

Official Newspaper of the College of Staten Island

Student Government President Defends the Need for Stipends

Stipend Vote Closed while Wounds Remain Open

BY DAEYUNG LEE

The vote to keep Student Government stipends at their current value passed with four dissenting votes and one abstention on November 15th.

Student Government still remains split over the issue on whether to keep, decrease, or entirely remove stipends for participating members of the organization.

One group of members belonging to Student Government find stipends unethical and unnecessary. The other side is arguing a need for compensation.

Current Student Government President Michael Allamby found himself defending the stipends against a small group of senators.

The conflict concerning stipends was closed following the vote and it has unevenly divided the organization.

The small group of members were led by veteran to Student Government Senator and Commissioner Meagan Derbyshire. This group believed that stipends resemble paychecks too closely.

According to Allamby, Derbyshire is currently serving in the same position for two years. This made her ineligible to receive a stipend this year.

"This is Meagan's first semester not receiving a stipend," said Allamby.

If Allamby's statement holds true, it places Derbyshire and her faction in a questionable position. Derbyshire and the rest of the senators against student government stipends are recently calling the stipends unethical and immoral.

Monica Sibri, a Senator and current member of the smaller faction was quick to defend Derbyshire and the group's position on stipends.

"Meagan always wanted to do it but there was a chance not everyone would jump on board," Sibri said. "She felt like she had a better shot this semester."

Sibri went on to recite the argument of the sample faction, stating that people join Student Government to help students, not to get a job.

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CSI and The Double Standard on Cleaner Air Campus Vehicles Advertise New Policy But Remain Uninspected



Photo Credit: John Falcone

The emissions sticker for a Jeep Cherokee on CSI's campus has been expired since 2010, but the vehicle is still used

BY JOHN FALCONE

Emblazoned with decals that promote CUNY's Tobacco-Free and Clean Air policy, many vehicles used by CSI's Buildings and Grounds department do not meet New York State emissions regulations.

Maureen Salamone, a supervisor from the Buildings and Grounds office located in IM-207 said, "some of our vehicles do not leave campus," as a possible explanation as to why some of these vehicles are not kept up to current NYS emissions regulations. Salamone could not provide further explanation.

nation.

While some of the vehicles used by Buildings and Grounds do not wear license plates, and thus cannot legally travel off campus, many of the vehicles that roam the campus have "official" plates on them, suggesting that they can be used off campus.

Buildings and Grounds Administrative Superintendent Vincent Bono was asked for further clarification on the situation, but he declined to comment.

On February 2nd, a grounds crew working on the main walkway between 1N and

2N left their white Dodge Ram 3500 V8 Magnum work truck, with a "change is in the air" decal, idling the entire time they were working on the repair. Considering that the last time this vehicle passed emissions inspection was 2006, the students walking by that morning were not getting lung-fulls of clean air.

CSI's official statement, made back on August 28, 2012, available on the CSI CUNY website, declared that the Tobacco-Free policy was enacted, "with its emphasis

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Involvement Fair Digs Deeper than Just Valentines While Tugging at Some Heartstrings...

BY LUCY FARFAN-NARCISSE

February 14th, 2013 marked the annual Spring Involvement Fair at CSI, which embodied the theme of Valentine's Day and involvement on campus.

It carried a deeper meaning for others. The Campus Activities Board or CAB provided a table where students could make their own valentines. Others waited in a long line to receive a bear housed inside a balloon among festively colored plastic straw to keep as a memento from the event or to give as a last minute gift to a loved one or special someone.

The New York Public Interest Research Group, NYPIRG, gave students a chance to write a love letter/note to Mother Nature and display it on a beautifully homemade tree made of recycled cardboard.

Many clubs and organizations such as

Psychology Club, Marketing Club, A Reason To Write, Hillel Club, The Bertha Harris Women's Resource Center, Love Your Neighbor Club and Art Club gave out sweets, flowers and baked goods to the students.

"Clubs are very important to CSI because often times students feel disconnected...like they don't belong," said Marlon Cadore, President of Youths United Club, majoring in Math and Education. "Getting involved has given me friends that will be with me for lifetime."

"The goal of the Involvement Fair is to introduce students to opportunities on campus and for them to get connected to our community at CSI," said Debi Kee, Associate Director of Student Life/Activities. "This will help them develop and really utilize skills that will help them in their future."

"Research shows that students who are

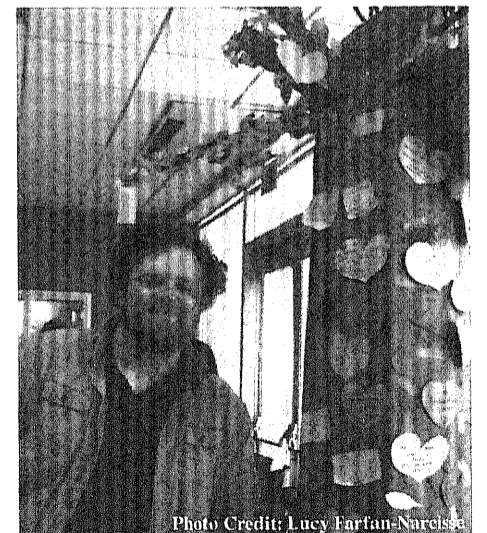
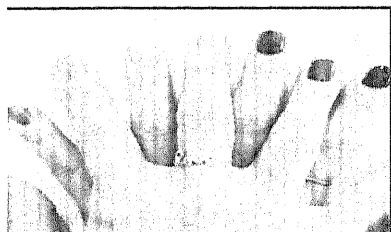


Photo Credit: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse

A cardboard tree symbolizes the importance of recycling

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Do Not Be Fooled by Obama's Gun Control Crusade

BY JOHN FALCONE

This is a message for those who support President Obama's crusade for stricter gun control policies; you have all been fooled.

Since the terrible and tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown Connecticut many people have been boarding the bandwagon for stricter gun control laws amidst the cries of President Obama. He claims he wants to protect our nation's most precious resource; children. He alleges that "commonsense" reforms, such as background checks, will protect this precious resource.

On both counts, President Obama is a liar. He has you all fooled.

Now, Obama is not the only politician who is aggressively lobbying for stricter gun control legislation. For example, Governor Andrew Cuomo fought locally for stricter regulations on guns here in New York, and Mayor Michael Bloomberg has been very outspoken on the issue. Because Obama has made stricter gun control policies one of the top priorities of his second term, he is now the nation's leading spokesperson for the cause.

And if you have joined the cause as a result of Obama's February 12th State of the Union address, you may not want to continue reading.

His hypocrisy might just cause you to jump off the bandwagon; his lies are easier on the conscience than the truth.

"What I've said tonight matters little," claimed the President, "If we don't come together to protect our most precious resource; our children."

After saying this, he spent about four minutes trying to persuade you that new gun control proposals deserve a vote in Congress. During those four minutes, six children, our nation's most precious resource, were killed; victims of abortion. They were killed in Planned Parenthoods and other abortion clinics which the President supports as a part of his pro-choice agenda.

During the sixty minutes of his speech, ninety babies lost their lives.

You may think those numbers are a little

harsh and possibly exaggerated. Unfortunately they are most likely *too low*. The math which was performed to come up with the figures above uses the most recent data available (from 2009) on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website (www.cdc.gov). The number of reported abortions that year was 784,507. If unreported numbers were added to this total, the number of unborn babies killed during Obama's rousing cry to protect our nation's children would be even higher.

Apparently though, those children do not count. So let us consider then his grand plan to save those children who do count.

The President claimed that what we need is, "commonsense reform, like background checks that will make it harder for criminals to get their hands on a gun."

Answer the following questions honestly, then let "commonsense" tell you if background checks are going to protect America's children:

Did a constitutional ban on alcohol production stop moonshiners during prohibition? Does the fact that marijuana is illegal mean that you could not buy it today if you wanted it? Does CUNY's tobacco free policy stop people from smoking on campus?

Now ask yourself again, are background checks really going to protect our children from gun violence?

Do you really believe that?

If, after knowing the facts, you can still believe the President cares about our nation's children, then perhaps you do believe stricter gun control policies can save this precious resource. You probably also believe that a deranged person, who decides he wants to murder children, is going to go to his local Wal-Mart and submit to a background check in order to purchase his murder weapon as opposed to buying a gun illegally.

If, however, you understand the facts, you realize that President Obama does not care about this country's most precious resource, nor will his background checks protect them.

Do not be fooled.

Gun Violence Goes Way Beyond Just Using Them Illegally

BY MARIE SCARSELLA

In the last year, America has been no stranger to gun violence. We saw six killed in a Sikh temple in Wisconsin, seven in a university in California, a dozen killed in a movie theatre in Colorado, and twenty-seven killed in an elementary school in Connecticut. In all four instances, the guns used to massacre innocents were purchased legally.

While other factors may contribute to the causes of these and other similar incidents, such as lack of proper mental health care, the easy accessibility of firearms is the most hotly contested.

In many states, all it takes to buy a gun is a simple background check, often without a wait period. You or I could walk into a local Walmart and purchase a firearm by simply proving that we do not have a criminal record. In other instances, guns can be purchased from a private dealer requiring no background check at all. You have money, you get a gun - it is as simple as that.

While many gun owners may not have criminal records, they may not have mental stability. This is one of the biggest issues regarding gun sales to date. To combat this, there are many routes that can be taken. One of those routes can be a more extensive background check, including a mandatory psychiatric evaluation. If you cannot prove that you are at least somewhat sane, you should not be handing a firearm. Period.

Stricter background checks combined with increased support for mental healthcare can cause a huge drop in gun violence. Living in a country that has such a negative stigma on mental help and such easy accessibility to deadly weapons is a recipe for disaster. By curing the problem where it starts, in the brain, we can help stop violence before it starts.

Another issue that arises with our current gun laws is that there is no limitation on amount or size of a weapon that can be purchased. The most common reason gun owners claim to need

or want a firearm is self-defense. The other is for sport. In both of these instances, there is no need to own more than two firearms, with very few exceptions. Owning multiple guns with multiple rounds is not going to help you protect your home any better or shoot a deer any faster - you may own twelve guns, but you still have two hands.

While the argument of self defense stands, and in this case is not being challenged, a smaller gun such as a handgun should be sufficient for those needs. Why are we selling assault rifles to people who we aren't even sure are mentally all there? Weaponry like that is only used for one reason - mass killing.

Now at this point in the argument, many of you are probably saying, "yeah, but even if we make guns harder to get people will still get them illegally." You're right. People will still obtain guns illegally. However, something like heroin can be easily obtained illegally, too. Should we make that legal as well?

This is why gun control doesn't stop at legal guns. With guns harder to obtain, some psychotic killers may be deterred, however, others will still find their ways. Those who are not should instead have their illegal activity made more difficult. We are constantly allocating our security resources to stop the trafficking of other illegal materials. Why are we not cracking down on guns? We read about drug busts in the news every other day, but when was the last time you heard about an illegal gun bust?

Along with using our resources to stop illegal guns at their source, there is also the option of tightening security in high-volume establishments. While an armed guard in schools may be a bit much, maybe we shouldn't just let people walk through the front door.

If we start becoming more aware of the problems that lead to gun violence, from obtaining firearms easily to the lack of mental healthcare in America, we will see a decrease in gun related deaths. Maybe then you won't feel the need to own that handgun to protect yourself.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: "Too Much Sex and the Island."

I agree with your perspective of there being numerous sides to sex and it can be funny. However, there are funnier things than graphic sex jokes. Nobody has to know the gory details to have a fun time.
Bryan Rivelli

Re: "Too Much Sex and the Island."

I enjoyed reading this editorial. It shows that not only does The Banner listen to what their target audience has to say, but also that they care enough to address their concerns. Keep up all the great work! The time you put in and hard work is very evident whenever I read this paper.
Ashley Prudente

Re: "CSI Students Displeased with Their Food."

This is a good article that many can relate to. As a picky eater, and hearing many things close to those said in my three years at CSI. I have never even attempted to try the cafeteria food. I had no idea there was a restaurant on campus so this was very informative for someone like me. A complete article on The Park Café restaurant is something myself as well as many others I'm sure, would be interested in reading.
Michelle Grossman
Junior

Re: "Fair and Simple: The Flat Tax Solution" and "Taxes, the fee we pay for living in a civil society"

I think it is really great that there is now an opposing view to mostly liberal paper. The placement of the article, next to each other, was perfect. There should definitely be more conflict published in the paper, it makes it more interesting and it will be a huge success!
Kristina Vendugo

Re: "The Banner's 5 Most Anticipated Albums for 2013."

I'm just curious to know who picks out and how you vote for these certain albums to get picked and put in the newspaper. After reading the article I only recognize one artist the others I have

never heard of them or have even heard anyone speak about them. I think more noticeable artist should be put into the new album releases.
J. Young

Re: "Overview"

The Banner has put more color and variety of campus activities in this edition. I like the "Most Anticipated Albums" column for the diverse reviews printed. I think The Banner contains more complex content than before. There is higher conflict involved with the ADP and Sex on the Island controversy.
Jean Baak

Re: "How to Stay Warm and Look Good"

Although I found the article helpful and interesting, I felt the article fell short when it came to discussing trends that are in style for the winter. For example, faux furs, leather pants, chunky colorful knits and oversized parkas are in style but all of which were not mentioned in the article. I feel people can look good and stay warm all while being on trend.
Obiageli Ukatu
Junior

Re: "Luscious Locks for Under Ten Dollars"

I have to say that I have Dove shampoo moisture and the conditioner as well. It makes my hair soft and prevents frizz from any heat products. I suggest you put it out there to the people of CSI to get it. I would like to say that the Garnier Fructis style sleek and shine works very well and give a shine without looking greasy. You recommended good hair products that I will definitely try out!
Michele Scotto

Re: "Pathways Brings Change to Photography Students"

I agree with this story completely. Though I use technology constantly, I believe that in terms of the CSI photography department, faculties such as the one in The Banner should continue to be used. Since phones are not made only to take pictures, regular cameras should be used in terms of these classes. I believe this simply due

to the fact that a regular hand held camera, in my opinion, takes a better and cleaner photo than that of a camera from a phone. Therefore, students who are photography majors can learn how to take clear and concise pictures on their own and not have to rely on their phones.
Anthony D'Antuono

Re: "The Banner's 5 Most Anticipated Albums"

Although some the albums you mentioned sound good I think it is focused on a narrow group. I would like to hear about Country music and some Pop.
Jessica Provenzano

Re: "Ring in the New Year with these Closet Makeover Tips"

I think this is a very good article, it's so relevant right now being that fashion week just ended, everyone is looking for what is in and what to take out of their closet. I think it came at the right time and touched on key points.
Letisha Saunders

Re: "Social Media Etiquette"

I would love to say I enjoyed reading your article on Social Media Etiquette. I too suffer with the idea of sending such personal messages through the internet galaxy. When I can pick up the phone and allow someone to hear my voice it seems impersonal or disconnected to send a message via Facebook. I totally agree.
Ellen Deupster

Re: Suggestion

The overall layout of The Banner is very neat, but I think it would be more noticeable to include more color, aside from the supportive photographs within articles. I really like the incorporation of the sex column toward the end of the paper is raw and unexpected.
Jean Baak
Sophomore



Photo Credit: John Dalia



Photo Credit: John Dalia

BANNER STYLES

What Your Favorite Nail Polish Says About You

The Psychology Behind Nail Polish Color Selection

BY VICTORIA CAROCCIA

Urban Dictionary defines nail polish as, "a multi-colored fluid from Hell that's impossible for a normal female to consistently apply with anything close to acceptable results." Sure, nail polish application isn't always the easiest of tasks, but it can be very rewarding.

There's no better feeling than walking out of a nail salon with a fresh manicure or mastering a nail art tutorial you found on Pinterest. But did you know that your favorite polish hue could reveal a lot about your personality? For years, people have studied the symbolism of color and the affects they have culturally and psychologically. The colors we see all around us have important meanings and impact a lot of the choices we make. These popular nail polish trends will help you express yourself while making your fingers look fabulous!

Let's begin with the highest arc of the rainbow, red. Recognized as a stimulant, red is an exciting color that immediately draws attention to a particular element. (Which is why you're more likely to get pulled over by the cops if you have a red car.) Red is often associated with fire, and those who wear red exude confidence, passion, and sex appeal. Glamour Magazine recently dubbed cherry red the Official Nail Polish Color of Cool Girls Everywhere and named Essie's Lacquered Up as their favorite brand. (\$8, essie.com)

Red evokes high energy and is perfect for a sultry, classic look. But what about red's demure cousin, pink? Typically asso-

ciated with the Barbie Dream Car, pink is a fun color that represents femininity and sophistication. Bright pink shades are youthful and always eye-catching, while muted pink shades with gray undertones are more mature and sophisticated. Those who rock pale pink nail polish are known to be quiet, sweet, and dependable. Hot pink nail polish shows others that you aren't afraid to embrace your femininity or show off your attitude. OPI has two pink nail polishes to satisfy any girl next door: "That's Hot!" and "Don't Pretzel My Buttons" for 7\$ each on OPI.com

Last fall, jewel tones were popping up all over the runways in gowns, bags, and especially nail polish. Gem toned nails in sapphire blue, emerald green, and amethyst purple are an eclectic and simple way to rock this trend. Because of their relation to royal riches, women who wear jewel tones are said to be regal and sophisticated. While all of these colors are equally stunning; they each convey their own special meaning.

Emerald green is a soothing color that represents tranquility and safety. A girl who sports emerald nails is known to help put others at ease and has everything under control. Sapphire blue is also a tranquil color, but depending on the shade, can be very dynamic. If you choose blue nail polish, you are fearless and self-aware. Purple combines the calm coolness of blue with the stimulating pop of red to exude an air of eccentricity. Those who are drawn to purple polish are very creative and have a unique



energy.

Despite the powerful meanings behind these colors, there is still one nail trend that makes the biggest statement of all. Chipped nail polish can be the most devastating part of a girl's day. It can also reveal a lot about the type of person you are. Some diligent girls are sure to paint over a chip as soon as it pops up, while most of us scatterbrains don't have the time or the patience to keep up. No one expects you to have a perfect manicure 24/7, but there is no reason for

you to look like the conductor of the Hot Mess Express. If you don't have time to hit up the nail salon, removing your nail polish takes less than 30 seconds. Clean, nude nails are much better than chipped, disheveled nails. If you want your manicure to withstand the test of time, try this technique: run the top-coat of your nail polish brush over the edge of your nail to seal it in, keeping your polish fresh. Before your next manicure, remember to think twice about the color you choose!

BANNER STYLES

Tips and Tricks for Maintaining Natural Hair

Following the Hair Movement

BY SHAKIYA MCRAE

Welcome to the age of the natural hair movement! You've probably noticed that more African Americans, mixed, and Latinas are rocking their natural hair with Afros, curls, and braids. The natural hair movement has been spreading rapidly throughout the United States and London during the last 4 years and it is only getting larger. More and more girls are waking up and starting to "go natural." But what does it mean to go natural, and what is this movement all about?

The first step to going natural is to stop using harsh chemicals in your hair. This includes relaxers, texturizers, shampoos with sulfate, and permanent hair color. When you take this first step, you are in the "transitioning phase." While transitioning, it is crucial to pay attention to the demarcation line. This is the weak, breakable region where your natural hair meets your chemically processed hair. A lot of girls struggle with this phase because the two textures often get tangled up. You must learn how to detangle your hair properly by taking your time and *never* detangling your hair while it's dry. Be sure to add more conditioner in this area and be delicate while using a wide toothed comb.

During the transition, a lot of girls opt for "protective" styles. These are styles that protect the ends of your hair from breaking. While in

those styles, your ends are not being touched or subjected to harsh conditions. Examples of protective styles are braids, twists, (with or without extensions) weaves, and tuck and roll up-do's.

The great thing about going natural is that you can make most natural hair products yourself. An excellent resource for homemade hair remedies is blackgirlonghair.com, a website dedicated to helping girls of all hair types go natural. They have tons of conditioning and detangling recipes, and most of the ingredients can be purchased at your local supermarket. Another great online resource is YouTube, who feature two popular natural hair gurus FusionOfCultures and Naptural85. With their tutorials, they guide you through their natural hair journeys while helping you with yours. They drop knowledge and show you various styles that you can do at different points throughout your hair journey.

The natural movement is a trend for some, but a lifestyle for many. Loving your natural hair forces you to love your natural self even more. It starts with switching to organic and healthy hair care products, but can eventually lead to organic and healthy living. You realize that you also have to start taking care of the rest of your body by drinking more water, eating healthier, and exercising more. Try some of these tips, and let me know how they worked for you!



BANNER ARTS

Zombies and Humans Dine on Teenage Romance

Warm Bodies is Not So Hot

BY LUCIA ROSSI

From watching the trailer, you can tell that Warm Bodies is not going to be like AMC's The Walking Dead, although that may be what many people were hoping for. And no, it was not like Twilight, either, which was probably expected with the "lion fell in love with the lamb" concept. What the movie is actually similar to is Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, but instead of two conflicting families, it's the living versus the dead versus the deader.

"Warm Bodies" main theme is really human connection, rather than survival and forbidden love. This was a surprise because there are not many versions of zombie apocalypses where human connection is the key to saving humanity. Sounds kind of sappy, doesn't it?

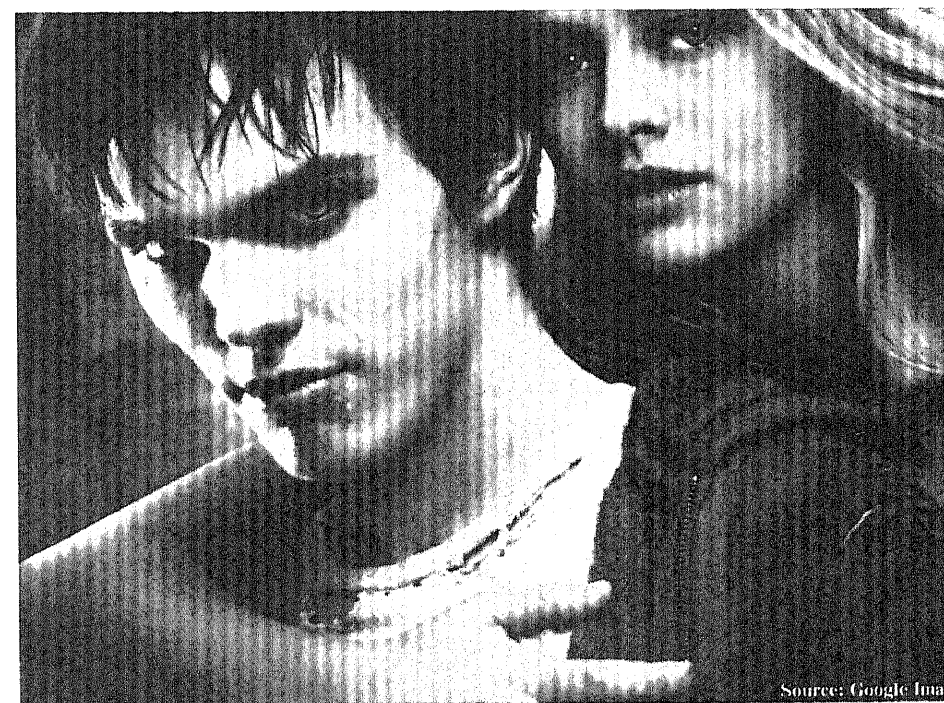
During the zombie epidemic, R (this is the closest thing the character remembers to his real name), a strange teenage zombie, rescues Julie (a human survivor) from a zombie attack, but only after eating her ex-boyfriend first of course. Julie then realizes R is different because he protects her and forms a special bond with her. As their relationship grows, R becomes more human, which spreads like wildfire to other zombies who are not yet completely consumed by their hunger. The zombies, who gave up on what was left of their

humanity, became skeleton like creatures called "boneys". They eat anything with a heartbeat. The story then unravels by drawing a line between people who can be saved and those who cannot.

The movie's strong relation to Romeo and Juliet can be shown simply by the character's names. R could stand for Romeo, Julie short for Juliet. Marcus (R's zombie best friend) represents Mercutio, and Nora (Julie's best friend) could be like Nurse. Following in suit with the theme, Julie disregards her father's orders and defends R to show he is not like the other undead folk.

Instead of being separated by rival families, the main characters are separated by their compositions and presumptions of the opposing kind. The zombies, who are not yet boneys, truly think they must eat people because they must feed (when they can actually try to control themselves). Humans truly think that zombies are incapable of thought or feelings, when actually that is what saves them.

The great thing about this movie is how adorably quirky and hilarious the romance is. The satire and black comedy is so clever, and it came in moments where it was least expected. Warm Bodies is actually a novel written by Isaac Marion, and it describes a different kind of zombie - one that was unique. One interest-



ing detail is that the zombies like to eat brains because it shows them the memories of the people they are eating. Zombies cannot sleep or dream, so this is exciting for them. It makes them think about what life used to be. Plus they're hungry for brains because, well, they find them to be delicious.

Warm Bodies is a film that can be enjoyed by all - Twilight and Walking Dead fans alike.

Nicholas Hoult, who plays R took on the typical Michael Cera-esque role as that awkward yet caring guy who gets the girl. Teresa Palmer (Julie) is the strong, determined blond, and then Rob Corddry (Marcus) is just as raunchy and loveable as he was in Hot Tub Time Machine. With acting like that, the movie has a bit of something for everyone.

Campus Style

BY DIANA PORCELLI



Jessica Giordano
Major: Liberal Arts
Style: Studs and Spikes



Titus King
Major: Philosophy
Style: Guess and Suede Boots



Annalisa Giordano
Major: Communications
Style: Forever 21, Aldo, H&M



Marcin Orszulak
Major: Biochemistry
Styles: Oriental Boutiques and Express

BANNER ARTS

A Modern Western With a Black Cowboy, Fugitives, and Ruthless Efficiency

Also the "D" is Silent

BY JEREMY PASKER

Django Unchained is a violent vendetta film where the guilty get punished without prejudice, and the victims are seen as innocent bystanders in an environment they're forced into. Rhetorically speaking, what's not to enjoy?

The thematic premise for Unchained is the false insinuation that high culture creates class and gentility. By using black empowerment as the backdrop within the greater milieu of the "free wild west," Tarantino rewrites history to redefine "freedom." And more softly, Tarantino attempts to expose freedom as something that ought to be taken.

Tarantino opens in rare form, utilizing the notion that retribution through violent vengeance is unsullied and honorable in response to the brutal actions of villains.

The first action sequence opens in the dark woods somewhere in Texas. A maul ensues between slave traders and a mysterious coach traveler. Condescension by the mysterious traveler provokes a violent exchange; after which, two men and a poor horse are gunned down in the cold of night.

Here, slaves, after given the option between freedom and captivity unleash a bevy of slugs from shotguns into the wounded body of their former captor. Each slave, albeit violently and without remorse, grasps onto self-determination, then begins to tread their own path "toward a more enlightened part of the country" (if that was even possible during that period.) And comically, the soon to be dirt-napped slaver pleads for his life, to no avail, by reminding those he had caged and chained with iron he once gave them his last apples.

The mysterious traveler is revealed to be Dr. King Schultz, an ex-dentist turned bounty hunter comically portrayed by Christoph Waltz, of "Inglorious Bastards" fame. He's a fast-talking German with exceptional use of the English language, ironically, at times speaking better than the slaver elites he often parleys with.

At first, playing the part of sensei to Django but eventually switching to sidekick later on in the film, Waltz' sarcasm and jolly character adds enough comedic relief to lighten the mood of a relatively gruesome subject that pits slave captor versus former slave and the brutal themes the subject summons to the forefront.

During the same opening sequence, official introductions are made with the slave soon-to-be relentless Bounty Hunter Django, played by Jamie Foxx.

Foxx performs well-given the limitations of Django's character. Whether or not that was his intention is debatable. Tarantino was hoping to have Will Smith, the originally intended actor, to bring it to life with his goofy charisma and larger than life mass appeal, and Foxx seemed to have stepped up to fulfill that role.

But despite the lack of depth given to Django, the audience latches on to how he's lived a life filled with unjust mistreatment, and alongside him, journey to see how he enacts



Source: Google Images

Tarantino's version of justice.

Once freed from his iron chains, Django is framed in slow motion, forcing the audience to admire his film presence. The manipulation of time and space builds tension and persuades the audience to invest more into the character.

Django relinquishes the matted blankets given to him by his captors and adorns a more appropriate garb and is provided with his own horse — the first step in his transition into the Black cowboy and the benefits associated with such a title: freedom. The cinematography focuses in on lashes on Django's back, drawing attention to supposed motivator for the grotesque acts soon to come.

"I like the way you die boy," being the memorable phrase mockingly uttered by Django, right before the man he's just shot keels over.

There is a lingering American school of thought that dictates audiences cringe at anything slightly controversial — a tepid pact to conform to political correctness. Well I say nay. And Tarantino agrees.

His film is an indoctrination of anti-political correctness. A movie to see how many eyes can be opened to the atrocities tantamount to supremacy or slavery?

Like Spielberg before him with "Schindler's List" then "Amistad," Tarantino takes part in telling the Jewish and Black American social condition. But unlike Spielberg, who wished to portray victims being persecuted then being rescued, Tarantino, in true contrarian fashion, empowers his victims with arms, allowing for retaliation against the brutal aggressors that invoked the original sin to begin with.

Tarantino first did this, with his film "Inglorious Basterds" using the Bear Jew and his other cohorts, and now with "Django Unchained."

"Not while I got freedom," said Django with fiery to exhibit the gravity of his power and determination. "Not while I got my gun."

Here the savvy director introduces the second archetype to clasping onto the American definition of "freedom" — the gun. Weaponry is another powerful representation of what Americans visualize when they hear "freedom." Step one was the power to move about freely on horse without restriction. Step two being the power to arm oneself then defend or assail the space now controlled through unabated mobility.

Before this point, Tarantino exposed what had already been clear from the surface as the meaning of American "freedom." But henceforth the film begins to elucidate the deeper meaning of "freedom" and to some extent the roots of supremacy over those without it.

Now the audience finally meets Calvin Candie, played by the enthusiastic Leonardo DiCaprio.

DiCaprio's rendition of a slaver and those attributing character traits were spellbinding. He was captivating, charismatic and convincing. His emotions poured from the screen and hit the audience's spine with surgical precision and timing.

The plot of the film dictated Foxx's character step through the fire and become one of the oppressors. Django's meeting with the dubious Monsieur Candie introduces the fascinating juxtaposition of refinement against savage brutality.

The scene where they meet is set within a classic 19th century urban Mississippi home decorated to the tee with luxurious trimmings. Here the audience receives their initial glimpses at a very bloody and very brutal slave fight. It only ends after Candie's fighter smashes the other fighters eyes in with his thumbs, then bashes his skull with a hammer. The whole ordeal is complete with screams of anguish and pain. Not for the faint of heart by any means.

With boastful jubilation, Mon. Candie enjoys the "festivities," while the others watch without pivoting their emotional inflection.

Forced to infiltrate the wolf's den, Django

must swathe himself in the wolf's scent. At this point he must defile his otherwise integral cowboy persona and in Django's own words steep "lower than the head house [slave]" by impersonating a Black slaver. An interpretation of the power rankings for the oppressed shows betrayers at the top of the slavery pole are look down upon for exploiting the condition of those at the bottom.

Django's capacity to tap into that animal instinct, further illustrates the American definition of "freedom" by conjuring up aspects of self determination and willpower since the cowboy is not beholden to societal rules, he makes his own, an essential quality of American "freedom."

All that preceded this introduction between Foxx and DiCaprio, was the build up to the crux of character tensions, and there are several, mainly between Foxx and DiCaprio, but also between others.

More noticeably are the contentious interactions between Foxx's character and Stephen DiCaprio's head house slave, played by Jackson.

The juxtaposition of the highest positioned slave next to a freed slave who is able to walk amongst slavers with impunity is an interesting one. It dissects the nature of the comfortable captive freedom of Stephen versus the arduous attainment of freedom by Django.

Finally, these contentions come to a bloody climax during a shootout between the main combatants which end violently and messy in glorious Tarantino fashion. Blood, Guns, an obnoxious amount of bullets, brains, and viscera are all on display between camera and another cinematic theme for white superiority the "big 'white' house." As their grasp on slavery comes to an end, so does the foundation of their vain "white" superiority.

In the end, Tarantino showcases what he sees it would take to be "free." In a field of wolves and jackals, the red fox and in this case the "Burgundy Foxx," murders his way to it.

BANNER ARTS

Artists Reinvent Hip-Hop and R&B in 2013

New Year New Tunes

BY KHALEEL NICHOLSON

What's up?! Happy new year! New beginnings, new resolutions (some more realistic

than others) and more importantly new tunes (that's music for all you cavemen out there!) There are some artists in the hip-hop and R&B music realm that are taking the year by

the balls and pushing music to a whole 'nother place. So get ready to drop all the cliché stereotypical garbage about music, because this is a new day. I'm here to resur-

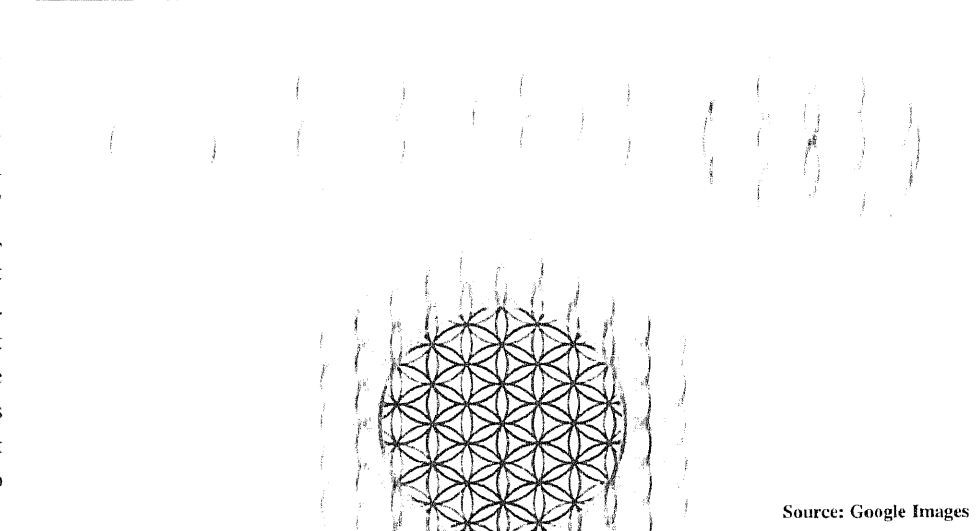
rect your mind...without the drugs. Here are the chosen artists who have bitch slapped music like a two-dollar hooker. So lets get "trippy mane."

Dawn Richard: Golden Heart

If you are into storytelling and warrior legends, then you must be a part of this trilogy. This one-of-three part album trilogy is called Golden Heart by Dawn Richard. Richard is formerly known as part of the short lived Danity Kane, and the underrated boundary-breaking Diddy Dirty Money. Her war cry album has earned her the number ten spot on Billboard's R&B charts as well as number 1 top selling album on iTunes charts. Dawn Richard has broken expectations, musical boundaries and stereotypes of being an independent artist: she is the first independent artist to go to number one without a label to back her up. The album is packed with uplifting, haunting tracks such as "In The Hearts Tonight," "Warfare," and "Break Of Dawn". Her smoky tones along with the bound-breaking instrumentals, which are fused with dubstep and techno impulses like "Pretty Wicked Things" and "Riot," enlightens all genres of music, reminding that music is "JUST" music. Don't try to segregate it in a box...think outside of it. Her cutting-edge lyrics hit deep, telling about her path of love and hate relationship of the music industry. She belts and soars over tracks such as "Northern Lights" all over the ratchet booty-shaking bass and playful synths. Bump this track: "Northern Lights".



Source: Google Images



Source: Google Images

Sly Cooper: Thieves in Time is a Treasure in Itself on Both PS3 and PS Vita

After an Eight Year Hiatus Sly Cooper Makes a Valiant Comeback to Sony

BY STEPHEN KLEIN

Despite a switch in developers, Sanzaru's enthusiasm and love for Sly Cooper shines through, with some minor flaws.

That being said, this is some of the most fun I've had in a platformer in years. I love the bosses, humor, presentation, etc. Speaking of presentation, I love the 2D animated cut-scenes. The 2D animation feels like an evolution of the original games' cut-scenes and enhances the Saturday Morning Cartoon feel of Sly.

What about the bosses and humor? The boss battles are exciting and lead to a more action-oriented experience, except for the final boss: a quick time event.

As far as the humor, there are some very funny moments. I love the banter and dialogue. The overall story is full of humor, twists, and turns, but leads me to my first criticism.

The intro does a great job of catching up new and old players alike. After that, the story, while cool, is okay compared to previous games. The time travel-based storytelling feels convoluted, especially for children.

Nevertheless, the ending still left me very sad. Speaking of which, this leads to me to my next criticism. Towards the end of the game, the momentum winds down with the last two bosses including the aforementioned QTE, the last costume, and the last of Sly's ancestors you get to play

as. They're just not as great as the others, and it feels like Sanzaru ran out of ideas.

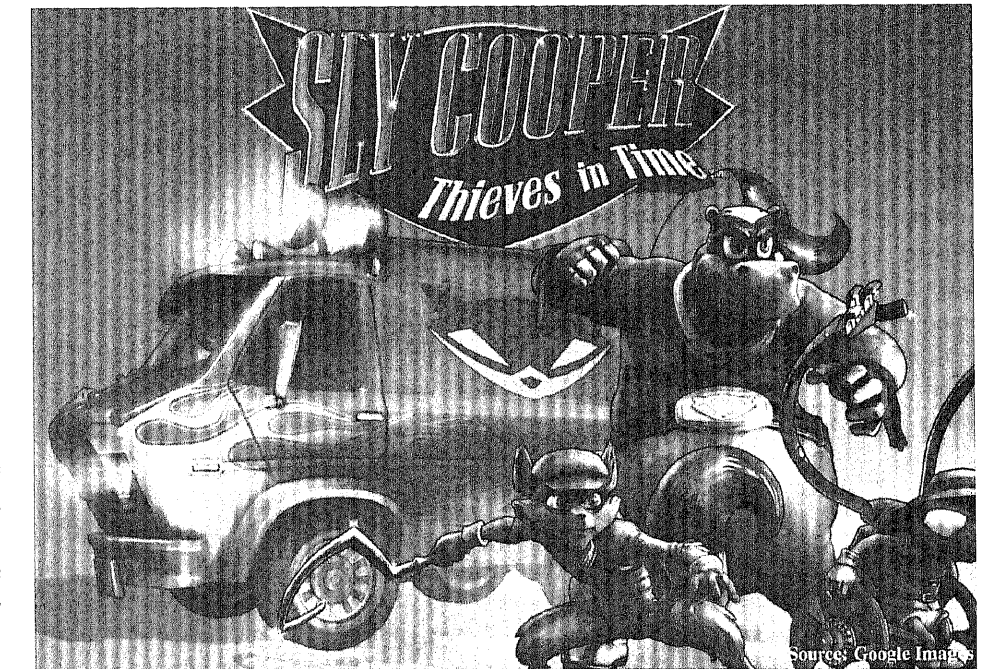
The rest of the game is exactly what you'd expect. Thieves in Time stays true to Sly Cooper, if a little too much. It may not be innovative, but it has fantastic platforming abilities.

You just can't help but want to destroy everything for more coins. The mini-games are great fun too, and are worthy of a full game. In fact, Bentley's Backpack, a mini-game compilation, is available on PlayStation Network. Although they get repetitive in Thieves in Time and could have been changed up.

The graphics are great as well, and the game looks exactly as it should, especially the characters. While the cel-shaded visuals look amazing and add to the Saturday Morning Cartoon experience, the load times are long, but that isn't a big deal in my opinion.

In fact, the game might be too much to handle for the PlayStation Vita as I came across some strange glitches and the game even crashed once. Also, cut-scenes appeared slightly blurry and pixelated at times, but rest assured it was not as bad as with Resistance: Burning Skies. Nevertheless, it's the same game on both platforms despite the visual downgrade on Vita.

Going back to the game-play, there are some Assassin's Creed-style missions involving tailing enemies, a great influence on a part-stealth game.



Source: Google Images

As a result, Thieves in Time feels like a perfectly-done stealth game.

There are plenty of influences from other games as well. For instance, some sections feel like a shooter which is a great way to modernize the series, and the controls are similar to that of a third-person shooter which is excellent. One character's ability is even reminiscent of dead-eye mode from Red Dead Redemption.

Another character's ability is reminiscent of

God of War's platforming. Riding train tracks is like a combination of Infamous and Ratchet and Clank. Lastly, staying above ground via wire is like a combination of Assassin's Creed and Infamous, but you can argue that Sly is the influence on those games.

I could go on and on, but to keep this short, I honestly can't think of too many criticisms for Sly Cooper: Thieves in Time and so it gets a 9.5 out of 10.

BANNER SPORTS

Baseball Team Looks Ahead With Some New Guidance

Fresh Faces Join the Coaching Staff for 2013 Season

BY DANIEL ROZENFELD

The boys on the diamond are ready to roll for another season of ball. Optimism is running high on campus and rightfully so. Head coach Michael Mauro is very excited to get the 2013 season underway.

Under his tenure with the Dolphins Mauro has posted a 94-68 record over the last four seasons, complete with a pair of CUNYAC titles in 2010 & 2011. Mauro will look to improve his record with help from a new coaching staff.

Former CUNYAC Player of the Year, Pat Gale, who was the interim last year, will officially take the title as pitching coach. Pat Daddio and Bobby Glennerster will be on the staff as well. Head Coach Mike Mauro is enthused about the new staff.

"They will help improve our club by the experience they bring from years of baseball, playing and coaching," said Mauro. "These guys have gotten their boys ready in the pre-season. The coaches on the staff have over 100 years of experience and guidance to their advantage."

Mauro also points out how hard the team has worked in the pre-season, something he is pleased about.

"The team is very knowledgeable about

this game; they treat the practices like it's their last," said Mauro. "They have been working hard since day one and the team has been doing conditioning and lots of cardio the past month; they appear to be in very good baseball shape."

Many improvements have been made since prior years, and the one major thing is attitude.

"This team is full of baseball players, not just kids looking to play ball," states Mauro. "They are 100% dedicated and have shown the staff that they are very united as a team."

New comers to the club looking to help with the improvements will be freshman Mike Fitzpatrick and John Baggs as pitchers. Fitzpatrick from James Madison High School posted a 6-0 record in 34 innings pitched, allowing only an astonishing 25 base runners, no earned runs, 54 strikeouts, in 16 games appeared during his senior year. Left-handed hurler Baggs from Moore Catholic High School has a superb change up to go along with his fastball. Other guys looking to help improve the club are Joseph Fiori, Chris Ramanuskas, and Robert Bernardo, who are all transfers.

Returning players that look to be leaders for the upcoming season are seniors, Rich



Photo Credit: CSI Athletic Dept.

A new coaching staff for the men's baseball team hints at a hopeful 2013 season

Anderson, Danny Lynch, Francis Torres, and Bryan Moreno. These guys look to show the younger players what it takes to be a good collegiate player. The foursome so far has played in every CUNYAC Postseason Championship game, winning two of three so far.

The goals for this ball club for the upcoming season to play each game like it is their last, coach Mauro. He could only ask for his boys to give all the heart and effort it takes to be winners, the team has a motto this year and it's chain "We have NO weak links!!!" The team chain is strong and they will not allow

having a weak link break their team chemistry.

From what Mauro sees early on, it's as strong as they can be. They hope to play for the conference championship in their fourth straight season and send the seniors out with their third CUNYAC Championship. The

Dolphins will kick off the 2013 season by traveling to South Carolina. They will then to hit the road March 7th to take on the Pioneers of William Paterson University. The Dolphins will return home on March 13, to host SUNY Old Westbury.

CSI Junior Looks to Lead Mens Basketball to Playoff Victory

With the Dolphins in Full Playoff Force Bloochy Magloire Leads Team Throughout the Tournament

BY MIKE PAPANDREA

The number one seeded men's basketball team defeated the eighth seeded Hunter, 89-80, to advance in the CUNYAC/Con Edison's Men's Basketball Championship. The victory was aided by the strong play from Bloochy Magloire, who put up a game-high 33 points with five rebounds and three assists, along with sinking 14 of 14 free throws.

Magloire currently has the second most points on the team this season, despite missing the first six games. Over the course of 19 games, the 6'3 Junior has averaged 21.1 points with a .441 field goal percentage. Magloire took the time to talk with The Banner about his personal success, team endeavors, and his future off the court.

TB: How does it feel to be a 1,000 point scorer?

BM: Its a great feeling, but I don't think a lot of players were fortunate enough to have older guys like Dale Taranto, Jordan Young and TJ Tibbs help me grow along the way since I was a Freshman. They gave me confidence and also taught me a lot on and off the court that helped me become successful.

TB: So the one loss to Baruch was obviously a tough one, how do you bounce back from a loss like that?

BM: As Coach would always say, you have to have a short memory. Win or lose we have to

worry about the next game and what we can do to move forward.

TB: For the first 6 games you could not play, how did you maintain that composure and stay focused while being out? Did some of your teammates and coaches help you stay regimented with training?

BM: The coaches were and teammates were very supportive and they really kept my spirits and my confidence while I was gone.

TB: With the CUNYAC Championship coming up, what has been your major concern for the rest of the season?

BM: Staying healthy! This season we suffered big injuries to Frank Husslein and Louis Valdes. We even lose Herschel Jenkins for a few games and now Jonathan Chadwick-Myres is playing with a bad elbow, so staying healthy is something we need.

TB: What is your major, and what do you plan to do after graduation?

BM: I am a Nursing Major and I plan on trying to take my talent overseas after graduation, but definitely want to finish school first.

TB: Baruch is obviously a strong competition, are there any other teams that you guys are worried about?

BM: The way our conference is set up, anybody is a threat. Anybody can have a breakout game at



Photo Credit: CSI Athletic Dept.

Bloochy Magloire hopes to bring wins home for the Dolphins with a 21.1 point average and a .441 field goal percentage

any point.

TB: How long have you been playing basketball?

BM: Since I was 4 years old.

TB: What got you so into the sport?

BM: I joined CYO at St. Rita's when I was six, I had a basketball hoop at home and started playing and I loved it right away.

TB: How has coach Petosa been through your college career? How has he transformed you into a player on the collegiate level?

BM: He has helped me mature a lot as a player! He has taught me little secrets that helped me

improve my play, offensively and defensively.

TB: What do you hope to accomplish the rest of the season and next season as a senior?

BM: Hopefully I can become a CUNYAC first team all star as well as bringing home the championship to CSI again, also to become the leading scorer in CSI history after next season.

Magloire will be pursuing Michael Stewart's eight-year-old record of 1,819 points next season. Until then, he and his teammates will be chasing a championship win in the CUNYAC tournament.