

Official Newspaper of the College of Staten Island

## Rat Appears In Front of Campus

### Sheet Metal Workers Protest Use of Non-Union Labor

BY MARK REVELLO & DIANA PORCELLI

Members of the Sheet Metal Workers' Union demonstrated outside CSI's Victory Blvd entrance on the use of non-union laborers at the construction site of the planned dormitory buildings.

"Twenty years ago there were union problems and there still are," said Staten Island Labor Chairman Rich McMahon. "If my workers were on that site they would be able to provide for their families and earn a living wage."

Sheet metal worker and Local 28 union member Brian McBrearty and the Director of Business Development for the Local 28, Robert Soto, handed out leaflets to students and others who walked by. The flyers and an inflatable black rat with a scab on its stomach were used to call attention to their grievances.

The leaflets handed out by union members stated that "The College of Staten Island has outsourced manufacturing and construction on this campus." The protesting union workers believe they should be the ones to construct the dorms.

"Unions guarantee safety, hourly wages, benefits, state apprenticeships, and a skilled and productive workforce," said McBrearty.

Labor workers protesting off campus also felt employing non-union workers is more about money saved than about quality of work. They also cited the use of non-New York City building and trade affiliated workers as another issue they intend to highlight.

*Continued on page 4*



Sheet metal workers stood next to a giant rat to protest use of non-unionized labor

## Looking to Future With the Completion of Dorms Nearing Beginning of a New Era for CSI



The internal framework is being inserted into the soon to be completed CSI dorms

BY GEOFFREY HEATH

Bumping into someone from Texas or hearing the unmistakable sound of a Boston accent at CSI seemed like a far-fetched concept not too long ago.

But with the addition of residence halls, the pool from which CSI can admit students has become much deeper.

"The residence halls will broaden the area from which students can come to campus," said Ira Persky, Vice President for Finance and Administration and President of CSI Housing LLC. "We can have students come here from the West Coast, from anywhere."

By this time next year, CSI will have made the transition from commuter school to full-time resident college.

Housing is open to all CUNY students. Those enrolled at CSI could find themselves next door to students from Baruch, Hunter, or any other CUNY college.

"That's why it's important for our students to jump on this opportunity," said Mr. Persky.

To cover building expenses, CSI Student Housing LLC borrowed tax exempt bonds from the NYC Housing Development Corporation. The money from deposits and residence fees will go toward re-paying the

NYC H.D.C.

"One of our main obligations is to satisfy the debt on the buildings," said Mr. Persky.

If there isn't enough demand from CSI students alone, and some of the 454 available beds are left empty, there won't be enough money coming in to recompense the NYC H.D.C. CSI will be left to pay out of pocket, and this is one of the reasons why all CUNY students are being considered to fill the vacancies.

Applications are available to students interested in living on campus. The forms can

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## Women Walk to "Take Back The Night" Rallying Against Domestic Violence

BY LUCY FARFAN-NARCISSE

Students, interns, and survivors of domestic violence walked in solidarity, as they carried candles through the darkness as beacons of hope, to take back the night. Between 6:30 and 9:30 on October 27th, Women and men of all nationalities, backgrounds, age, and sexual orientations gathered together at the CSI's "Take Back the Night" event.

"We speak out to show that we will not stand by silently while women, men and children are subjected to violence and to abuse," said Ellen Goldner, director of the Bertha Harris Women's Center at the College of Staten Island. "It is especially important for domestic violence because it is so often hidden behind closed doors."

"This whole event is really important to

me because as a counselor you experience the pain and trauma when people share their stories of violence. In our society it is a problem and people don't speak about it," said Armando Gonzalez, a graduate assistant at the Bertha Harris Women's Center and a mental health-counseling graduate at CSI. Gonzalez directed and starred in illuminating short film entitled "Shatter the Silence: Speak out against Violence", alongside other student interns from the Women's Center.

"We speak out to testify to the shocking amount of violence that continues in our own borough and in New York City and around the world," said Goldner. "We speak to raise awareness about the issue of violence and we also aim to make this room a supportive environment for whoever wants to speak to about

*Continued on page 4*

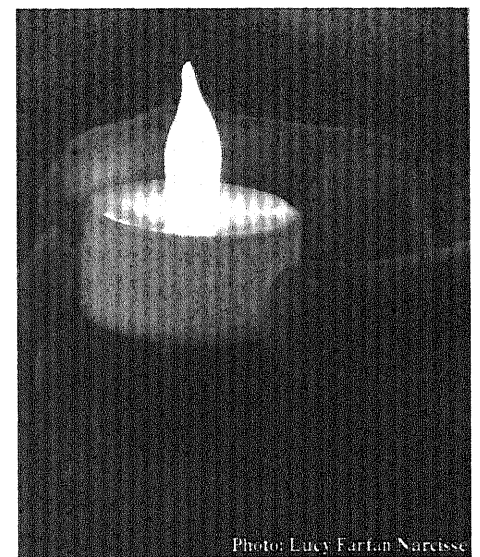


Photo: Lucy Farfan Narcisse

Candles were handed out during the Take Back The Night Event

Student Panel Discusses Apathy Page 5

Sonic 2 Adventure Makes Return Pages 8

Women's Basketball Beats Stevens Back Page



## Is The Question of 22 State Succeeding Really A Thing?

### A Growing Petition On White House Website Suspicious at Best

BY MARIE SCARSELLA

Following the defeat of former Governor and the Republican candidate Mitt Romney, many Americans were left particularly unsettled. With Barack Obama about to enter his second term, some people are unsettled enough to petition to withdraw from the Union.

Twenty-two states have filed succession petitions on the White House website, under the section titled "We the People." The section is in place to make sure that the voices of Americans are heard on whatever issue the White House is currently handling, and any issue brought to petition requires 25,000 signatures in order to be reviewed and considered by the government. Those signatures must be collected within thirty days.

The majority of the states that are currently petitioning to secede voted for Romney in the election this year. Louisiana was the first, followed by other red states such as Texas, North Carolina, Mississippi, and our neighbors in New Jersey. However, other states that filed voted blue, including Oregon and New York, also found means to start a secession petition.

The question that remains within the blue states is, "Who is signing these petitions?"

New York alone had a larger blue turnout than usual, with Staten Island, which is typically a Republican borough, voting in favor of our current Commander-in-Chief. This fact makes it even less likely that New Yorkers desire independence from our country, specifically if Obama's reelection is being cited as the reason.

The petition for our home state currently has 8,430 signatures, and must gain over 16,000 more by December. Interestingly, though, when viewing the petition you may notice that very few, if any, of the signatures are from New York residents.

While a New Yorker, known simply as "Steven E." from Endicott, created the petition many of the signers list their home state as Georgia, Texas, and Alabama. Ironically, those are all red states that voted in favor of Romney.

Texas is currently the only state with enough signatures to gain governmental review. They have exceeded the number of signatures needed by over 5,000. It is set to be reviewed as of December 10, when government officials will look it over, send it to the appropriate policy experts, and then issue an official response.

What are the chances that Texas will become its own country? Slim to none.

While the First Amendment protects the right to petition, it does not guarantee that the government will support these petitions. Just because a state wishes to leave the union does not mean they will be granted

that wish even following a strict government review of the legitimacy of the petition.

This is further validated by the fact that the people who are signing petitions on the behalf of the state are not necessarily residents of said state. Why would the government choose to allow Texas, for example, to remove itself from the union if people signing the petition are from various states across the country? People are speaking on behalf of residents who clearly do not want to become their own nation just so the Radical Republicans can be removed from the "socialist country" they are currently living in under President Obama.

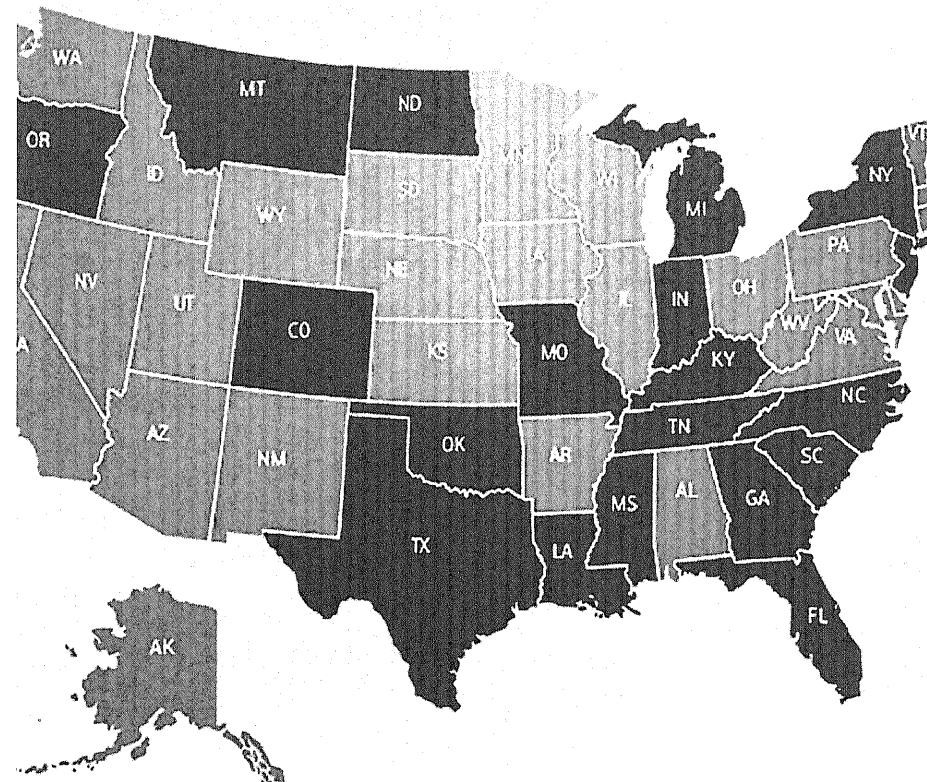
Another issue with Texas' petition is that the city of Austin has started a counter-petition. In Austin, they have decided that if Texas somehow does secede, Austin wishes to remain part of the United States, even though it would be in the center of Texas, the country. It appears to be a situation similar to that of Vatican City in Italy.

The illegitimacy of the petitions for states such as New York can cause a similar hindrance. Though the state will likely never reach the required number of signatures to prompt a review, even if it did, the lack of New York residents in the signatures section would lead for eventual failure. Certain sections of the state are also likely to make similar moves to Austin, causing New York to be broken into sections. The state on a map would like kind of like Swiss cheese.

When creating and signing these petitions, it is difficult to understand what people are thinking. Secession from the United States will not only take us back to a time of Civil War, which we don't exactly need right now, but it will also cause a significant change in lifestyle for those in states that choose to depart.

Many refuse to acknowledge that, aside from the political policies they may not agree with, life in this country is above average in comparison to other places. Without the government we currently have in place, people in these states would suffer in areas directly related to currency and industry. The average American lifestyle that consists of constant spending with lack of production would be completely inverted, and residents would not be able to enjoy simple luxuries that we currently take for granted. The tasks of importing and exporting would change drastically.

Though the petition calls for a "peaceful" secession, it is clear that given the current circumstance, states leaving the Union would create quite the opposite situation. If Texas really does succeed, even though it is unlikely, we as the United States would have to prepare for another Civil War.



Source: Google Images  
This map shows the 22 states that are allegedly aiming for enough petitioners to succeed from The United States


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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Re: "Debatable Debate Procedures"**  
I found the article enlightening. Sadly many viewers of the debate will not have been made savvy to the lies and exaggerations that were made on each side. But the article failed to point out any error in particular. However, with so many different media outlets both candidates are indeed scrutinized for everything they say 47%.  
Mitchell Lovell  
Sophomore

**Re: "2012 MLB Playoffs Preview"**  
As an avid sports and more particularly a baseball fan, I liked the way the 2012 playoff preview was done. Even though it isn't CI related, it provided a very good insight about the upcoming events. I like the fact that many of the things said smart intellectual baseball comments rather than just saying the Yankees are the best team in Baseball. I feel the article didn't give away a clear front-runner and leveled the playing field in the mind of the reader.  
Paul Stingo  
Junior

**Re: "Meet Your Senators"**  
Dae's article was magnificent as his illustrious wardrobe. He captured the whole event from perspective of multiple senators and a student. I enjoyed hearing about the agenda's of the newly elected senators.  
Brad Popkin  
Junior

**Re: "Bankrupting the American Political System"**  
It's nice to see somebody point out that Obama and Romney are practically the same. The democrats and republican at this point have the same policies and no matter who wins, the country is going to be the same hell. But what about Gary Johnson? I see absolutely no third party coverage at all. What about libertarian party? Rather than vote for the lesser of two evils or "Obamney," a coin with the same two sides, waste your vote for Gary Johnson, he

actually seems to have a brain, if he had been allowed to debate, he would have won by a landslide. Mainstream media is like a joke.  
Anonymous

**Re: "Gridlock!"**  
The college needs a new system to get students on and off the campus in the evening. Usually there are public safety officers letting each side go, but it's really bad they are disappearing. Drivers in time waiting don't care and make rash moves that can cause an accident where we could hurt of use one of our own. I believe we need to have another exit or more public safety officers on duty throughout the entire day.  
Dana Biondolillo  
Senior

**Re: "Springsteen Rocks Metlife Stadium"**  
This piece is an awesome read for anyone who is interested in music or Bruce for that matter. Having him come back to his home town is great and also knowing he does not forget where he got his start. Another great issue for The Banner!  
Dan Porcello  
Sophomore

**Re: "From Paris with Love"**  
This article was so funny. I loved it! It was enjoyable to read and had an ending that was completely unexpected. The story has an erotic vibe to it with a touch of humor. I would definitely love to read more from this person.  
Melissa Oviedo  
Sophomore

**Re: "Smoking Ban Drastic Without Designated Areas"**  
I am a smoker and I find this ban on smoking unfair. How can CSI kick us smokers out from the outdoors? Where are we all supposed to go? When I'm stuck on campus for six hours, it forces me to ignore the ban and smoke whenever I get a chance. CSI could have left the designated areas for smokers. No one really

had much of a problem with that regulation. They could've gave us a smokers designated room or tent or something when I paid over \$3,000 this semester. I wasn't paying someone to take my rights away. CSI needs to fix this and compromise with smokers.  
Stephen Basile  
Junior

**Re: "Back to School Style: A Slippery Slope"**  
I think Victoria was spot on with this article. It's incredible how a first impression goes as far as the first week of the semester. One thing that I do realize is that it is much tougher getting dressed in the morning for a girl because guys get a pass on their attire all year. Sweatpants, basketball shorts, t-shirts, hoodies, and baseball caps are the go to outfits for guys and nobody will call them out on their lack of effort. Bottom line, PJ's for school is a no go but I sympathize with the ladies because they're the only ones who get criticized about what they wear.  
Chris Bitetto

**Re: "Gridlock!"**  
I thought this article was well-needed and it accurately summed up the ever-growing problem of campus traffic. Some nights you won't see a car on the road and others you wish you walked to school because you see hours worth of congestion ahead of you. I really hope the article sparks some flames and the issue can be taken care of. Other than that, the article was quite interesting.  
Brittany Ferone  
Sophomore

**Re: "Captain Morgan VS Captain Ahab"**  
Ouch! Thank goodness the woman in this article has not have been named. This was a very honest piece. I've heard of many of my guy friends do the "Keep her thinking 'till she's not drinking" routine but it was really interesting to see it laid out like that. Nice but brutal job.  
Samantha Fink

**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:**

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- Photography
- Graphic design
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# BANNER STYLES

## The Laws of Leggings, Jeggings, and Yoga Pants

*What to Do and What Not to Do With Pants that Stretch*

BY VICTORIA CAROCCIA

In a previous article, I lamented the poor fashion choices of my fellow female students during the winter months. Judging by the recent outfits I've seen on campus, no one took my advice. Many are still sporting the freshly-rolled-out-of-bed look, and I've come to terms with the fact that most of you don't care how you look.

Despite this, I still wish to create a better-dressed community by offering stylish, yet comfortable clothing options. Leggings seem to be the go-to choice for executing a comfy/casual style. Some people believe that leggings should be



reserved for the gym and within the privacy of one's own home. I, however, feel that leggings can be appropriate in any setting, as long as they're worn the right way. In an attempt to restore dignity and class to our community, allow me to illustrate the do's and don'ts of leggings and yoga pants.

Many of us, myself included, are guilty of committing crimes against fashion while rocking our yoga pants. With these guidelines in place, everyone can continue to incorporate leggings into their wardrobe without looking like a hot mess.

**DO:** Wear leggings that fit your body type.

Women come in all shapes and sizes, and beauty is one size fits all. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for leggings. I'm an avid believer in loving your body, and praise the girls who aren't afraid to show off what their mamas gave them. However, there is a very fine line between flattering and fattening, and many women choose to cross it. Leggings have a tendency of showing off every lump, bump and imperfection you possess. By squeezing into a tight pair of leggings, you're only accentuating these ugly features. Leggings and yoga pants come in a variety of sizes, so there is no need to cram your extra large body into extra small pants.

**DO:** Yoga pants that are stretched too much can be much more revealing than you may want them to be

**DON'T:** Wear the wrong undergarments.

It happens to the best of us; we wait until we don't have a stitch of clean clothing and get stuck wearing our emergency granny panties. While laundry day is unavoidable, panty lines can easily be prevented. Thongs are the most obvious choice of underwear when it comes to leggings, but not everyone is keen on wearing something so invasive. Thin lace and seamless yoga panties are also a good choice. Wedgies are inevitable, but probably won't be as noticeable as thick cotton underwear.

**DO:** Wear patterned leggings.

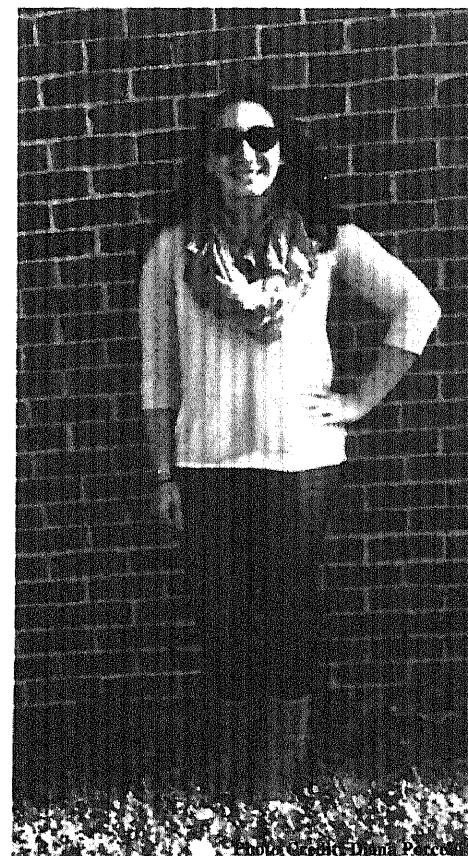
If you choose to ignore the first three cardinal rules, patterned leggings will probably help you get away with it. Unlike solid colors, patterns tend to be better at hiding imperfections, and are also a fun way to mix things up. However, there are still certain guidelines that need to be followed when choosing which patterned leggings are right for you. Stay away from neon colors and busy, obnoxious patterns that will make your legs look short and dumpy. Animal print in neutral colors is always a good choice.

**DON'T:** Substitute leggings for pants.

If you choose to wear spandex that cuts off your circulation, then you should probably opt for a long shirt that conceals your lady bits. Another thing about leggings is that they tend to emphasize every movement your body makes. No matter how toned and fit you may be, there will always be some jiggle in your step. While you may not consider this to be a big issue, many others would rather not see your ass and vagina on display. By wearing a long shirt or a short dress, you create a cute and comfortable outfit while leaving a little to the imagination.

## Campus Style

BY DIANA PORCELLI



**Giana Abbruzzese**  
Sophomore  
Style: Scarves & Boots



**Carlos Araujo**  
Junior  
Style: Dress Shoes, Button Downs



**Shevon Miller**  
Sophomore  
Style: Doc Martins & Spikes



**Richie Paliarino**  
Sophomore  
Style: Casual Dress and Dress Shirts

# BANNER STYLES

## The New York Wheel: Coming Soon To Staten Island

*What to Expect with the Announcement Biggest Attraction to Ever Come To New York City*

BY NICOLE PAGANO

Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced plans for the New York Wheel on the North Shore of Staten Island this September. It will be the largest Ferris wheel in the world if Bloomberg has his way.

"The New York Wheel will be an attraction unlike any other in New York City—unlike any other on the planet," said Bloomberg as he released the plans for the

build, it is expected to bring in over \$500 million in private investment, create 1,200 construction jobs, and over 1,100 permanent jobs. Developers will be paying the city of New York \$2.5 million a year in rent for the land.

Expected to attract 4.5 million people a year, the New York Wheel will be designed to carry an estimated 1,440 passengers at a time. It will be open for seven days a week, 365 days a year from 10am to 10pm.

Termino, a store manager. "I really think this wheel will just make traffic worse."

Hurricane Sandy caused supporters of the Ferris wheel to change their minds.

"I changed my opinion on the wheel coming to Staten Island," said Michael Maiorini, a retired New York Police officer. "Before Hurricane Sandy I was in favor of it. However, after the storm, maybe we shouldn't be building amusement areas so close to the shore."

NewYorkwheel.com, the official website of the New York Wheel, details the project schedule, the teams working on the design, the environmental impact of the wheel, and safety and security. Also available is a blog, which if accessed, explains more specifications of the wheel.

"This wheel is a game changer for Staten Island," said Borough President James Molinaro. "I've anxiously been waiting for this day."

*At 625 feet tall, the wheel will stand eighty-four feet taller than the Singapore Flyer, which currently is the world's largest Ferris wheel*

wheel on Foxnews.com.

At 625 feet tall, the wheel will stand eighty-four feet taller than the Singapore Flyer, which currently is the world's largest Ferris wheel. It will take up 350,000-square-foot and contain a 950 square foot parking garage that features a green roof, open space, solar panels, and planted gardens.

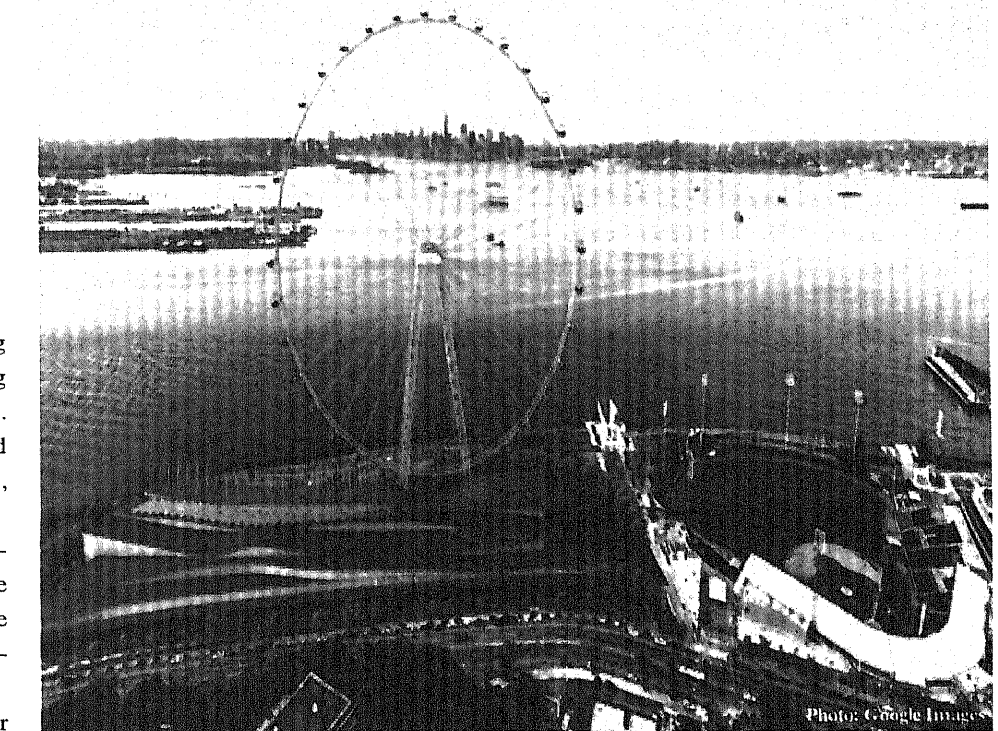
The wheel will also feature a hotel complex, containing more than two hundred rooms that will accommodate tourists and Harbor Gardens, a strip mall estimated to contain over one hundred stores.

Although it will cost \$230 million to

The New York Wheel LLC is overseeing the development and Broad Wall Consulting Services will do the construction near the St. George Ferry terminal. The anticipated opening date as of now is December 31, 2015.

There are mixed views coming from residents of Staten Island. Some support the Ferris wheel and believe it will help increase interest in Staten Island and others are completely against it.

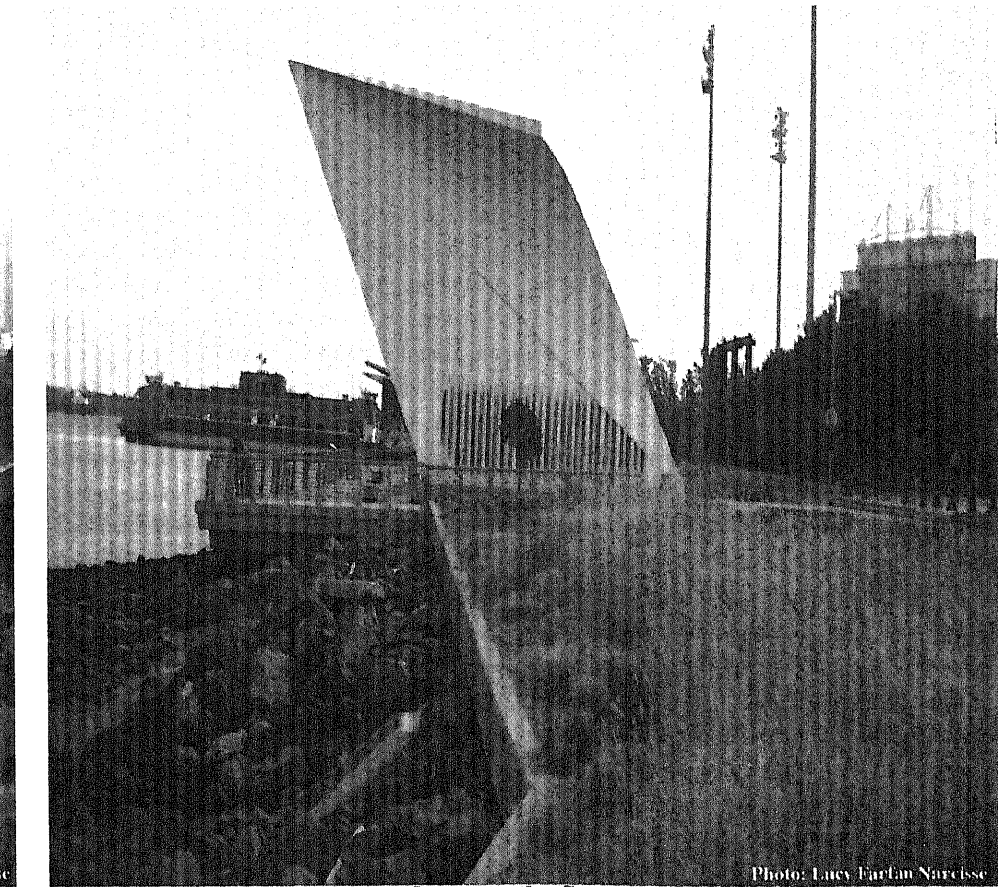
"I really think this will just make our Island more crowded, it's already hard enough to drive around here," said Liz



An artist's rendition of the planned New York Wheel overlooking St. George Harbor



Space where The New York Wheel and adjoining mall complex will occupy after construction and development



The New York Wheel will stand next to the September 11th Memorial





# BANNER SPORTS

## A New Look but the Same Ol' Dolphins *Under a New Coach the Women's Basketball Team Looks Ahead*

BY BRADLEY POPKIN

The women's basketball team of CSI are looking to improve on a season that saw nine of their fourteen losses come by double digits and they will be doing it with a new, but familiar headcoach.

Timothy Shanahan, Interim Head Coach of women's basketball, inherits a team that went 9-14 and was ousted from the playoffs in the first round. Shanahan who has experience

*"Now doesn't matter," said Coach Shanahan  
"It's about how you finish."*

but never as a head coach, has spent the last five years as an assistant coach here at CSI. With previous stints at New Utrecht High School in Brooklyn, and Highland Park High School in New Jersey, Shanahan dismisses any doubters.

"I'm here to change the program around," said Shanahan. "Whether they want to say Interim or not, I can't be worried about that."

The team is not accustomed to losing, having nine 20 winning seasons over the last decade. They will play a brand of basketball that is predicated on everyone touching the ball and one that puts pressure on the opposing

teams, under Coach Shanahan.

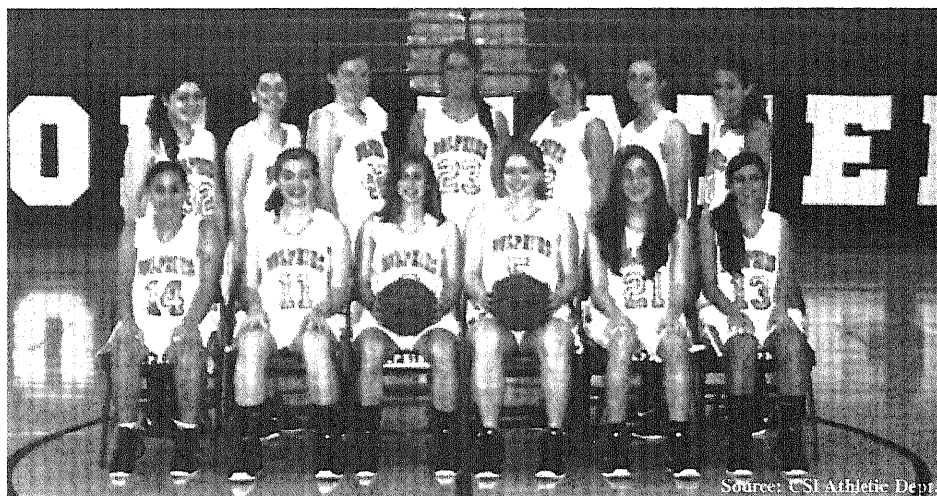
The women's team is relatively young with only two seniors on the team but it doesn't mean they won't have depth. Fellow Captain and Sophomore Nikki Fabozzi who can boast Rookie of the Year honors flank senior captains Katelyn Hepworth and Olivia Tierno. Joining them is a slew of eleven freshmen and sophomores who may be called upon after some setbacks.

Hepworth and Sophomore Danielle Kartalis both sustained injuries in practice.

"Katelyn, I believe can out rebound and out hustle anyone any day," said Sophomore Guard Megan Myhre. "We have plenty of girls who will work hard to fill that void."

Helaine Larina is the Head Athletic Trainer for all teams at CSI. Larina recently joined the program in 2009 after stops at St. Francis College, John Jay, and City Tech. Larina will have the task of nursing the women back to full strength. Larina describes what the most gratifying part of her job is.

"Seeing a girl who has been out, get back



The CSI women's basketball team will look to the future in the upcoming 2012-2013 winter season

out on the court again." said Larina.

The women's basketball team sports some of the brightest girls in the school, including one of its captains, Tierno. Tierno is apart of The Verrazano School, which is a selective undergraduate honors program at CSI. Tierno not only sports a career high in points with 28, but also a gpa that is a shade over 3.9.

"School comes before basketball no matter what," said Tierno. "It pushes me to do well in my studies and as a reward I can play basketball."

The Dolphin's opened the season playing three games in four nights including, two back to back road games in Boston. The women came out of that stretch with an 0-3 record. Their losses can be attributed to poor rebound-

ing as the women have been crushed on the boards, 160-98. Poor shooting and shot selection also come into play as the women have shot an abysmal, 17.9 percent from three point range.

They still have 22 games left in the season, 11 at home. Although it's not the position they envisioned themselves being in, the team will have to follow the lead of their first year head coach.

"Now doesn't matter," said Shanahan. "It's about how you finish."

On tap for the Dolphins is a matchup with York College at the Sports and Recreation Center on November 27, at 5:30 pm.

## Women's Basketball Beaten By Stevens *Dolphins Fall in Non-Conference Play*

BY JESSICA PIFALO

Shooting was not the CSI Women's forte on Tuesday night as the Lady Dolphins fall to the Ducks of Stevens Institute of Technology with the score of 61-45, dropping their record to 0-3 for the 2012-2013 season.

Hitting the Court, the Dolphins did not struggle out of the gate, keeping up with Stevens for most of the first half. The Dolphins took the lead in the first eight minutes, going on a 10-2 run sparked by Freshman Victoria Gallinaro, putting them at a 17- 11 lead.

The Ducks came storming back with a 9-2 run to grab the lead back with the score of 20-19.

Both teams would exchange leads multiple times until Junior Molly Spadaro would sink a three to grab the lead with a score of 23-19 going into the locker room.

The Dolphins would suffer the first half with low shooting, connecting only 10-of-37 shots and 4-of-21 from long range.

The Dolphins shooting troubles continued, as they went 8-of-37 and 1-for-17 from the long range, leaving the Ducks to take full advantage.

Rebounding was another worry as

well for the Dolphins. The Ducks would out-rebound the Dolphins tremendously collecting 24 offensive rebounds. The Ducks would come in and increase their lead.

Despite the Dolphins attempt with a 5-0 run, cutting the Ducks lead to six, Spadaro struck again sending her team to go on a 7-0 run, leaving the Dolphins trailing the rest of the game.

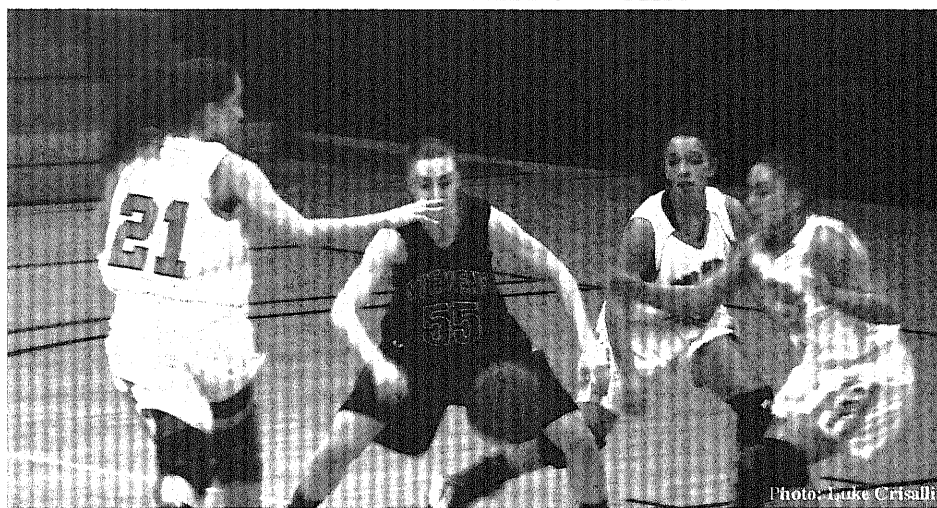
Despite the loss, Senior Olivia Tierno led with 14 points in the game. Gallinaro finished with 9, and Sophomores Nikki Fabozzi and Megan Myhre each contributed 6.

"It was a tough loss," Said Tierno. "We have a very undersized team so boxing out is our main concern."

The senior Captain also states that that the team needs to focus on being more aggressive on offense.

"We have to work on driving to the basket and looking inside for the paint for shots," said Tierno.

The Dolphins will join the Men's team as they host York College on Tuesday, November 27, in a double header at the CSI Sports and Recreation Center. The women will tip off at 5:30 and the men are set to tip off 7:30.



Above: Senior Olivia Tierno (21) makes a pass to teammate Jamie Pifalo.  
Below: Coach Tim Shanahan conferences with the women's basketball team during the game vs. Stevens

