

THE BANNER

February 12, 2007

SG Vice President Resigns

"I've realized that I'm not a politician"

Stefanie Plust

February 1st – Students stood and applauded for Ilya Geller as he stepped down at the conclusion of this semester's first student government meeting. After serving one semester as Vice President of Student Government, Geller declined to serve another term. Reasons revolved around his discord with politics and his need to find a better paying job.

"I've realized that I'm not a politician and my family is in debt, it's time for me to get a real job," said Geller.

AJ Ramphal, SG President was surprised by Geller's resignation. "I can't say anything bad about Ilya, he's a good friend," said Ramphal. "At the SG table we must have contentious displays. Being involved in politics is being instrumental in social change. Don't criticize politics, it's not the enemy. Ilya says that he can't stand for some issues brought to the table, not everyone can, but I don't think politics are to blame."

While VP, Geller put together candidate forums for four elections. "I didn't really have time to do more because there was too much debating going on most of

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Career and Scholarship Center Prepares Students For the Future

AnnMarie Costella

In the 1967 musical, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, mail room clerk, Pierpont

Finch climbs the ladder of success to become the President of a large corporation in less than a week, by following the simple instructions found in a self-help book. Unfortunately, getting to the top in the real world is not so easy. So what are you going to do after you get that college diploma you've worked so hard for? Fear not. The Career and Scholarship Center can help.

The mission of the Center is to prepare students to become marketable in the business world, teaching them such pertinent tasks as: writing a resume, preparing for an interview or job fair, negotiating salary, networking, and other business etiquette. The Center also handles internal CSI scholarships, fellowships, and external scholarships as well as career placement and internships. They can even help students who plan on

entering a graduate program by aiding them with applications and letters of intent.

It is important to realize, however,



Director Caryl Watkins encourages all students to visit the Career and Scholarship Center (1A-105). Photo: AnnMarie Costella

that the Center does not provide instant solutions and that there is no such thing as a quick fix. Students must work with the counselors in order to achieve the desired goal. "They

have to take a proactive approach. You can't wait for anyone to provide you with what you need," said Director Caryl Watkins. "We have a huge database and a really good track record with internships, but we don't want students to walk in and say: 'I need an internship and I need to start it in a week.' You have to realize it's like looking for a job; just because you want the internship doesn't

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A Really Crappy Story

Overflowing Pipes Forces Partial Closure of Library

Kevin S.P. Mamakas

For the third time in the past few years, urine and feces have polluted the reserve section of the CSI Library, and staff members behind the circulation desk have been forced to abandon their work area.

Human waste became a massive inconvenience for students on February 7 and 8 because they had no way to checkout or return books, take out reserves, or take a stop off of their records.

"It is absurd," said CSI student Adam Spencer. "I don't have \$300 to buy a book right now."

The circulation desk of the library reopened for limited use on February



The circulation desk was reduced to a table because of the sewage problem. Photo: Kevin S.P. Mamakas

9 allowing students to take out and return some books. However, students were inconvenienced by the reserves being inaccessible.

"It is a big inconvenience," said Belisario Rueda, a student from Astoria, Queens. "The book I need from the reserve section of this library is the only one available in the CUNY system."

The Cyber Café was also affected by the incident. The backed up pipes leaked into the walls. However, they were not forced to close. According to the Director of Public Relations Robert Huber, the leakage was not as serious in the Café. "It didn't come out of the sinks," he said. However, numerous Café staff claim it is the second time leakage occurred.

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Hunter College Suicide Raises Concerns About Depression at CSI

AnnMarie Costella

Homework, exams, family problems, relationship problems, uncertainty about the future – it can all add up and sometimes it pushes students too far. Depression and suicide amongst college students, especially seniors, are becoming increasingly common. At NYU, seven students committed suicide between 2003 and 2005.

Last year, three CSI students visited the Counseling Center (1A-109) contemplating suicide. "It doesn't happen as often as it does on some campuses, but we have had to help students who are feeling suicidal,"

said Counseling Center Director, Dr.

Ann Booth. "If a student is really in danger of hurting themselves then, by law, we have to make sure they get to a hospital."

On January 22th Anton Frolov, 21, a Hunter college student, distraught



Dr. Ann Booth encourages student to talk about their problems. Photo: AnnMarie Costella

over the death of his mother, jumped 19 floors from the roof of the campus' West building, plummeting to his death. "I was working and then, bang! It was like a blown tire," Vanna Hagopian told the New York Post. "It was so loud. I knew something was wrong as soon as I heard it."

Many people

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ADP

The New York Times The American Democracy Project

War on Global Warming?

Lucie Lauria

PARIS, FRANCE Feb. 2 - Government scientists and officials pertaining to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC discussed global warming at the international global warming conference. They concocted a report purporting that global warming is "very likely" caused by man.

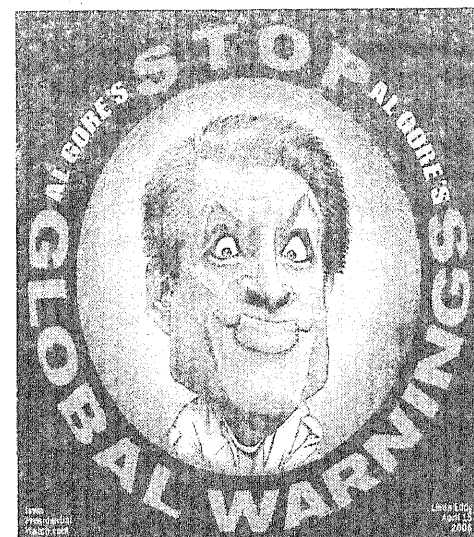
"Very likely" does not mean with certainty. While the report supplied no evidence whatsoever of any immediate catastrophe, and while it indicated no solutions, the U.N. officials speak about measures to be taken in order to curb dangerous risks.

The alleged danger of the global warming scare campaign fits into the same category with past and contemporary fear factors, such as the global cooling scare campaign of the seventies, war on drugs, war on terrorism, and etc. Qui podest?

Certainly not the common citizens. The scare campaigns serve as a tool of perpetual efforts by powerful lobbies to encroach on individual liberties. The global warming scarecrow stands in line with many other ragamuffins as an intrinsic part of the grim and powerful global

movement working towards the Big Government.

The environmental fundamentalists' wishful thinking fabricates various stories



about an alleged climate apocalypse, peak oil, asteroids, the New Ice Age, or global warming.

While great many media and numerous politicians frantically ring the bells of alarm, Senator James M. Inhofe, the Oklahoma Republican who has called the idea of dangerous human-driven warming

a hoax, issued a news release entitled 'Corruption of Science' that rejected the report as a political document, the New York Times informed.

One of those politicians who sound the alarm is Al Gore - a non-scientist who once claimed that he "invented" the internet. Gore hosts his propagandistic documentary film "An Inconvenient Truth" that was recently screened in the Williamson Theatre at CSI.

Gore's poor acting performance, full of contempt for audiences, attempts at a comedic explanation of his fear factor global warming doomsday theory and also cheaply exploits his family tragedies. Can it be any surprise that Gore was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, and that his film received nominations for an Academy Award?

Fundamentalist environmentalists go to great pains to snatch the "War on Freedom Prize" from the neocons and neoliberals. "We've been witnessing many new attempts at destroying freedom and openness,



Vaclav Klaus, President of the Czech Republic, said at the conference on globalization in Los Angeles. "What are the current main threats? Definitely neither global warming nor similar irrational conclusions of the ecologists, decreasing oil supplies, and terrorism. The problem is elsewhere. The problem I see, as always, in the sphere of ideas, in the new version of beliefs in statism, state interventions into the private sphere of individuals, and in the paternalistic distribution of income. I see a problem in political correctness and in the contemporary post democratic politics based on satisfying needs of strong lobbies to the detriment of common citizens."

Frost Comes from Pentagon

Lucie Lauria

While the Pentagon's long-term plans for the deployment of a radar network of the global U.S. missile defense system in Central Europe ran into stumbling-blocks of the Czech and Polish resistance, the tension between Washington and the Kremlin grows in intensity.

The U.S. intentions of placing a third anti-missile shield of the radar network in Central Europe have raised a hostile reaction by the Kremlin. The Russians view the U.S. military plans as endangering their national security and as a factor dangerously overturning the strategic situation in Europe.

Russian President Vladimir Putin rejected U.S. assertions that missile sites it plans to deploy in the Czech Republic and Poland were to intercept missiles from Iran and North Korea.

Putin warned the Pentagon that the Kremlin will react to the U.S. military

threat. Allegedly, the U.S. missiles are no match for the weapons that Moscow will wield in the near future.

Amidst the rebirthed Cold War, Russia's Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov plans to build new silo-based Topol-M ballistic missiles, aircraft carriers, and nuclear submarines. The new arms races will be financed by Russia's steeply increased defense budget.

While the Kremlin and Washington feel the chill of each other's stare, Prague and Warsaw pulverize the U.S. strategic plan.

Radoslaw Sikorski, Polish Defense Minister and a big fan of the U.S. anti-missile shield resigned on Feb. 5. The polls demonstrate that Washington's reputation among Poles is sharply decreasing according to

Gazeta Wyborcza.

The League of Polish Families and Samoobrona - two government parties call for a referendum.

Prague would prefer a referendum too. Thousands of people demonstrated

against the radar network in the Czech Republic last week. Bad weather - cold and heavy rain - didn't prevent them from saying a loud NO to the latest American plan on deployment of anti-missile systems in Central Europe. The Czechs don't want any foreign army on their territory; moreover, the presence of the radar would critically deteriorate national security of the Czech Republic. The participants of the demonstration carried banners expressing their refusal of foreign military bases, war, and imperialism.

The Social Democrats' chairman and oppositional leader, Jiri Paroubek, visited the American Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Richard Graber and officially refused the idea of the American military radar base.

A nongovernmental oppositional movement has already collected more than 40,000 signatures on its petition for a referendum.

Mirek Topolánek, the Czech Prime Minister, has rejected the calls for referendum, but his government's fragile existence is holding on to life only thanks to two oppositional defections.

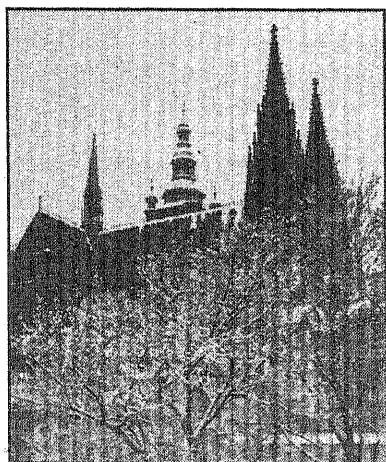
Moreover, Topolánek, is unpopular

for his family scandal after he left his wife and three children for a lower house deputy chairwoman, Lucie Talmanova, who is pregnant. Topolánek is infamous in the Czech Republic also for his uncivilized behavior and sex scandal. Recently, Topolánek was filmed by a journalist while kicking into the journalist's car and is expected to be fined by a parliamentary committee for making an obscene gesture - the erected middle finger - at an oppositional deputy in the Chamber of Deputies.

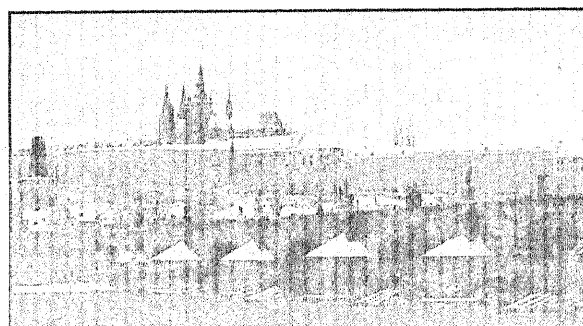
The unpopular prime minister seems to be the last person who would be able to silence the dissent.

President of the Czech Republic, Vaclav Klaus, is not in favour of the U.S. plan to deploy the third anti-missile shield in Central Europe and intends to discuss the issue with the Russian President.

While Washington is playing a waiting game and hopes to persuade the stubborn Czechs and Poles with a financial incentive package, the atmosphere between Washington and Moscow chills. Central Europe freezes in the political blizzard that revives the old zone of military tension.



Prague - Saint Vitus Cathedral in winter.



Prague - Charles Bridge in winter.

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VP Resigns

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the time," said Geller. He also currently holds several other positions here at CSI: Board of Directors for NYPIRG, Good Government Project Leader for NYPIRG, Secretary for Association, and Films Coordinator for the Program Development Community. Geller began his CSI career three years ago by joining NYPIRG and has become more actively involved in other areas since last summer.

Ellen Krieger, Coordinator of Student Government confided in Ellen Krieger, Coordinator of Student Government prior to his official resignation. "I tried to talk him out of it," Krieger said. "When he said it was for personal reasons I gave him my full support. People need to do what's best for them at each given time. I hope he can come back at another time that's better for him."

Students and fellow senators responded positively to Geller's resignation. "In anything you do there will inevitably be a little bit of politics; it's

something to think about" commented Senator Iгоре Essonghe.

"I disagree with Ilya more than I agree with him," added another senator, Dennis Gaffigan. "But he'll be missed." A friend of Geller's, Michael Gualtieri believes Ilya was burned out. "He has a ton of responsibilities here on campus," said Gualtieri. Geller hopes to obtain a job with a non-for profit organization. "I really want to focus more on my writing and studying more."

Carol Brower, Director of Student Life was supportive of Ilya's resignation. "I was a little surprised but not disappointed," said Brower. "He seems comfortable with his decision and I commend him on being able to step down and pursue what he feels is better for him. We encourage our student leaders to be involved in what they're passionate about."

The following SG meeting voted in Alexandra Porto as the new VP. "The biggest problem on campus is lack of communication between student and student and student and faculty," Porto said. "Basically all ends of the spectrum.

Career Counseling Center

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mean that they want you."

Students can come into the office and make an appointment to speak with a counselor, while there they can pick up several of the helpful booklets on topics such as: how to write a resume and how to dress for success. They may also sit and peruse the database for employment and internship opportunities. Even if you don't quite know what you want, you can speak to a counselor, leave your name and information and ask them to call you when they see something they think is for you. The benefits of making yourself visible at the office are numerous. And it's never too early to start thinking about the future.

"Students should talk to their professors starting in their freshmen year. Having a close relationship with your professors can help in numerous ways, including references for scholarships, or in terms of networking," explained counselor, Geoffrey Hempill. "I also recommend that they acquire some experience in their field before they graduate; this can be accomplished through internships, some fellowships, and volunteering. Students should also try to get involved in the community in some way; in many fields, a history of volunteerism looks great on the resume."

As you prepare for life beyond a college campus there are some common mistakes that you should avoid. Set your MySpace profile to private. Director Watkins has encountered situations where students have been turned down for jobs because employers check their profile only to discover the prospective employee bragging about his/her sexual prowess or penchant for drinking. Create a separate email account to use specifically for the purpose of business and networking. "Some of the screen names that students have are really personal and inappropriate," said Watkins. "It's hard to

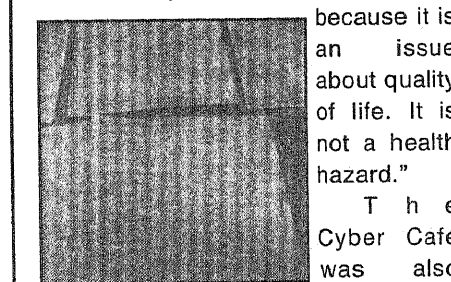
Sewage

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Chief Librarian Wilma Jones does not want her employees to work in the circulation desk area for health reasons. They did not get a statement from the college or any other agency saying it is safe for them to work in the environment.

"They are being good in the sense that they are looking, putting fans there, and drying the floor," said Jones. "If someone comes in with a document stating it is safe to work there, then they will go back to work. We are sorry we have to shut down, but we have to."

However, according to Huber, "The library faculty can not work



Over 300 signatures were acquired in one day. Photo: Mamakas

because it is an issue about quality of life. It is not a health hazard."

The Cyber Café was also cleaned with biocide, but café staff

did not witness how thorough it was done.

A sanitary line sewer backup caused pipes in the first floor girls' bathroom to overflow on Wednesday. Yet the college does not know what caused the incident.

"It's in the line, so I don't know what caused it," said Robert Huber. "Who knows what gets caught in the sewer line."

Plumbers arrived on Feb 7 to clean the waste that seeped out and stained the walls. "Cleanup included biocide scrubbing," said Huber. "Biocide is a chemical used to kill bacteria. It also created an unbearable smell."

The library staff will not work until the problem is correctly dealt with. "If it is not an issue for he students, its not an issue for the college," said College Assistant Dee. They released a statement claiming what the college should do and requested all the students who were inconvenienced by the sewage problem to sign a petition.

The statement read: "We hereby request the plumbing be fixed properly in the Circulation/Reserve area to avoid the ongoing problem of human waste spilled into the area and causing an unhealthy work and study environment. Students were unable to borrow reserve materials because the circulation desk was closed due to this problem. We request that the problem be properly fixed, the area disinfected and the carpet removed and replaced to ensure a healthy work and study environment." The petition reached over 300 signatures after one day.

Additional Reporting by Ilya Geller

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TAP, TAP, TAP Where's Our Damn Money?

Kevin S.P. Mamakas

An increase of \$71.8 million dollars for CUNY was a major part of the new Governor's 2007-2008 fiscal year budget. It is the first time that CUNY has received an un-debated increase in funding since former Governor Pataki took office. It also marks the first time since Pataki was in office that there is no proposed tuition hikes.

"NYPIRG thinks this is a good start," said CSI-NYPIRG's Project Coordinator Marc Montalbano, "But New York can do better."

NYPIRG, one of the leading organizations that prevented Pataki's proposed tuition increases, is fighting to have mid-year TAP adjustments for all who need it added to the budget.

Despite having full funding for TAP, and increased funding for part-time TAP, the organization believes it is important to take into consideration the students who have life changing experiences in the middle of the semester.

"TAP should be flexible enough to help students in any situation," said Montalbano. "But it doesn't."

The adjustments would allow the breadwinners of a home to change information they put on a TAP application whenever they get called to duty, divorced, or become suddenly ill.

Currently, the only people who are allowed to make a mid-year TAP adjustment are the students who applied for TAP, get called to active duty, or have a catastrophic illness. Students are not always the breadwinners of a home.

"I don't think it will effect me because I get full TAP," said student Elisaih Pena. "However, it will definitely help other students who receive partial TAP."

The students who will be most effected are the ones who receive partial TAP or no TAP. If something occurs that changes a student's financial situation, they may have no way to pay for classes.

"I definitely should be able to change my TAP," said student Adriane Tanjutco. "I could make 60 thousand dollars a year and lose my job in the middle of the year. The price of books alone would make it to pay for my education. Currently, I get \$250 and my text books were \$500."

NYPIRG requests that any student who would qualify for mid-year TAP adjustments under the new policy to contact them.

"If a family is working to adjust to a sudden financial change," said Montalbano, "And if they are willing to talk about it, please contact us at 1C-218 or call us at 718-982-3109."

Depression

Cont'd from page 1

were alarmed by the incident. "He was lying on the ground, covered in blood," Hunter student, Marge Morgan told the Daily News. "A priest came over from St. Vincent's and gave him his last rights, but he was already dead. It's heartbreaking."

In response to this latest tragedy, Dr. Booth sent an e-mail to all CSI faculty members asking them to keep an eye out for students who are depressed and need help. "College students are experiencing more stress, anxiety, and depression than they were a decade ago," she stated. "Faculty or staff maybe the first person to notice a student's troubled behavior or even the first person a student speaks to in confidence."

The Counseling Center offers free, confidential, academic and personal counseling with qualified mental health professionals. Students can make an appointment or they can just walk in. No one will be turned away. The quiet, dimly lit office provides a soothing escape from the fast paced environment of the rest of the campus.

"Depression is one of the more common mental health concerns," indicated Dr. Booth. "Everyone experiences depression at some point in their life. The important questions are: how serious it is, how much of an impact does it have, and

what are the reasons for it?"

CSI students agree that stress and anxiety can become overwhelming. "There is always something that is going to make you upset. It seems logical that college students would be prone to depression. They have more pressures than most people would expect at such a young age," indicated student, Andrew Oppenheimer, 21. "Problems occur in all aspects of life. However, in college you are balancing classes and deadlines with a whole bunch of other things like work, family, and personal relationships."

"The penalty for failure is high," said English major, Ra'shaun Rodgers, 20. "You can't have a career without a college education."

According to a November 2006 survey conducted by MTV-U and the Jed Foundation (a non-profit college suicide prevention charity), half of college students are so depressed that they can't function. Further, 1 out of every 5 college seniors has considered suicide. "A college student's suicide sends shockwaves through American families every day," said Phil and Donna Satow, whose family founded the Jed Foundation. "If we don't take aim at the root causes, this problem could continue to worsen."

CUNY's Globe Trekkers Experience Darwin's Wildlife: Part Dos

Photos by: Jennifer Miller

Jennifer Miller

Before leaving for the Galapagos we visited Mindo, a cloud forest about two hours west of Quito. We hiked through the forest and saw a variety of plants (bromeliads, orchids, and ferns), birds, insects and a few waterfalls. We did so much hiking on the trip that one student later joked that CUNY lied to us- this wasn't a study abroad, it was fat camp.

The following day we took a plane to San Cristobal Island, where we would begin the next part of our trip. In San Cristobal lava lizards, finches and sea lions were abundant in the town and near our campus. When we went to the highlands and to the other side of the island, we were able to see frigatebirds and marine iguanas.

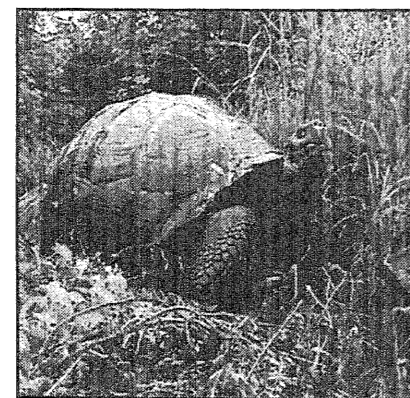
We spent eight days in San Cristobal before our stay there got cut short due to problems with our

upcoming boat tour.

We found out we would have to leave on a different boat trip the following night and three of our

classmates would be separated for the entire six night trip.

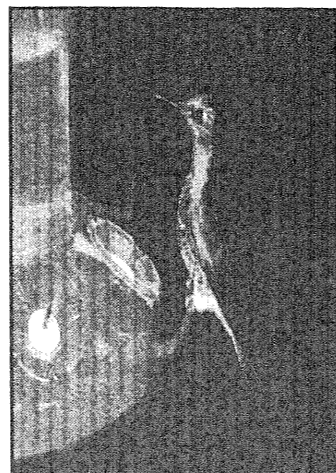
We visited Espanola, Baltra, Floreana and Santa Cruz during the tour but the actual boat, called the Amigo, was not our favorite part of



the trip. Besides the constant rocking of the boat and the small area, bugs infested the entire boat. However because we were able to visit the few different islands we got to see more wildlife. The animals differ greatly from island to island so because we traveled we could see the different varieties.

When we arrived in Espanola we saw land iguanas and the most colorful of the marine iguana population. The highlight of Floreana was the Galapagos penguins we saw. While waiting on the beach for the dingy to take the second half of students back to the Amigo, our tour guide and professor started excitedly pointing to the ocean at a swimming penguin. Most of the population of penguins live further west in

the archipelago than we were going, but a small number live in Floreana

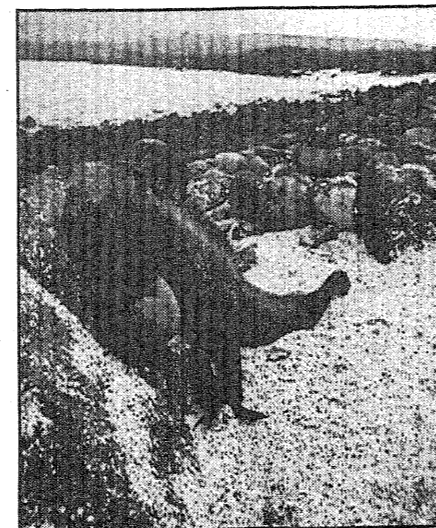


so we were lucky enough to see this penguin. A few hours later we went on the dingy to look for others in the colony and we found one swimming alone. We watched him for a few minutes and he went onto a rock almost posing just for us.

We ended the boat tour and disembarked on Santa Cruz Island, the main tourist destination in the archipelago. Here we visited the Charles Darwin Research station

and did our last minute Galapagos shopping before we returned to Quito for the last leg of our trip.

The last few days in Quito were free days and we had already completed the required coursework. While some of the other students went on the planned trip to Otavalo, a huge market two hours from Quito, five other students and I went to watch Ecuador play Sweden in a friendly soccer game that ended in a 1-1 tie. The entire area surrounding the stadium was covered in people



wearing yellow Ecuador jerseys and getting ready for the game.

On January 23, we were at the airport by 6 a.m. for our flight back to the U.S. Many of the students wished they could have stayed longer and enjoyed the escape from New York's winter weather.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Calm down ladies and gentleman. I am not the new Editor-in-Chief of this fine publication. I am only writing this column temporarily. Mellissa Secheran will be back at her normal post for the next issue. She is busy finishing up her second master's paper. I would like to thank the staff for making sure this issue is great, especially, AnnMarie Costella, Enrique Inocente, Lucie Lauria, Jennifer Miller, Michele Rose, Nicole Bonelli, and even Mellissa. That being said, I will use my space to try and enlighten the college that has given me so much.

First I would like to address the comments directed at our sex columnist. Every person has their own opinions about sex and relationships. Some people believe it is not a good thing to have sex before marriage or with a person one doesn't love. Some people have a more open mind about it. If you don't like the contents of the sex column, please skip it. Do not insult the staff.

Every member of The Banner staff works hard to create a quality newspaper. Nicole Bonelli writes a column about a subject that is difficult and personal, which is a feat that few can do. Also, calling someone a slut with the knowledge that it will be printed is kind of a bad move. It can be considered sexual harassment, so please refrain from saying it.

Other comments that should be thought about before sending them to us are the one's that make the writer of the comment look stupid. We will print them. Why the hell would a student pay for a class if they don't pay attention? To get a degree? You can always read a book to learn. However, now here is the important part, if a person only needed to read from a book to get a job, then their would be no point in college. What happens in the musical How to Succeed in the Business World Without Really Trying is fiction. Classes are designed to teach people using a person, the professor, which has real world experience in the field.

That being said, I would also like to address something that many students have a problem with. Please don't tell us about how we need to write about the parking on campus. Grant it, the campus has parking issues, however, as we stated in past articles, the college just cleaned up areas on campus to create new parking. New parking is also being built when we get residential housing. As for the "uncanny amount of lawns," it is true. Yet, it gives students places to relax, and reminds us that there are still places we can go to that are not taken over by red-tape and bull crap.

Finally, I would like to say that The Banner is a college newspaper, we write about our college. The articles are not always New York Times worthy, but it is the news of the community that we are all a part of. It would be a glorious day when we all act like we are a part of this community.

- Kevin S.P. Mamakas

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: Sex and the Island

Don't stop believing, Nicole. Serious relationships are not for everyone. Just remember you can't please all of the people all of the time, but your pleasure is the most important one of all.

- Sunny Tate

I must say, being a self-proclaimed "sarcastic bitch," this article really catered to what I would consider entertainment. Being a "virgin" to Nicole Bonelli's column, I thought I'd take a quick glimpse. It's a sex column; it has to be interesting, right? Let's just say within seconds of reading the first paragraph, I was hooked. I can proudly say she is plus one reader. Kudos to you, Nicole. Keep up the great work!

- Toni Calasso

Though I agree with having a sex column in The Banner, I do not necessarily agree with some of the demographics and content people are using by calling Nicole, a girl who engages in sexual activities, a "slut." From a male perspective, I want the images in my head, not too many words; or here's a suggestion: having a column with both men and women advising on sex might be a better standard for your column.

- Earl Williams

I fail to see how someone who (and I quote), "has not been in a serious relationship," since they were 16 can claim to be any sort of authority on relationships and not a slut. Just given the fact that it has been 4 years since anyone has committed to this girl says to me not only does she not have any idea on how to get and keep a man, but it also strikes me that she is the type to go out, get drunk, and hookup with some random guy and then whine about why he doesn't call. I've read past articles, just to scoff at how asinine she is, and she strikes me as a slut, a slut who doesn't know anything about meaningful relationships.

Madeline Smith

I can only imagine the amount of criticism you must receive. Why? It's not because you're doing anything wrong. It's because narrow-minded people are scared to hear what you have to say. In the end it comes down to another line being stepped over, but in whose opinion?

- Toni Ann Ferrara

Re: Dirty Bomb at CSI?

I realize that this article was written with the best intentions. Despite this, the subject matter is quite serious and given its gravity, I would appreciate a more serious tone when dealing with such a topic. Leave the light-hearted writing style for the lifestyle section. The serious issues require serious writing.

- Ron Levy

Lucie Lauria makes the point that the government leading our country would run away in the case of a nuclear act, because they wouldn't know the right course of action to take and how to protect the country. Personally looking at the leaders of today, this is very accurate, and we need to find ways to protect ourselves if this occurs.

- Melissa Axelrod

First and foremost it is interesting to see the discussion of a nuclear explosion anywhere on U.S. soil. I enjoyed reading about the different ways of avoiding contamination. Of course if a military nuclear weapon vaporizes everyone and everything then there is no escaping.

- Joe Epifani

Re: College Not For Everyone

I agree with the article that college is not for everyone. You should only do something if you are fully committed to it. If you enjoy what you do then you can be successful at it. As the article mentions, some of the most successful people in the country today did not go to college or dropped out.

- Anthony Pierno

College isn't for me. One day I sat down and thought to myself, "What can an education really do for me?" As I'm getting older, I see that a college education is very important, and in order to climb up the ladder in a corporation, you need that piece of paper saying you achieved your education.

- Vincenzo Monterosso

It is perfectly acceptable to believe this. Although we are often hounded to go after high school, if you have something better, I'd say go for it. Even though it may be important, you must think of yourself first. Just get what you need and then get out of the way.

- Stasiu Tyburski

Re: To J-School and Beyond

I enjoyed the article about journalism schools after undergrad. It was very informative and it had good tips about what to do after graduation. I know for a fact that breaking into the journalism industry is hard and the article gave me an idea of what I could possibly do after college.

- Kimberly Sheckleford

The article "To J-School an Beyond" is interesting because it follows two CSI graduates and their experiences after college. It also allows those graduates to give advice to those who want to pursue a career in journalism.

- Jamal Habib

I'd like to commend you for writing this article because it gives us students a broad image of the road that leads to the CUNY School of Journalism. First hand experiences in my mind are key because we are more likely to relate to our peers than adults who went to school over fifteen years ago. This article can sway a person's opinion who is considering to pursue journalism as a career.

- Thomas Bello

Re: CSI Students Get An A in Rudeness

I found this article to be both insulting and a complete waste of the author's time and of Banner space. The article criticizes students who show up late to class, text in class and aren't penalized for it. Showing up late for class should be universally understood and accepted by all CSI students. Hasn't anyone at The Banner seen the parking lots? The space used for this article could've been used to introduce a petition to get rid of the uncanny amount of lawns and implement much needed parking spaces. As for classroom text messaging, who cares!

If you're paying attention, learning, and passing your classes, then who cares about the person next to you who would rather be online than participating in class. This is college, not kindergarten. All different types of people make up a CSI classroom, and each person has different interests, lives, and attention spans.

- Jillian Spano

Re: Dolphins Split Tournament of Heroes

It's good that we did as well as we did t. Rob Masjaz contributed greatly, but I think that the purpose of the tournament is the main concern here. Honoring fallen teammates and friends is a beautiful thing. I know first-hand how devastating it can be to lose a friend or family member in the 9-11 tragedy. Many of my friends lost their friends on that day. I'm as big a sports fan as any, but I truly believe that the main focus is the point of the tournament.

- Rodney Beliveau

Re: Student Elections Starts Soon

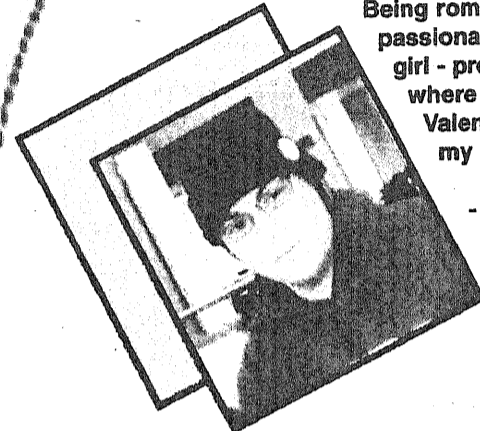
I have never voted for a CSI student election. The reason I have for not voting is simple; elections for student government are as important as the weekly results show on American idol. Students want more parking and lower tuition and being that these issues are less likely than The Simpsons ending I will never participate.

- Christopher Olivieri

What is Your Ideal

Valentine's Day ?

Interviews and Photos by Allison Ryder



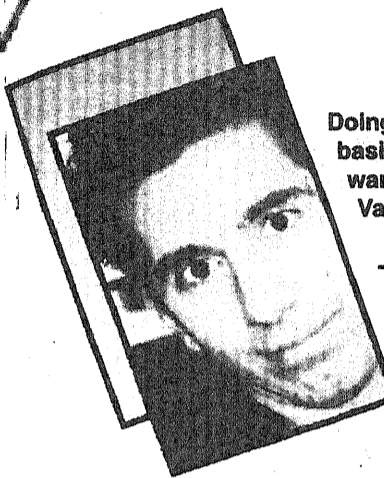
Being romantically and passionately with my girl - preferably in A.C. where I was last Valentine's day with my girlfriend.

- John Gerasi



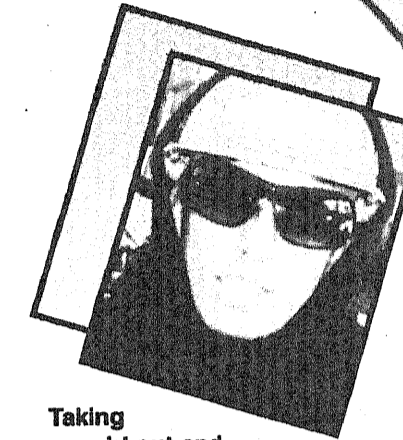
Sharing it with someone who I love and just be together, holding each other close. It doesn't matter where we go or what we do, just as long as we are doing it together.

- Noelle Soldano



Doing something romantic, basically doing what the girl wants to do because Valentine's Day is about her.

- Mike Guglielmo



Taking my girl out and making the night really romantic and special. The ideal Valentine's Day is the two of us just being happy spending time together.

- Scrubz



My special someone giving me flowers and spending quality time with me - something from the heart.

- Kimberly Rosa



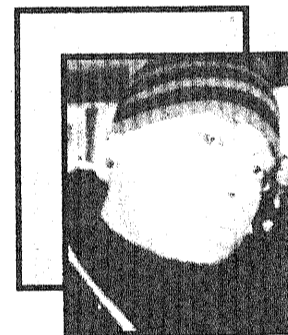
Spending it with someone I love or truly care about. It isn't about the fancy restaurant or the gifts, it's about spending quality time with the person I am with. It's about the small things.

- Stephen Basile



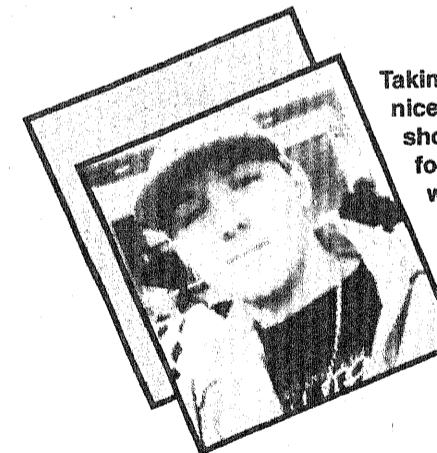
Eating a lot of chocolate and watching a chick flick, such as *How to Lose a Guy in Ten Days*.

- Alexandra Soldano



For Valentine's Day, I'm down for whatever; whether it be a night in or a night out. It's about being with the girl I care about.

- Anthony Amerose



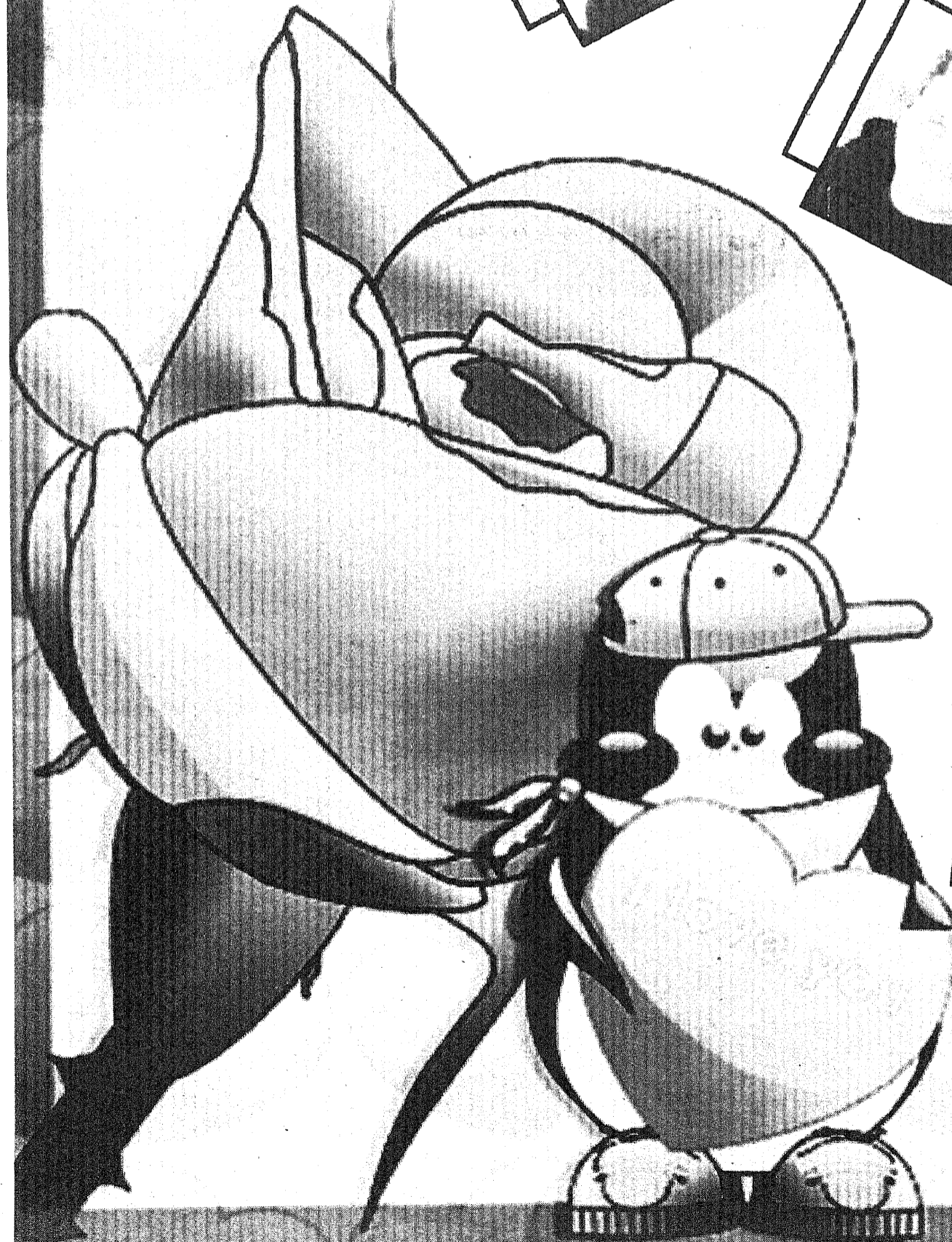
Taking my girl out to a nice restaurant and showing my affection for her. Just being with her makes it an ideal Valentine's day.

- Billy Ruppert



Renting some classic movies and eating my Valentine's chocolate.

- Jonathan Klein





Child Prodigy Shows Signs of Being Big Time Pimp

"That bitch betta have my Play-Doh!" says Iceberg PeePants.

LIFESTYLE, page 2K



SNL Promises to Continue Decade Long Streak of Humorless Sketches

Shown here: Yet another 20 minute sketch that goes nowhere.

TELEVISION, page 3A

Sec. of Def. Explains How War in Iraq is No Quagmire Like War in Vietnam

"Uh, well, there's no Vietnamese in Iraq, for starters," says Gates.

NATIONAL, page 7B



Because Your Articles Aren't Worth Printing

The Beacon

\$1.88

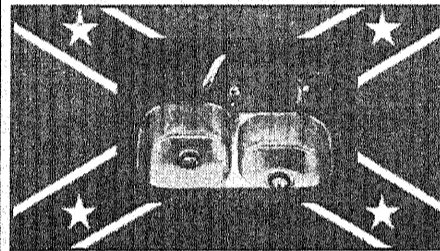
February 12, 2007 | Volume 2 Issue 2

An Enrique Ignacio Inocente Joint

Kitchen Sink Enters Race For Presidency

Running as Dixiecrat

Promises Bold New Changes



The South shall rise again!" says Congressman Kitchen Sink

Beacon Election Watch

Southern Congressman Kitchen Sink yesterday launched a 2008 presidential campaign that could very well make him the second inanimate object manufactured by a corporation to get into the White House since Ronald Reagan.

So many politicians entered the race for presidency that it seemed everyone but the kitchen sink was running. It was at this point that Congressman Sink felt it was his duty to represent.

In an attempt to distinguish itself from the Democrats and Republicans, Sink has opted to run as a Dixiecrat, hoping to capitalize on the resentment Southerners still harbor about losing the Civil War.

"It's time to set back the clock," said Sink during a Ku Klux Klan rally. "The Republicans have been doing an amicable job, but they aren't going far enough! We need to return to the day when men were men, women knew their place, and certain folk weren't allowed to sit at the front of the bus!"

Congressman Kitchen Sink then lit a cross on fire, and pro- see **KITCHEN SINK**, page 6

NATIONAL

President Bush Refuses to Pull Out of Iraq. Iraq Gets Pregnant,

page 8B



I did not have sexual relations with that state," says Bush

Clown Princess Of Crime Strikes Again

Commissioner Gordon Powerless to Stop Maniacal Mad Woman

City Has Work Cutout

Gotham City Correspondent

GOTHAM CITY, USA—Yesterday saw yet another senseless act of murder and mayhem at the hands of Rachael Ray, now going by the supervillain name The Jolly Homemaker, when she stormed into Gotham City First National Bank armed with a sawed-off shotgun and uzi, shouting "Yum-O!" repeatedly! With four rosy-cheeked henchmen by her side, she ordered the bank tellers to empty the safe and load all the money in Rachael Ray brand trash bags, quality trash bags for quality dirt. After receiving the bags of cash, Ray then opened fire on the crowd while laughing and shouting, "Everyone needs a little bit of R&R!" Seven people died at the scene and eighteen are still in critical condition.

This wanton act of violence is just another item to add on Ray's growing list of atrocities committed since becom-



Where's Batman?

Masked Vigilante Has Proven Useless. More on page 7.

ing the self-proclaimed Clown Princess of Crime. Commissioner Gordon held a press conference shortly after the bank robbery to address public concern. "We are hot on the trail of Rachael Ray," said Gordon. "I don't want the good people Gotham to live in fear. This crazed lunatic will be brought to justice."

These are strong words that have bared little fruit. Despite Gordon's clamoring, Rachael Ray's crime wave has proven to be unstoppable since it began in mid January. The first to fall victim to her culinary-themed deaths was Giada De Laurentis who was murdered in cold blood live on her cable show *Everyday Italian* when Ray impaled a spatula in her throat. As blood spurt out of her neck, Ray was heard to say, "Oh My Gravy!"

Now wearing a purple suit, sporting green hair, and a face white as chalk, Rachael is far from the once beloved television personality that spouted infectious catchphrases. Her dramatic transformation happened late December

during the taping of an episode for her Food Network show when she was trying to bake the world's largest cannoli.



Photo of Rachael Ray, now know as The Jolly Homemaker, taken during a bank robbery that left seven people dead.

Ray came back to the scene weeks later calling herself The Jolly Homemaker and vowed to destroy Gotham City while also pushing her lousy merchandise on an unsuspecting public. She has embarked on a reign of terror that has left numerous people dead, and local mob boss, Don Martha Stewart fearing for her life. Stewart has long since

see **RACHAEL RAY** page 9

Behind The Beacon

An all-inclusive behind the scenes look at what it takes to put together a satirical newspaper, and the people that make it happen... I guess.

Episode 2

The Banned Issue

Continuing our behind the scenes look at *The Beacon*, we take a look at the controversial banned issue. December 15th started like any other day, the sky was blue, the birds were singing, a terrorist attack tore through Baghdad market killing countless civilians, and the new issue of *The Beacon* was distributed across campus. But upon seeing the issue, Faculty Advisor DocBrowne took it upon herself to ban the issue, which she found too controversial and "atrociously vulgar."

Her reason: aside from the countless typos and poorly written articles submitted by her journalism class, the issue was littered with the F word and other vulgarities. Fuck was used a record-setting 150 times, asshole was uttered 78 times, and cocksucker was used twice—both in the same article about College President Jason Dongalinger. On top of the foul language, DocBrowne was also appalled by the slew of sex ads depicting horny, cash-strapped adjuncts and sorority girls soliciting sexy services for money.



Eva Editor-in-Chief



Conan Managing Editor



Natasha Political Page Editor



Bitchcakes Sex Columnist



Prof. DocBrowne Faculty Advisor

DocBrowne called a meeting to express her disappointment and justify her reasons to ban the issue. "This is egregious!" she snarled, giving a judgmental eye to all. "We do not advocate adjuncts having sex with students for money. I don't care how strapped for cash they are. This is not Hunter College!" DocBrowne reprimanded the new sex columnist, Bitchcakes, and said she used the F word way too many times, and asked if it was necessary for her to call a woman's private part a snatch. Bitchcakes said it was very necessary. "If they wanted a PG sex columnist then they came to the wrong person," she later said. "I'm all about the frank discussion of sex, and sometimes you just have to say fuck."

DocBrowne then let it be known she didn't appreciate the conspiracy theory Natasha, Political Page Editor, was shoveling in her section. "I believe in freedom of speech, but your theories are unfounded and calling President Bush a Satanist and in cahoots with the Devil is alarming." Natasha countered by saying Bush was part of Skull and Bones, a group noted for practicing satanic rituals.

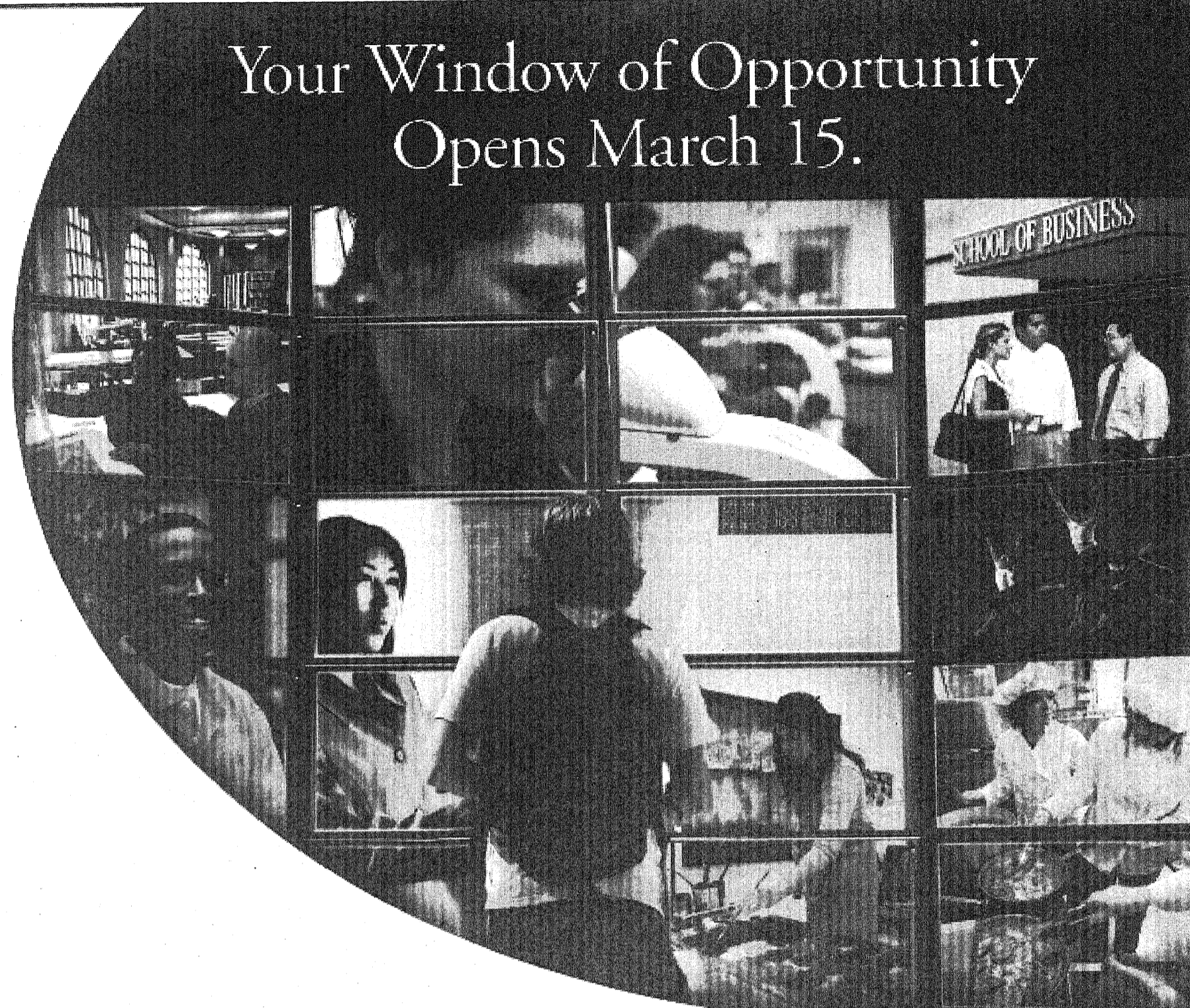
"And I have proof he sold his soul to the Devil," she said, holding a contract signed by Bush with a red crayon, his name spelled wrong. It was indeed Bush's signature. DocBrowne refuted the evidence and said, "Bush can't be a Satanist because the *New York Times* never reported it, and what do I always say?" "If it wasn't reported in the *New York Times*, it never happened," the staff said in unison.

Managing Editor Conan said the Faculty Advisor didn't have the power to ban the issue because it's a student paper and the students have final say in its fate. "I wholeheartedly support DocBrowne's decision to censor us," said Eva, Editor-in-Chief and DocBrowne's protégé. "I respect her and think she holds *The Beacon* and myself especially in high regard. In fact, I see a little of myself in her." Eva and DocBrowne then smiled at each other while the rest of staff rolled their eyes.

Conan demanded to see where in *The Beacon* constitution it says the Faculty Advisor has the power to ban issues. Neither DocBrowne nor Eva could present such evidence.

Breaking News:

Student Government President tells Director of Student Life to get a life.



Your Window of Opportunity Opens March 15.

See how far and how fast Montclair State can take you.

Find out why Montclair State is the Number 1 choice for transfer and adult students. Whether you're a college transfer or returning adult, make Montclair State your final destination. See why New Jersey's second-largest and fastest-growing university is the perfect place to earn your degree.

Attend our Open House for transfer and adult students on March 15. Our Representatives from Admissions, Financial Aid, the Career Development Center, and the Center for Academic Advising and Adult Learning will be present to provide information and answer your questions.

Open House for Adults and Transfers
Thursday, March 15, 2007
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
University Hall 1070



For information, please visit www.montclair.edu/admissions

Se x and the Island

Nicole Bonelli's

Valentine's Day: Feels Like Cramps

It's that time of the year again. Teddy bears that sound like they sucked in too much helium yelp, "I love you." Gaining ten pounds after eating excessive amounts of chocolate hearts is the norm. And worst of all, couples who are high on love feel the need to show nauseating amounts of affection that can easily cause anyone who is alone during this time of the year feel homicidal.

Like I have said before, I've been out of the "lovey dovey" loop for about four years now. Oddly enough, I seem way too proud about that. Anyway, people may want to assume that I am just "jealous," but to be perfectly honest, I am frustrated with Valentine's Day a.k.a. the "Hallmark Holiday." Why is it that love can only be appreciated on one day? What happened to the other 364 days of the year?

After reading these following stories of past Valentine's Day freak show circus acts, you may want to consider locking your doors and hiding from Cupid in order to avoid getting shot in the ass with one of his arrows.

I was fifteen years old when I celebrated my first "romantic" Valentine's Day. Being the typical young, naïve, foolish teenager that I was, I felt the need to brag to all of my friends about how I had the "perfect" boyfriend and

the "perfect" plans. I must have done a lot of drugs back then. Even though he did wow me with homemade chocolate covered strawberries, our relationship melted just as fast as the Hershey's Chocolate that ended up all over me. (Get your mind out of the gutter, we were both dressed, it was nothing hot or erotic.) Give or take a few months, I was soon replaced by the "full college experience," and my friends had to deal with a hysterical lunatic.

The following year, I spent Valentine's Day with my second boyfriend. His mother hated me with a passion because she felt I wasn't good enough for her son, I wasn't Ivy League college material. A week or so before "the big day," he asked me what I would like as a gift. I insisted that he didn't go crazy, and since Care Bears made a comeback that year, I dropped a hint about The Sleepy Time Care Bear. Of course, that was the one that seemed to be sold out in every store in Brooklyn, so when he proceeded to order it online, his mom stepped in and put the order on pause. "That's a stupid idea," she exclaimed. Now, I could have honestly cared less about the freakin' bear because to be honest, it would have probably ended up as my dog's chew toy sometime in the future, but who was this woman to step in and

toss around her opinions? (I settled for the orange Care Bear just to play nice. It had a cupcake on its stomach. How could I resist?) If that wasn't bad enough, I agreed to go out to dinner with him... and his mother on Valentine's Day just to avoid conflict but I was better off signing my life away to the devil. As we sat down for dinner at a Sushi restaurant in Downtown Brooklyn, he and his mother started talking in French. This was awkward enough for me to want to put on my running shoes, and sprint out of there. When I finally confronted him about the situation, he simply responded, "Oh, we were reading the menu in French." I guess they both thought I was pretty stupid.

During my freshman year of college, I spent Valentine's Day with a friend of a friend of a friend. (It's more complicated than it sounds.) Of course Cupid managed to find me as we sat on his couch watching a movie. I developed one of those crushes that make you feel all warm and fuzzy inside. That feeling lasted until I found out about another girl in his life... his girlfriend.

Last year, while I took my coffee breaks from my job, I started talking to one of the guys that worked in the deli. After several months of Espresso

shots, he finally asked for my number, and for a date. Valentine's Day crept around, but there was one problem, I wasn't interested. So I did what anyone would do in this situation, I stopped answering my phone, and disregarded all text messages from him. I felt bad for about twenty seconds, but in the end I think I was more upset about the lack of caffeine involved during my shifts at work.

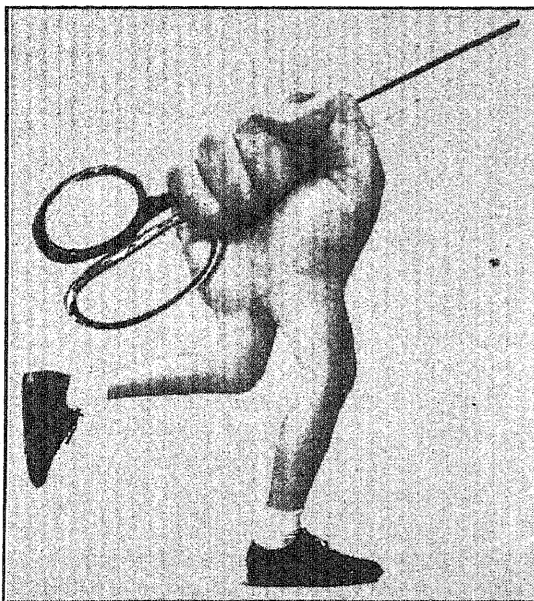
In my experience, Valentine's Day has proven itself to be a bloody mess when in a relationship. Girls bitch about the expensive gifts they want their boyfriends to buy them, and guys are willing to do so, just so they have a better chance of getting laid that night. Instead of dealing with this nonsense, all of us sexy singles have to stick together. So, my advice is to have a party with a couple bottles of wine, and play a few games of Strip Twister.



AnnMarie's Reading Rainbow : Running With Scissors

AnnMarie Costella

Running with Scissors is a memoir that chronicles the life of author Augusten Burroughs from ages thirteen through seventeen as he struggles to deal with his dysfunctional family and his own homosexuality. The book is a real page turner as each chapter reveals some twisted and



bizarre secret — everything from his mother's lesbian affair with a minister's wife to her involvement with a highly unorthodox psychiatrist named Dr. Finch who at one point believes that

God is speaking to him through his bowel movements.

The life Burroughs describes is so strange that one can hardly believe that the book is non-fiction. His mom, a self-absorbed poet who is prone to psychotic episodes, divorces his dad, an alcoholic, college math professor. She then signs Augusten over to her psychiatrist, Dr. Finch, making him his legal guardian.

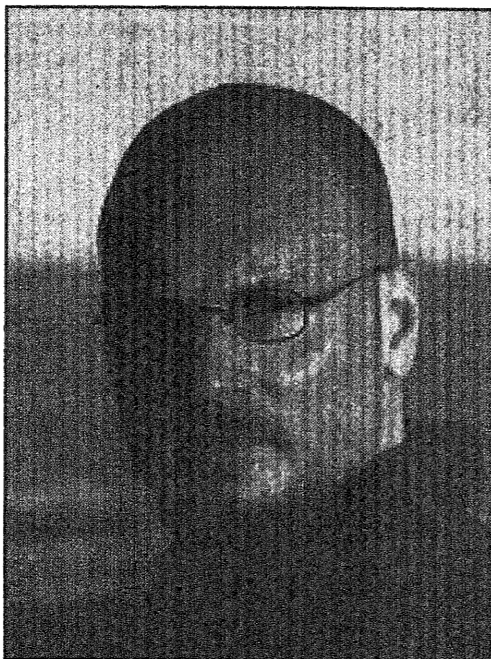
Burroughs moves into the Finch home which is filthy and in a state of disrepair. Worse still, the

Doctor has patients live with him from time to time while they undergo treatment. At first Burroughs can't wait to leave but eventually he settles into his new life and befriends two of Finch's

daughters, Hope and Natalie.

The book is filled with memorable moments. When Burroughs is increasingly unhappy and wants to drop out of school, but can't because he is underage Dr. Finch convinces him to attempt suicide. He hands him some valium and a bottle of vodka and asks: "Where is your sense of adventure?"

After feeling awkward about his homosexuality, Burroughs confides in the Neil Bookman, who is Finch's 33 year old adopted gay son. They engage in a torrid sexual affair. Burroughs, a virgin at the time, is a bit overwhelmed by their first encounter.



Author, Augusten Burroughs' weird and wonderful life is fascinating and fun to read about.

"I'm lying back on Neil's bed, the top of my head knocking against the headboard because his cock is inexplicably down my throat," he says. "His photographs — the reason I came up to his room in the first place — are sliding off, falling on the floor."

Throughout it all Burroughs manages to handle all the obstacles thrown in his path with great maturity. *Running with Scissors* is filled with vivid descriptions and clever metaphors. It is twisted and bizarre, yet humorous and witty. In 2006, a film adaptation of the book was released.

Grade: A

Castlevania: Dawn of Sorrow There's Vampire Killing Fun to be Had

Dominic Fiduccia



Castlevania is among the most famous video game franchises of all-time. Combining the ability to feature some of history's greatest monsters (particularly the series main villain, Dracula) and having great gameplay and exploration elements. The series has recently celebrated their 20th anniversary and Konami, the company that makes the Castlevania series celebrated with the release of *Castlevania: Dawn of Sorrow* for the Nintendo DS.

The story takes place in the year 1944. As Europe continues to be devastated by the horrors of World War II, Dracula's castle returns once more. This time you'll play as Jonathan Morris, the son of John Morris, the hero of 1994's *Castlevania: Bloodlines* for the Sega Genesis. Jonathan

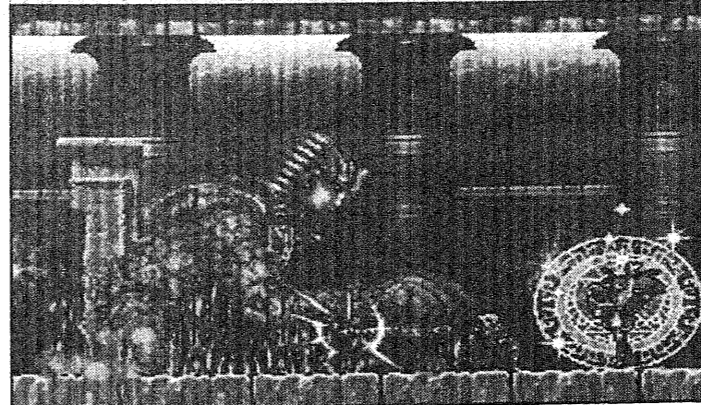
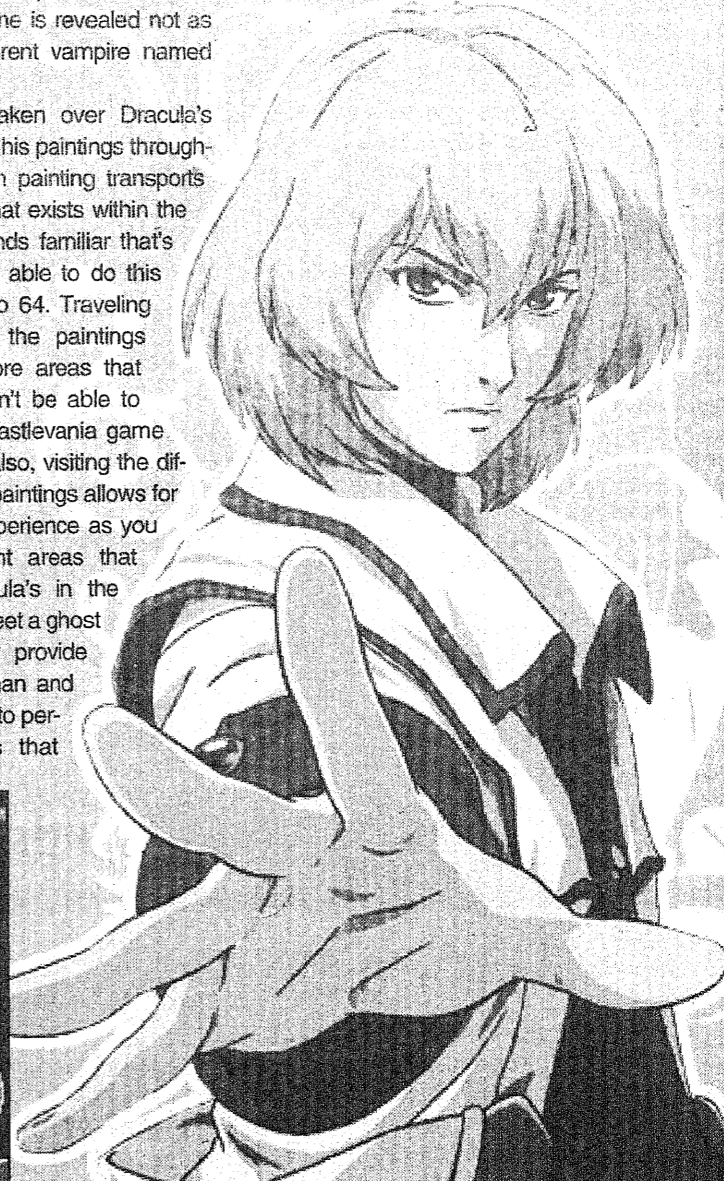
is accompanied by Charlotte Aulin; a childhood friend of Jonathan's who also happens to be a virgin sorceress.

When the adventure begins you'll find a man named Vincent Davis, a merchant who also turns out to be a Roman Catholic Priest. Vincent is trying to raise money for his local parish which is low on funds, when suddenly a vampire attacks him turning the priest into a vampire. This is when the villain of the game is revealed not as Dracula, but a different vampire named Brauner.

Brauner has taken over Dracula's castle and has hung his paintings throughout the castle. Each painting transports you into the world that exists within the painting. If this sounds familiar that's because Mario was able to do this back in *Super Mario 64*. Traveling into the worlds in the paintings allows you to explore areas that you normally wouldn't be able to visit in the typical Castlevania game like ancient Egypt. Also, visiting the different worlds of the paintings allows for a longer gaming experience as you explore the different areas that exist in both Dracula's in the game. Also, you'll meet a ghost named Wind who'll provide new skills to Jonathan and Charlotte to be able to perform certain tasks that

need to be completed in the game.

Overall, *Castlevania: Dawn of Sorrow* is a great game that allows the ability to control two different characters at the same time. The 2-D graphics are well made and the boss battles in the game are both challenging and furious. In a series that has eighteen other games, *Castlevania: Dawn of Sorrow* is easily one of the best in the series to date.



DePetro's Book Club

John De Petro

Mattingly or Hernandez? Simms or Namath? Steinbrenner: Satan or sent from Heaven? A-Rod: stud or dud? New York sports enthusiasts have been arguing their side on topics like these for years. The Daily News' Roger Rubin and Newsday's David Lennon trade shots, stats and facts over fifty of the hottest New York sports based topics in *The Great New York Sports Debate*.

I've had these arguments. I'm still having these arguments. If you're a guy who has ever sat down at the end of a bar with a brew in your hand, (I mean a real bar, not one with a neon martini glass hung so elegantly over the front door) you've had these arguments.

Aside from the typical either or topics such as whether the Mets firing Bobby Valentine was a good move or a big mistake, the boys throw in some more objective Big Apple subject matter such as the best trade, greatest New York-born point guard and the best place to go see a pick-up game of basketball in the city. This is

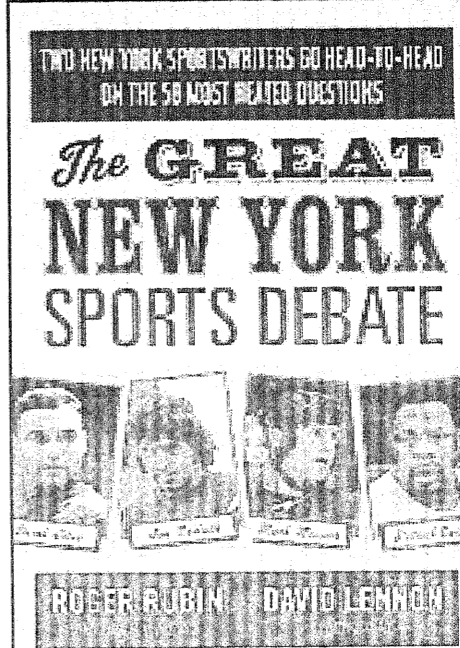
where the book becomes really interesting.

After choosing their side of a question like if it really is more difficult to play in New York, guest writer Gary Sheffield gave his offered his experience. Others who were invited to settle the score on various topics featuring their expertise include former slugger for both the Mets and Yankees Darryl Strawberry, current Met pitcher Tom Glavine, one time New Jersey Net head coach John Calipari and others.

One of the problems with writing a book dealing with such subject matter is how fast the numbers can change. In one chapter, Rubin and Lennon discuss who was the better free agent signing, Johnny Damon for the

Yankees before the 2006 season or Carlos Beltran for the Mets prior to the 2005 campaign.

In his first season with the Mets, Beltran had a difficult and disappointing year with the club, hitting just .266 after signing a deal worth \$119 million. New York sports fans and writers both expect immediate dividends from all their athletes and Beltran was no exception in his first season in Flushing. Because of Beltran's lofty salary and low production after only one year, Rubin went with Damon. But because the chapter was written after



Remembering Anna 1967-2007

Anna Nicole, we hardly knew ye. The 39-year-old blonde bombshell collapsed on the floor of her room at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel in Florida. Smith was rushed to a hospital where she was pronounced dead an hour later.

According to police, Anna's private nurse tried to wake her up, but she was unresponsive. Large amounts of prescription drugs were also found in her room. Smith's bodyguard administered CPR, but was unable to revive her.

Anna Nicole Smith, born Vickie Lynn Hogan, was a true success story. She grew up poor in the small town of Mexia, Texas, and became a world famous model, first as a Playboy playmate, and later as the face of Guess jeans. But her life was plagued by controversy.

In 1994, Anna married billionaire J. Howard Marshall, whom she had met while she was working as a topless dancer. Smith was awarded \$474 million after her husband's death by a California federal court, but that decision was later overturned.

In 2002, Anna starred in her own reality series, *The Anna Nicole Show* on E! Each week fans watched Anna, whose weight had ballooned significantly, as she paraded around with her lawyer, Howard K. Stern, and pet poodle, Sugar Pie.

In October 2003, Smith became the spokesperson for Trim Spa, a diet pill that helped her lose 69 lbs.

Recently on September 10, Anna made headlines again when her son Daniel died of a supposed drug overdose, while he was visiting her in the hospital. She had just given birth to a daughter, Dannielynn. There is currently a paternity suit pending to determine who the child's father is.

Smith's friends were shocked by her untimely death. "I am very saddened to learn about Anna Nicole's passing," said Hugh Hefner. "She was a dear friend who meant a great deal to the *Playboy* family and to me personally."

— AnnMarie Costella

the 2005 season, Rubin and Lennon weren't privy to Beltran's MVP type season to come in 2006. While Damon had a nice year, it became clear that the best centerfielder in New York plays in Queens and not in the Bronx. The reader now knowing what the authors did not leads to some eye rolling while reading.

Every debate has its rules and *The Great New York Sports Debate* is no exception. You won't read about the Bambino or the Iron Horse in this book. No M&M Boys from the '61 season and not even the Miracle Mets of '69 made the cut. You see, this particular discussion has been limited to just the past thirty-five years. So those who believe sports are no longer what they once was and that the golden age of competition has long been dust, I would leave this debate to the Baby Boomers and their kids.

The good however far outweighs the bad in *The Great Debate* even though the arguments ultimately don't get you anywhere. And while the arguments presented probably won't persuade the most hardened opinion havers, the book is a fast and fun read and all the while you can argue your side right along with two of New York's best sports writers. But don't get your blood pressure too high. It's only a book and they can't hear you.

SPORTS

February 12, 2007

Michael Cohen

Without Wu-Tang-Clan, Teddy Atlas and CSI, most of New York would forget Staten Island existed. The Golden Gloves amateur boxing tournament forgot about SI for 19 years. Last year Monsignor Farrell High School held two nights of Golden Gloves boxing. Before Farrell, St. Peter's HS was the last SI venue that held the tournament. Teddy, the Wu and CSI hold the crown as the three best entities to emerge from SI. On Tuesday night, February 6, it seemed that Wu-Tang were the only people Teddy didn't invite to watch the Golden Gloves tournament at CSI.

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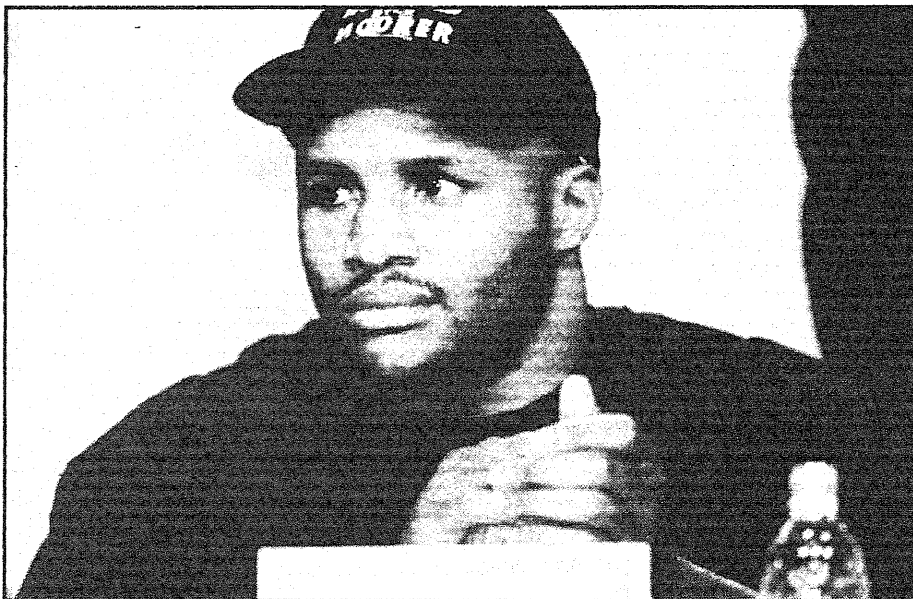
Ordinary People

"My man said you ain't reaching the kids— So I stuck my hand out and 3 pieced his wig" —Sean Price

In the auxiliary gym full of autograph fiends and punch drunk boxing legends, stood a bright young Wu-Tang fan, Columbia graduate, HBO boxing analyst, and ESPN radio host Max Kellerman. Red-eyed and relaxed, Kellerman grew annoyed shaking people's hands. He referred to the greeting as "a barbaric ritual," and publicly admitted to being a compulsive nose picker. Some drunk kid who called himself Schwartz, and claimed to write for The Banner, disagreed with Max about classic WU albums. Schwartz's friend raised the argument that Liquid Swords was better than Only Built 4 Cuban Linx.

Towering behind the drunken writer was former heavyweight champion, Michael Moorer, wearing a gray fleece, faded blue jeans and construction Timberlands. Moorer posed for pictures with half-assed boxing fans, who whispered, "[w]ho is that guy?" before acting like they actually watched his triumph over Evander Holyfield in 1994. That's the crowd for amateur boxing.

While in the restroom transferring Hennessy from its glass bottle to a Poland Spring bottle, Schwartz



Former Heavyweight Champion, Michael Moorer, signed autographs and took pictures with fans. Photo: Google Images

asked a fat bald man, "You a big fight fan?"

"Nah," replied the fat guy. "I just like seeing people getting their ass kicked... I see it everyday at work." Being a Riker's Island correction officer, it was refreshing for him to see a fight without razors.

As Schwartz wobbled back to the auxiliary gym he bumped into another wobbler. But his wobble wasn't from 375 milliliters of Hennessy, no, this was the aftermath of 56 professional fights. Two-time Golden Gloves champion, (1988 & '89) and former WBA & WBO Super Bantamweight champion, Junior Jones, reduced to a mumbling, stumbling shell of his former self. As the well-dressed Jones posed for a picture, he showed a flash of that youthful vigor in his eye, leaning to the right extending his index finger, still thinking of himself as #1.

Back in the gym a boy with cerebral palsy and a twisted face, but clearer speech than most old boxers said, "Hey Teddy." Atlas turned around, momentarily disregarding the line of groupies holding Sharpies and cameras, and knelt down to greet the boy in the wheelchair. Atlas showed his unparalleled character, still respecting those with full use of their limbs, but giving the disabled boy more attention.

Everything Teddy Atlas does starts with the intention of helping the less fortunate. Proceeds from the event went to the Dr. Theodore Atlas Foundation, which contributes to var-

ious medical causes but more innovatively, the Atlas Foundation gives money to regular struggling families, with turn-off notices attached to their utility bills. Twenty dollars to watch ten fights is a bargain, but keeping someone's heat on with that money set an example that others in Atlas' position should learn from.

* * * *

Liquored Up and Ready to Gamble

"If you can't win 2 out of 3 it's time to quit the business" —Hunter Thompson

CSI alumnus, Robert Barlotta joined Schwartz for an evening of fights. Bets needed to be placed. Vegas doesn't even post amateur boxing odds so in all fairness their bets were equally ignorant. Schwartz took all Caucasian and Asian fighters and Rob took the darker minorities. In the event of same race bouts, Schwartz would take the lighter skinned fighter or the gold corner.

The first fighters sat cold on their stools while Bob Papa introduced every friend Teddy ever had from former heavyweight contender, Renaldo Snipes to Eric Mangini and the entire Jets coaching staff. Chants of "J-E-T-S Jets, Jets, Jets" got the crowd jumping.

The chants didn't wake up James Murillo. He was Schwartz's bet by default, doomed in the gold corner with a Hispanic opponent of equal pigment. Murillo had a stiff left jab

but failed to double up on his shots. After losing the first round, Murillo got dropped by a right cross in the second. He came out with Jell-O legs in the third but managed to escape a KO. Schwartz lost his first bet and grew frantically paranoid about the bet he placed earlier on the Houston Rockets. His paranoia was cooled with cognac and a Caucasian victory in the next fight, but the second fight suffered from extreme lack of action.

The third bout was a street fight. Timmy Leonard, the milky white, undersized fighter beat Jose Ruiz like a cheap rug. Both fighters threw flurries but Leonard's shots had more pop. He threw uppercuts that came from the floor and haymakers that came from the stands. And he paid for wild misses, but would cover up briefly and then go back to hammering. Leonard KO'd Ruiz in one round and put Schwartz ahead 2 fights to 1. At 178 pounds Vladlen Shkradyuk threw a steel pipe for a straight left and scored a first round KO. That put Schwartz ahead 3 to 2 at intermission because the gold corner was a no-show in fight 4.

During intermission Rob verbally attacked Schwartz out of jealous frustration. "How much you wanna bet your drunk ass gets kicked out of here before the last fight?" Rob queried. Schwartz felt personally offended so personal bets called for personal wages. No money. "If I don't get kicked out," slurred Schwartz, "then you're lightin up the blunt for the ride home."

The evening's climax came just after intermission. An Asian fighter approached the ring with a calm that wrecked Schwartz's nerves. CSI student, Joseph Fermantes had a hyper entrance but to no avail. Dimash Niyazov put on a display of slick boxing skill. He showed good ring generalship, slipping punches, throwing sharp left hooks and chin shattering rights. Fermantes, however, showed great poise and heart, managing to bloody Niyazov's nose. He was tough enough to not get knocked out, but Niyazov was far superior to any fighter that night.