

THE BANNER

The Official Newspaper of the College of Staten Island

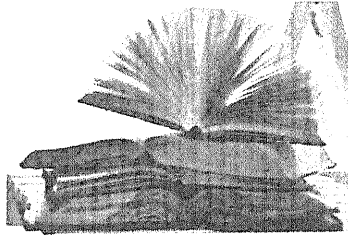
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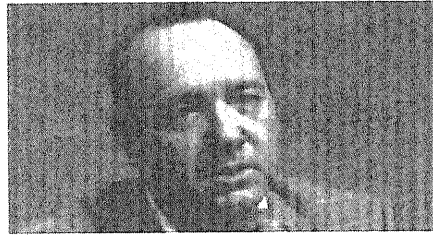
Issue # 7



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What's Black and White and Seen All Over Campus? *SKUNKS!*

BY: LISA VIVIANI GORIS

Something stinks on campus lately, and it's not just the backed-up traffic on the loop road.

Black and white striped, furry, creatures have been spotted on campus. They are skunks!

While CSI students are no strangers to wildlife, they have been a bit frightened by the latest critters on campus.

Ivonja Byer, a BSW student, has spotted more than one of them. She described a recent skunk encounter, saying, "I got so scared when I saw one. I thought it was going to spray me. Luckily, it went about its business and didn't notice me."

Certainly, we all hope to be as lucky as Ivonja. While students may be accustomed to seeing deer, squirrels, turkeys, peacocks and the occasional rat, skunks are nocturnal, so seeing one during daytime hours is unusual.

According to Sciencing.com, a typical skunk waits for night to start foraging for food, so a skunk sighting during daylight should be a warning to all to stay away.

Normal daytime behavior for skunks revolves around hiding in their den and sleeping.

Lucia Rossi, an MSW student, witnessed a skunk being chased by public safety while working

on campus.

"I was leading a tour for a class of children around the campus for the CUNY Explorers program, and all of a sudden all the kids started yelling 'a skunk! it's a skunk!'" she said.

"We all stopped to take pictures and watched as two public safety officers chased away the skunk off of campus-- one on his segway."

When public safety was asked how they are handling the skunk situation on campus, they declined to comment.

"I think there is an entire family of skunks on campus because my friends have shown me pictures and they all look different," said Rossi.

According to an article written by the Staten Island Advance in 2015, "Skunks, despite their reputation, have been seen on the South Shore for around 20 years without making too much of a stink."

This means it's very possible

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An ESL Student Doesn't Feel "Confident"

Understanding the Real Intentions of an ESL Student

BY: VICTORIA IFATUSIN

The College of Staten Island is known to be one of the most diverse schools, as it contains students from all over the world.

Because of that, various students are put as ESL students – English as a Second Language – ignoring their mother tongue to communicate and learn in the English language.

Of course, these students start off by having a difficult time in understanding what is being taught, studying the material in English, and speaking to others, especially the latter.

Often, students such as these are misunderstood and are misjudged by students and professors due to their language barrier.

However, everyone should know that even though ESL students may not communicate their thoughts and knowledge as well as regular English-speaking students, it does not mean that they don't understand the material they are taught.

Because people misjudge this miscommunication as a sign of stupidity, ESL students are commonly insulted, which can hurt their self-esteem and desire to learn English.

Let this story show that ESL students understand a lot more than you think, they just perhaps need more time to respond properly.

The Banner was able to interview an anonymous student who gave us their experience as an ESL student.

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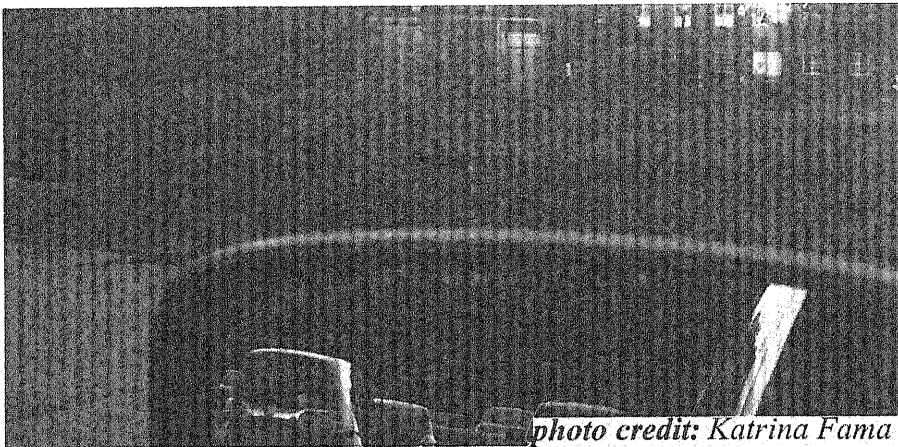


photo credit: Katrina Fama

Leadership Week Delivers Inspiration to CSI

Leadership Week's Kickoff is a Knockout

BY: VERONICA PISTEK

The first event of the 2017 CSI Leadership Week began with a powerful workshop, led by a special keynote speaker, capturing the attention of an overwhelming and radiant audience.

The engaging event titled "Why YOU Should Lead" brought nearly a hundred of CSI students together, all striving to one day live out their dreams to being a leader.

At the event, students

immediately started using their leadership skills for the sake of the students who had nowhere to sit by venturing out of the room to find extra chairs, which truly exemplified the workshop as a whole: why we should be the leaders of today.

To kick-off the event, the booming crowd lit up as the passionate keynote speaker ditched the old power-point style and embraced the natural power of inter-

action and conversation.

The students, fearless to participate and open to discuss their opinions, took the workshop into their own hands.

The speaker handed the floor to the audience with one simple question: "Why does leadership matter?" The future leaders of our generation replied with diverse responses, setting a tone of motivation and empowerment for the

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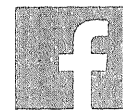
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BANNER POLITICS

Donald Trump: The Russian Connection

The Story Untold Begins To Unfold

BY: JOSIAH AKHTAB

President Trump has been accused of having close ties to Russian President, Vladimir Putin.

According to a BBC news report, American Intelligence officials have claimed that Moscow tried to influence the election in favor of then republican candidate, Donald Trump.

It is also alleged that Russian hackers procured information linked to former presidential candidate, Hillary Clinton and publicized it to undermine her chances for the presidency.

20,000 emails were stolen by hackers and published on Wikileaks, which intelligence officials believe with "high confidence" that Russia was behind the operation.

President Trump addressed Russia in a press conference back in July of 2016 stating, "Russia, if you're listening, I hope you're able to find the 30,000 emails that are missing".

This statement caused a fair amount of outrage.

President Trump's former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, was accused of accepting millions in cash to represent Russian interests here in the United States and Ukraine.

Manafort resigned as President Trump's campaign chairman months before the election and is currently under investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller and his team.

Trump argued about the findings in a presidential debate, stating, "...could be Russia, but it also could be China, it could also

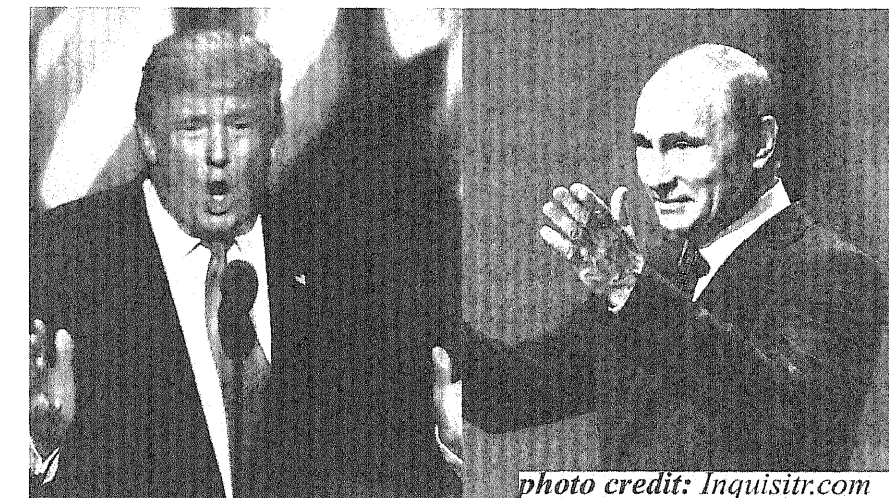


photo credit: Inquisitr.com

be a lot of other people. It could be somebody sitting on their bed that weighs 400 pounds."

Last December, Trump nominated Rex Tillerson, CEO of the Exxon Mobil oil company, for position of secretary of state.

Secretary Tillerson also has close ties with Vladimir Putin. Despite that, Tillerson was sworn into the position on Feb 2.

In January, BuzzFeed published a dossier compiled by Christopher Steele, a former British Intelligence officer and Russian expert, that was claimed to make the president liable for blackmail.

CNN reported, that former president Barack Obama and Trump had been briefed on the existence of the dossier by intelligence officials.

However, BuzzFeed decided to take it a step further, publishing the information.

Upon the publication, BuzzFeed had re-

ceived political backlash for releasing unsubstantiated claims.

Trump regarded the dossier as fake news and dismissed it.

In an open hearing, held rarely by the House Intelligence Committee, James Comey, director of the FBI at the time, confirmed an ongoing investigation that began in July 2016.

However, James Comey was fired by Trump on May 9.

The following day, President Trump met with the Russian Ambassador and Foreign Minister.

It was reported by the New York Times that President Trump told them firing Comey had relieved "great pressure".

Comedy expressed that President Trump asked him to drop the investigation on Michael Flynn, national security adviser who

resigned 23 days on the job.

He stated that he "inadvertently briefed vice president-elect and others with incomplete information regarding my phone calls with the Russian Ambassador."

Regarding this, media in the United States reported Flynn discussed the potential liftings of the sanctions placed on Russia by former president, Barack Obama.

Comedy stated, "[Trump] said: 'I hope you can see your way clear to letting this go, to letting Flynn go. He's a good guy. I hope you can let this go.'"

Comedy also confirmed President Trump's account that he told them the FBI wasn't investigating him personally.

He also expressed he continued writing memos of the meetings, fearing Trump might lie.

The White House denied that the President asked Comey to drop the investigation on Michael Flynn.

The President also questioned the neutrality of Robert Mueller, stating his friendship with Comey is "bothersome."

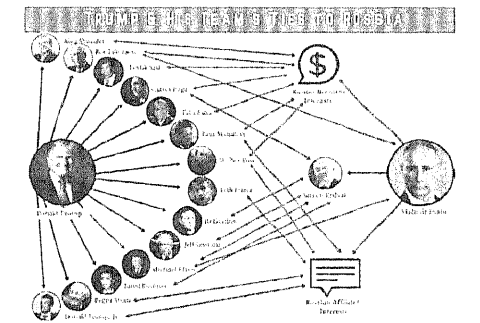


photo credit: Inquisitr.com

Net Neutrality Hangs in the Balance Yet Again

#SaveTheInternet

BY: STEVEN MORRIS

The fight for a free internet is upon us again.

On December 14, the FCC held a successful vote on the FCC Chairman's proposal to get rid of the protections that the FCC passed in 2015.

In 2015, rules were adopted, based on Title II of the Communications Act of 1934.

According to The Daily Dot, "Title II of the Communications Act concerns something called "common carriers," which also covers utilities like landline phones and electricity. The 2015 Open Internet Order reclassified broadband internet service under Title II (it was previously classified under Title I as an "information service"), which provided the legal basis for the FCC to enforce net neutrality rules."

By classifying broadband internet service under Title II, the FCC passed its strongest set rules regarding net neutrality.

According to savetheinternet.com, net neutrality is "an internet that enables and protects free speech. It means that ISPs should provide us with open networks — and shouldn't block or discriminate against any applications or content that ride over those networks. Just as your phone company

shouldn't decide who you call and what you say on that call, your ISP shouldn't interfere with the content you view or post online."

Ajit Pai, a former lawyer for Verizon, is the current FCC Chairman, who was appointed by President Trump.



photo credit: wired.com

According to a statement released by the FCC Chairman on November 21, he said that he has "...shared with my colleagues a draft order that would abandon this failed approach and return to the longstanding consensus that served consumers well for decades Under my proposal, the federal government will stop

micromanaging the Internet."

He went on to say, "Instead, the FCC would simply require Internet service providers to be transparent about their practices so that consumers can buy the service plan that's best for them and entrepreneurs and

Other companies, such as Verizon, Comcast, and AT&T, are for the proposal, due to that they are internet service providers (ISPs), and they would benefit the most from the proposal passing.

Without rules that would enforce net neutrality, savetheinternet.com says that "cable and phone companies could carve the internet into fast and slow lanes. An ISP could slow down its competitors' content or block political opinions it disagreed with."

The source went on to say, "ISPs could charge extra fees to the few content companies that could afford to pay for preferential treatment — relegating everyone else to a slower tier of service. This would destroy the open internet."

conditions upon the Internet. That decision was a mistake. It's depressed investment in building and expanding broadband networks and deterred innovation."

Ajit Pai and the FCC are facing strong criticism for this proposal.

More than 200 tech companies such as Apple, Microsoft, Facebook, Twitter, Reddit, Tumblr, etc. are siding with consumers to defend the net neutrality rules, advising Pai and the FCC to not pass the proposal.

Without rules that would enforce net neutrality, savetheinternet.com says that "cable and phone companies could carve the internet into fast and slow lanes. An ISP could slow down its competitors' content or block political opinions it disagreed with."

The source went on to say, "ISPs could charge extra fees to the few content companies that could afford to pay for preferential treatment — relegating everyone else to a slower tier of service. This would destroy the open internet."

"Skunks!"

Continued from Front Page

that is where they migrated from.

While there are four species of skunk in North America, New York State is home to the majority of the widely-known striped skunk. The three other types of skunk are the eastern spotted skunk, the hooded skunk and the hog-nosed skunk.

The average size of a skunk is 20"-30" long and can weigh anywhere from six to ten pounds. Unfortunately, in the wild, skunks have a short lifespan of two to four years.

New York's striped skunk has been a protected species under the Environmental Conservation Law since the late 1800's.

Striped skunks' white fur can be easily dyed black to give a fur coat a uniform, glossy shine, and it has been in the best interest of commerce to limit the seasons hunters can kill this particular skunk breed.

In fact, in North America, hunting season for striped skunks is limited.

According to the Department of Environmental Conservation, "New York State hunting and trapping regulation guides remind hunters and trappers that the striped skunk is a valuable fur bearing resource. The regulations allow only a limited, open harvest season. This type of regulatory protection has been successful. The striped skunk is abundant in New York and its populations are secure."

Although they might look friendly, students should be wary of the dangers of rabies.

So, what does a rabid skunk look like anyway? Well, the typical warning signs of a rabid skunk include excessive drooling, drunken movements and behaving oddly, as in seemingly friendly behavior, or allowing you to touch it.

What many may not be aware of is rabies in skunks

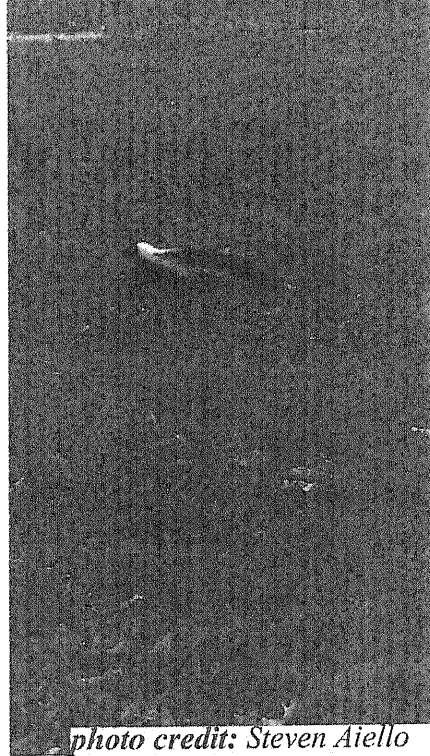


photo credit: Steven Aiello

can take two forms. The first is considered "dumb" rabies and, as noted above, leaves a skunk unaware of humans and drunk looking. The second type is referred to as "furious" rabies in which skunks become aggressive toward other animals, and even humans.

If you are bitten by a skunk or any other animal you suspect of being infected with the rabies vi-

rus, you must seek medical attention.

Instructions on the Department of Health website state, "If you have been bitten, scratched or have had contact with the saliva of an animal that you believe is rabid, wash the wound immediately and call your doctor."

Interestingly, if you reside in a county outside of New York City, you must call your county health agency immediately to determine where you should receive treatment. In fact, that treatment may not be covered if you don't call first for authorization.

County health agencies are also responsible for managing animal bites and exposure of domestic animals to known or suspected rabid animals.

For Staten Islanders, our county health agency telephone number is 646-632-6074 during business hours, and 212-POISONS (764-7667) thereafter.

guishing the characteristics of a true leader.

Improvised effortlessly by the energetic keynote speaker, the room transformed into circles. Within these large circles, the students passed around their index cards and were able to read everyone's varying qualities of a leader.

The speaker credited the flow of the act itself to not only her leadership skills, but also the audience's power to lead. As a result, the crowd was able to share their own ideas, as well as listen to their peers for newfound insight.

After congregating with several audience members, a CSI freshman expressed a perfect summation of the workshop: "Anyone can be a leader to me. As long as you have the right mindset,

you can conquer anything. Especially with integrity, charisma, and energy, I feel that we all can be leaders of whatever our hearts desire."

Initially proposed by the keynote speaker, the audience ultimately came to a mutual acceptance that the older generations left us with heavy reparations to be made.

With the endless issues that infiltrate today's society, it was credited by the audience that these problems only exist due the previous generations that created them.

In order to fix the messes that have been made, the speaker inspired all with her words: "You are all of the characteristics that you named. Not only do the great leaders of the past and

present possess these qualities, you all do too. This is why you should lead."

Overall, the spark of inspiration hung in the air as the voices of our future resonated with the preceding words.

With roaring energy, the room was rich with conversation amongst the students who possessed an overwhelming passion to lead.

As anticipation set in for the following Leadership Week events, the lasting impact of the first workshop is sure to influence our CSI students to bring leadership skills, values, and ideas to the entire community.

"ESL Student"

Continued from Front Page

Q: When did you come to the United States?

A: Approximately four years ago.

Q: Why did you come to the States?

A: To unite with my family.

Q: Did you come for a better living, education, etc.?

A: For a better living.

Q: When did you start to see the verbal harassment/abuse from others?

A: So generally, I struggle almost every day in the first year when I tried to go to the store and I tried to ask the questions. It was not actually abuse, but I felt not confident and I really was afraid to ask people questions and people don't really understand me and I realize that I should study English. It was not about abuse, but it was about questioning my level of English.

Q: What were they doing or saying exactly that made you not confident?

A: Exactly in the store, I understood people, they would just say to me, "we don't understand." If it was something for questions I cannot answer; to pursue people in my point of view and it was often painful. But it was my problem, I should study English.

"It was not about abuse, but it was about questioning my level of English."

Q: How was it your problem?

A: First, it was my problem because I didn't know English well and it was my blame; I should study English, for the first year. But when I gradually improved in my level, my level of self-esteem increased. After one year, I decided to go to college because I saw that by myself I cannot pass the boundary and I actually went to college.

Q: Whenever you spoke to someone who didn't understand you, did they say anything in particular that you didn't like?

A: Really in particular was just one teacher when she asked me to answer quickly to multiple choice questions and I cannot concentrate because I didn't realize quickly what the question was about. I asked her to repeat for me the question slowly. But the teacher asked me "are you really present in the lessons are you really understanding?" I said yes, but I needed time. I understand, but sometimes I cannot catch to quickly information. Most of the information I take it by reading not by hearing. If I don't understand one sentence, two or three, I begin to lose track but at home by reading it is easier for me to memorize and understand.

"I asked her to repeat for me the question slowly. But the teacher asked me "are you really present in the lessons are you really understanding?"

Q: Do you think that they are doing this on purpose?

A: No, maybe just because the teacher wants me to really concentrate and wants me to understand the material well. But I think that some students need more time. Usually, I do tests later than other students, not because I don't understand but because it takes time to read questions. I am not familiar with everything. Sometimes I have to guess.

Q: If there are students out there, ESL students, who are going through the same situation as you are, what would you say to them? Would you encourage them?

A: I saw a lot of students who went out from college just because they couldn't pass. They would get a W in the class. They are so clever and it's painful for me that they didn't pass it. Three times, four times, and they just went out from college. I think for ESL students they are not given enough time for writing. For native students it's easy, but for ESL students it is very difficult. They fail

multiple times in writing not because they are not clever but because there is no time. It's not enough for me, for ESL students. I've told a lot of my friends to try to do it again. I would read a book by myself and I even try to write every day. I would ask for additional work from my teacher. A lot of my friends do essays, but they wouldn't pass.

Q: If you could talk to the professors or anyone who doesn't fully understand ESL students, what would you say to them?

A: I think it depends on the personality. I really appreciate my first teacher who after first lecture, I realized that I didn't understand what he would say in class. I was afraid but I told him that I was lost in the lecture and he encouraged me to translate my notes and study and I did it and I'm grateful to him. He didn't say that I should drop the class like every other person said he just gave me time and I used it. I saw that a lot of professors tell the students "if you are not able to pass class, if you're not confident, just drop it."

LIFESTYLES

Get Back Into Reading For Fun!

A Few Steps to Start Your Literary Journey

BY: MARK DEUTSCH

Getting into books isn't as hard as you might think.

It's all a matter of picking the right time, place, and book, which can be the most difficult part.

The secret to the perfect place to read, is a spot where no one will bother you, and that could be anywhere.

The noise level, however, should always be considered, seeing as how that would ruin a good book. Even the most veteran of readers can only block out a certain level of noise.

The only solution is to either tune it out mentally, use noise-cancelling headphones or just find a different place to enjoy your literature.

If you're new to reading for pleasure and you're worried nothing will interest you, know that there is something out there for everyone.

There are dozens, if not hundreds of different genres to check out.

Fiction has many genres like mystery, horror, and fantasy to name a few. There are also many different hybrid genres that combine together into something absolutely beautiful and unique.

Choosing the right book to get into can be difficult but start off with figuring out what topics and genres entice you the most. Maybe think of your favorite

television shows and movies to give you inspiration and go for authors you've heard about.

You never know what you might find interesting.

For horror fans, try something clas-

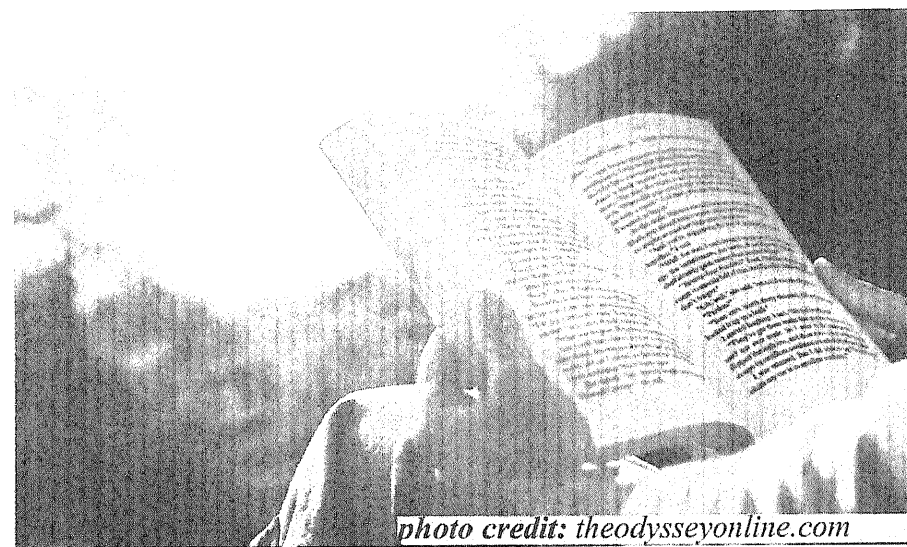


photo credit: theodysseyonline.com

sic and spooky from Stephen King; he's iconic in the genre.

I recommend the book, "Misery" about a kidnapped author held against his will.

For those with stronger stomachs, try reading H.P. Lovecraft or Edgar Allan Poe, who are true masters of horror.

For those intrigued by mystery, try

reading "Mind Prey" by John Sandford. "Mind Prey" is about Lucas Davenport, a detective who's chasing his most dangerous adversary.

If you think you can handle something a little more challenging and com-



photo credit: theodysseyonline.com

plex, then you should try one of the Sherlock Holmes books, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle who can outwit anyone.

I recommend the book, "Misery" about a kidnapped author held against his will.

For those with stronger stomachs, try reading H.P. Lovecraft or Edgar Allan Poe, who are true masters of horror.

For those intrigued by mystery, try

Those looking to expand their imaginations should read "The Hobbit" by J.R.R. Tolkien, who is worshiped worldwide by fantasy readers.

There are so many titles to recommend but this is only to get you started.

Once you begin your journey somewhere it can easily take you to another book series by the same author or a similar one by someone else.

Before you know it you'll be staying up late flipping pages and not even thinking about Netflix.

The world of books is vast but that's why it's so fun to navigate because you can stumble on something great.

If you still feel like you need some encouragement, try joining a book club to give yourself some incentive, as well as make the experience more social and fun.

This approach isn't for everyone but at least you're not alone as you envision the story and have people to discuss your thoughts with.

Sometimes the perfect place to read is a place where books are free and no noise is tolerated at all.

The library is where books are sanctified and is the best possible place for reading, or even just the privacy of your own home.

Llama Mia!

Llamas and Alpacas are the Perfect Wedding Crashers

BY: CLARA PEREZ

These therapy llamas and alpacas add an exciting lease on life as the most adorable four-legged wedding guests you will ever have.

Mountain Peaks, home of the therapy llamas and alpacas, was started in 2007 as a non-profit organization whose goal is to utilize animal-assisted therapy to educate, calm and delight people of all ages.

The Mountain Peaks Therapy Llamas & Alpacas team are fully-trained and are an Animal-Assisted Therapy Certified group of 4 llamas and 3 alpacas, all with their own unique stories, names and personalities.

The most noted and well-known llama of the pack is Rojo aka- "World's Most Beloved Llama" pictured on the right in the photo.

This 15-year-old local celebrity has made hundreds of visits to children's hospitals, schools, senior facilities, homes for the disabled and other fundraising events.

Rojo has been awarded the record holder as the #1 "Beyond the Showing" public relations llama in the world, beating out 200,000 other llamas to earn his spot.

As if being a world record holder wasn't enough, Rojo will soon have his own series of children books which are

sure to please.

Another famous member of the pack is Napoleon, the first registered therapy alpaca to join the Mountain Peaks team, pictured on the left in the photo.

This much smaller in size, handsome guy, may not be the biggest of the pack but his personality sure is.

Napoleon was donated to Mountain Peaks from another alpaca farm in Washington and has been using his small stature and unique and bold personality to make amazing visits with wheelchair bound patients and bedside visits.

He has also got to meet another famous figure during his travels- Ted Danson.

These two-toed attention grabbers are not only cute but due to their training they are loving, patient and have the perfect demeanor around party guests of any age.

Their work is so impressive and memorable that they have been featured in numerous magazines, t.v. shows, articles and even books.

Mentioned as one of best-selling author, Jennifer Holland's, Unlikely Heroes and featured in Oprah's O Magazine, makes this therapy team a force to be cuddled with.

The llama and alpaca team is available for events in and around the Portland, Oregon and Vancouver, Washington areas.

The cost of these fancy guests ranges from \$200-\$300 for two, which will go up depending on how far these festive guys have to travel and how long they will be entertaining your other party guests.

Once at your event, the llamas and alpacas will be happy to take photos with you and your friends and family in a variety of poses and settings.

You can even request what these show-stealing bunch will wear to your wedding.

They have accessories from tiny top hats to bridal veils to floral garlands and



photo credit: @weddingllamas

even decorative cuffs to adorn their ankles.

As long as you are accepting of the fact that these fancy, four-legged guests are almost guaranteed to steal your thunder on your wedding day, inviting these therapy llamas and alpacas might just be the easiest and best decision you can make.

If you're interested in renting Rojo and Napoleon or any of their other teammates, be sure to visit www.rojohellama.com to learn about each animal, pricing and travel range.

LIFESTYLES

Conversation Topics to Help Your Love Last

Can Your Relationship Go the Distance?

BY: VERONICA PISTEK

Whether you've been together for two months or two years, communication is never perfect.

Let's be honest, it seems like life always wants you to question everything, especially love and your partner.

It's time that you both take this exhausting "second guessing" and turn it into conversations that could ease your relationship—and help you go the distance together.

First off, has your partner ever been in previous relationships? This could be very important to you and your new boo.

If you want your relationship to remain bulletproof, it's best to get all of the awkward questions about past love out of the way.

Even better, this question leads to insight that is essential in determining if they are the one for you.

Don't be nervous, find out why their past love failed and how they are willing to learn from it and become a stronger partner.

Overall, this simple but kind of unsettling topic digs a path for important conversations, and setting goals for your partnership from the start.

Focus on the little things. Believe it or not, questioning



photo credit: newlovetimes.com

your partner's silly likes and dislikes opens the door to compatibility. Specifically, what are their present preferences?

Everyone's preferences change with time. The more you investigate their current taste, the more you can see if you'd rather be with them for the long run, or ditch them at the starting line.

Now, this doesn't have to be serious. Find out what makes them itch with excitement and drives them completely insane.

Don't be afraid to also share your quirks and pet peeves. Odds are that this conversation can go on for hours, and can help you get to know your partner better than you thought.

Knowing your partner's preferences paves the way to the juicier question. How important is sexual intimacy?



photo credit: lovepanky.com

Question your partner, what do you define as an infidelity? Though it may be clear that you both are interested in one another, it's best to know for sure what your significant other counts as cheating.

For some, it may include talking to someone about their preferred gender, whereas for others, cheating includes the act of touching another, thinking about another, or even talking to another.

You need to make sure you are on the same page, and secure loyalty for one another in the way that is satisfactory for you both.

Last but surely not least, what is their definition of love? Love is capable of having so many meanings.

Your partner's definition may be that love is spending a lot of time together and being vulnerable.

Maybe your definition of love is showing appreciation for each other through words, buying gifts, and constant reassurance.

This is a broad, yet imperative topic for you and your loved one to discuss. This question is the root of your relationship, take it seriously.

If in fact it is the case that you have different definitions of love, it is up to both of you to try and bridge that gap. Make a conscious effort to give love and to receive love.

So, standing the test of time actually takes time. You can only have a strong and enduring relationship by asking the questions, not questioning yourself and your partner.

If you choose to use these topics to discuss your relationship, you'll never run out of rich conversation.

Most importantly, these deep talks will make you feel closer to each other and ultimately will help you make your love last.

BANNER ARTS

Cozy Up by the Fire For These Classic Christmas Films

Jingle All the Way With These Holiday Flicks

BY: JESSICA SCARIMBOLO

Christmas is fast approaching, and one of the best ways to get in the spirit is with some great Christmas movies.

While there are many amazing Christmas movies out there, there are some that are universally categorized as a being classics.

Light your candles, get cuddled up in a blanket with your hot chocolate, and turn on some of these jolly films.

Firstly, the success of "Home Alone" shows that many people enjoy some Kevin McCallister in their life for the holiday.

"Home Alone" is a comedy surrounding a young boy, played by Macaulay Culkin, who needs to protect his home from two burglars. He was accidentally left behind when his family headed to Paris for the holiday season, leaving him home alone.

When the film premiered in 1990, it remained number one in the box office for 12 weeks straight. Additionally, on Nerve's list of "The 100 Best Christmas Movies of All Time," the film ranked at number six.

Perhaps the film being an adventure/comedy, or because Kevin McCallister is the brave eight-year old we all want to be, is why it is such a must-see for the Christmas

season.

Legendary Christmas movies did not stop with "Home Alone" in the 90's. In 1994, "The Santa Clause" premiered in theaters, starring Tim Allen.

When Santa Claus accidentally falls off his roof, Scott Calvin (Allen) puts on the Santa suit, magically transporting him and



photo credit: Jessica Scarimbolo

his son to the North Pole, assigning him the role as the new Santa Claus.

Perhaps it's great box office success could be attributed to it's timeless storyline that reminds viewers to believe in Santa Claus and the spirit of Christmas.

Box Office Mojo states the worldwide

total lifetime grosses for "The Santa Clause" is \$189,833,357.

In 2003, Will Ferrell starred in the groundbreaking Christmas film "Elf."

The film follows one of Santa's elves who learns that he is actually a human who was left behind by his biological parents.

Buddy the Elf goes to New York City

for Top Box Office Films.

Allowing even the grumpiest of people to feel jolly around the Christmas season, "Elf" reminds audiences that "the best way to spread Christmas cheer is by singing loud for all to hear!"

Though this next film has two different versions, the 2000 take on "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" is a longer, more elaborate version of the TV short from 1966.

Many new aspects were added to deepen the plot of the storyline, seeing as it was originally based off of the classic Dr. Seuss book, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas."

The film follows the Grinch, who is the only person in Whoville that hates Christmas, and has absolutely no Christmas cheer. The Grinch attempts to take the citizens' Christmas spirit by dressing up as Santa Claus and stealing everyone's presents.

Strangely enough, this act by the Grinch reminds him and the citizens of Whoville the true meaning of Christmas.

The film was widely received by audiences worldwide, grossing over \$345 million dollars and was nominated for 3 academy awards, winning one.

These films can liven up any Scrooge and spread that precious Christmas spirit.

Netflix's New Horror Gets High Ratings

The Dead Punish The Damned in "1922"

BY: JOSIAH AKHTAB

The 2017 Mystery/Crime film "1922", based on the novella of the same name by Stephen King, proves to be mildly scary but teaches a powerful lesson... "in the end, we all get caught."

Directed by Zak Hilditch, the movie revolves around a farmer and his wife who have a disagreement over land that's been willed to her by her parents. The husband wants the land, yet the wife wants to sell, so the husband plans to murder her, and convince his son to help him.

The plot didn't elicit so much as abject horror but a subtle, psychological, and mildly horrific breakdown of the protagonist. It also doesn't focus so much on the deed committed, but the aftermath of the deed, suggesting that living with the crime or heinous act is worse than death itself.

Though the viewer may get where the plot was going, it was only mildly efficient in driving the point home, as it didn't have enough of that finality viewers are accustomed to seeing in horror films that use religion as the nail in the coffin.

The acting by Thomas Jane (Wilfred James), Molly Parker (Arllette James), and Dylan Schmid (Henry James) help tremen-

dously in the efficiency of the horror and suffering. They played their respective roles almost to perfection, reflecting the mindset of a typical person who lived in the early twentieth century.

The writing also accentuated the horror throughout, allowing the actors to give the viewers that feeling of this-is-the-end and eternal-damnation-is-upon-you. It also placed the viewer in the mindset of the protagonist, took viewers on the reflective narrative, and revealed how the psyche of the character became unhinged over time.

The high-pitched, slow playing music proved to be on-point throughout the film, as it provided viewers with the sense that something terrible was going to happen. The music also keyed viewers in on important moments, revealing the mindset the protagonist was in when he prepared to do the deed that led to his suffering and damnation.

The tone of the film did well to give viewers a sense of the world they were stepping into, giving the sense of poverty with religion as the only salvation, as well as the coming of the industrial age.

As the farmers tried their hardest to hang onto property they felt was theirs, the tone of the film showed their familial lives slipping away as well.

Setting played well to heighten the tone; the cloudy skies, barren fields, and frigid winters all played to reflect the emotional state of the protagonist.

The setting likens the season to the character's life after the deed is done, heightening his sense of suffering, and instilling that tone of finality when he starts to see the dead.

Great cinematography helped the horror aspect along, with the angling of the cameras revealing what the character wouldn't say.

Throughout the film, the cameras focused on the character's facial expressions, revealing the lines around the eyes, and the fear within them as they struggled to get away from the thoughts that haunt them.



photo credit: rottentomatoes.com

Overall, the film wasn't as scary as anticipated. Though it had some moments that would make viewers cringe a bit, it didn't do an excellent job of providing that sense of "judgment-day-being-upon-you."

Though the character gave a confession, it didn't seem that the stakes were high enough, and the deed heinous enough, to transfix the viewer entirely.

Rotten Tomatoes critics rated the film at 88%.

Hollywood reporter John DeFore stated, "[the] film is not lurid in its scares, and instead depicts its protagonist's suffering mostly as a slow rot."

BANNER ARTS

"Call of Duty: WWII" Revitalizes the Franchise

Sledgehammer Games Returns to WWII to Recapture Fans

BY: STEVEN AIELLO

The "Call of Duty" franchise is possibly the most well known first-person shooter of all-time, but much of that attention hasn't been positive.

The series has received numerous complaints, most commonly about the shift from historical to futuristic warfare, something that Sledgehammer Games has attempted to rectify with "Call of Duty: World War II".

The change in setting is a welcome design choice that allowed Sledgehammer Games to create a more plausible depiction of war, something that had been missing from previous titles due to the futuristic setting.

The campaign benefits the most from this change, telling a story that stays grounded in a very real and terrifying scenario. "WWII's" campaign focuses on the efforts of Donald "Red" Daniels and his platoon to stop the advance of Nazis throughout Europe.

The gameplay mechanics work well and remain unchanged, with the exception of non-regenerative health. Players must use health packs to recover health, which adds a new element of challenge not seen since the first game.

The level design was not as refined however, with a structure that is linear in a way that restricts how the player can progress through a mission. However, the graphical design more than makes up for it.

From Normandy to the Rhine, "COD: WWII" does a fine job of depicting the landscape and consequences of war. The environments range from abandoned villages, to war torn forests and battlefields, even including a devastated city.



photo credit: xbox.com

It is very pleasing on the eyes, but it manages to do so in a way that shows just how destructive war can be.

Daniels' supporting cast is also great, providing several characters that players can grow attached to throughout the story. From the banter between Aiello and Stiles, to the cold, yet tragic character of Pierson, "COD: WWII" provides some likeable and well-written personalities.

Daniels' squadmates can help him in gameplay by providing him with health, ammo and other forms of support, making it more convincing that players are fighting a war with a team rather than just themselves.

The main story also benefits by focusing on Nazis as the sole enemy from start to finish, and the result is a more focused story that doesn't contain any unnecessary or absurd plot twists.

However, the story does fall short in depicting just how horrifying something like the Holocaust was, with only a brief scene of an abandoned concentration camp at the end. It was a wasted opportunity to show one of the biggest atrocities in human history, and a better depiction could have reinforced the horrors of war.

The campaign, though somewhat short on story and design, is still an enjoy-

able experience on its own because of how it captures the consequences of war. It clocks in at roughly five hours, although the addition of hidden mementos and heroic actions can increase replay ability.

Multiplayer also falls into a similar vein as single player, with a largely unchanged formula that benefits from the new setting. Multiplayer includes the new headquarters, a hub similar to the one found in "Destiny", with the structure being largely similar.

"Create a class" still serves as the way players select their load-out during a match and many game modes return, such as "Team Deathmatch" and "Domination". New to multiplayer is "Gridiron", where players try getting a ball into the enemy goal, and "War", where players must assault or defend a series of objectives.

Both game modes are fine in their own right and can make for a hectic and fun experience if played correctly. There is also the chance that players can purposely play these modes incorrectly and with no penalty.

Ultimately multiplayer, though decently designed, can vary immensely in quality due to the players, and can range from an exhilarating and fast-paced game at its best to a frustrating and unfulfilling mess at its

worst. It's more or less the same as previous titles, just with a different setting and weapons.

"Nazi Zombies" also remains mostly unchanged from its predecessors, though it is arguably the best game mode because of what it does differently.

Sledgehammer's "Nazi Zombies" still contains things like perks, the mystery box, and a nonlinear map, but it has a greater focus on horror than past iterations, be it the setting or the zombies' appearances.

Zombies are more grotesque than ever, and a fair share of experimental zombies run throughout the main complex. This added variety can keep players on their toes, making zombies more engaging than previously.

There are also objectives to complete during the game, though they are not optional to unlocking the majority of the in-game content. It strikes a good balance between giving the game a purpose, in addition to creating a fun survival mode.

All three game modes have something that stands out, such as the campaign's depiction of war to the unnervingly delightful feel of "Nazi Zombies", creating a well-balanced product.

The game is still a "Call of Duty" title, and unmistakably so.

Although each game mode is enjoyable on its own, "Call of Duty" is best played as a multiplayer game above all else.

Thus, "Call of Duty: WWII" is a solid product that is best enjoyed with friends, as well as a good attempt to recapture the interest of fans.

"Thor: Ragnarok" Reaches New Storytelling Heights

Marvel Cinematic Universe Continue to Improve Their Storytelling

BY: KENNY VELEZ

After the disappointment that was "Spider-Man: Homecoming", Marvel's next film is an improvement, that being "Thor: Ragnarok."

Thor (Chris Hemsworth), returns home to Asgard and forces Loki (Tom Hiddleston) to reveal he has been disguising himself as Odin (Anthony Hopkins) for some time.

After finding his father, a new threat reveals herself to Thor and Loki. Her name is Hela (Cate Blanchett), and she is Thor's long lost sister.

She smashes his hammer Mjolnir to pieces during the ensuing fight, and knocks Thor and Loki to another world.

There, Thor is forced to fight in the arena against his former ally: The Incredible Hulk (Mark Ruffalo). Now, he must make his way back to Asgard before Hela can start ragnarok or the apocalypse, but he first needs help from an Asgardian warrior named Valkyrie (Tessa Thompson) in order to do so.

The action sequences are shot well and are easy to follow. There were some awesome moments in the beginning of the movie, like when Mjolnir flew through the enemies

Thor was fighting. The camera even focused on the hammer like it was in first-person perspective, which was cool.

Thor has a more creative display of his powers this time around, as he can generate lightning by himself without the use of his hammer.

Lightning appears in his fingertips early on as his eyes glow blue. It covers him when he uses his lightning in combat. He also has to fight without his hammer after it is destroyed, and he learns to rely on a pair of short swords.

The Hulk's fight scenes are not simply shots of him running towards an opponent and beating them senseless. Instead, he uses weapons such as a hammer and an axe. His most used power in the movie is his leaping ability.

Thor makes an unusual choice where he chooses to let the prophecy of Ragnarok be fulfilled in order to defeat Hela.

In most other superhero stories, the hero would choose to prevent the prophecy from happening and save his hometown. He does this by allowing Surtur, the monster that he destroyed in the beginning of the movie, to

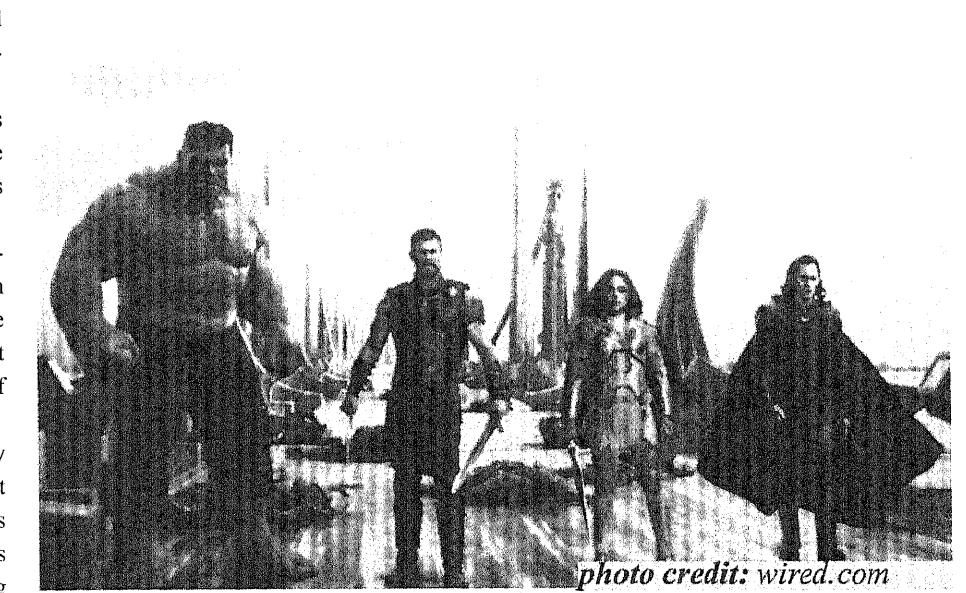


photo credit: wired.com

be resurrected.

This is another unusual choice he makes, as in the other stories, world-level threats such as Surtur would be the main villain. Here, he is essentially a weapon used by the hero to beat another villain, which is pretty brilliant.

There are some flaws however. Like in "Spider-Man: Homecoming",

there were instances where jokes were said during serious moments and it felt somewhat forced. It's a common Marvel thing but sometimes it doesn't feel natural.

For example, towards the end of the movie, the character Korg said that Asgard could be rebuilt. Then, what remained of Asgard exploded like it was Krypton, and he laments that it can't.

SPORTS

Vigneault's Job Saved With Rangers Recent Surge

Zibanejad and Shattenkirk Lead the Way

BY: ANTHONY RUSSO

It was on October 31 that Alain Vigneault's tenure as the New York Rangers head coach appeared to be coming to an end.

The Rangers sat with a record of 3-7-2, down 4-2 in the third period against the Vegas Golden Knights. It looked like Vigneault was 20 minutes away from losing his job.

Larry Brooks, a writer with the New York Post, said there were rumblings that the October 31 game against the Golden Knights could determine his fate as the Rangers coach.

Instead of Vigneault being fired, his team rallied and scored three unanswered goals in the 3rd period and won the game in regulation, 5-4.

Not only was Vigneault's job on the line that day, but the Rangers locker room was emotional due to the terrorist attack that killed eight people in lower Manhattan earlier in the day.

"It was a bigger than just two points today," Rangers center Mika Zibanejad said to the media, following his team's comeback victory. "We were trying to play for the whole city and all the families involved."

Since that emotional victory, the Rangers have won six straight games, putting themselves back into playoff contention. Players

such as Kevin Shattenkirk, Pavel Buchnevich and Mika Zibanejad have lead the way during the Rangers streak.

Shattenkirk was the Rangers big free agent signing in the offseason, and leads all NHL defensemen in points. He also leads all NHL defensemen in primary assists with 9, and is second among NHL defensemen in



photo credit: newyork.cbslocal.com

points, only behind John Klingberg of the Dallas Stars.

Zibanejad leads the Rangers in points, recording 18 points in 17 games.

22-year-old Buchnevich, who was on the 4th line just weeks ago, continues to ride a hot streak, recording 6 goals in his last 8

games, and has 15 points in 18 games played this season.

Just prior to the six game winning streak, the Rangers were expected to make some changes, this according to several credible insiders. Whether that be a trade, or a change behind their bench, was uncertain.

As Eliote Freidman, reporter for Sports-

net, said in his weekly "31 Thoughts" article on November 1, "They want more. Picks and prospects, keep them coming."

The Rangers seem encouraged by top prospects Igor Shestyorin, Filip Chytil and Lias Andersson, and they may want to add to their repertoire.

Although the team has improved their record, and now sit in playoff position, will that alter how they felt just weeks ago about not only their coaching staff, but going through with a significant change?

The Rangers have spent over a decade becoming buyers at the deadline and trying to win the Stanley Cup. Especially within the past few years, the Rangers have traded first round picks and top prospects in an effort to win, but it hasn't worked.

Rick Nash is slated to be a free agent in July, and according to TSN's insider Bob McKenzie, if the Rangers aren't playing well by the trade deadline, he's likely to be traded to another team as a rental. Nash would like to resign with the Rangers, but they haven't spoken with him yet regarding an extension.

Whether the Rangers trade Nash at the trade deadline if they are in a playoff position or not is unknown.

They have invested a lot of draft picks and prospects in trying to win the Stanley Cup, and Nash may have to be traded to get some of those picks and prospects back.

As long as the Rangers keep winning, Vigneault's job appears to be safe, but another big losing streak could cost him his job.

CSI Women's Soccer Team Secures Third Straight CUNYAC Championship

Defense, Precise Passing Lift CSI Over Lehman College

BY: ERIC RANSOM

The three-peat is complete for the women's soccer team.

The College of Staten Island hosted the CUNYAC Championship game against Lehman College, looking for their third consecutive title. The crisp, noontime air set the championship mood, providing a lively and thrilling atmosphere.

CSI battled hard and did not disappoint, coming out victorious by a final score of 2-0.

This marks the third championship in a row for the Dolphins, winning in 2015 and 2016 before their victory on November 4.

After the defeat of the City College Beavers by a final of 2-1 in the semifinals, the team was determined to cap off their 12-5-1 season and their number one seed in the playoffs with another title.

With strong defense and heavy offensive pressure, the Dolphins overwhelmed the Lightning, scoring two goals in the second half to seal the game away.

The Most Valuable Player award was given to Lizbeth Aparicio, sophomore, who scored both goals for CSI in the 59th and 76th minute. Senior, Adrianna Parelo, assisted on both goals.

Aparicio spoke of the special moment when the team finally won the title.

"It was a great feeling, an amazing sensa-



photo credit: Eric Ransom

tion, all happiness," said the MVP, brandishing her new medal.

For CSI, the victory will place them in position to play in the NCAA Division III National Tournament, eagerly awaiting their next step this season.

Until then, the team beamed with happiness and satisfaction, a group which soaked in a third straight title.

Natalia Sandor, a sophomore, said of winning the championship, "It requires a lot of hard work, dedication and time, so winning for the third time makes you feel really good, that you feel like everything was worth it."

As for Catherine Mulligan, a junior, winning has seemed to follow her since joining the team.

"Since my freshman year, we've won," said Mulligan, cradling a CUNYAC trophy

in her hands. This title just means continuing what the team started."

This marks the seventh title in the history of the women's soccer team.

Preseason polls gave CSI the best odds to win championship this year, following their success over the last two seasons, in which the predictions certainly came true again this year.

Lehman College's defeat at the hands of CSI thwarted their hopes of winning their first women's soccer title.



photo credit: Eric Ransom

Head coach Giuseppe Pennetti could not be prouder of the team's success, humbly addressing his inspiration for the victory.

"I do it for the ladies. I want the ladies to enjoy the championship, so they can enjoy this moment. You get four years of athletics in college playing a sport like soccer, and it goes by in the blink of an eye. You want to enjoy every moment of it."

Pennetti instilled "passion and dedication" as the focal points for his team, urging his players to "have the burning love to want to play, and dedication to never to quit."

The team looks to get back to the CUNYAC championship next year, in hopes to emerge as champs for the fourth consecutive year.

For now, CSI awaits the team they will play in the NCAA Tournament on Monday, November 6.

Coach Pennetti hopes to build on the championship as a way to "break through and get one victory in the tournament."

The head coach certainly has confidence in his girls to perform well in the NCAA tournament, very happy to continue working hard during this magical season.

Whenever the time comes for CSI's season to end, Pennetti has his plans laid out.

"Next year- keep the girls together and have as much fun as possible."