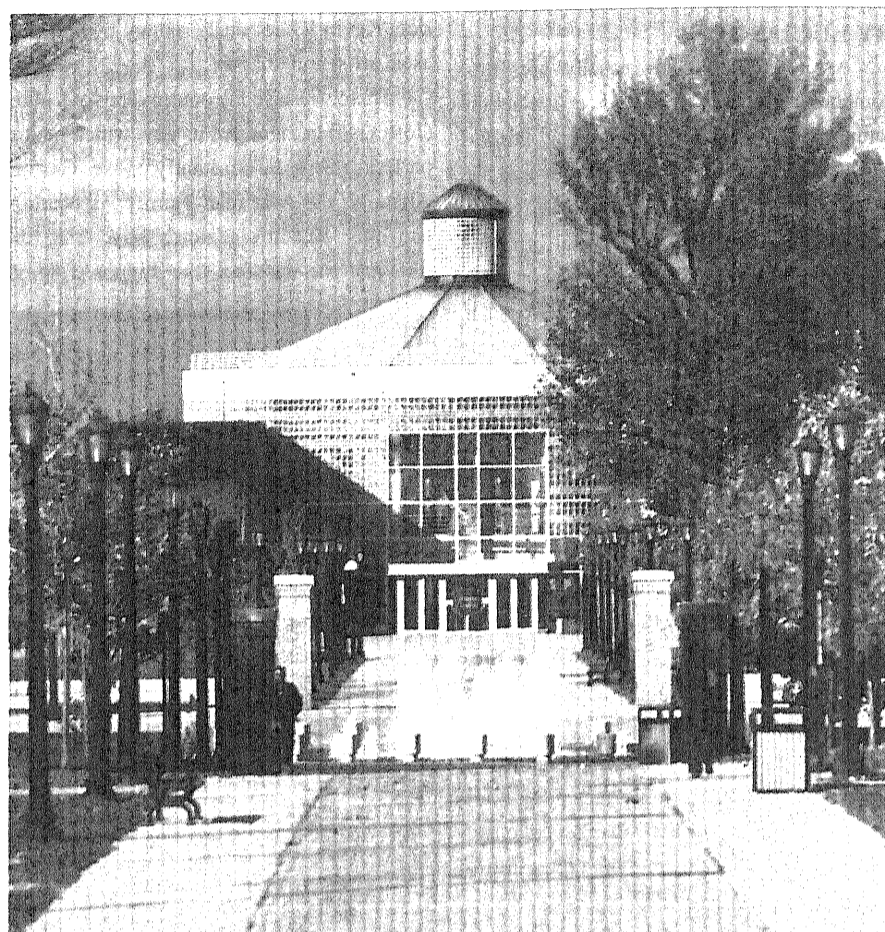
Having creative outlets on campus encourages students to better their craft and relieve stress.

Dosi R. had two great ideas which made perfect sense and left us wondering why there aren't such clubs? "Dance Club and a Cutlery [Cuisine] Club. I'd like to join these two clubs. I want to see culture combined. Teaching dances and food recipes from all around the world is a fantastic idea."

Jerred R. had a more athletic answer to our question, "I could join a Martial Arts Club, or one for basketball so we can play more of it. I'd actually love a Cooking Club too, I'd chef it up!" After having received so many positive and creative answers, it's confusing that we don't have a peppy school. An answer from Moe A. did a great job of summing up what could be the problem:

"I'm not sure what kind of clubs we have to begin with. Maybe we could get people more aware of clubs we have by having them introduced in class at the beginning of each semester. I would also definitely appreciate social events involving interviews with special guests you know, something with food, coffee and good conversation."

These answers potentially have a way of bettering the student life at CSI. Maybe we need to incorporate more passion into student clubs, maybe we need to think of unique hobbies people might have. Some students might



be missing their home country and their food, and maybe they need to see more of those here.

As some students live off campus, and far away, club life could be introduced with pamphlets in the beginning of the school year in classes.

One might not think club-life is important, but it actually is. Pay close attention to Ivy League schools which are usually

deemed the best. These schools have great club life and are full of school spirit.

One way of bettering CSI is bettering participation in club life, and social opportunities.

The Banner thanks all those who answered our question. Be sure to check the Bulletin Boards and online groups for events you might want to join. School spirit starts with you!

Source: College of Staten Island

Why is Being Overweight a Bad Thing?

Big Can be Beautiful Too!

BY KINZA KHAN

We live in a society that is obsessed with looks. All forms of media have some form of attractive women which brainwashes us into thinking that thin is the ideal American look.

As a society we seem to have a misconception of what a realistic weight is because of what is programmed into our minds through media.

We shouldn't HAVE to be thin it should be a choice but it seems like we, women, are pressured into believing we are ugly and are required to lose weight if we are carrying a few extra pounds.

When I'm scrolling through Instagram, I shouldn't have to feel bad about my weight-but I do.

Most ads are geared toward losing weight through various unhealthy measures.

One of the biggest offenders on Instagram is Fit Tea, a drink that is designed to make you lose weight in a short amount of time.

When several men and women were

asked what their thoughts on overweight women are, most responded negatively. Saying women shouldn't look like this, or that it's unhealthy or gross.

Why aren't men subjected to this kind of scrutiny?

I think it's because women are still being treated as objects, hence why there are high standards for looking good.

Hence why, we go to extreme to look thin and beautiful.

According to livestrong.com, the average weight of an American women is 166 pounds, while the average weight of a model is only 107 pounds.

Notice the difference in size? Granted muscle mass and height still have to be input, but that doesn't change the fact that the constant social media we see portray the minority of women.

We've been taught that unless you are a small size, clothes will not look good on you. Most stores cater to styles that are programmed in our minds to only look good on

thinner women.

According to a Business Insider, Abercrombie and Fitch refuses to make clothes for overweight women.

The interview done with Robin Lewis, co-author of The New Rules of Retail stated that the CEO of Abercrombie and Fitch, Mike Jeffries, doesn't want fat people to shop in his stores. He only wants thin and beautiful people.

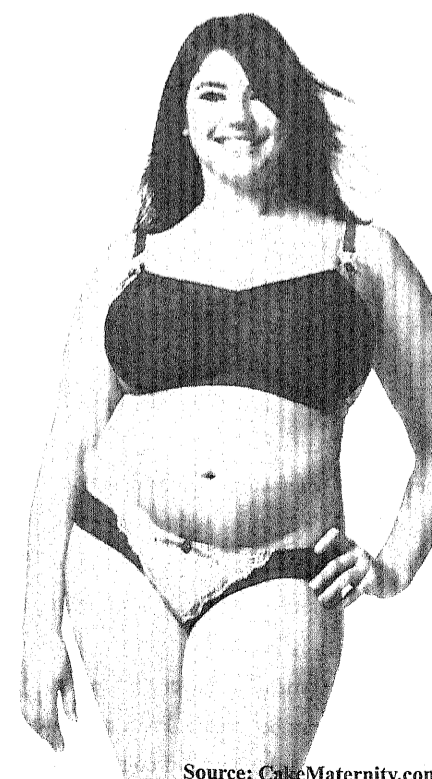
The largest size the store has to offer is a size 10.

The average young adult size for women according to today.com is a size 16, which for most stores such as H&M, is considered to the largest size.

Plus sized models aren't really plus sized, but they get a bad reputation even though majority of women are not a skinny size two.

There is nothing wrong with being skinny, but when it comes to social media or any platforms of media, why show the minority of America?

At the end of the day, skinny or fat, they're our bodies and we shouldn't have to feel bad about them.



Source: CakesMaternity.com

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS

The O-Cast

The Future of Oral Sex

BY TARAH MAURICE

The world gains a glimmer of hope and a sparkle of fun, when the things you never imagined or dreamed of, come racing down at you like a comet barreling toward Earth.

No, not a meteor--a cosmic gift for women! The new invention that has just crash landed in the adult market, will improve and exceed your expectations on self-pleasure--changing the world as you know it.

If your adult toys and masturbation tricks are no longer satisfying, then you'll be very enthusiastic about this Earth shattering delight.

There is already a virtual blow-job for men, so why shouldn't women be allowed to have a little fun?

An adult entertainment webcam platform, CamSoda, has put into motion something called "O-Cast."

It could be described as an "iTunes of oral sex for women."

Basically, they have created an app that can be used on either your iPhone or Android, which allows you to record your own distinctive mark of oral stim-

ulation.

To put it in simpler terms, one is able to record their perfect pattern of oral pleasure.

Then, it can be uploaded to an account in the CamSoda store. Anyone with the Lovense "Lush" bluetooth egg vibrator can download any virtual recording of their discretion and the machine will recreate the experience for them.

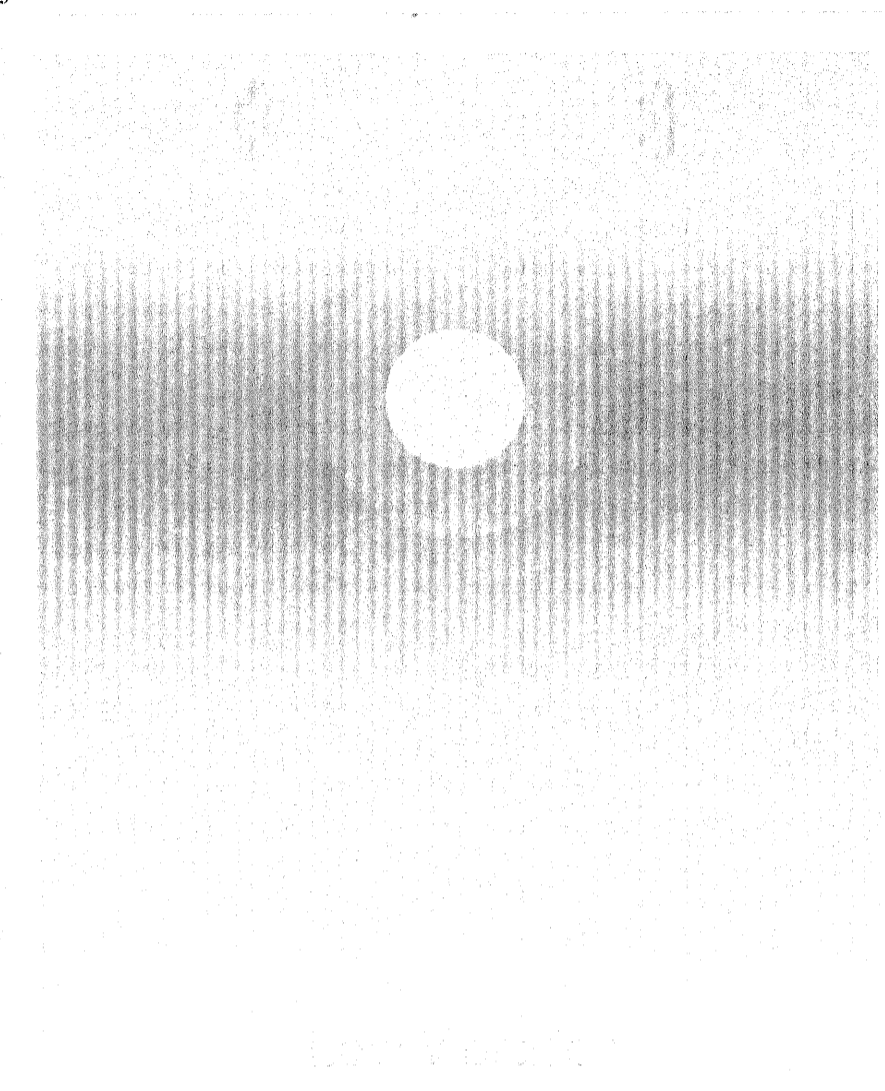
To record your method of oral pleasure, you could use your finger, a mouse--or your tongue!

It is stated that if you want the experience to be as close to the real thing as possible, it's better to run your tongue all over your (wiped down clean with alcohol) phone.

Each recording will cost about 99 cents to download, but in celebration of Women's

History Month, they are free throughout the end of March.

The site is soaring with positive reviews, so go ahead and make yourself see stars tonight--from the privacy of your own bed!



Source: TheTab.com

Prioritize Sexy

Why Feeling Sexy is More Than Just Feeling Sexual

BY BEREN SABUNCU

Spring break is nearing and all I can think of are the essays and homework that I need to attend to. It is hard juggling work, internships and school. There is always a new crisis at hand and new responsibilities popping up.

During the week, I am so busy that I can't even have proper phone calls with my family. I am either studying, doing homework, working, reading, sleeping or eating. When my schedule initially started getting busy, I had a very pragmatic approach to life.

I tied my hair back, dressed casually and paid no attention to my sexuality. This proved itself to be a mistake as I was unhappy. I wasn't unhappy because I was busy.

In fact, I was thriving because of my busy schedule.

The busier I got, the more active and fruitful I felt. I was flourishing academically, but felt emotionally and sexually castrated. I wondered why, as it certainly was out of the blue.

Then one weekend, I had a beautiful ex-

perience...I drew a bath. I finally gave in and allowed myself some down time. For the first time in a while, I didn't want to trouble myself with social media. So, I put on a mask and just relaxed.

It was just a bath. I didn't have an outer-body experience or an epiphany. I wasn't feeling my life drastically change right there in the water.

But what did happen was just as significant. As I was lathering myself with lotion, I looked at myself and thought, "I have to pay more attention to myself."

From that point on, I did. I spent more time getting ready, put on makeup and started dressing nicer. The results were phenomenal. I felt sexier just by allotting an extra 10-15 minutes a day for "me time."

You might think feeling sexy wouldn't have a huge effect on your day to day life, but I disagree!

I felt more social, as I was extremely comfortable in my skin. Although I did begin to pay attention to whatever my body desired

sexually, feeling sexy is not just about sexuality. It is about empowerment. It is about self-love.

Life is so much better when you are aware of all the good things you bring into the world. There are several ways of feeling sexier without taking too much time out of your day:

You have to pay attention to the way you smell. Your smell is like your signature and it is among the few things a person notices about you.

More importantly, you are the person that will smell it throughout the day. Invest in a good perfume, if you can. Any other investment might be lavish, but a good perfume is absolutely necessary.

Eating healthier changes your mood and your physique. You will have a glow if you eat healthier and feel proud of your eating habits. In that way, eating healthy equals a sexier you. After a shower, just take 10 minutes to moisturize, your skin will thank you.

Another great tip would be to forget

your responsibilities when you're having "me time." The above mentioned extra 10-15 minutes you will spend to lather yourself in lotion should be spent without thoughts of responsibilities.

You can afford to forget about your responsibilities for 10-15 minutes, and you owe yourself that much.

Sexy really is a state of mind, an approach to life, and you need to prioritize for it. You have to put yourself first, as nothing is more important than your mental and physical wellbeing.

Side effects to feeling sexy include but are not limited to, better interactions, better academic standing and a better outlook.

Feeling sexy does so much more than enhance your sexuality and should be one of your priorities.

Just love yourself first, your responsibilities can wait and actually benefit from this approach. Feel sexier, take good care of yourself and love the skin you're in. Cliche, it may be, but it will enhance your life.

SPORTS

CSI Hosts March Madness Contest

Winners Receive Multiple Prizes

BY ANTHONY RUSSO

In the main gym on Tuesday, March 21, CSI students had the option to participate in a series of events, similar to what's seen in the NBA skills competition.

The contests presented were the three point contest, the free throw contest and the 3 on 3 basketball challenge.

Both the free throw and three point contests were eligible for students to sign up for in person at the gym, but in order to participate in the 3 on 3 basketball challenge students had to sign up with a team on CSI's website.

Students also had the option to sign up for all 3 contests or less.

Sal Caruso, who was the event coordinator for the basketball contests, took track of student's scores and signups.

"I've been here 5 years, it depends, but I run this event almost every semester," said Caruso. "Whatever contest participants want to sign up for varies."

For the 3 on 3 basketball challenge, each game was at a 12 minute continuous length from the start time of each game.

Each successfully shot basketball was worth 1 point, unless a student attempted a shot behind the 3 point line, then the basket

was worth 2 points.

As it went for the 3 point contest, the event was untimed, but students were given only 5 seconds to shoot the ball once it was in their hands.

Students were also given 5 balls each from 5 different spots behind the 3 point line. The first 4 balls shot by each student were worth 1 point each while the last ball shot was worth 2 points.

For the free throw contest, once students had the basketball in their hands, they had 10 seconds to attempt their shot.

Each free throw was from the same distance and worth 1 point per shot and were given 10 attempts.

A student and staff member at the basketball event, Artem Lapin, helped rebound and place basketballs back in racks, which students then used for the 3 point contest.

Lapin also discussed the competitive nature of the basketball events he usually works on and covers.

"It's usually pretty competitive. We give prizes out to the winner of each contest," said Lapin. "The winners usually get gift cards, a tee shirt and sometimes a goodie-bag."

Each winner of the 3 on 3 basketball challenge received a \$25 gift card to buffa-

lo wild wings, a tee shirt that read "Straight out of competition CSI Champion" and a CSI water bottle.

The winners of the free throw and 3 point contest also received the same rewards.

For future sports events, CSI has an Instagram page @csi_intramurals where they post about upcoming events, awards received by participants and more information about leagues and tournaments.



Photo Credit: Anthony Russo

2017 New York Yankees Preview

The New York Yankees Have Let Go of Their Veterans and the Youth Movement is in Full Swing

BY ANTHONY CARBONARO

Projected Opening Day Lineup

Brett Gardner (LF)
 Jacoby Ellsbury (CF)
 Gary Sanchez (C)
 Matt Holiday (DH)
 Greg Bird (1B)
 Starlin Castro (2B)
 Chase Headley (3B)
 Aaron Judge (RF)
 Ronald Torreyes (CF)

Projected Rotation

Masahiro Tanaka
 CC Sabathia
 Michael Pineda
 Luis Severino
 Jordan Montgomery

Projected Bullpen

Jonathan Holder / Adam Warren /
 Dellin Betances / Tyler Clippard / Ar-
 oldis Chapman / Chasen Shreve / Bryan
 Mitchell / Tommy Layne

Mark Teixeira and Alex Rodriguez re-
 tired.

Other veterans such as Brian McCann and
 Carlos Beltran will not be on the roster for
 2017.

The emergence of Gary Sanchez during
 the middle half of the regular season in 2016,
 took over the league.

In his rookie year, 53 games with the
 Yankees, Gary Sanchez blasted 20 home runs
 with a 1.032 OPS.

Defensively he gunned 41 percent of at-
 tempting base stealers and finished second
 in the American League Rookie of the Year
 balloting.

"I don't feel any pressure being the guy
 on the field or off the field," Sanchez said
 through a translator.

"Last season was a good season for me,
 but that's in the past now. We have to focus
 on the upcoming season all together as one.
 And hopefully we can make the playoffs."

The 24-year-old Greg Bird is now the
 Yankees first basemen due to Mark Teixeira
 retirement.

Greg Bird has been on a tear of late in
 spring training, hitting .444 with 7 home
 runs. Last year, Bird missed the 2016 season
 due to an tear of the right shoulder labrum.

"He's been really good," Girardi added.
 "Maybe better than what I expected knowing
 that he sat out a year and you worry about a
 guy's timing. It hasn't seemed to affect him."

He is the first Yankee to hit more than six
 home runs for the past 11 years.

Not only is Bird hitting the ball over the
 fence, but the young talented first baseman
 has the ball going everywhere in the field. 15
 out of 20 hits, have been for extra bases along
 with him getting walked eight times.

Didi Gregorius is the starting shortstop
 for the 2017 Yankees, but due to the World
 Baseball Classic, Didi suffered a shoulder in-
 jury while playing for the Netherlands.

He is estimated to miss the first month of
 the season. Didi was arguably the best play-
 er on the Yankees last year with his .276 BA
 with a .751 OPS+.

Ronald Torreyes is in favor to be the
 starting shortstop on opening day, due to

his experience, and the Yankees sent down
 their best prospect Gleyber Torres to Double
 A-Trenton.

The Yankees ace, Masahiro Tanaka, is
 coming off the 2016 season where he was
 14-4 with an 3.07 ERA, which was third in
 the American League and received some
 down-ballot, Cy Young votes.

While being the best of the bunch, he has
 yet to throw 200 innings in a season with con-
 stant questions about the health of his arm.

CC Sabathia was better than expected in
 2016, but he will turn 37 in July with a bad
 knee.

In 2016, Michael Pineda came off his
 worst performance suffering with an 4.82
 ERA.

The Yankees rotation is the weakest part
 of their team, due to their performance in
 2016, but they do have a strong bullpen that
 will help out the starters.

The New York Yankees will put runs
 on the board and will close out games when
 needed, but will the Yankees starters do their
 job?