

The Banner

Official Newspaper of the College of Staten Island

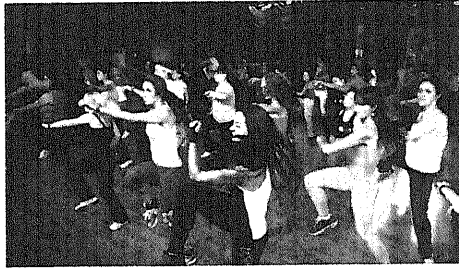
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CSI Maintains Academic Relationship with Israel

CUNY Repudiates ASA Boycott of Higher-Education Israeli Universities



Protests rage around the world as information involving the treatment of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip is released

BY DAEYUNG LEE

On January 7, Interim President William J. Fritz gave a formal comment on the American Studies Association's Boycott of Higher-Education Israeli institutions.

Within a paragraph long announcement to the student body on the College of Staten Island website (csi.cuny.edu), Fritz addressed the situation by stating CSI would also be repudiating the boycott in accordance with Interim Chancellor William P. Kelly's statement.

Kelly, the Interim Chancellor for the City University of New York, released a personal statement on December 27 concerning CUNY's

decision to stand apart from the ASA's boycott.

"The free exchange of ideas is at the heart of the academic enterprise," began Kelly within the personal statement. "The need for global cooperation has never been more urgent, and we repudiate any effort to foreclose productive dialogue."

Kelly continued the statement by reaffirming CUNY's position alongside Israeli universities, only pausing to announce new programs opening such as the Zicklin School at Baruch College.

Likewise, Fritz took an identical position opening the statement with his support of Kelly's

statement. He too mentioned both CSI's new and old programs extending between Staten Island and Israel.

"The College of Staten Island has a proud history of international collaboration, including those with Israeli scholars and institutions," stated Fritz. "This essential dialog will continue. Academic freedom, more essential than ever in times of conflict, embraces, at its core, serious conversation involving open and civil discussion and productive dialogue."

While it seems that both Kelly and Fritz have CUNY's best interest at heart, they seem to

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CSI Students Finish Fourth in Business Competition

Luxury Bertels Best Thousands in MikesBikes Business Simulation

A team of students from the College of Staten Island's new School of Business finished fourth in the online MikesBikes business simulation World Championship on January 4 Loyola College in Ontario with just a few minutes of competition left over to earn their fourth place spot in the global competition.

The team representing CSI was called "Luxury Bertels." The squad consisted of Usman Ahmed, Jayad Ali, Mohammad Chughtai and Catherine Jeanbart. The students were all part of Professor Heidi Bertels' Management 416 course, called "Decision Making in Business." The course is a capstone for business majors, and allows them to ana-

lyze real-world issues that all managers face and are expected to deal with.

"Our team completed in the finals against institutions from Australia, India, Canada, and the US," Dr. Susan Holak, Founding Dean of the School of Business, told CSI Today. "This is a fantastic finish for the School of Business team and a real credit to Professor Bertels! Through creative pedagogy, she has sparked excitement and learning by doing in this class."

The "Luxury Bertels" first began using the MikesBikes program in class, but when one of the team members approached Smartsims Business Simulations, the company that oper-

ates MikesBikes, they took a look at their scores and thought they would be a great fit for a competition they were holding.

85 teams from colleges around the world competed to earn a spot in the world championship. The top eight teams from the qualifying round then moved onto the final round. Cash prizes were awarded to the first and second place teams.

MikesBikes is a computer simulation of a bicycle manufacturing company and channels many aspects of the business world including: finance, marketing, personnel, pricing, production planning, and sales forecasting.

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Secret Writer at the Connecticut Muffin

Professor at the College of Staten Island Dips her Pen in Magic Ink and Writes Words of Gold

BY MILENA KOZLOWSKA

On the corner of Lafayette Avenue and Fulton Street in Brooklyn NY, stands a gem. Nicole Dennis Benn is sipping a coffee, wearing a mustard yellow cardigan and navy blue skinny jeans.

She is standing inside her favorite coffee shop, The Connecticut Muffin. Red leather seats and all, wooden chairs and tables for writers like her to express themselves. Like the two colors blue and orange, it is pleasing to see how well she harmonizes with her surroundings. She is conversing with a friend as she walks over with a bright smile on her face and a coffee in her right hand.

Just like the multi colored bracelets wrapped around her left arm that compliment her outfit, she compliments not only this Brooklyn corner coffee shop but her unique spirit, writing style and her colorful teaching techniques.

Nicole Dennis Benn, 32, is a native Jamaican woman. She was born and raised in Kingston, Jamaica. Half of her educational career was spent in Kingston as well. In her hometown girls and boys attend separate schools.

Students begin high school at the age of ten and graduate at the age of seventeen. Professor Benn attended one of those all girl schools until she graduated high school, where her writing career began.

Professor Benn referred to herself as a "secret writer" and wrote mostly in the forms of poetry and short stories. She was never published but these works became her main hobby as she took that first flight out to Ithaca, NY, where she would begin her undergraduate life at Cornell University as a Pre-Med major.

Professor Benn continued her education at the University of Michigan with Public Health. It was not until she began working as a researcher in the public health field at Columbia University where she began to pursue her passion, creative writing. This is also when Benn met her partner, and now current wife Dr. Emma Benn.

Benn and her partner were the first to have a public same sex marriage in Jamaica. At this time Emma was also working as a researcher and statistician for public health. They had gone out to

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VOICES FROM THE CAMPUS

Welcome back to another semester at CSI. As Editor-In-Chief of The Banner, I have had the pleasure of receiving a number of complaints concerning administration at the college and difficulties in getting classes. Below are the voices of your peers who have reached out to comment on the situation at hand. Hopefully bringing these complaints out will lead to a response from the college.

Daeyung A. Lee (21)
Editor-In-Chief & Biology Major

I think the difficulty in getting classes has to do with the budget. If it wasn't for budgeting problems we'd have more professors and more classes. It isn't fair having to go to the department and they tell you to go to another school. We go to CSI for a reason. To tell me that I should try enrolling in a different school isn't a credible solution to my problem. It's a cop-out and an easy way to push yourself from the work needed to guarantee more seats in these classes.

I'm extremely frustrated because there's no one to help you. No one wants to answer phone calls or honor scheduled meetings. I've had this problem from the beginning of December to last week of January. It's like no one cares whether or not we graduate on time.

Something has to happen, maybe collectively.
Yarlene Hernandez (21)
Biology Major

It's a hassle having to run from building to building for an overtally. You're forced to ask yourself "What do you do?" And then there's always the chance that you don't get the overtally too.
Sana Humayun (23)
Nursing Major

Everything about this is difficult. Trying to get the pre-requisites and the co-requisites together just to realize that the college is not offering enough class-

es. They need more sections open for pre-requisite classes. It only makes sense. How can you have a college that offers the same amount of seats in upper-level and pre-requisite classes?

Deregistration is another big problem. You come all the way to the campus just to realize that all they need to do is click a button and take a stop off. In the process of doing that, they like to bounce you around from office to office. You come to realize that you just gotta do it yourself.

The administration here only helped me during my first year. I work two to three jobs during the academic semester. I need to be able to take classes in a specific time and order but there's no one around to help you with that.

Right now, my only option is an overtally.
Samuel Stepney (21)
Accounting Major

I particularly had issues with my Linguistics major at CSI. First of all, the class choices were appalling. I was only able to choose from one new class each semester.

There were poor class offerings and one semester all of my classes were just suddenly dropped.

I drove myself crazy trying to get overtallies, which are a nightmare in themselves. Sitting down for hours at a time in front of faculty waiting to be approved is horrible and unnecessary.
Stephanie Parathyras (22)
Linguistics Major

My department is small so I don't face the problems other students do. But for the economics department, they won't give you overtallies.

Classes open when bills are due we all just wait for that to happen. It's a pain in the ass but that's what you have to deal with when you go to CSI.

I think it's Pathways that is giving us higher level students like juniors and

seniors such a problem. Pathways is cutting out classes that seniors need to graduate just to open up more sections of a level 100 class.

More pressing is the need for better professors at lower level classes, not more sections. It's far more important to have a better foundation before taking the much harder upper level classes.
John Mon (25)
Economics Major

Thankfully I don't have much of a problem when it comes to registering for classes. But that does not mean I don't hear it from my friends and other people who are constantly stressing because they can't get the classes they need.

I can sympathize with them because of the way it all works out in these majors. You need to be able to take pre-requisites in order to even dream about graduation in a year or two. Even worse, sometimes you need to sign up for one class with a co-requisite class. My friends have told me on several occasions that they offer more seats in the regular class than the co-requisite which makes no sense at all.

I feel bad for everyone who has to experience this struggle to simply go to college. It's ridiculous.
Reihna Alfonso (21)
Accounting Major

Personally, at Hunter College I never had a problem registering and enrolling in the classes that I needed.

I do know of some people who would complain that it was difficult to get classes but truthfully they were lazy and would wait until the last minute to even think about the classes they needed. In this case I wouldn't blame the administration or the college itself.

If you are serious about graduating, you'll find the time to procure the classes you need.
Colleen Stuzdak (22)
Communications Graduate

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

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

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"Secret Writer at the Connecticut" Continued from Front Page

discuss a lecture Emma had given and from there it flourished into the healthy and happy relationship.

It was Emma who motivated Benn to pursue her passion and with this motivation she realized that she was unhappy with her day job at Columbia.

"Are you a researcher or a writer?" asked Emma. "You need to do something about this."

With these words Nicole realized that she needed to return to school and concentrate on her writing. After two years of hard work Benn finally received her Masters of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from Sarah Lawrence College.

Benn now spends her time teaching beginner English courses, such as Eng 111 and Eng 151 at the

College of Staten Island. Enclosed in room 104 in building 2N, Professor Benn enlightens her Eng 111 students with readings from her favorite author's such as ZZ Packer and Edwidge Danticat.

In a cramped classroom a simple lecture transformed into a lively classroom debate. Students debated about the facts, morals and ethics about giving children who were born with both genitals gender reassignment surgery. Students also debated about giving children with gender-identity disorder, hormone blockers that suppress natural hormones and prevent puberty from taking place.

"[Benn] is more open, understanding and non-bias than other professors," said Sophomore Eric Surriel.

Students were prepared, active and eager to share their thoughts and research and Professor Benn could not hide her smile after realizing that she had reached out to her students.

"Class is interesting, it allows me to explore various aspects of English, that I never explored in high school," said Freshman Joe Kadeem. "[This class] expands knowledge of current events and everyday literature."

It seems that Professor Dennis Benn has made an impact on her students, which is her purpose behind working at CSI.

"I love where I work, I have found a commu-

nity here," said Benn.

In her eyes community is something that she looks for, a place to fit in, and also one of the reasons why she loves living in Brooklyn. Benn describes her neighborhood as a "Mecca of diversity" for same-sex couples, and different nationalities and races.

Benn also mentions that she has improved tremendously as a writer by teaching and she hopes to continue her progress as well as reaching out to her students with her own experiences and small anecdotes.

In between grading papers Benn also finds time to write for her blog "FIRST (Future Investment in Social Technology)" which she began in 2007.

This blog shares her thoughts and many stories about life, love and human experience. It also shares her thoughts on how some cultures perceive homosexuals, trans-genders and such.

As she writes in her profile section of her blog, "The sole purpose of this blog is to empower and educate others both inside and outside the lesbian community."



Photo Credit: Milena Kozlowska

Below is an excerpt of Professor Benn's writing as it appeared in her blog.

-Who is a Gentrifier?-

Walking down any street in Brooklyn I see streets and avenues as they are and not what they used to be. There are native Brooklynites that tell me what certain neighborhoods used to be like before I moved here, and I would listen in awe. "People never went to Fort Greene unless they want to get shot," my hairdresser, a native of Brooklyn, recounted to me one day. And as he twisted my dreadlocks he chuckled, "Not until the white people moved in and changed everything." He said this while shaking his head as though images worse than yellow tapes and chalk outlines on the sidewalk had flashed across his eyes. Of course, because of my blackness, I was cast as a long standing member of "the community", welcomed into conversations about gentrification without much thought about my background.

So who is a gentrifier? The people others label with that word that sound like it could be used to describe giant spiders from out of space with antennas that search for their next target—a word so ugly you might as well fear it, detest it, before knowing what it really means—are white people. More specifically, yuppies—another word for the young, ambitious whites; assumed liberal children of the prejudiced baby-boomer generation before them—a generation that would never dare live next to black people without worrying about the value of their homes, the state of their schools, the wholesomeness of their communities...wait a second...doesn't this still exist?

But in Brooklyn, the type of segregation that now exists is a cold one; one that gets tucked under the neat, embroidered folds of aloofness. An aloofness that reminds me of those halls of high school where the privileged, stuck-up kids sat at one table, and though there might have been empty seats, a poor, nerdy kid would never dare sit there because of the assault of stares and snobbery that would be worse than a punch in the belly, a hose in the face, or a yell to "Stay the hell away".

Fortunately, Author and Professor Nicole Dennis Benn is not stopping there, at time of publishing she is 200 pages in her new novel which she hopes to finish by December of this year.

Other than blog writing, Benn has recently fulfilled her dream in publishing her novel entitled *Run Free*.

In this recent interview Nicole shared that the novel is a fictional story about a Jamaican boy who feels like he is a girl trapped inside the wrong body.

She goes on to explain that this story is unique because it is one that is not told very often. Nicole Dennis Benn's novel will be on bookshelves and electronic reading devices by the end of 2014. (Title may change according to publishers).



Photo Credit: Milena Kozlowska



Photo Credit: Milena Kozlowska

"CSI Maintains Academic Relationship"
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tread lightly over allegations that higher-education Israeli institutions are allegedly guilty of denying Palestinian scholars basic and academic rights.

Furthermore, it seems that the decision made to continue to support Israeli based study programs takes higher precedence than does consulting the student body on the issue.

CSI's Students for Justice in Palestine Club or SJP are irate that such a decision was made, seemingly under the nose of the CSI community.

"It was very disrespectful of President Fritz to think that way," said Abeer Husein, a member of SJP and student at CSI. "It bothers me. CUNY was made to make education more accessible. Instead it seems like a business for making money."

Nerden Mohsen, President of SJP, also spoke on Fritz's lack of contact with CSI students.

"I don't think he has the right to speak on behalf of the student body without contacting actual students," stated Mohsen. "He acted by himself."

The situation in Israel has, for the most part,



Palestinian college students protest against the loss of their academic rights

"CSI Students Finish Fourth"
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Students find that the program truly integrates all aspects of the business world and forces them to utilize all they've learned in the School of Business.

"One of the key things that I found really helpful is I started out as a marketing major. When you go through the entire under reps system, you're taking accounting, economics, management and finance as well. So you'll take the intro level classes in all of those courses but up until 'decision making' they didn't really fit together as I wish they had," said Chughtai. "For example I took an economics class and I learned a lot, but I didn't really learn why it was relevant until you're in that simulation where you're running your own company; so that was one thing that was super important."

Smartsims Business Simulations' goal is to make teaching and learning both easier and fun. They strive to create a realistic environment for students to learn business concepts and apply the theory taught in class. Their wide array of programs include simulations of advertising, shareholding and marketing. The programs are considered rigorous and are also

remained grounded in the Middle East. Such US-backed programs like the ones sponsored through CUNY, have existed for years to good reception by students and faculty alike.

In this sense, Kelly and Fritz are performing a necessary duty; allowing students to expand cultural horizons while bringing in additional funding and revenue for prospective CUNY schools.

However, the ethics of the situation cuts deeper.

Reports from the Associated Press and other sources show that problems in the Gaza Strip have intensified to the point at which Palestinian students are often rejected from travel. Many site the rise of Hamas, a pro-Palestinian organization that recently won majority in the Palestinian Parliament in 2006.

These reports show that following 2006, a number of Palestinian students seeking to study abroad on a full scholarship have been denied the right to travel and, essentially, their right to an education away from the war torn Gaza Strip.

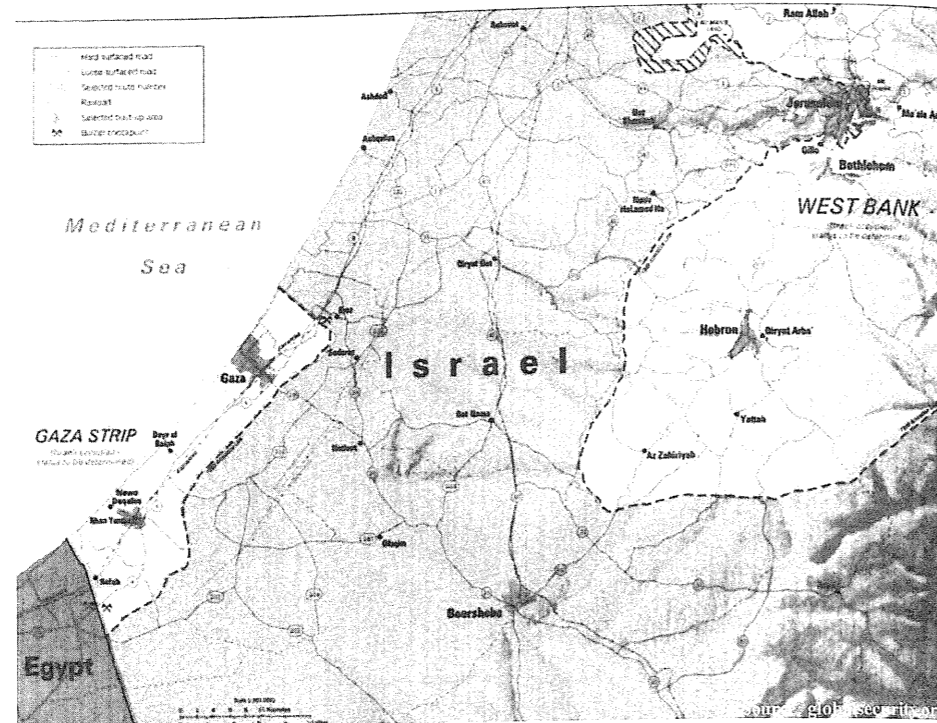
It becomes an item of contention when scholarships, directly mentioned by Fritz, are being awarded to both Israeli and Palestinian students with only the former being allowed to

used for corporate training and certification courses.

"The simulation is involved as the students need to make decisions based on financial statements and reports that take into consideration manufacturing efficiency, market sensitivities to advertising and delivery performance, competitor performance and shareholder value," Professor Bretels told CSI Today concerning the programs complexity. "Every time the simulation advances a year, the students need to study the updated reports and make informed decisions based on the changing market and competitive situation. Students that do not work diligently on doing this every week will not perform well in the simulation."

Though "Luxury Bretels" just missed out on the cash prize, the team is grateful that they were able to compete at such a high level and put CSI's School of Business on the map.

"It was definitely a great experience because it put CSI at a level with business colleges worldwide. There were two colleges from Israel, a couple colleges from the United States, one from Georgia, so it's just a good place to be. And it gives a lot of insight into different business functions that we wouldn't have without it," said Chughtai.



Israel surrounds the Gaza Strip where many Palestinian students are being held

accept them.

"Our faculty have obtained grants from the United States Israel Binational Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and from the Fulbright Program of the Institute of International Education to support collaborations with Israeli scholars," wrote Fritz.

The Fulbright Program has been under particular mention, with several Palestinian students sharing their stories online.

Fulbright recipient Fidaa Abed commented on his return to Gaza in 2008 upon boarding a plane to the United States prepared to tackle a Computer Science major at UC San Diego.

Likewise, American-born Yara Kamalawy was prevented from entering Israel from the Jordan border based on her Palestinian heritage.

The evidence shows that both sides of the boycott, American and Palestinian, are being refused academic rights based on the conflict within Gaza.

However, CUNY and over 200 other United States higher-education institutions are firm on their position against the ASA's ban of Israeli universities.

The boycott, based on the terms of the ASA and other organizations such as the US

Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (USACBI), is a point of solidarity amongst Palestinian students who are being refused a chance at academic success.

Here, Presidents of Universities and Colleges such as Fritz are forced to make a decision to stand by oppressed students and deny American Students their right to study abroad in Israel or to continue to provide these opportunities.

Their stance does not seem to play into politics or religious views, contrary to what the situation in Gaza has broken down into.

Instead, it is synonymous to the sentiment expressed by President Richard Brodhead, President of Duke University and Executive Committee member of the Association of American Universities.

"Efforts to address political issues, or to address restrictions on academic freedom, should not themselves infringe upon academic freedom," said Brodhead in a public statement. "The boycott of Israeli academic institutions therefore clearly violates the academic freedom not only of Israeli scholars but also of American scholars who might be pressured to comply with it."



Luxury Bartels working on their MikesBikes World Championship project

BANNER POLITICS

NYC, the Progressive Heartbeat of America *de Blasio's Forward Reaching Vision for NYC Sets an Example*

BY CLIFFORD MICHEL

A little over a hundred years ago, when Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft were in the Oval Office, similar headlines to those of today adorned the nation's newspapers. Stalled legislation was frequent, the gap between the rich and poor resembled more of a chasm, new inventions sped up daily life, companies resisted federal regulation, and money's influence in politics grew immensely. In so many ways 1904 is an accurate mirror to the challenges this country faces in 2014 with one notable exception, there is a lack of progressive leadership today that was present then.

This changed for New York City at least with the election of Mayor Bill de Blasio who ran on a progressive platform and whose campaign slogan was a rally cry to defeat income inequality and the "tale of two cities."

Progressive ideologies can be summarized as moving forward in all forms, including: advancements in technology, social progression and economic development. It is extremely ironic considering that these progressive pushes for change are always heavily challenged when they are first introduced but are later championed. Whether it's Franklin D. Roosevelt's creation of the FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation), Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision for equality, or the women's suffrage movement, sooner or later these progressive views become accepted and those who stand in opposition to the progress are deemed illogical and absurd.

Historically, New York has had a knack for staying ahead of the curve when it comes to progressive ideals in comparison to the rest of

the nation. New York City was the site of bus boycotts in 1941-1944 years before the famous Montgomery bus boycotts, and began the fight for racial equality within unions in 1935. But in recent years the city has fallen out of touch with its outspoken progressive stance. New York City, while still moving forward on some issues such as gay marriage, has lost much of its character.

This may not seem like such a big deal but political and social issues that occur in New

York City find themselves in the national media quite frequently. Think back to Bloomberg's smoking ban in 2003, the 2011 ban of smoking in parks, the proposed 2012 soda ban, the controversial stop and frisk policy, and most recently the city's ban of smoking e-cigarettes indoors. Though other cities have similar policies, NYC almost always sparks national debate. This has gotten many thinking if a new progressive movement may be brewing under the leadership of Bill de Blasio.

De Blasio's populist nature which won the hearts of many New Yorkers as he fought to reform "stop and frisk" and rebuild the New York police Department's relationship with the community first as a member of the city council and then as the city's Public Advocate. As Mayor he has vowed to make the city an affordable place to live by taking charge on minimum wage, which has fallen way out of step with American's productivity in the past thirty years, as well as providing more benefits for low-income workers, such as paid sick days. De Blasio has also promised to tax the wealthy to pay for universal pre-kindergarten and after school programs, which will hopefully provide the nation with a positive blueprint of benefits that can come from the taxing of the country's "one percent." It was pledging to fight on these issues that influenced the Mayor's appeal to the average New Yorker and is what put him and his family in Gracie Mansion.

Just like every other politician de Blasio has made promises to which he has limited power, and time, to make good on. But thus far he has held true to the claim he made in his inauguration speech where he said, "we won't wait; we'll do it now" by immediately beginning his push for universal pre-k.

Bill de Blasio's role as Councilman and Public Advocate stretched from 2001 until 2013, giving him ample time to gain a clear perspective on the issues New Yorkers truly care about. Whether or not he is successful at implementing his progressive ideals as Mayor may prove to be a test as to whether there is truly a place for progressivism in America today.



New Yorkers Remain Numb to Income Inequality *Quinnipiac Poll Suggests de Blasio's Signature Issue is Not a Top Priority*

BY JOHN L. FALCONE III

Bill de Blasio rode the coattails of Charles Dickens to City Hall. Okay, so that is a bit of a stretch, but he certainly did milk everything he could from his personal version of the Dickens classic A Tale of Two Cities. Unfortunately for him, however, the issue of income inequality seems to have fallen off the radar screen of most New Yorkers.

On January 16, Quinnipiac University released the results of a poll in which only 2% of 1,288 New York City voters said that income inequality should be the mayor's top priority. That is a number that should grab the mayor's attention, especially since in his victory speech de Blasio claimed that at its heart New York was a tale of two cities in which income inequality is the "defining challenge of our time."

According to the poll, when asked an open ended question as to what the mayor's top priority should be, the top two responses were education (20%) and jobs (13%). Other notable responses that finished ahead of

income inequality were crime/safety (9%) and affordable housing (9%).

"When we ask New Yorkers what's their top priority, they say education, jobs, crime, housing. Almost no one says income inequality," stated Maurice Carroll, director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute upon the poll's release. "But when we ask them specifically about income inequality, they want to rewrite 'The Tale of Two Cities.'"

The poll shows that the mindset, of those questioned, quickly changes when they are asked directly about income inequality. When posed with the question "How serious of a problem do you think income inequality is in New York City; very serious, somewhat serious, not so serious or not serious at all," 58% responded that they felt it was very serious and another 25% said that it was somewhat serious.

So why is there such a large disparity in the results when asked an open ended question as to what should be the mayor's top priority, and when asked about income inequality directly? Frankly, the difference is that

income inequality is not a daily concern for most people.

Now, before you start sending angry letters and emails to The Banner or set this copy of the newspaper on fire, let's think this through. Where do you spend most of your time during the week besides your house? The answer is probably at work or at school; so then is it any surprise that education and jobs are the two things that New York City voters want to see the new mayor prioritize?

Even if you are long graduated from high school or college, the chances are good that you have a child or two that are in school, and chances are that even if you have a good job, upward mobility and better job opportunities are something you would like to have available to you.

Education and jobs are, in some form or another, a part of your life nearly every day, income inequality is not. No one wakes up in the morning and thinks about the difference between their income and the income of some Wall Street CEO.

Sure, when posed with the question

directly, it seems like a big deal.

If you were presented with the same question as those who were polled, your emotions are bound to kick in and your mind would immediately think about stock market fat-cats being chauffeured in Bentleys to their penthouse suites, where their butler has prepared them a steak and lobster dinner before they head to the airport for their company funded, all expenses paid "business trip" to Hawaii. There is no escaping the fact that the phrase "income inequality" is charged with emotion and imagery, and it is this emotion and imagery that Bill de Blasio tapped into to win over the hearts of New York City voters.

By making the tale of two cities the center of his campaign, de Blasio convinced voters that income inequality was the city's biggest problem, and that it should be his biggest priority. Now that the catchy campaign slogan and media hype over de Blasio's tale of two cities has receded from the memories of voters, they have once again gone numb to the inequality of income.

BANNER STYLES

Winter Fashion Trends of 2014

Low Temperatures and High Fashion

BY VICTORIA CAROCCIA

After three blizzards, a polar vortex, and unpredictable weather patterns, it's safe to say that we're 50 shades of done with winter. Unfortunately, winter is still with us for another couple of months. But don't fret! Thankfully, there are plenty of hot winter trends to hold us over until the spring.

This year our least favorite '90s trend crept it's way back into the outerwear section at Macy's - the puffer coat. Despite horrible memories from elementary school, the modern day puffer coats are far more flattering than the North Face jackets we begged our parents to buy us for Christmas. (Why? We may never know.)

Puffer coats got their name from their obviously fluffed-up silhouette. Surprisingly, these coats are warmer than most of their more stylish brethren. Because of its spacious design, the dead air stores more warmth and keeps you nice and toasty in blistering conditions. The puffer the coat, the warmer you'll remain.

The name alone induces horrible visuals, but a puffer coat doesn't have to be unflattering. If you're worried about looking like an Oompa-Loompa, go for a longer, neutral colored coat with a belt to cinch your waist. That way you'll blend in with the dismal winter outdoor tones and still be able to decipher your feminine

shape.

Uniqlo has dedicated their entire winter line to reinventing the puffer coat with light-weight technology and stylish silhouettes to flatter any figure. Their short Ultra Light Down jackets start at \$70 while the longer ones run for about \$90 in stores.

While a winter coat will protect your body from the elements, it may take a little more than a hood to shelter your blowout from snow and sleet. If you're trying to avoid a bad hair day, throw on a knit beanie.

Not only will a beanie keep your hair safe and your ears warm, but their totally trending right now. Stores like Garage and Monki are selling beanies with fun sayings sprawled across them, like "Bad Hair Day" and "You Can't Sit With Us." Sure it may seem childish and obnoxious, but if there is one thing that brightens up a gloomy winter day, it's someone

upgrades over the past few seasons. Riding boots have made a triumphant comeback and are no longer reserved for equestrian betches from upstate New York. If you were blessed with long legs, rock a knee-high riding boot with a low heel, or a high heel if you feel dar-



Source: zappos.com
Cowl neck sweaters are a stylish and functional alternative to traditional winter tops

ing.

Motorcycle boots are perfect for short girls who are looking to roughen up their winter look. For those of you on the petite side, go for a low rise boot with a higher heel to add length to your legs. Anything with buckles and zippers is a great choice to accessorize your feet, even if they don't serve any kind of purpose.

When you aren't braving the not-so-great outdoors, there aren't a great variety of style options other than jeans and sweaters. This year, there are plenty of ways to switch up your indoor looks. Instead of jeans or long-johns, try some tailored tuxedo pants.

Menswear was huge in fall fashion and has carried over into the winter months. A pair of tuxedo pants are a nice alternative to regular dress pants and will look awesome with another unlikely trend: turtlenecks.

Turtlenecks have always been more of a necessity than a priority. Despite their restricting design, they've been excellent at keeping



Source: zappos.com
Even though it's cold out, don't be afraid to step out in a skirt

your throat and neck safe from the winter chill. But with the latest style upgrades like color, texture, and cut, turtlenecks are no longer blacklisted as conservative coverups for hick-eyes.

If you're still not in on the turtleneck trend, go for a cowl neck. They still provide the same amount of warmth with a less restricting design. Pair either style with a blazer and tuxedo pants and you have the ultimate warm look for work, school, or play.

Pants and sweaters are all fine and good, but can get boring after a while. If you are dying to dust off your dresses and skirts from summer's past, there are plenty of ways to incorporate them into your winter look by incorporating the two wardrobe staples mentioned earlier.

A chic pair of tall riding boots will shield your bare legs from the cold while still allowing you to show off some skin. Knee high socks are also a nice touch and give an air of schoolgirl realism. A long coat will also protect your gams from getting frostbite, or if you really want to stay warm, a pair of thick tights with heeled booties.

With the winter season still in full force, the fashionista within us all is screaming for spring and summer to hurry the hell up. Luckily, winter has brought us plenty of stylish reasons to embrace the cold.



Source: pickie.com
Puffer coats are back and better than ever with chic new styles and colors



Source: Stella McCartney
You don't have to own a horse to rock a pair of riding boots

wearing a stupid hat.

Once you've picked out the right outerwear, appropriate footwear is next on the list. With all of the slushy and slippery conditions we face annually, it's important to find a pair of shoes that can withstand even the grossest weather forecasts.

Boots have always a reliable choice for winter footwear and have gotten so stylish

BANNER STYLES

Get a Skinny Body, Keep Your Wallet Fat

Affordable Fitness Options for the New Year

BY VICTORIA CAROCCIA

Every January, gyms all over the country are packed with "resolutionists," also known as people who want to get fit for the new year. By February, however, more than half of these resolutionists lose sight of their goals and swap out the treadmill for their couch. Some can't take the heat, but others simply can't afford the membership fees.

If you want to keep your resolution without breaking the bank, there are plenty of affordable options out there. Because January is a popular time to sign up for memberships, most gyms offer great deals for those looking to get fit for the new year.

Through February 1, the YMCA is waiving their \$100 membership fee, so it's free to sign up. A monthly membership at the Y costs about \$55 depending on your plan, but their student discount offers an all-access monthly membership for only \$25. The Y has two locations in Staten Island; one in Eltingville on the South Shore and one in Westerleigh in the North Shore.

Planet Fitness is another popular choice among resolutionists, boasting a ten dollar sign-up fee along with a ten dollar monthly membership through January 31. While the cheaper option gives you unlimited gym access, the Planet Fitness Black Card gives you VIP access to all of the other amenities the gym offers for \$19 a month, including tanning, free guests, and membership at any other location.

Planet Fitness has three locations on the North Shore, with two on Forest Avenue and one on South Avenue. Although this gym is a little out of the way for South Shore residents, the low price membership fee will leave more

money in your pocket for gas.

If you're still worried about keeping up with monthly fees, the NYC Parks Department offers annual memberships at any one of their recreation centers at ridiculously low prices. If you're between the ages of 18 and 24, you can get a membership for just \$25 for the whole year. This membership allows access to the five recreation centers on Staten Island, including the newly renovated Greenbelt on the North Shore.

These affordable prices are enough to get anyone motivated to join a gym. But saving money at sign-up won't make up for the money you waste if you stop going after the first month. Before you make the commitment, set up an appointment to take a tour of the gym of your choice, or see if they offer free trial memberships. That way, you can get a feel for the gym's atmosphere and see if it meets your needs.

Despite some of the perks, gyms aren't for everyone. If you're the type of person that has no clue how to use any of the machines other than the treadmill and can't bare the thought of a community shower, then you should explore some of these other non-traditional fitness options.

In recent months, kickboxing has been all the rage. It's an excellent way to blow off steam and work all of the muscles that you didn't even know you had. There are hundreds of different kickboxing classes all over, but CKO is one of the most popular locations with the most classes.

CKO offers a free trial class for new members and charges \$20 a class after that. Students can purchase a card that grants them ten classes for \$100, which is significantly



Source: Zumba.com
Shake some ass and lose some calories in a win-win situation with Zumba

cheaper than their monthly membership. CKO offers classes at convenient hours all day, seven days a week and has three locations on the island; One in Tottenville, one in Great Kills, and one in Westerleigh.

For those who are lovers rather than fighters, Zumba is probably a safer yet fun choice. Zumba has also been trending over the last few years, offering people of all ages a great way to stay in shape. Advertised as a fitness "party," Zumba helps you burn calories and break a sweat by dancing to jazz, hip-hop, and latin music.

Because it's a dance-heavy workout, the

majority of the classes are hosted within a dance studio. The official Zumba website has a list of all locations in the area. Because Staten Island is chock full of Dance Moms and starlets in training, there is bound to be a class held in your neighborhood. Prices vary depending on location, but the majority run between \$10 and \$15 per class.

The new year is in full swing, and if you haven't already set a toned-up resolution for yourself, it's never too late! Take advantage of these deals while they last or use them to develop a fitness routine of your own.

The Beginners Guide to Workout Supplements

BY VICTORIA CAROCCIA

In recent years, workout supplements have been popping up all over in health stores and fitness magazines. Gym rats have been stocking up on powders and potions to enhance their workout routines and nutrition plans.

Because the supplement industry is fairly young, however, there's a lot of misinformation floating around. Many fitness gurus promote products that boast fast muscle growth without knowing the nature of the ingredients or the side effects they may have.

Without any prior knowledge of exercise science, it's easy to get caught up in the hype. If you're thinking about starting a supplement plan, the best thing to do is educate yourself on some of the more popular products.

Protein has always been a key component in fitness and diet regimens. It helps build muscle and regulate your internal environment. While protein exists in the majority of the foods we eat, many supplement companies have created protein powder and drinks for easy access and consumption.

Protein powders can be mixed in with water or milk and are most efficient when taken

fifteen minutes to an hour after your workout. The protein will help build muscle and improve your strength while repairing any damage from your workout and prevent soreness later on.

While protein is greatly beneficial to your body, too much protein can do more harm than good. Because it supports increased activity, the amount of protein you ingest needs to accurately support your workout.

For instance, if you're planning on doing an intense workout with heavy weight lifting, higher doses of protein are necessary. But if you take too much, the excess protein will be stored as fat, causing undesired weight gain.

Another popular supplement is creatine, which helps to promote energy production. Because creatine is good for amping up your body, it's widely used in pre workout supplement products.

Creatine is a water based solution, so those who use it find themselves constantly needing to hydrate themselves and tend to retain a lot of water. While it has been clinically proven to increase muscle strength, creatine mostly just boats you with water weight.

Although it's a great way to get pumped for

your next workout, creatine has some downsides. The excess water can cause diarrhea from overhydration. It hasn't been around long enough to show any long term side effects, however, creatine isn't backed by the FDA, so it's important to regulate your usage.

Both of these supplements are widely popular and can be found anywhere, but pre and post workout supplements can be costly. The best and most affordable supplement is the average multivitamin. They contain a lot of the same vitamins and minerals found in other supplement products and won't cost you a fortune.

Aside from vitamins, there are a number of other ways to improve your physical being. Taking rest days and getting plenty of sleep will allow for your body to repair itself between workouts and maintain strength and livelihood. A healthy and varied diet is also a no brained when it comes to fitness training.

In the end, everyone's body works differently and results will vary. If you feel you'll benefit from taking supplements, give them a try. Just be sure to understand the risks and follow the regulations. A little research goes a long way!



Source: GNC.com

A Look Ahead to this Year's Upcoming Albums

The Arists Coming Back in 2014

BY BRADLEY POPKIN

5. "Untitled" - Nicki Minaj

Nicki Minaj and her colorful wardrobe will be bringing bars to your speakers sometime in 2014. This will be her third studio album which



Nicki hits the studio for a 2014 release

is preceded by the platinum effort, "Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded". Her latest release looks to be a foray into hip-hop after dealing mostly R&B, and pop over the past few years.

"If I really wanted to, I could go back in and make another pop song like that to sell but I'm choosing not to do it. I'm choosing to get back to my essence and feed the core hip-hop fan," Minaj told Billboard in May of 2013.

This Young Money stalwart is taking no prisoners: hip-hop better be on notice.

4. "Duet" - Lady Gaga & Tony Bennett

Lady Gaga's little monsters won't have to wait long for some more Gaga. After releasing her fourth studio album, Artpop, in November of 2013: the fame monster has plans to release



Lady Gaga and Tony Bennett for duets

a duet with legendary Tony Bennett later this year. The two previously collaborated on a version of "The Lady is a Tramp" that was featured on Bennett's "Duets II" album in 2011. Bennett remains extremely confident and proud of his work with the young and talented Gaga.

"It is a very sensational jazz album," Bennett said during a recent interview in Japan. "We recorded all great standards, quality songs: George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Jerome Kern, Irving Berlin, songs like that. With a big swingin' band and great, great, jazz artists playing."

3. "Watch the Throne 2" - Kanye & Jay-Z

Hip-hop fans have no fear, Jay-Z and Kanye West are reportedly in talks of releasing a follow-up to their 2011, platinum effort "Watch the Throne". The highly-successful



Ye and Jay discuss Watch the Throne 2

release spawned several hits including "Otis", "N***as in Paris" and "No Church in the Wild". Producer Mike Dean, who worked on the powerhouses' first album, claims he is the 'Watch the Throne 2 instigator' and spoke to Jay-Z this past summer, according to Vibe. Ye seemed to put a damper on a potential reunion.

"We're constantly working," West told Philadelphia's Power 99. "We haven't made any songs for it yet".

Hip-hop heads might have to wait a little while for this one.

2. "Untitled" - Adele

The much successful Adele certainly has a lot to live up to after her Platinum and Diamond winning efforts with albums "19" and "21". The English-born songwriter, who has left many of



Adele is due for another album soon

us with a tear, is rumored to be working on her third studio album which is expected to be released sometime this year. A name for the album has not been given yet. Despite the hiatus, Adele was piling up the hardware after she took home an Oscar and Golden Globe for her James Bond theme song, "Skyfall". Back in March of last year, Adele had said she would only make music when she has "something to sing about". She also gave birth to her first baby in October of 2012. Only time will tell.

5. "High Hopes" - Bruce Springsteen

The iconic Bruce Springsteen released "High Hopes", his eighteenth album on January 14 this year. The album is a collection of covers and outtakes from the last decade and while it might not do much in the way of new; The Boss's offerings are much better than most in the genre. The current E Street Band touring lineup along

with deceased E Street Band members Clarence Clemons and Danny Federici will appear on the album along with former Rage Against the Machine guitarist, Tom Morello. Bruce has been putting on everlasting performances for the better part of four decades now and he's not slowing down.



Source: RollingStone.com

New Systems and New Games - A Gaming Guide for 2014

BY STEPHEN KLEIN

With the advent of new consoles last year, a new wave of titles approaches for 2014.

Here is your guide to gaming and helping you decide which of those titles you may want to play next. Many games are yet to be officially announced, and those that already are may not see a release this year such as Metal Gear Solid V: The Phantom Pain, and Kingdom Hearts III. Therefore, I've decided to focus solely on games that should most definitely be released in 2014, specifically within the next three months.

So first off, Tomb Raider: Definitive Edition kicks off the new year this January. While it may essentially be the same game just with better graphics and some extras, I still look forward to enjoying this game again in next-generation glory.

Fast forward to February, indie game Outlast will be released for the PS4. Outlast released on PC last year and was well-received for its strong horror elements. While I'm not particularly a horror fan, I still look forward to seeing how far this game will go to get me to jump right out of my seat.

In addition, other well-received indie games

scheduled for release on PlayStation platforms in early 2014 include The Binding of Isaac: Rebirth and Fez. Of course, if you own an Xbox platform, Titanfall looks to revolutionize the first-person shooter genre with mechs this March.

Also in March, the prologue to The

Phantom Pain, Metal Gear Solid V: Ground Zeroes, will be released as will Infamous: Second Son. Also rumored for March is Watch Dogs. All three of them look like extremely promising open world games.

As for later in the year, this September, Destiny is slated for release. Baset by an intrigu-

ing "shared world shooter" concept from the creators of Halo, Destiny also aims to redefine the first-person shooter. Speaking of Halo, a currently untitled installment of the series is slated for release later this year on Xbox One along with Quantum Break from the creators of Max Payne and Alan Wake.

Other promising games for 2014 include Dying Light from the creators of Dead Island, Kingdom Hearts HD 2.5 Remix, another Kingdom Hearts HD collection as the name suggests, and of the new Super Smash Bros. for Wii U and Nintendo 3DS. It's worth noting that despite lackluster sales, the Wii U might have a good year in terms of software starting with Donkey Kong Returns: Tropical Freeze this February. Lastly, Devil's Third has recently had a 2014 release confirmed, but despite promising footage and details a few years ago, that's just it. The game has not been seen in years.

So, there you have it. While I'm sure that there are still plenty of unannounced titles that will be releasing before the end of this year, hopefully this will give you a glimpse and a guide into the next generation of gaming.



Solid Snake suits up for some more stealth, espionage, and smooth gameplay

Anchorman 2 Measures Up to Expectations

The Legend Returns to the Silver Screen

BY LUCIA ROSSI

After nine long years of waiting, the legend finally returns and that legend is Ron Burgundy.

This sequel packed an even bigger punch than its first installment without a doubt. The humor was over-the-top and had the audience bursting in laughter in the movie theaters. However, it is possible that the makers of the film tried a little too hard to the point where certain funny scenes were not necessary. Regardless, if the goal of the film was to trump the first movie then mission accomplished.

The reason people may either love or hate this film is because everything Ron Burgundy, played by Will Ferrell, did was completely unexpected and random. So much so, it gave the movie a strange flow so that you never really know when it will end. The length of the film is much longer than the previous as well.

A main aspect that fans come for is Ron Burgundy's news team. This dream team is made up of Champ Kind played by David Koechner, Brian Fantana played by Paul Rudd, and the beloved Brick Tamland played by Steve Carell.

After several years from the first film, Ron Burgundy and Veronica Corningstone, played by Christina Applegate, are married with a six year old son named Walter. When Veronica gets the anchor position and Ron gets fired, Ron leaves Veronica and reunites his news team so

that they can work for the brand new station GNN (Global News Network), the world's first 24 hour news network. They then compete with Jack Lime played by James Marsden for the

primetime slot. Ron and Veronica's marriage becomes very rocky and the most unthinkable events happen.

What makes this film so successful is how



Ron Burgundy and the Channel 5 News Team saddle up for a new adventure

quotable it is, how viewers get sucked into the world of competitive news and how easy it is to love the ridiculous things these characters do. This is especially no surprise coming from Judd Apatow who is known for using the same actors and humor.

Financially speaking, Anchorman 2 did very well for itself. It grossed \$122,171,000 in North America alone. On it's first weekend, Anchorman 2 came in second place behind The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug with \$26,232,425.

One of the best subplots of the film would have to be that Brick Tamland falls in love. The way his relationship with Chani, played by Kristen Wiig, is done is romantic, hilarious, and irresistible.

Ron Burgundy has certainly gained an immense amount of popularity from the films, not Will Ferrell. Meaning, Ron Burgundy went on real live television news and interviewed Payton Manning for the world to see. This stunt was unforgettable to the public and displayed Ron Burgundy as if he wasn't a fictional person. Ron was also on the cover of Dogeancey magazine with his loyal dog, Baxter.

On making a third film, Will Ferrell said, "We just want to see what happens with this one and we'll sit down and access all of that," he told Entertainment Online. "Right now, we're just enjoying this journey."

Avenue Q: Rudeness, Crudeness, & Puppet Sex

BY LUCIA ROSSI

Avenue Q The Musical is Sesame Street gone wild. This now off-Broadway show displays a satirization of a coming of age story using unconcealed humans and puppets and is not suitable for children.

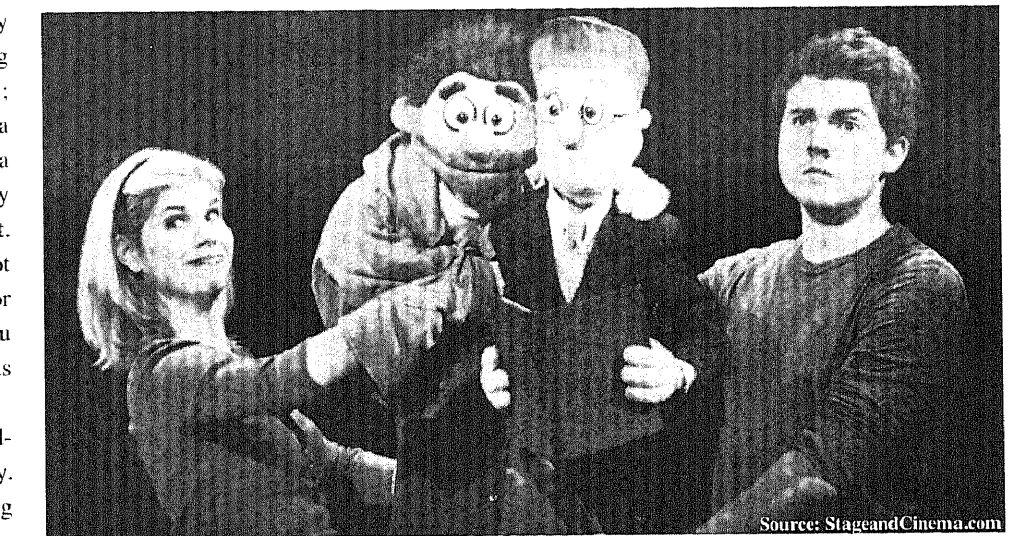
What Do You Do With a B.A. in English, It Sucks to Be Me, If You Were Gay, Everyone's a Little Bit Racist, The Internet is For Porn, and I'm Not Wearing Underwear Today, are only some of the titles of the musical numbers in Avenue Q. The show is very raunchy if that is not clear from these names.

Avenue Q is a fictional street in an outer borough of New York City, where Princeton, a new college graduate, goes to live and to find his purpose in life. His new neighbors on Avenue Q consist of Kate Monster, a

Kindergarten teaching assistant, Rod, a gay republican banker, Nicky, his underachieving roommate, Brian, an aspiring comedian: Christmas Eve, his Japanese fiancée who is a therapist with no clients, Trekkie Monster, a recluse who watches porn on the internet all day and Gary Coleman, the building superintendent.

The message of Avenue Q is you may not find your purpose in life when you want to or maybe even at all, but it is important that you move on and live your life anyway as much as possible.

Avenue Q won three Tony Awards including Best Musical while it was out on Broadway. It is ranked 23 on the list of longest running shows in Broadway History. Avenue Q is now open off Broadway at New World Stages in Manhattan.



Puppets line up on Avenue Q to discuss real life situations in a humorous fashion

Being in a show like this is much different than other musicals because the actors double as puppeteers. They have to sing, act, move the puppets, and even do more than one character voice at a time. There is not much dancing due to the puppets. Most cast members play more than one puppet character in the show.

Although the puppeteers are visible to the audience, they are suppose to be "invisible" to the storyline and the audiences imagination while the show is going on. All of the puppeteers wear all gray clothing to contrast the human characters that wear colorful costumes.

Something very unique about the show, besides a puppet sex scene, is their insertion of a real-life celebrity character placed in the story as a fictional character. This was Gary Coleman, a juvenile actor who played in the

1980's sitcom Diff'rent Strokes, who then sued his family and business advisors for misuse of his funds. Gary Coleman is the symbol of a dream childhood and nightmare adulthood. In real life, Gary Coleman actually threatened to sue Avenue Q for their depiction of him.

Avenue Q was created by Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx who purposely parodied Sesame Street for what they represent and even their characters. Rod and Nicky are like Bert and Ernie, and Trekkie Monster oddly resembles Cookie Monster but with an obsession for masturbating instead of cookies.

Sesame Street always gave children the message that they are special and can do anything. Avenue Q reveals the truth of life that in adulthood, options are limited and people are no more special than anyone else.



Source: RollingStone.com

BANNER OPINIONS

Aging Is Not An Illusion But a Part of Evolution

The Truth Will Set Us Free

BY HADIATOU WANN

Aging and death are siblings. Just like death, aging is inevitable, and not even a million Botox injections can hide the reality that aging is part of evolution. When we're young everything looks good, from our seemingly perfect lives to our wrinkle-free face, we walk around feeling immortal. But as the bills start to pile up and our birthday approaches, feelings of anxiety hover over us like a cloud.

Every year we face the unavoidable, we come in contact with our identification card. And every year the number appears rather different, it's higher. Although we enjoy the freedom we have as adults, we can't help but to cling onto memories of our younger self. When we're young we're part of the movie, but as we age we become spectators. Every image and every sound reminds us of how things used to be.

The mirror is no longer our best friend once we begin to go gray. Genuine compliments go out the window, and in the door walk compliments of pity. And when we look at ourselves, we internalize: "I look good, but I used to look better." As we grow in age we stock up our bathroom the same way we stock up our refrigerator, as a reservoir filled with anti-aging creams.

According to statistics the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) found,

"facial rejuvenation procedures, both surgical and minimally-invasive, experienced the most growth in 2012." Many people have a hard time accepting the fact that aging is part of evolution. Thousands of dollars are spent to keep the face looking rejuvenated.

"Forever Young" sounds great when we listen to Jay-Z rap, but the truth is, we won't forever be young.

Although aging sounds pessimistic, there's a brighter and more positive side to it. Aging is a perspective. We are as old as we think we are. Based on research conducted by Yale University, Alexia Elejalde-Ruiz of Tribune Newspapers quoted, "men and women over 50 with more positive self-perceptions of aging lived 7.6 years longer than those with negative perceptions."

Aging is better than dying. So, if we want to live longer, we better stop complaining and start appreciating.

"I don't feel old, the only time I remember my age is when I have to write it down," said retiree Alan Krull, 60, who was assistant principal at Manhattan International High School (MIHS) for 4 years (1999-2003), and principal for 9 years (2003-2012). "You have to do things that keep you mentally alert." According to a 2002 survey conducted for Civic Venture, 59 percent of older Americans see retirement as a time to be active and



Source: TotalRejuvenation.com

The pressure to look young is so heavily instated in our society yet every person will eventually age despite creams, surgeries, serums, or a healthy diet

involved, to start new activities, and to set new goals.

Even though Krull is retired, he said that he is very active. He gives back by going to MIHS once a week to give support to the current principal, Gladys Gorilda Rodriguez.

"Now that I am retired, I can do all the things I did not have the time to do when I was working," Krull clarified. "I can help my wife." The former MIHS principal now has time to clean the house, dishes, and drive his

children to school (his son 16, and daughter 19). He also plays basketball with his friends, who are older than he is, and reads on a regular basis.

There's no doubt that we want to maintain our good looks for life, but instead of focusing all of our attention on the misfortunes of losing our youth, we ought work on living a fulfilling life, one concentrated on making an impact on the world and leaving behind a legacy.

Arctic Days Do Not Deem Climate Change False

Sometimes What You Can't See Does Hurt You

BY JEAN CLAUDE QUINTYNE

To all those who deny or aren't aware of global warming, also known in some circles as climate change, let the arctic temperatures that brought the city of New York into the new year be an example for you.

Global warming is an increase in the earth's average atmospheric temperature that causes corresponding changes in climate that may result from the "greenhouse effect." People who aren't actively trying to protect the environment tend to not think past the "warming" part of this crisis' title.

They were silent when sixty degree temperatures lasted until the middle of December, somewhat understanding when it rained for a couple of days in early January, which gave way to chilly wind gusts, and, for some reason, stopped holding their breaths when a week of single digit temperatures arrived. As a result, they promptly laughed at environmentalists and others concerned about global warming.

When we experience weather similar to what we have been bundling up to this month, we should give this issue more attention. Just

because we aren't firing up the air conditioners in late December, doesn't mean climate change doesn't exist.

As Adam Gopnik of The New Yorker put it, "Given that global warming is, by definition, global—i.e. planetary—and, apparently, urgent, it wouldn't seem crazy to think that it ought always to be in evidence.

"Cold days don't disprove it," Gopnik continues, "and hot spells in summer don't either." For those who deny climate change, according to Gopnik, "it first has to be grasped as an abstract concept, albeit one with real and scary effects."

If seeing and feeling the effects of this issue aren't enough, reading about it—to some degree, the abstract—may do the trick. Take into account the damage that is happening in the arctic north, where glaciers are melting at a rapid pace and polar bears are running out of food to eat.

People who reside in coastal settlements are being evacuated and relocated and, possibly the most frightening thing, Gopnik illustrates in his book "Winter" that "the Arctic will be seasonally free of ice not in fifty years...but in something more like ten years." In many parts of the planet, climate change means extreme weather, not just hotter days, but increasingly violent hurricanes, tornadoes, and, in some cases, colder days.

It would be nice to think that not only a

few people found it odd that a couple weeks ago, it was fifty-five degrees one afternoon and, overnight, plummeted to five.

Such drastic drops in temperature over such a short period of time are more common in the Midwest, and occurred frequently roughly 100 years ago, according to an article in the New York Times. This phenomenon is known as a "Blue Norther," "a temperature drop of dozens of degrees in a few hours", the article states, which are "rare over the East Coast."

Such behavioral patterns in temperature aren't uncommon, however infrequently they occur, but climate change intensifies them. Just a few days into the new year we were hit with sub-zero wind chills and a heavy snow-storm that was followed days later by rain that melted most of it away.

How much longer will people feel comfortable, feeling uncomfortable at the behest of this anthropogenic crisis by experiencing environmentally damaging phenomenon? Even if individuals hesitate to get out in the field and take action right away to counter climate change, reading about it is enough to get the ball rolling.

Think about this: the more concern we give to this issue now and work to lower our worries, the less our grandkids will have to worry about the consequences of our lack of concern.



Source: DeathandTaxes.com

New York City can be magical in the winter but we must remind ourselves that future generations may not be lucky enough to see snow in Times Square

SEX AND THE ISLAND

Cupid's Guide for Virgins, Boyfriends, and Other Men

How to Resuscitate Your Chivalry for Valentine's Day

BY LARRY ZAKHARENKO

Put down that issue of *Cosmo*, there are no ten easy ways through the Pearly Gates of the angel you gawk at from afar. If you wish to impress your woman in time for our most beloved materialistic holiday, or, if confidently dragging your chesticles across the room to beat a girl with overtly sexual compliments is not your style, consider my James Bond approach that will make you shine apart from all the Staten Island trash. I don't usually start my articles with tongue twisters like that, but you will need to loosen up that mouth for Valentine's Day.

There is a tight distinction between being *Skyfall* smooth and that gold-chained Albanian guy preying on girls still in high-school. We have opposable thumbs for a reason, so grasp

Valentine's Day, go to Express and buy a sexy \$50 red dress on sale for \$12, or heels, or lingerie, it's a win for both of you if you want to spice up your sex-life. Know her favorite chocolate/candy and buy that over those heart-boxed scams. If she loves peanut butter, find a recipe online and bake her peanut butter cookies. Even if they suck, the fact that you took the time to bake something will be adorable to her.

Third, the art of surprise relies on delicate creeping. Showing up to a girlfriend's class before she does to place cookies on her desk with a note saying "this seat is reserved for..." can be interpreted as sweet, or as Hannibal Lector. Know the boundaries of the person you are trying to swoon. You can stalk their Facebook to see what band they like and sur-



Whitman's CHOCOLATES... IT'S THE THOUGHTFUL THING TO DO!
Source: blogspot.com

If you see it in an ad, chances are that it's too generic. Think outside the box

you in a Wendy's parking lot because she just felt horny that day. The first step to combating loneliness is to get over your fears.

That woman there, the one you are too afraid to speak with because you couldn't even imagine what to say that could interest something as beautiful as her, or because your tongue would fumble under the stampede of your heartbeat — that woman there probably smells like a thousand roses. You smell like fear. Her eyes are probably a shade of perfect genetics, yours are brown. Her hair always falls in the right place. I don't even know what to call the mess on your head. But she doesn't care. She hopes you find the courage to do more than just stare, to have your eyes lock in conversation rather than from across the room. She is too busy hating the way her hair looks, wondering why no one likes the color of her eyes, and doubting the strength of her deodorant. That woman there doesn't know how beautiful she is. So get up and tell her.

Do not let fear decide your fate, or judge

only works for Popeye. You don't need to be sculpted like a Greek Statue to get laid, although being in shape does help. I know of people that can laugh a girl into bed, or a relationship, and all it takes is a positive personality.

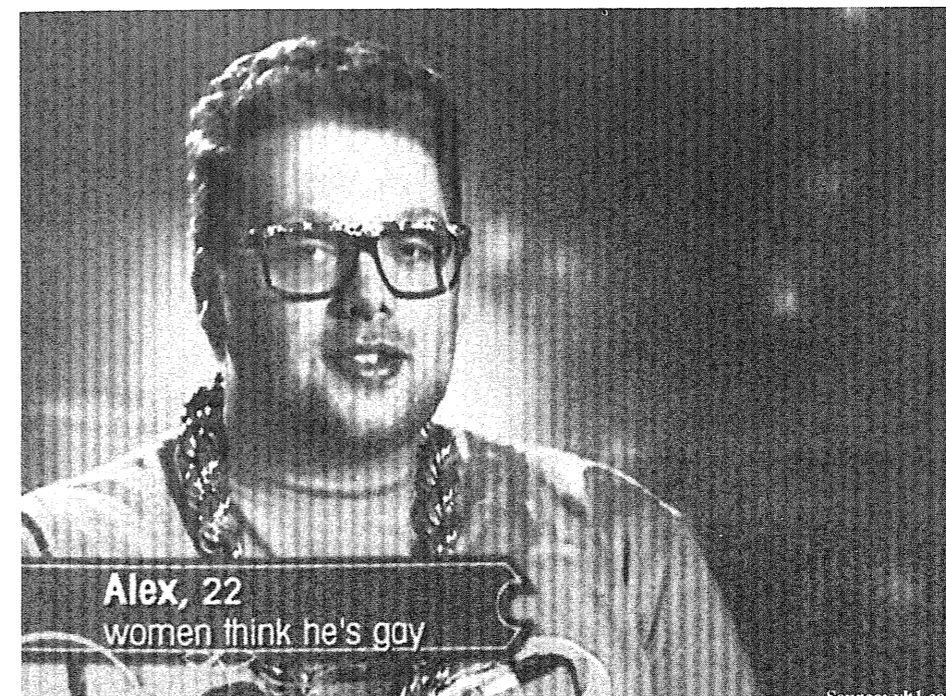
And for the shyer man, there is no shame in your silence. Thanks to *Twilight*, *50 Shades*, and *Dexter*, there is a newly resurrected attraction towards the quiet and mysterious.

Next time a girl smiles at you from far away, smile back and say this magic word, "hello." Really, that's all it takes. Just say hello, and let the conversation flow from there. I have done this in foreign countries where I barely speak the language, and "hello" has gotten me to meet everyone from Russian models in Kiev to prostitutes in Paris.

Too many guys are hung up on what to say to a woman, as if she is some alien being and you are Earth's ambassador. They are human like you, so talk to them as if they are one of your friends, but hold off on the fart and dick jokes until you know their personality. However, if you are desperately stuck and don't know what to talk about, remember FORD: Family, Occupation, Recreation, Dreams. These are safe topics to talk about on first encounters. What you should never talk about on first dates is RAPE: Religion, Anal, Politics, Ex's.

Most importantly, if you feel insecure about yourself or your body, remember that most women do not care about the size of your penis, it's the person attached to it that matters. If this were more known, there would be fewer teenagers buying Mustangs to compensate for their small Charles Dickens. But perhaps even more important than that is to take all of this advice with a shotgun blast of salt to the face, because every person is different and no matter what I say I am no better than the people writing "tips" over at *Cosmo* or *Buzzfeed*. So use what you can, and have a wonderful semester this year.

Sinfully Yours, Professor of Unacquainted Love.



Source: vhl.com

Because nothing screams masculine like fake gold around your neck

your chin like David the Thinker and realize that if your creation resulted from all your ancestors being able to get laid, then you can too. But this is not just about sex, this about how to swoon the beautiful belle you're after, or to impress the one you're already with.

First, do not buy roses or chocolate just because it is Valentine's Day or an anniversary, this is expected of you. Instead surprise her with roses, or even a single rose, on a random day for no reason what so ever. When her eyes sparkle in amazement and she asks why, say "I was just thinking of you." The surprise of it, combined with the fact that you weren't entitled to get anything, will melt her heart into liquid gold which you may store in your bank for when you later do something stupid. A single rose can cost you three dollars. If you do this once a month on a random day and time you will be a happy man.

Second, do not spend hundreds of dollars on roses or fancy chocolates. It is the thought that matters, not the gift itself.

You can buy \$100 assorted chocolates for her just to find out she is allergic to the caramel in half of them. There are three things you must know about your woman at all times: her dress size, her favorite kind of chocolate, and her enemies. If you need a gift for

prise them with tickets to their next show, but you may discover they can only go if they bring their sibling/boyfriend/best cock-blocking friend. Know the interests of the people you are interested in, but don't be a creep

Hormones are a fascinating thing at this age, they can make a woman rip your head off and vomit down your neck exorcist-style because you made a joke about her eyebrows, or she can have sex with you in a Wendy's parking lot because she just felt horny that day.

about it.

If you have no one to share the festivity of V Day with besides Jack Daniels, remember that you are a young person in college, surrounded by other young people with one thing on their mind 70% of the time. Hormones are a fascinating thing at this age, they can make a woman rip your head off and vomit down your neck exorcist-style because you made a joke about her eyebrows, or she can have sex with

ment for that matter. I have been called awkward before, you may know the feeling. Let me tell you now, you are not awkward. First dates are awkward. Being the only girl at a party is awkward. Holding a door for someone too far away which forces them to walk faster is awkward. You are not awkward. Be confident in yourself.

Unless you want to attract the type of girls that list Gucci as a role model, flexing a bicep

SPORTS

Men's Basketball Stifles John Jay *Dolphins Swarm on Both Sides of the Ball*

BY BRADLEY POPKIN

Men's Basketball routed conference foe John Jay College to a 81-42 victory and a winning streak of ten games. The Dolphins swarmed early and often, allowing very few looks at the basket.

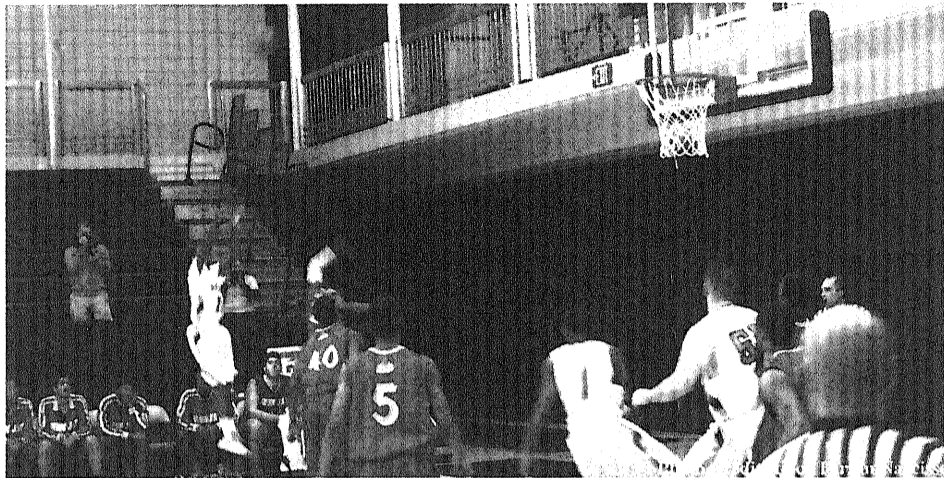
The game was close for the first ten minutes with the Bloodhounds taking an early 11-10 lead. After a few lead changes, Guards Bloochy Maglorie and Jonathan Chadwick-Myers were inserted into the game which helped turn the tide back to the Dolphins. Following a pair of free throws by Myers, Magloire made his third three-pointer of the night which tied Hall of Famer John Cali's record of 241 career three's. The Dolphins took a sizeable 28 point lead going into the half.

"They're our two best offensive players," said Head Coach, Tony Petosa. "They're key components for us to get to the next level."

The second half didn't result in a more competitive matchup as the Bloodhounds missed their first seven shots. The lead eventually ballooned to 47 in favor of the Dolphins.

With Magloire and Myers coming off of the bench, the team has had to find scoring elsewhere. Senior Guard/Forward Javon Cox is having his best season yet, averaging fourteen points and eight boards. Freshman Point Guard, Frankie Schettino has started all but one game and sports averages of 11 points and seven assists per game.

"Coach and the team have given me a lot of support," said Schettino. "I know the games are going to get harder. We played good tonight but we need to improve on offense and defense."



Schettino has garnered much support from teammates and has successfully held down the fort until Magloire and Chadwick-Myers returned to the rotation. The Freshman Point Guard is described by teammate Colin McCole as someone who "makes the extra pass and is savvy."

The Dolphins are just as potent on the defensive side of the ball as they are offensively. The team isn't missing a beat defensively, something their coach heavily attests as the reason for their success this season. They are holding teams to 40 percent shooting from the field and outscoring them by twelve points.

"We play very well defensively," said Petosa. "That is what's going to make us good."

Despite the team's incredible run, Petosa and his players are confident this team hasn't reached its potential.

"I'm not too surprised, I think we can actually play better," said Petosa. "We're still trying to

fit pieces together."

The pieces he is referring to are Magloire and Myers. Petosa wouldn't comment on their absence stating that one issue was 'personal'. The pair are Seniors and are no strangers to the hardwood. Maglorie and Myers both started in the backcourt for the majority of the season last year except for a total of two games.

Petosa also feels there is room for improvement. Free throw shooting has been underwhelming thus far in the Dolphin's campaign. They only shoot sixty percent from the charity stripe.

"It [foul shooting] has been our achilles heel this year," said Petosa. "We have a couple of kids who are eighty percent foul shooters that haven't been getting to the line."

Of the remaining ten games in the season, eight of them are conference games. If their record is any indicate, these Dolphins are more than up for the competition.

Inside the Dolphin Tank

Meet Freshman Swimmer Timothy Sweeney

BY JESSICA PIFALO

After being named CUNYAC Rookie of the Week early in the season, freshman standout Timothy Sweeney has been named CUNYAC Swimmer of the week after a standout performance against Lehman College. Outside the pool Sweeney is part of the prestigious Macaulay Honors Program. Sweeney now must prepare himself for his first CUNYAC Championship in hopes to be crowned a champion.

TB: How does it feel to win Player of the week?

Sweeney: I was so honored to be named the player of the Week. To be recognized by CUNY, while representing my school is amazing. It also motivates me to keep pushing myself at practice to try and receive the honor again.

TB: What is your biggest strength and weakness in swimming?

Sweeney: My greatest strength in the sport is my endurance. The longer a race is, the better I will do comparatively. My greatest weakness is the sprint races. Anyone who knows me, knows that I am not that tall so I don't have the power to do short races.

TB: How did you first get into swimming?

Sweeney: I first began swimming because my older brother and sister both swam. They both loved it so I gave it a try and I then grew to love it.

TB: Favorite song right now?

Sweeney: Right now, my favorite song is "Pompeii" by Bastille. I heard it for the first time on my way to our swim meet against Lehman, our biggest meet of the year, and it got me pumped up for the meet, which our team went on to win.

TB: How old were you when you first learned how to swim?

Sweeney: I first learned how to swim at 5 years old, on a Summer League team, and I have been doing it ever since then.

TB: What motto do you live by?

Sweeney: I try to live by the motto "If at first you don't succeed, try again." It's really important to think this way because in any sport, there will be ups and downs but as long as you keep trying and pushing yourself, success will follow

TB: What was the last movie you saw?

Sweeney: The last movie I saw was "Lone Survivor," and it was great! It really opened my eyes and made me appreciate everything our troops do to protect us, even more. The bravery and honor each of our troops possess is incredible and I'm thankful for them everyday.

TB: Childhood idol?

Sweeney: One of my childhood idols is Michael Phelps, the greatest Olympian, and swimmer of all time. My other idols are my brother and sister because they got me involved in swimming and I always looked up to them, both in and out of the sport.

CUNYAC Championship Approaches *The Dolphins Have The Talent to Make it to the Deep End*

BY MICHAEL PAPANDREA

With the CUNYAC Championship approaching quickly, the Men's and Women's swim teams are preparing to do what they have done all season against conference teams: win.

The Men's team is having a successful season as they currently sit at 7-2 with a conference record of 4-0. The opponent that came the closest to defeating the Dolphins was Lehman College, who lost 128-117. CSI also collected lopsided victories against Baruch, Brooklyn, and York College.

The only two teams that were able to defeat CSI were a pair of New Jersey schools, William Patterson University and Ramapo College. The team lost those games back to back but they have recently been on a winning streak. The Dolphins have won three straight, thanks in part to Timothy Sweeney.

Sweeney won player of the week with his performances against Lehman and York College. Against York, Sweeney led the team with 27 points while Derek Villa, John Pignatelli, and Stephen O'Driscoll all scored 18 points. The win locked up the CUNYAC Regular Season Championship in dominant

fashion as York's team scored a total of 47 points. Despite winning the in season title, the team is still trying to keep a level head and not get too ahead of themselves.

"Our toughest competition thus far," said Sweeney, "has come from Lehman and Baruch but going into champs, anything can happen and you never know who will step up. We have to be prepared to take on any one and any team, but I think our team is strong enough to rise to be our best and achieve our ultimate goal of being CUNYAC Champions."

Other players that have helped lead this team to a strong 2013-14 campaign are Yury Zimarev, Danila Novikov, who holds records in the 100 freestyle and 200 and 400 IM, and team captain Mitch Lovell.

On the Women's side, the team is just floating above .500 with a record of 6-5. Three of those losses came against teams that they will not face when they compete for the CUNYAC Championship, as they hold a 4-2 record in conference. The two conference losses came from Baruch and Hunter college. The team knows they have to prepare to face these teams again on a bigger stage with more at stake.

"We have been training harder and putting a lot of effort in since those losses," said Women's captain, Jessica Pifalo. "We always have those losses in the back of our mind every practice and that pushes us harder during training."

One of the Dolphins strengths has been diving, as April Bartlett is coming off a pair of first place finishes in both diving events against Adelphi. Bartlett has been solid all season long, racking up points off the diving board.

The team has also benefited from the play of Hunter and Dakota Dawkins, Tina Chen, Kelly Walsh, and Samantha Escobedo. Dakota was able to set the school record for the 200 yard breaststroke this season, with a time of 2:45.20.

Escobedo has only played in the last three events for the team but in such a short amount of time, the freshman showed that she is one of the top swimmers on the team. In her second game, she posted first place in all three of her events.

Both the men and the women will look to grab onto their strong season finishes and ride them deep into the playoffs.