

Official Newspaper of the College of Staten Island

A Long Time Coming Just Isn't Long Enough

MARLENA MOORE

The Jeopardy theme has never been longer as Professor Patricia Smith waits for feedback from her new editor on her poetry book "Shoulda Been Jimi Savannah". Ms. Smith's goal to publish her newest work has been put on hold for an indefinite amount of time and has become a psychological roadblock that has prevented her from moving on to her next project. Courtesy dictates that she remain patient with her new editor Jill Bialoski from Norton publishing, but the wait has her anxious to move forward.

"Jill has not accepted my book yet. She hasn't even read the manuscript. She has it and she said she's about to get to it, but she hasn't read it," she said.

Ms. Smith first met Ms. Bialoski at an Associated Writing Program conference. Ms. Bialoski's interest in Ms. Smith's most recent manuscript prompted her to set a date to submit it. However, up until now, nothing has come of Ms. Smith's effort to get the manuscript to her by the deadline.

Ms. Smith spent months editing her manuscript, tweaking it until she felt it was ready for submission. However, all the editing in the world won't remove the huge variable that is the cause of Ms. Smith's anxiousness. She is unsure of how Ms. Bialoski is going to critique her manuscript or how much editing she'll require. However, Ms. Smith is encouraged by the fact that Ms. Bialoski is a published author.

"There's a basic language that writer's share that I know she'll speak," she said.

Ms. Smith's concern about the eventual outcome is somewhat alleviated by the fact that she has another publishing company in her back pocket. Coffee House Press in Minneapolis has published two of Ms. Smith's books in the past. She has worked with the editors there and they have become accustomed to her style of writing. So why is she working with Ms. Bialoski instead? Norton is a bigger publisher name that will print Ms. Smith's book in hardcover, which according to her is "a step up". Ms. Smith's publisher in Minneapolis is unaware of the completion of "Shoulda Been Jimi Savannah" and that's the way she wants to keep it until she hears back from Ms. Bialoski.

"I'm in a weird position now because I'm kind of holding off my other publishers because I want these other people to look at it first," she said.

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CSI Will Finally See A Light



Photo By: Rebecca Daniels

Public Safety is always ready for a call in front of the building.

Public Safety announces new plan for a brighter and safer campus environment

REBECCA J.M. DANIELS

The CUNY Board of Directors recently approved a safety upgrade for the campus. It is believed to be completed within the next two years. The Director of Public Safety Paul Murtha proposes several new safety measures that include proper lighting at night, emergency alarm systems and camera placement throughout the campus.

Students and faculty have complained about how dark the campus is during the

spring semester especially on the south side of campus. "We all know the lighting is inadequate," Murtha said. "As a measure we have purchased portable light towers that are placed throughout the campus so we can shift things around as best we can to cover the hotspots."

The lighting is one of the major problems that will be addressed with the new safety system. The lampposts around campus need of bulb replacements also many of them need to be replaced in general. The first phase of the plan has already begun. New lighting fixtures have been installed in the parking lot near 5N. The lighting system has a 360-degree lighting

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Internship Fair At The College Of Staten Island

Hundreds come out to try to land an internship

VLADISLAV GRACH

The annual College of Staten Island's Internship fair is the biggest opportunity for CSI students to land an internship. On February 24th, dozens of company employers and CSI representatives gathered in IP to recruit internees. Who was there you ask? Well, dozens of employers from well-rounded companies like Disney, Sirius Satellite radio, Time Warner Cable, and SEEK.

The atmosphere inside of the atrium on Thursday was very hopeful. Hundreds of well-dressed students flocked to IP with their resumes in hand. They all had one thing on their minds. No, it wasn't fashion. Judging by the surroundings at the internship fair, it seems that CSI played a

huge role in the increase of sales at The Mens Warehouse, but that's not what was on the minds of CSI students.

"I wanted to gain knowledge of where to apply in my field of choice," said Rebecca Daniels. Many students just like Rebecca Daniels wanted the same thing when they woke up that day and got dressed up to go play their cards at the fair. They wanted knowledge. And, they wanted an internship. There were tables that lined the corridors of the atrium from the Eastern entrance to the Western entrance. Each table was perfectly suited to the employer who sat behind it. At the front of each entrance students were greeted by faculty of the Career and Scholarship Center. They offered brochures filled with information on the services that they offer. Important services like resume editing, and further tips on finding scholar-

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Archdiocese To Ax St. Peters

MARISSA PESSOLANO

The Archdiocese passed a vote to close St. Peter's Girls High School. Low enrollments are said to have prompted this decision. This year alone only 105 students enrolled. This makes St. Peter's the fifth catholic high school to be axed this year. St. Peter's Boys will not be affected, however, St. Peter's Elementary school will be relocated to the building that once housed St. Paul Elementary school, in New Brighton.

The announcement of the school's closure has come as a surprise to many. St. Peter's was not on the list of the 27 schools that were given the opportunity to draw up financial plans. The school's situation was being further analyzed with everyone optimistic with hope, but the TACHS test then projected that the school would only reach an enrollment of 95 students. This number resulted in more serious talks of closure.

Current students, along with incoming freshman, are going to be placed into either Moore Catholic or St. John Villa Academy, for the same tuition and arrangements. Students, along with faculty, alumni, and parents are not going down without a fight, however, relentlessly trying to hold on to their beloved school.

"It is just sad that these girls have to walk the halls of another school. At this point, it is not about the building. It is about keeping these girls, this family, and this tradition of St. Peter's alive," explains St. Peter's alumni, Samantha Font, "we just need that opportunity to prove to them that we can do this and fund ourselves the same way we have for years with or without the elementary school."

In hopes of gaining answers, 300 parents, students, alumni and faculty members gathered at St. Peter's to sign a petition and have an opportunity for a question-and-answer with the Superintendent of Schools, Timothy McNiff. However, the only answer that the crowd received was that St. Peter's was informed about the risk of closure in 2008. McNiff was said to have left the premises with a police escort, as the crowd cried and pleaded for their school.

Jessie Rae Blatter a sophomore at St. Peter's said, "I wake up in the morning wanting to go to school. I love my teachers, my principal, and the friendships that we have made will never be broken. The other night, we had a meeting with the man from the Archdiocese and we were supposed to

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For Wisconsin Governor, Battle Was Long Coming

MONICA DAVEY
NYTIMES.COM

Just last fall, people here were waving campaign signs. But the blocks around the State Capitol have been filled for the past week with protesters brandishing signs with a different message — demanding a recall of Gov. Scott Walker, calling him a bully and likening him to Scrooge, Hosni Mubarak, even Hitler.

Seemingly overnight, Mr. Walker, a Republican, has become a national figure, the man who set off a storm of protest, now spreading to other states, with his blunt, unvarnished call for shrinking collective bargaining rights and benefits for public workers to help the state repair its budget.

Wisconsin may seem to the rest of the country like an unlikely catalyst, but to people who have watched the governor's political rise through the years, the events of the week feel like a Scott Walker rerun, though on a much larger screen and with a much bigger audience.

Critics and supporters alike say Mr. Walker has never strayed from his approach to his political career: always pressing for austerity, and never blinking or apologizing for his lightning-rod proposals.

He regularly clashed with the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors over the past decade when he was that county's elected executive. He pushed to privatize cleaning and food service workers and sought changes to pension and health contributions and workers' hours. At one point, he proposed that the county government might want to consider, in essence, abolishing itself. It was redundant, he suggested.

"All I can think is, here we go again," said Chris Larson, one of 14 Democratic state senators who fled Wisconsin last week to block a vote on Mr. Walker's call to cut benefits. Mr. Larson knows the governor well, having served on Milwaukee County's board when Mr. Walker was the executive. He says that Mr. Walker is a nice guy on a personal level, "a good listener," but that his politics are another matter.

"Unions have always been his piñata, over and over," Mr. Larson said. "And this time I think he's trying to out-right-wing the right wing on his way to the next lily pad."

Mr. Walker's supporters cheer the governor for what they see as delivering on the campaign pledge of frugality that got him elected in November and forced a surprising makeover, at all levels of government in the state, from Democrats to Republicans.

He said he had seen plenty of labor protesters before. Crowds of them in green T-shirts once even showed up when he presented a Milwaukee County budget proposal — one of nine proposals in a row, he boasts now, that included no tax increase over the rate the board had settled on the year before.

"I'm not going to be intimidated," Mr. Walker said, "particularly by people from other places."

Mr. Walker, 43, the son of a Baptist preacher, is an Eagle Scout. He opposes abortion. He rides a motorcycle. For years, he has carried the same bagged lunch to work (two ham and cheese sandwiches on wheat) — a fact he has been fond of mentioning on campaign trails. His political heroes: Tommy Thompson, this state's former governor, and Ronald Reagan. "He didn't flinch," Mr. Walker said of Reagan. "Obviously, I take a lot of inspiration from that."

Mr. Walker once lost a bid for class president at Marquette University (which he attended but did not receive a degree from), but won a seat in the State Assembly several years later. By 2002, when a pension scandal engulfed the Milwaukee County government, the county executive stepped down and Mr. Walker ran on a reform platform to replace him. He was never an obvious fit for a county that leans Democratic and that, in the view of Mr. Walker, was "addicted to other people's money."

Mr. Walker describes himself as a fiscal conservative with a populist approach. It is a label that many in the enormous and angry crowds here would question, but it has won Mr. Walker backing in recent years from Tea Party supporters, who planned counterprotests this weekend in Mr. Walker's defense.

Barack Obama won Wisconsin in 2008, but last November, Republicans swept into power in the state, shocking many who pointed to its long tradition of union power. Republicans took control of the State Assembly, the State Senate and a United States Senate seat held by a longtime incumbent, Russ Feingold, in addition to the governor's office. Former Gov. James E. Doyle, a Democrat, did not seek re-election, and Mr. Walker — who promised to bring 250,000 new jobs to Wisconsin in his first four-year term — defeated Tom Barrett, the mayor of Milwaukee and a Democrat, 52 percent to 46 percent.

"This is the one part of the equation people are missing right now," said Scott Fitzgerald, who became the Republican majority leader in the State Senate after the election and whose brother became the speaker of the Assembly. "Scott Walker and I and my brother Jeff went into this session with the understanding that we had to deliver on campaign promises, that people wanted the Republicans to make change, that the more feathers you ruffle this time, the better you'll be."



Within days of becoming governor, Mr. Walker — who hung a sign on the doorknob of his office that reads "Wisconsin is open for business" — began stirring things up, and drawing headlines.

He rejected \$810 million in federal money that the state was getting to build a train line between Madison and Milwaukee, saying the project would ultimately cost the state too much to operate. He decided to turn the state's Department of Commerce into a "public-private hybrid," in which hundreds of workers would need to reapply for their jobs.

He and state lawmakers passed \$117 million in tax breaks for businesses and others, a move that many of his critics point to now as a sign that Mr. Walker made the state's budget gap worse, then claimed an emergency that requires sacrifices from unions. Technically, the tax cuts do not go into effect in this year's budget (which Mr. Walker says includes a \$137 million shortfall), but in the coming two-year budget, during which the gap is estimated at \$3.6 billion.

Democrats here say Mr. Walker's style has led to a sea change in Wisconsin's political tradition.

"Every other Republican governor has had moderates in their caucus and histories of working with Democrats," said Graeme Zielinski, a spokesman for the state's Democratic Party. "But he is a hard-right partisan who does not negotiate, does not compromise. He is totally modeled after a slash-and-burn, scorched-earth approach that has never existed here before."

The protests last week have put people in surprising circumstances. Mr. Fitzgerald and other legislators have needed police escorts to leave their offices. Protesters have swarmed to Mr. Walker's home, apparently to the deep dismay of his wife, Tonette.

But Mr. Walker was already preparing the ground for his showdown last fall. While still waiting to take office, he urged lawmakers, many of whom he already knew from his years

in the Assembly, not to approve new contracts for state workers during their lame-duck session. Once he came into office, he would need "maximum flexibility," he said at the time, to handle the state's coming budget.

In the end, after emotional fights in both legislative chambers (one lawmaker was deposed by his colleagues from his leadership role), Mr. Walker got his wish. And that gave him his chance to push his own plan. Last week, he announced that he wanted to require state workers to pay more for pensions and health care; to remove most collective bargaining rights, aside from wages, from discussion; and to require unions to hold annual membership votes.

As the battle here grew into a standoff, with the protesters' numbers swelling every day and the legislation tied up and waiting to be voted on, Mr. Walker said he was feeling perfectly fine.

To the anger of his critics, who say he thrives on publicity, he has been on television and radio call-in shows and has taken phone calls of support from some of his Republican friends. He said he was speaking with Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey on Thursday night while exchanging e-mail messages with Gov. Mitch Daniels of Indiana, whom he describes as a "great inspiration and mentor," and Jeb Bush, the former governor of Florida.

"Months from now, when this is enacted and people realize it's not the end of the world," Mr. Walker said, "not all, but I think the vast majority, including the vast majority of the public employees, will realize this was not nearly as bad as they thought it was going to be. And we'll get back to work in the Capitol."

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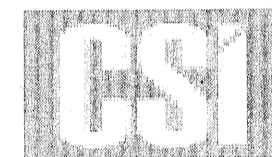
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: "Blowing Smoke Off Your Campus"

I totally disagree with your views on fighting the ban on smoking on campus. I understand as students we are stressed and school-work can tip the iceberg. But when looking to a pack of cigarettes is the first resort I've been going to CSI since Fall '09 and I've never smoked a cigarette a day in my life, but after my time here I feel I've smoked hundreds of packs of cigarettes. I'm all for the ban of smoking on campus, why are students killing themselves in their school work, and then going outside to kill themselves with a cigarette.

Brandon Lewis-Hawthorne

"Re: Blowing Smoke Off Your Campus"

It's easy to see where Andrew is coming from as a smoker. As a non-smoker it doesn't bother me if a person wants to harm their lungs that's up to them. I just feel they should be clean about it. It's not very appealing having cigarette butts everywhere. Another thing I feel smokers should be cautious of the people around them. Just because you want to smoke doesn't mean everyone wants to breathe it in. Andrew is right, CUNY is robbing students of more money, CUNY should focus that money on tuition instead of always raising it.

Michelle MacDougall

"Re: Blowing Smoke Off Your Campus"

When reading Andrew DiLorenzo article, I believe he is a 100% right. Students should have the right to do what makes them happy. When paying so much in books, tuition, and even that \$10 pack of cigarettes you should be able to do what you want. You're really not hurting others your doing something that clears your mind and stress, at least your going to school to achieve life goals. I like this article a lot. It is something you smokers should stand up for.

Nicole Maresca

"Re: Como Named Clinical Nurse Specialist By The NACNS"

Wow! I knew our school had an excellent Nursing program, but this is just amazing. Mannequins with heart rates, blood pressure and working lungs? That's awesome! I'm sure this is a valuable tool for current nursing students. I'd love to hear more from Professor Como about how she implements these mannequins in a hands-on lesson. But till then, congratulations to you Professor Como for all your hard work and dedication!

Marlena Moore

"Re: College Student Chases Her Dreams"

Jadel's story is very inspiring! Internships can often times open a door or window to many opportunities for aspiring students. Thank you for proving the importance of determination, perseverance, and the power of dreaming big.

Lucila Farfan-Narcisse

"Re: Blowing Smoke Off Your Campus"

The smoking ban is a breath of fresh air in an otherwise smogged atmosphere around N.Y.C. not only will I never have to see cigarette butts discarded throughout the campus, I will have the knowledge that my next big breath won't be followed by a severe cough. Look on the bright side smokers, CSI is trying to save you from spending \$12 on your next pack.

Jeremy Pasker

"Re: American Idol Revamped"

The article on American Idol feels to be taking space in a newspaper where other stories about television programs could be written. Idol is still the same boring reality show, to me. Even if they changed some curtains from blue to red or whatever. There should be articles on actual programs that people miss during the week like, Community and Parks and Recreation or articles on mixed martial arts shows that show the competitive nature between humans in fighting. Enough with American Idol!

Jose Fortuna

"Re: College Student Chases Her Dreams"

After reading Michelle Gonzalez's story about Jadel I became inspired to go after what I want in life. Jadel went out and worked hard to get her internship at a public relations company, instead of just sitting around. Also her story shows where hard work can get you.

Kenyetta Oliver

"Re: College Student Chases Her Dreams"

It feels so good to see an average student do well in life. I find this story to be inspirational and it motivates me to get up and start making major moves.

Egypt Collins

"Re: Blowing Smoke Off Your Campus"

As a smoker you might think I would agree with Andrew DiLorenzo's opinions about CUNY banning smoking on campuses, but I don't. I think it's a step in the right direction and maybe this will give some smokers the initiative to quit. If they can't smoke between classes it might stop them from needing that cigarette because they can't take it. Also the air will be cleaner and the non-smokers will be forced to stop their incessant whining about the fatal "Second-hand-smoke."

Anna Tardogno

"Re: Blowing Smoke Off Your Campus"

Andrew DiLorenzo has written a very persuasive article about the newly enforced "no smoking on campus" rule. I completely agree that smokers are being robbed of a decent portion of freedom. As a smoker, I would even be able to tolerate a smoking section, but to say that another student or faculty member 40 yards away from me is being disrupted by my smoke, then a lot of other actions should be taken as well. Cigarette smoke isn't the sole harmful chemical in the air. If we ban smoking then we might as well ban entering New Jersey and not to opposed Andrew's article in any way I would just like him to point me in the direction of a student who brings a carton of cigarettes to school.

Patrick Fleming

"Re: Oscars Fashion Race Heating Up"

I Love that "The Banner" has a fashion section and I thoroughly enjoyed the feature on Oscar fashion. But I'd like to see more fashion articles that revolve around the students of CSI. They're a lot of fashionable people strolling our campus. It'd be nice to see them being featured in "The Banner."

Lianna Rodriguez

"Re: Let Us Have Light"

After 5pm it doesn't just get dark it becomes pitch black. Most of CSI's lighting I find to be in the random spots at CSI. With the amount of money we get charged every semester a good amount of it should go towards lights on campus.

Stephanie John

"Re: The Economic Impact Of Egypt's Regime Change"

With everything that has gone on in the past weeks concerning Mubarak and the Egyptian citizen's, I can imagine that it is relieving to hear that there are small progressions taking place for the people already. Many of Egypt's citizens lived poorly and had no economic security while Mubarak was in power. Hopefully the changes that are taking place now will continue to do so over the years and of course for the better.

Jadel Rowe

"Re: The Economic Impact Of Egypt's Regime Change"

The article was well written and provided an interesting outlook on a catalyst for revolutions that is connected by a common historical thread. Most people assume that the figure heads of autocratic governments are the reason when as Tom writes, "there are other important factors as well."

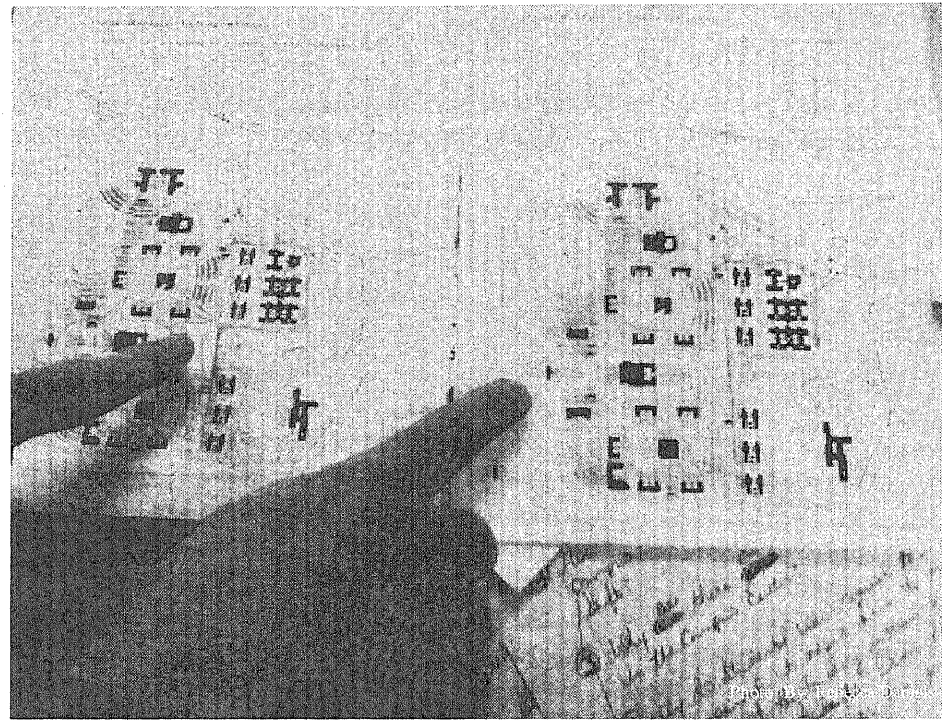
M.R.

"CSI Will Finally See A Light"
Continued from the front page

path. It is set up so that every edge of the outer buildings can be visible from anywhere on campus. The walkways and paths to the parking lots will be just as bright. The system will be lit with LED energy efficient bulbs.

The security plan will also include a camera system that will replace the thirty cameras that are currently around campus. The cameras will be placed within staircases, hallways, and on the outside of buildings. Emergency alarm towers that have a two-way intercom, camera, and a flashing blue light on top will be installed throughout the campus for immediate emergency response. Exactly thirty-eight of the blue towers will be installed. The towers will pinpoint your exact location and send an officer to assist. All the towers are accessible for those with disabilities. The blue light emergency system will also be installed inside the buildings for safety precautions.

"We take our safety very, very seriously... If you call our escort service we will be there within less than five minutes." Murtha said.



Paul Murtha, describes the before and after lighting plan

The public safety escort signs that are in classrooms are being replaced. The new signs will include the exact emergency number to dial from a cell phone, the public safety website,

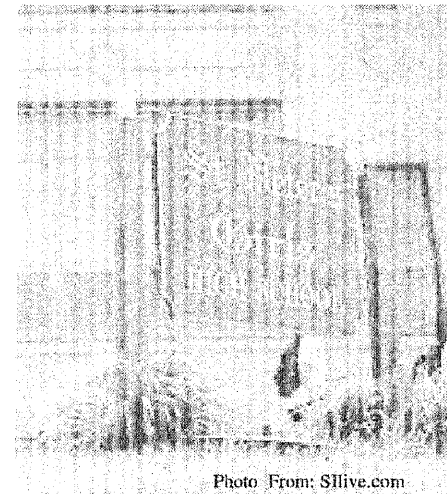
the public safety extension from a school phone, and the location of where to find an officer. The sign also states that students no longer have to meet an officer at the officer's

location, the student can call and an officer will meet the individual.

There are sixty active peace officers around campus and there is a hiring process for students to work part time as an officer. "Every so often we have yellow school busses unloading elementary school children for the performances in the center for the arts," said the assistant director of public safety George Mallon, "the officers are around but in some cases like school children for various situations like that, you just have to be patient with them." The officers are also present at night in order to keep the campus secure.

The public safety office is located in building 2A. Their interior office will have two-hundred surveillance monitors lining the walls. Their current wall of radios and cramped corner with an outdated television overlooking the campus will no more. "We have one of the largest and safest campuses already," said Murtha.

"Archdiocese To Ax St. Peter's"
Continued from the front page



St. Peter's Girls H.S.

receive answers on why we were closing, but we didn't get any answers. The night was just very sad for everyone."

Parents are reportedly disappointed that they were not included in the process sooner, wishing they could have done more to help. All talks of merging St. Peter's Girls with the St. Peter's Boys High School have been ruled out.

Miriam David, a Junior, said, "St. Peter's isn't just a school, it's a second home for every single one of the girls in there. We may have our problems, but at the end of the day, it doesn't matter because we are a family. We are 'Eagles' because we soar and fly high to achieve greatness. It's not fair to us girls who have worked so hard and take pride in everything we do. No matter what other high school we end up going to, our hearts and our pride will always and forever be an Eagle."

"A Long Time Coming Just Isn't Long Enough"
Continued from the front page

Prior to completion of her manuscript, Ms. Smith spent time editing her piece with the help of her husband Bruce Desilva. Mr. Desilva is a retired journalist turned crime novelist and is Ms. Smith's first editor. Ms. Smith and Mr. Desilva have worked side by side on many projects, editing each other's work line by line.

"We are truly partners in everything that we write. She edits every line I write, and I do the same for her. This works for us largely because our styles are so very different," he said.

Though they worked hard on the preliminary editing, once the manuscript was completed and submitted, the editing process would begin again, only this time, several pairs of professional eyes would be viewing the piece and reconstructing much of what they had reworked from the beginning.

"It's not like the editing process is done just because you got the period on the last line in the last stanza," Ms. Smith said.

"Internship Fair At The College Of Staten Island"
Continued from the front page

ships and internships.

Further down the hallway, informative posters and graphs littered the area. "Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge," read one of the posters. The background was a striking scene. It was a law of thirds shot depicting a classroom full of grinning kids. "Are you interested in a career working with kids," said a SEEK representative. Conversation followed. Certain tables had a very unique aesthetic to them. The Disney table loomed directly behind SEEK's poster of grinning kids. It had a very eye-catching theme to it. It was actually really typical of Disney. The tablecloth was colored in Disney's trademark purple and yellow. Brochures and Mickey Mouse stickers were scattered around the entire area. The



Professor Patricia Smith seated in her office in building 2S

The period has been placed, yet things still remain suspended. Ms. Smith can only wait for so long.

"If she holds onto it too long, I'll just

say 'That's okay' and I'll just go back to my publisher," she said.

recruiter was more than happy to answer questions. She was totally informative too. Some of the tables completely stood out. Rather, their recruiters did. Directly to the northwest of Disney's table stood a woman. She was dressed in seventeenth century clothing complete with a bodice. She represented the Historic Richmond town museum.

Regardless of the way the tables were set up. Disregard whether the recruiter was wearing the latest business attire from Marc Jacobs or a recreated version of a Molly Pitcher dress. One thing was certain; the internship fair was the perfect place to find information on the internships available at the College of Staten Island. For many students, like Rebecca Daniels, and the hundreds who were also looking to find an internship, 1P was definitely the perfect place to be.

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Fighting the Deficit - The 2012 Federal Budget

ALI ALASKARI

On February 14, 2011 President Obama unveiled his proposed budget for the 2012 fiscal year. The budget calls for \$3.73 trillion in spending for the fiscal year that begins on Oct. 1, 2011, with a projected budget deficit of \$1.1 trillion. According to President Obama's budget, government shortfalls are projected to decline over the rest of the decade from the historic highs they are currently at.

The proposal represents a noticeable shift in policy for President Obama from engaging principally in economic stimulus measures since he took office to now pushing deficit reduction as the integral element of his economic agenda. However, even with the cost control measures being put in place by President Obama, the budget is still bound to be opposed forcefully by House Republicans who have been calling for far deeper cuts.

The budget reflects President Obama's cut-and-invest agenda, which is claimed by many political pundits to create big winners, but also big losers. According to this agenda,

Obama suggests slashing spending in some domestic programs to both reduce deficits and make room for increases in education, infrastructure, clean energy, innovation and research to promote long-term economic growth and global competitiveness for the economy.

According to the article, "President Obama Unveils \$3.73 trillion Budget for 2012; Sharp Cuts, NYC Anti-terror Funds Boosted" from the Daily News:

"Among the losers [resulting from the budget] are some programs that Mr. Obama has supported, and even expanded in the past. For example, popular programs for home-heating aid to poor families and for community services block grants would be cut in half, and a multi-state Great Lakes cleanup project would lose a quarter of its money compared to 2010."

The budget calls for the elimination of Pell Grants for needy college students during summer classes. According to the proposed budget, graduate students would start accruing interest on federal loans immedi-

ately, though they would not have to pay until after graduation. These changes, according to administrative officials, are intended to help save \$100 billion over 10 years to offset the costs of maintaining Pell Grants for the estimated 9 million students who receive their assistance.

For the current fiscal year, which ends September 30, 2011, the Obama budget projects a deficit of more than \$1.6 trillion, a level equal to nearly 11 percent of the gross domestic product, making it the largest shortfall since the end of World War II. Recently that projection has increased and this is due to the big tax cut deal that Mr. Obama and Congressional Republican leaders agreed to in December to help prop up the still fragile economy.

A formal budget has not been adopted for the current fiscal year, which began on October 1, 2010. During a lame-duck session of Congress after the midterm elections, Senate Republicans blocked a major spending bill which would have added to the deficit. Instead, Congress adopted a continuing resolution that extended previous spending levels until March 4, 2011. Since taking a majority in the Senate, House Republicans have pledged to cut approxi-

mately \$60 billion out of discretionary spending for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Although the focus in Congress is on cutting current spending, many economists and government officials, including Ben Bernanke, chairman of the Federal Reserve, consider the country's long-term budget picture to be far more worrisome, as spending on Medicare and Social Security is expected to outstrip revenue growth as the population ages.

Although the 2012 budget seems to be taking a step in the right direction with regard to getting the deficit under control, it is obvious that it will be a while until Americans see the deficit brought down to levels seen before the economic crisis erupted in late-2008. Moreover, as the United States ages as a nation and entitlement costs skyrocket, it is safe to say that we as a nation are going to be fighting deficits and national debt for a long time to come. (email this person to revise this last paragraph, it is not an opinion piece? unless i am mistaken, this last paragraph needs to be attributed to someone... "according to whom?")

Melissa Riggio Higher Education Program at CSI

MATTHEW WEILER

There is a lot to be proud of at the College of Staten Island (CSI) as it continues to expand opportunities for a diverse student population. Pursuing college is the American dream. For twelve young men and women with intellectual disabilities, thanks to a partnership between AHRC New York City and CSI, this dream has become a reality. AHRC New York City developed the Melissa Riggio Higher Education Program at the College of Staten Island to prepare students with intellectual disabilities for adult life through higher education and campus life, career exploration and preparation, self-awareness, personal improvement, community participation and socialization. It provides academic, vocational and social experiences for young adults in a highly supportive yet challenging environment. This program is funded by the New York State Office of People with Developmental Disabilities.

Participating students are accompanied to class and around the campus by a student mentor. These are students at CSI who are either paid or receiving service-learning credit for their role in supporting Melissa Riggio students. Campus mentors support student participation in college life. They accompany Melissa Riggio students to class and help them with note taking, they work together in study groups with other students, they help them develop school projects, support the building relationships with professors and advisors, as well as building social networks with other students, and participating in campus life.

Melissa Riggio students are learning to identify their strengths and challenges and

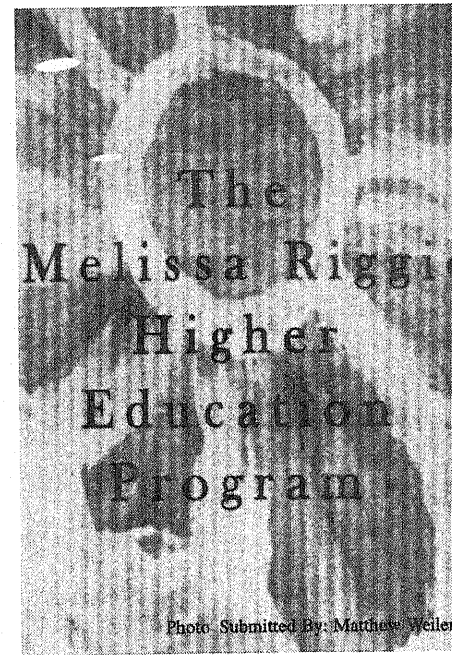


Photo Submitted By: Matthew Weiler

they are learning that they can succeed despite the impact of their disability. They are setting goals for themselves, increasing their skills and learning how to work with others.

Our Federal Government reauthorized the Higher Education Act of 1965. It identifies support for programs that promote the successful transition and inclusion of students with intellectual disabilities into high education. The Melissa Riggio Higher Education Program at CSI will not only have an enormous impact on the lives of these students and their families but it will change the lives of all the students and faculty on CSI's campus. This is really social justice at its finest.

Early to Apply Makes a Man a Man Healthy, Wealthy, & Wise

VINCENT BALESTRIERE

There are many harrowing experiences in life: marriage, homeownership, and even the daily trials of life on this dirt ball.

Puberty, too. Acne sucks.

As a college student, you might be feeling a bit of pressure right now from your classes.

But those are immediate concerns.

Your academic future is probably buried in the darkest depths on your mind right now, somewhere behind porn and that memory of the atomic wedgie you got in the fourth grade.

As painful as it might be, push the thought of graduation to the front of your brain's queue, before you wake up one day in your last semester, and you haven't sent any applications out. You're scrambling to collect letters of recommendation, forward your transcript, compile your portfolio and visit schools, all the while tenser than a contestant in a game of Russian Roulette.

Nonsensical though it may seem, many if not most graduate school application deadlines are nearly a year before the semester begins. So for the fall 2011 semester, you would have had to apply some time around November of 2010. Think that's uncommon? Here's a short list of schools in the metro area with deadlines around that time: Baruch, Hunter, NYU, Columbia, San Diego State, San Francisco State, Cal State

Bakersfield, and the CUNY Graduate Center.

But so what? You'll just apply for the spring semester, right? After all, what's a semester off? You could use the sleep anyway. Here's another revelation for you: most graduate programs start only in fall semesters. So if you miss the deadline, you're forced to wait twelve months extra to get into school.

That's not to say that you're completely screwed, last minute Annie; there are plenty of schools out there with "rolling" admissions, which means you can apply the summer before the semester begins and still have a chance. Sounds good, right?

There's a good reason some schools accept applications that late - they're gigantic, private, or both (Quinnipiac University in Connecticut, for example). Should you apply to a school like that just because you missed the deadlines for your first few choices? In most fields, graduate work outweighs undergraduate, so it pays to be where you want to be.

Do your research early, soon after you declare your major. Otherwise, your mind graduation day might be blank as you pick your nose while President Morales's speech drags on, June's merciless heat beating down your body. And you'll wonder, as you stare your nasal discharge, if tomorrow would be too late to apply for the fall semester.

What's it going to be, booger boy?

THE WORD ON CAMPUS: Anti-Smoking Ban

ANDREW DILORENZO

In mid-January, it was decided by the CUNY board of trustees that by September 2012, there will be a new smoking ban that doesn't allow students to smoke anywhere on a CUNY campus, including CSI. Many students have had their opinions about this issue, and some are profiled below.

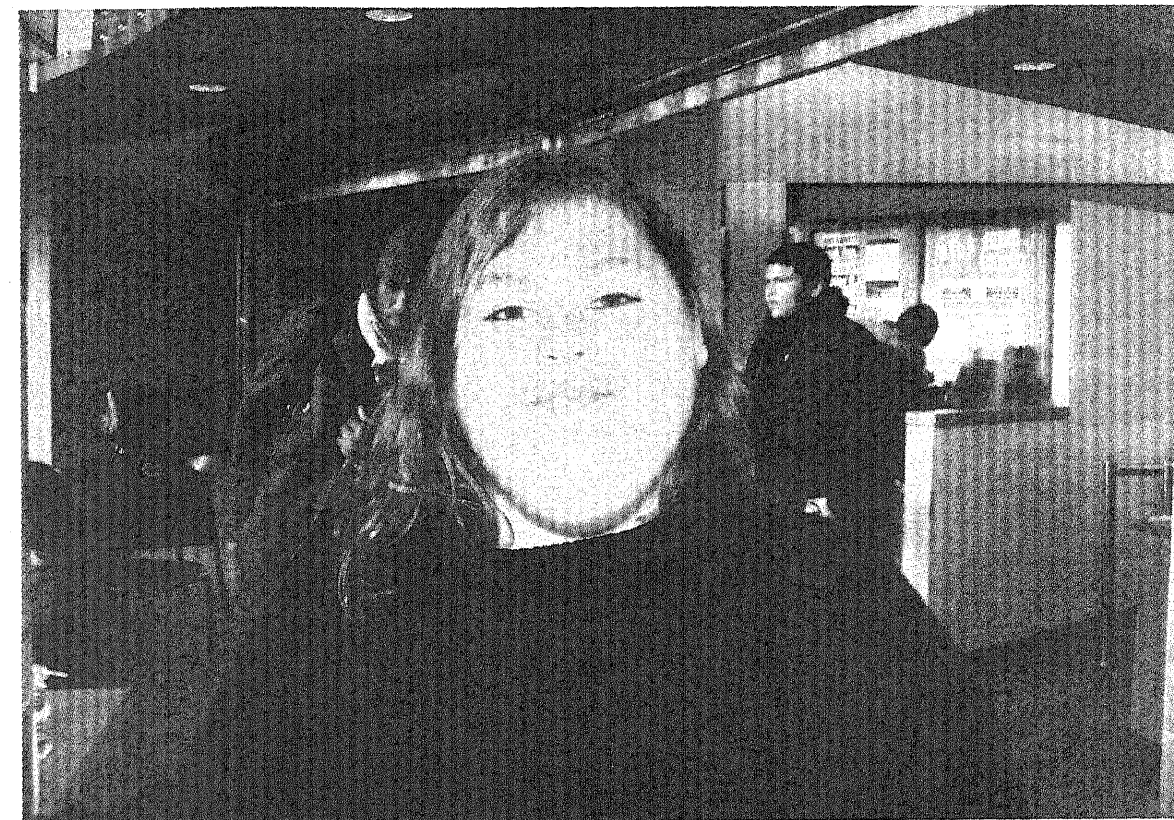


"I disagree with the ban. If you smoke a lot and are on campus for a long time, then it's going to be extremely hard and stressful to not be able to take a cigarette out and light it. I think they should put designated (smoking) areas around all the buildings because it's cold out now."

- John Swiontak
(Freshman)

"I disagree with the ban. It's our free rights and liberties to smoke, and also since I pay tuition, it's especially not right."

- Dania Hamad
(Junior)



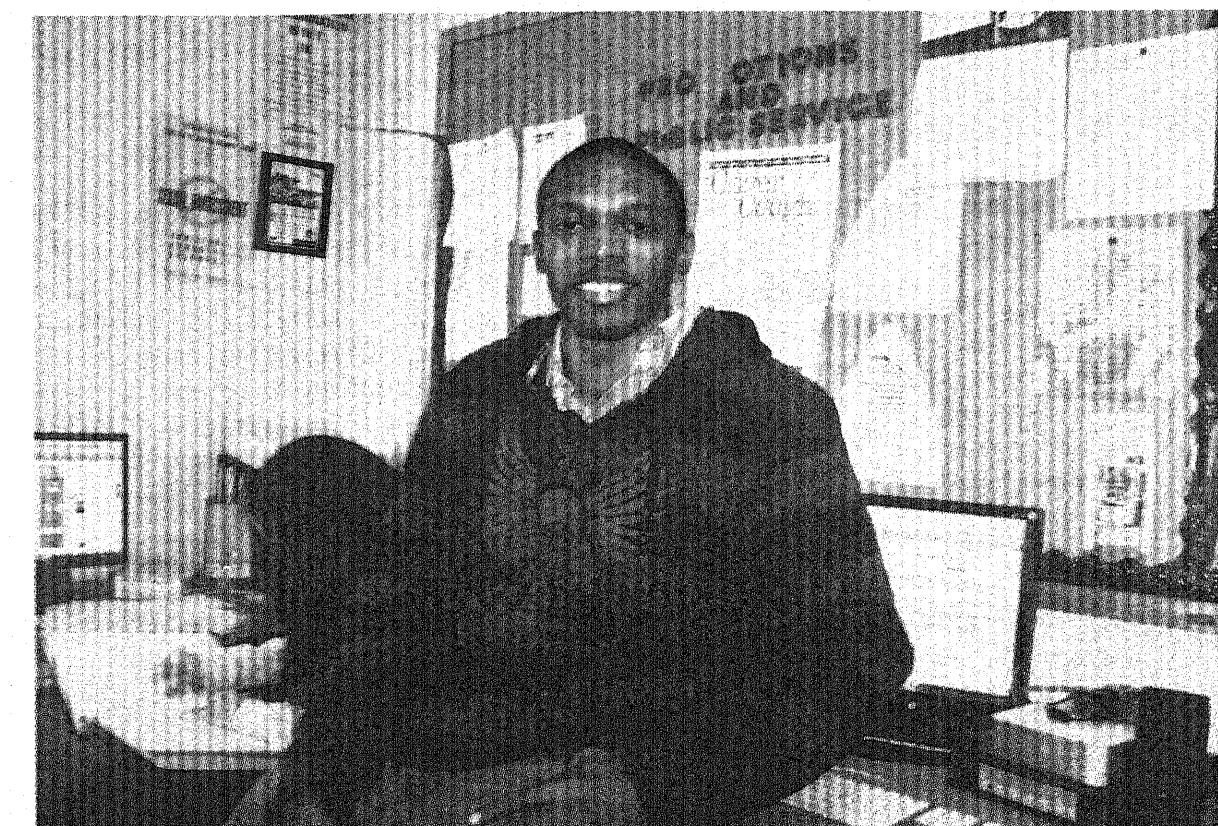
"I agree with the ban. I am a peer educator for the health and wellness center, and a former smoker. Because of that, I know the dangerous conditions of both smoking and quitting. With the smoking ban, students will be more ambitious to quit."

- Andrea Curry
(Senior)



"I disagree with the ban. It's not CUNY's job to protect my health. Their job is to give me education. This is a public school, so they need to teach me, not control me."

- Ariel Almonte
(Sophomore)



"I agree with the ban, but I am open to designated smoking areas on campus. This ban will hopefully prevent non-smokers from getting second-hand smoke."

- Deveron Greaves
(Sophomore)

SEX AND THE ISLAND

The Romantics and the Schmucks

Why do women stay in relationships in which they constantly get cheated on?

LEEOR BRONIS

There was an afternoon in early November when Chloe was running late for class and was stuck in traffic when she looked down at her wrist to check the time on her very expensive white Fossil watch that Tommy had bought for her last Christmas. The watch had perfectly matched the pink Juicy track suit that Tommy had bought her for her twentieth birthday and the Michael Kors tan aviator glasses which Tommy had bought her for their two year anniversary.

"I need a new wardrobe," Chloe admitted to me later that day over lunch. "Everything I own reminds me of that douche bag."

That day, I listened carefully to my friend utter the exact same words to me that I had heard come out of her mouth the last five times her ex-boyfriend had cheated on her. I used to chime in with the usual "you're too good for him" or "why would you go

running back to him after he hurt you so badly." But after a while I just gave up. I convinced myself that she would someday get so colossally hurt by him that it would not be physically possible for her to go running back for more.

I never wanted to be right, but alas I was. Chloe found out that Tommy had cheated on her with a girl whom she had considered her best friend. I always knew that she was just a jealous, self obsessed whore but Chloe never wanted to believe it. We sipped our green teas as Chloe recalled the last conversation that she would ever have with the boy she thought she could spend the rest of her life with.

"Come on baby," Tommy had said to her three weeks earlier. "You know you're the only girl I could ever love."

"Oh, do I? I didn't think love meant fucking my best friend in the back of some sleazy bar." She said as she felt the tears start to well up.

"You know it didn't mean anything," Tommy said. He had a great way of making Chloe seem like the bad guy in their relationship. "I can't believe you're willing to throw us all away, don't you care about me anymore?"

This was the fifth time Chloe had heard

the famous "I'm sorry I cheated" speech in the two years they had been together. At this point she had it memorized. Tommy was one of those guys who can only be described as a Grade A douche bag. A twenty-one year old college drop-out who works part-time as a delivery boy for Pronto Pizza, while pursuing his long-term career goal of becoming a UFC Ultimate Fighting Champion.

However, so far all he had become a champion of is getting Chloe to run back into his arms every time he accidentally screwed some girl in a bar, in the back of his Pontiac, or at the Victory Motor Inn, which by the way is really just a nasty whore infested den of a motel.

A sensible person might ask: why do these smart, beautiful, successful girls feel the need to stay in relationships in which they continually get cheated on? Is it simply a case of insecurity, or is it deeper than that? When it comes to matters of the heart, how much pain are we willing to endure?

The key difference between Chloe and I is that Chloe has continuously had boyfriends for the entire course of her adult life. She went from relationship to relationship since she was fifteen without so much as two weeks by herself. I on the other hand, have not.

I never had a guy to hold my hair back while I vomited, or buy me a new phone

when mine fell in the toilet, or hold my hand through a funeral. Through this I learned to lean on myself and have become a stronger and more independent woman as a result.

Her whole adult life, Chloe has been coddled by men and babied to the point of no return. Now, unfortunately, she needed to face reality and stand on her own two feet. In the end, after all the heartbreaks and broken promises, all we can do is pick up the pieces and try to move on.

As we finished our lunch/Tommy detox, I worked up the courage to ask Chloe the question I have avoided for so long.

"Chloe, why did you keep taking Tommy back after all of the lies, and pain, and heartache he caused you?" I asked.

"I guess I wanted to believe the lies," she said, as that all too familiar tear rolled down her cheek. "Because in the end all you have are the lies, the pain, and the hurting. For a long time I believed that was love. I honestly thought Tommy was my prince charming."

I wiped the tear off my beautiful and foolish friends face, looked her straight in the eye and said, "Its 2010, let's create our own fairytales."

The Guido Factor

LEEOR BRONIS

Let's face it, trying to find a man on this Island is like trying to find your way through New Jersey without a GPS. It could take years. One wrong move and suddenly you're halfway through Canada without a passport. Now I am not saying this applies to every one, but most guys on this Island tend to think being a "Guido" is the be-all and end-all to finding a girl. Word to the not so wise- it isn't.

"It was right at that moment perhaps my most sensible friend, Caroline, would make the most shocking confession of all. 'It's our fault for not being honest with guys and telling them what's really on our minds.'"

Last time I checked, I don't remember tight shirts, fake tans and blowouts being attractive. If you match that with a cocky attitude and over usage of the word "bro", it really starts to get a girl thinking. Should women stay with a guy that acts this way in the hopes that one day he might become a person of actual substance? Or should we just give up right now? When it comes to finding a guy on

"After dinner we took our drinks over to the bar and searched for buried treasure. I took a sip from my vodka cranberry when suddenly I looked up to find a very cute guy in front of me."

Staten Island, do we need to figure in the Guido factor?

Fushimi restaurant in New Dorp on a Thursday night is the perfect place to catch a glimpse of Guido's in their natural habitat. It is a perpetual playground of 23-32 year old available Italian and pseudo Italian guys. My girlfriends and I got a table by the bar and tried our best to tackle the big question.

"It's shows like Jersey shore that make guys here think it's okay to act like a total douche lord." Sabrina said. Sabrina is a psychology major at CSI and can always be counted on to approach the subject of men as a scientific analysis. "Like monkey see, monkey do, if you choose to drink the cool aid, it's just a matter of time before the whole jungle is infected."

"Remember when I slept with Mike, that bartender at Deko?" Casey asked. How could we forget? Casey couldn't stop obsessing over him for about four months afterward. "He was so conceded. Every time we had sex it was like he was constantly looking around for a mirror so he could

see his reflection." We all nodded in unison. Haven't we all been there at some point? It goes hand in hand with needing to keep the lights on.

"It's not just Italians anymore!" Natalie screamed. Good old Natalie, she's like the pushy Jewish grandmother I never got to know. "Even the Jewish guys all of a sudden think they're Italian. Like what? You're

"If you match that with a cocky attitude and over usage of the word 'bro', it really starts to get a girl thinking. Should women stay with a guy that acts this way in the hopes that one day he might become a person of actual substance?"

Moroccan, Jewish and your mom bakes challah bread on a Friday night. Get a life." She had very strong opinions on this subject. We all listened in carefully. This was going to be good. "Guido are disgusting, use more hair gel than me and act like they are God's gift to women," She said as she pointed to a guy who fit the description exactly. "Newsflash; you look like a rat dipped in duck sauce."

It was right at that moment perhaps my most sensible friend, Caroline, would make the most shocking confession of all. "It's our fault for not being honest with guys and telling them what's really on our minds." Was Caroline right? As women we all have a tendency to never say the thing that is real-

ly on our minds for fear of spending eternity in an empty house surrounded by cats. Sitting in that restaurant I started to think about how all of that withholding-ness on the part of a woman could have such an effect on these stupid guys.

After dinner we took our drinks over to the bar and searched for buried treasure. I took a sip from my vodka cranberry when suddenly I looked up to find a very cute guy in front of me. Okay, so yes he fit the description of a Guido: Affliction shirt, huge biceps and tan skin. We engaged in some heavy flirtation when I finally gave in and gave him my number.

Natalie looked at me like I just kicked a

"It's shows like Jersey shore that make guys here think it's okay to act like a total douche lord." Sabrina said. Sabrina is a psychology major at CSI and can always be counted on to approach the subject of men as a scientific analysis. "

small child.

"What the hell happened to hating Guido's?" she asked.

"What the hell, I have to have something to talk to you bitches about."

If you have any questions or need relationship advice, or just a comment in general, email the sex columnist at the.Banner.csi@gmail.com

BANNER ARTS

"Dark is the Way, Light is a Place," Fails to Shine

VINCENT BALESTRIERE

Anberlin's been around for eight years now, and have recently released their sixth album, *Dark is the Way, Light is a Place*. It comes two years after the 2008 commercial disappointment, *New Surrender*, an album that many complained was too far a departure from the harder-hitting styles of *Never Take Friendship Personal* and *Cities*. I was one of those people.

Those still hoping for a carbon copy of NTFP are going to be let down once again – the softer tone of Stephen Christian's vocals is here to stay, even on the album's most intense track, *We Owe This to Ourselves*. That's also the first song on the album, a track that falsely promises a more heart-pounding, heavier hitting album from the Florida quintet. *We Owe This to Ourselves* is the most you'll hear of "heavy" Anberlin on this album, so if you were expecting a track listing full of equally invigorating music, you'll be as disappointed as I was at first glance.

Anberlin isn't about making noise and getting your attention with distortion and intense vocals these days. So what are they about? *New Surrender* was the turning point of the band, with its collection of sweet, nostalgia-filled lyrics and happy rhythms. *Dark is the Way, Light is a Place* is laid out much the same way – after *We Owe This to Ourselves*, the album quickly mellows out with tracks like *Impossible*, *Take Me As You Found Me*, and *Down*.

Again, *New Surrender* was formatted much the same way, but many of that record's features were love or hate at first listen. Tracks like *Haight Street* and *Younglife* often divided fans, but they had one quality that is lacking from Anberlin's newest offering: personality. I've had *Dark is the Way, Light is a Place* for a few months now. I've listened to the album in its entirety over thirty times, but I couldn't list more than two or three song titles from memory. Nothing on the album feels new or distinct; if the band had waited another year to release *New Surrender*, that album could've



Photo From: teriyakigoodtimes.wordpress.com

Anberlin isn't about making noise and getting your attention with distortion and intense vocals these days

had all of *Dark is the Way, Light is a Place*'s tracks on it, and no one would cry nonsequiter.

There are a few decent tracks, but nothing to write home about. An overall

disappointment in the eyes of a long-time Anberlin fan; 6/10 for a forgettable album by a band that's departed from their younger days. Recommended tracks: *We Owe This to Ourselves*, *To the Wolves*.

Yuck – Tastier Than a Pop-Punk Hit

MARK REVELLO

Listen to Yuck's self-titled album and you feel as if you transported to the days of the mid nineties when alternative ruled the airwaves with songs full of distortion and pedal effects. The debut album of British based rockers Yuck is either a tribute or foray into the alternative music scene that was produced while the Clinton administration was still in office.

Yuck's self titled album starts with "Get Away", which immediately opens with a simple progression that is heavily distorted and bursting with pedal effects. From the onset to the finish of the album it appears that Yuck's influences are Built to Spill, Dinosaur Jr. and Sonic Youth. Yuck pay homage to these artists with frenetic soloing, simple yet catchy guitar riffs, and with coolly detached vocals.

The second song on the album illustrates what the band is aiming for with their sound. "The Wall" is a three part combination of Sonic Youth's ability to create powerful riffs from a handful of notes coupled with Built to Spill's penchant for pierced notes, and The Pixies love of frantic solos, all at a quick pace.

Yuck's first album also standouts for its ability to slow down songs and create pieces that are simply effective guitar work and a cool monotone from vocalist Daniel

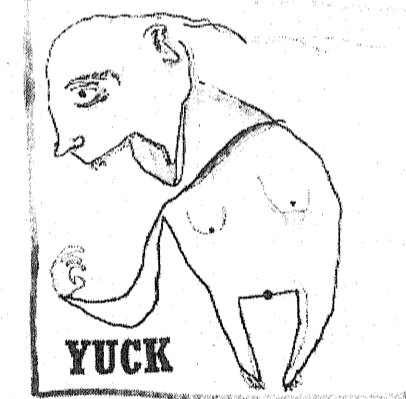


Photo From: cmj.com

Blumberg. Tracks such as "Suicide Policeman", "Suck", and "Stutter" work at an emotionally affecting pace and are moody, melodic songs that use a minimal of notes to create a somber tone but are still extremely catchy.

Yuck's debut album is a solid 8.3 out of 10. All the tracks on the album regardless of content or speed are ear gripping and dripping with effects that embody all the positive aspects of previous generations of alternative.

Surf City-Kudos

MARK REVELLO

The second album by Surf City has issues with settling into a specific category of music. While crossing influences and changing sounds has proved to be a disaster for some artists (think: the negative reaction Weezer fans had to *Pinkerton*) it is this quality that make this New Zealand based band standout.

Surf City's first album debuted in 2008 as a self-titled EP. The album featured tracks "Shakers Union" and "Records of a Flagpole Skater" which used little distortion, a fast paced speed and sounded strikingly similar to many other New Zealand artists such as The Chill.

Surf City's sophomore album, "Kudos", contains a variety of eclectic influences that draw from the bands native musical talents and form a noisy album that is well put together. The band borrows from the post-punk movement by using a stripped down amount of notes to create songs such as "In times of Approach..." and "Teacher", with the latter of these tracks echoing the sound of fellow New Zealand Post-Punk artists, "The Clean".

Surf City also employs elements from the shoe-gazing style of alternative rock by slowing down the speed on tracks such as "Autumn" and "Icy Lakes". Songs such as these two capture the dripping reverb and

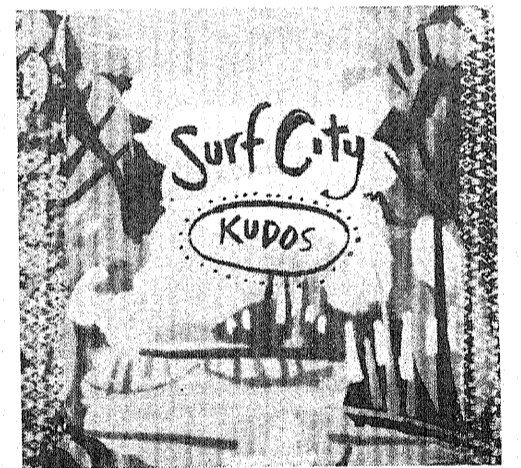


Photo From: covercuriosity.blogspot.com

space-like feeling typified by preceding artists like Spaceman 3

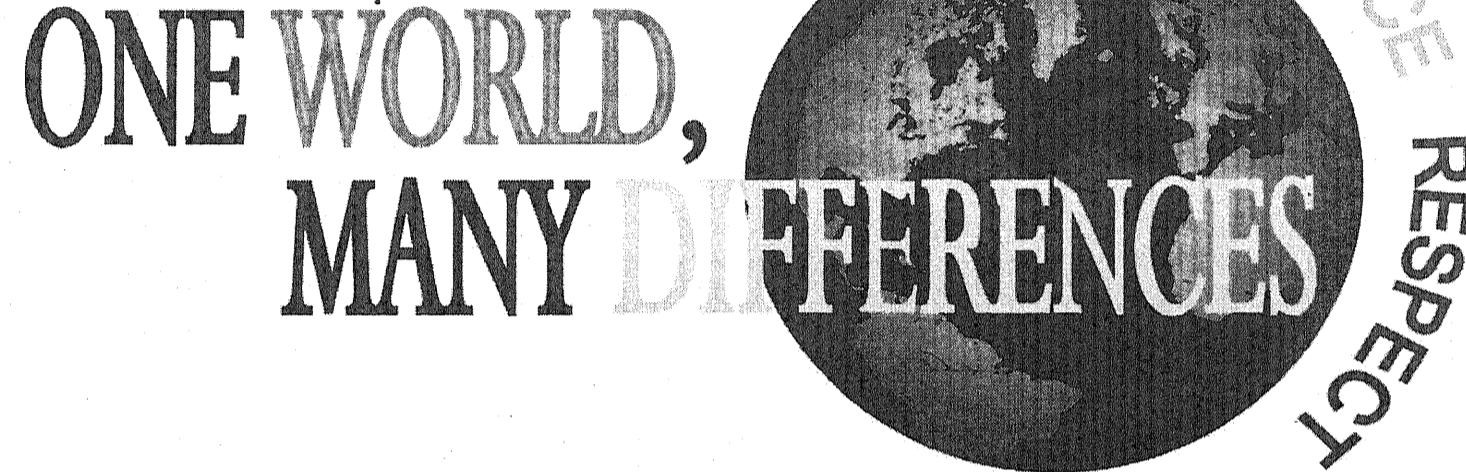
Surf City merges many of its influences seamlessly into a flowing album. Permeated by pedal effects and dreamily repetitive instrumentals, Surf City is able to create an enjoyable sound from a handful of notes and the perfect amount of low fidelity singing and effects. The ambient feel of tracks such as "Zombie" and "Yakuza Park" bellow a levy of sound that is permeating and scattered.

Surf City's second album demonstrates that crossing genres can result in a pleasurable listen and easily earn a score of 7.9 out of 10.



College of Staten Island
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS - OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE

2011 Leadership Conference

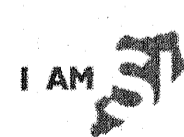


APRIL 1, 2011
8:30am - 4:30pm
CSI Center for the Arts (1P)

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CSI Home Page www.csi.cuny.edu under UPCOMING EVENTS

or Office of Student Life, Campus Center (1C), Room 201 for information and registration forms



For more information about this event or other leadership programs at the College of Staten Island, please call (718) 982-3088 or email studentlife@csi.cuny.edu.

ARE YOU READY TO LEAD?

Owners vs. Players: NFL Lockout Possible

JAMES KINGSLEY

The recent rumor about a lockout on one of America's most popular sports, could become a reality. The NFL's collective bargaining agreement or CBA, is set to expire March 3rd at 11:59 pm. This is an important date because a battle that has been spanning for most of the season will come to a head one way or another on that date and time. The burning question on players, owners, and faithful fans mind is; will there be football next season? The reasons for such drastic action comes from a proposed rookie salary cap, which could be seen as a great idea given the huge contracts several rookies have received the last few years. Other topics include the introduction of an 18 game schedule as opposed to the normal 16 game schedule that fans are more accustomed too. Another issue is player healthcare following retirement.

Many fans believe that the owners want more money, which in everyone's eyes can be seen as true. The owners side though, is that the players make too much money and that they are losing money, however, we the

fans see the players beating themselves up week after week. No fan ever really sees the team owners on the field or even in the stands amongst the people. Commissioner Roger Goodell proposed two ways to shake up the league for the better. One is the expansion of the schedule to eighteen games and the reduction of two preseason games. The players union is balking at this because it affects players' safety. The union wants the eighteen game schedule to pass and they want to lessen the time spent in training camp and for an extra bye week sometime during the season. Fans also have voiced their own thoughts on this matter, "As far as the 18-game schedule goes, I'm 100% against it. It without a doubt would shorten players' careers. Not to mention the season is getting too long as it is, pushing the Super Bowl into February the past few seasons. Roger Goodell obviously loves to make changes to the sport, but this is one that I would not do" stated Dallas Cowboys fan Mike Mooney. Anthony Leone states, "An eighteen game schedule might be good for the fans to watch their favorite teams play if they have a shot at the playoffs, but on the

other hand it could also backfire be horrible to watch, if your team is like say the Lions and the Bills." Other fans meanwhile, do not agree with it simply saying "just keep it the way it is." The other announcement that Goodell has made, is the addition of a rookie salary cap. This restriction is designed to help teams make a better choice and if a highly touted rookie isn't playing up to pair then that team can release him. "The rookie salary cap is integral. The money a rookie receives is pretty outlandish, and so much so that NFL GM's dread getting stuck with the first pick. The deal Bradford got can net him a maximum of 86 million dollars. Peyton Manning has made 150 million in his entire career, and Bradford can make half that in half the time", CSI alumni Mike McNichol contributed. Jets fan Chris Pukula added his thoughts, "You can make the argument that a rookie salary cap isn't good for the league, but it does make a lot of sense especially when you have veterans like a Casey Hampton, Ed Reed, Tom Brady and Randy Moss not even making that type of money in their rookie seasons. Nowadays you have Matthew Stafford and Ndamukong Suh making tons of money in their first year, I say let them earn the money first before just handing it out to them."

The union's main concern is healthcare for the NFL's retired players who have been in need of help from their grueling

days on the gridiron. "I know this is silly, but I agree and disagree at the same time, the players are the ones that should save not the league. I do think that they should both pay a little bit each though in order to give the retired vets the best healthcare possible, because if you haven't noticed this sport is brutal" added Bears fan Mike DeAngelis. If there was a lockout, it looms large for the players, because of the uncertainty of where and when they will be playing, this is also true for the fans. "And in reference to 'life without football,' many people would probably enter a state of withdrawal and begin to convulse after a week or two of stale baseball. Now there's a season that needs reduction, probably down to 108 games or so, but that's another story for another day" added Mike Smith. Football fan, Nick Devitto, added his own thoughts on the lockout possibility, "If there's no football, it definitely would be a weird feeling on Sundays. I don't think it would completely hit until about November when the World Series would be over and when there would be no football on Thanksgiving, which would definitely hit hard."

Whether or not there will be a lockout, no one knows, but hopefully the league and the union agrees to a deal and we can still enjoy our favorite sport regardless if it is 16 or 18 games.

MLS Superdraft 2011: A New Era

BRIAN GONZALEZ

The MLS Superdraft was held in Baltimore, Md. on 13 at the Baltimore Convention Center. This is the third time the event was held in Baltimore in its 12 year history. In the event MLS clubs select players who have graduated from college or have been signed to the league. The intention of the draft is to ensure that there is a level of equality among the clubs. This year there were two changes in the draft rules:

- First and second picks went to the two new expansion clubs, the Portland Timbers and the Vancouver Whitecaps.
- The number of rounds was reduced from four to three, which made it the shortest Superdraft.

While the event has not been known for bringing in major talent, that has since changed. In the past two years alone some players have made it to try-outs for the U.S. national team including the New York Red Bull's own Tim Ream. A story from the NYRB website states that, "Ream [was] coming off a stellar [2010] season which saw him nominated as a finalist for MLS's Rookie of the Year award." Ream was a second round draft pick in the 2010 Superdraft. What this means is that the level of players that get in to the draft has begun to improve. This is definitely good for the MLS, the U.S. Men's National Team (USMNT), and the future of the sport in the U.S.

There were a number of surprises in this

year's draft that flabbergasted the most avid supporter. The first was Vancouver's pick of Omar Salgado. "With the first pick came a huge responsibility, and there was plenty of discussion about who we would take," Whitecaps president Bob Lenarduzzi said. "We're delighted that Omar was our pick, and we're excited to have him on board and have him evolve with the club." This was not expected, as analysts were expecting an attacking player like, Darlington Nagbe who was picked up by Portland.

Probably one of the most unexpected picks was the first round acquisition of Forward, Cory Hertzog by the New York Red Bulls. It was expected that Hertzog would be picked up by the Philadelphia Union, given that he hails from Penn State. To follow up with their first pick, the New York Red Bulls signed Midfielder, John Rooney. In case you're wondering, he is the younger brother of English Superstar Wayne Rooney.

Aside from player acquisitions, one of important things to note is that seven players from the University of Akron NCAA championship-winning team were selected in the draft, which included five of the first eight picks. The players included, Forward Darlington Nagbe, Midfielder Perry Kitchen, Midfielder Michael Nanchoff, Midfielder Anthony Ampaipitakwong, Defender Zarek Valentin, Defender Kofi Sarkodie, and Defender Chris Korb.

Lastly, what would a Superdraft be without club supporters. The supporters are the people who go to home games and bring



The Hans Backe Viking Army Calling Out Supporters Of Rival Clubs



John Rooney Sporting His New Club Colors

with the energy that shakes the stadium to it's core supporting their club. These are also the same people who follow their clubs when they play out of town in a sort of religious journey to preach the gospel of their club to the non-believers. They were definitely in full force with banners waving,

speaking in tongues, chanting how their club is the best and the hell with the rest. Our local New York Red Bull supporters made their presence known. They include, Empire Supporters Club, Garden State Supporters, South Ward, and the Hans Backe Viking Army.

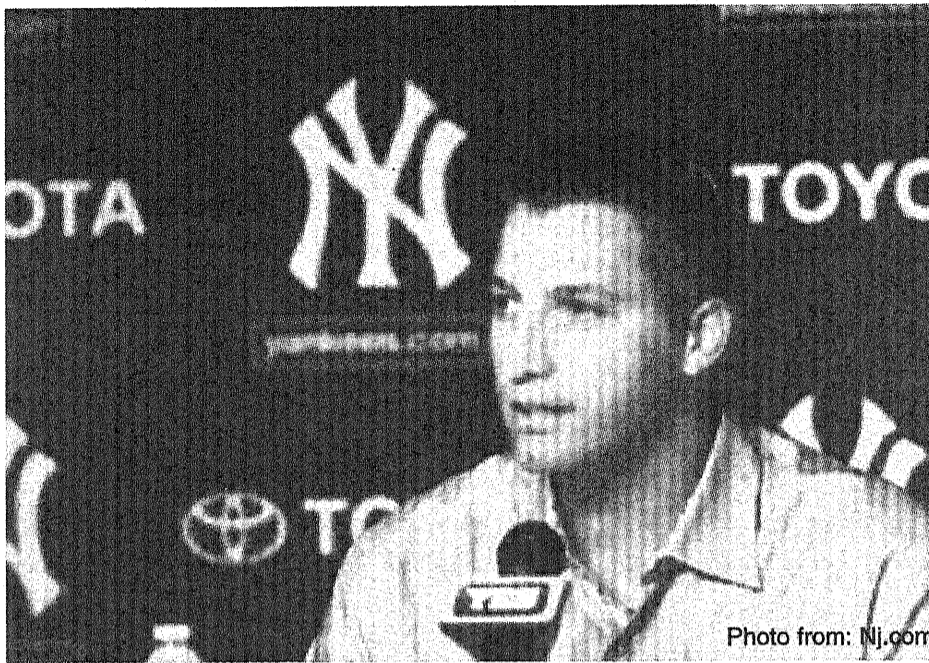
BANNER SPORTS

News Around the MLB

MARISSA PESSOLANO

The start of spring training means that Baseball season is around the corner. News of trades, signings, and retirements are being reported as teams are preparing for the upcoming season. The biggest news so far is the possibility that Albert Pujols, of the St. Louis Cardinals, could be a free agent after this season. Pujols has set a deadline for negotiations, but that date has passed with no contract signed. Reportedly, the Cardinals offered Pujols an eight-year contract over \$200 million, but this was rejected. The Cardinals and Pujols will not re-engage negotiations until the end of the season. Many teams are very interested in this development as arguably the best player in baseball could be on the market.

He has commented saying that, "he wants to stay a St. Louis Cardinal." However, if the deal is not there he is ready to look elsewhere. Some clubs that are cur-



Andy Pettitte Announcing Hi Retirement

rently showing interest is the Cardinal's long time rival, the Chicago Cubs, along with their in-state rival, The Kansas City Royals. At the moment the Cardinals and other teams with interest will have to play the waiting game and focus on the current season.

Andy Pettitte, a former New York Yankees has retired and the ball club has

signed 10-time gold glove award winning outfielder, Andruw Jones. Across town in Queens, the Mets are preparing for the possibility that Johan Santana won't pitch for the whole season, due to a shoulder injury.

In addition, the Bernie Madoff scheme continues to plague the Mets. The Wilpons are being hit with a lawsuit, seeking retribu-

tion from the \$300 million that was allegedly gained from Madoff's Ponzi scheme. The Wilpons are currently fighting these charges, and are willing to sell 20-25% of the team in attempts to "address the air of uncertainty created by this lawsuit and to provide additional assurance that the New York Met will continue to have the necessary resource to fully compete and win."

Outside of New York, forty-year-old, Jim Edmonds, has retired, not wanting to risk permanent injury to his Achilles heel. The Blue Jays have signed home run leader, Jose Bautista, to a 5 year, \$65 million contract and the Angels have traded for Vernon Wells from the Blue Jays. Over in Texas, the Rangers have signed Josh Hamilton to a 2-year deal.

Off the field, Tigers Miguel Cabrera, was arrested on DUI charges, making this his third such incident. Cabrera is embarrassed by the situation and has since apologized to his teammates and the Tigers organization.

The 2011 season will be underway on April 1st, with each team hoping to bring their "A" game to the table in order to compete to be world champions.

The Next Step

JAMES MARDIKOS

The snow continues to fall with seemingly no end to winter in sight, however, come next Monday February 28th the CSI Baseball Dolphins won't care too much.

That's because the Preseason Division III 50th ranked team in the country will be on their annual Spring Training trip to the Cal Ripken Baseball Experience in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina beginning what they hope is a history making season. "Our goal since the final out of last season was to take another step forward this season" said Pitching Coach Greg Belson. "That means competing in and winning the College World Series".

The Dolphins are coming off their best season in school history, which saw them compile a school record 31 wins, a 13-1 CUNYAC record, yet another CUNY Tournament title and a #2 seeding in the ECAC Metro Tournament. The team also compiled impressive wins against typical powers Wesley College, Farmingdale State, Manhattanville, and Stevens Tech.

The hope throughout last season was all the compiled work would add up to the school's first NCAA Regional berth since 1992. However, upset losses during the year to St. Joseph's College, John Jay (the only regular season CUNY loss) and a loss to Baruch in the double-elimination CUNY Tournament coupled with a shocking loss in that ECAC Tournament to 7th seeded Richard Stockton, doomed any NCAA

Tournament hopes.

Coming into 2011, Senior Pat Gale is the unquestioned leader of a team that is hungry for that NCAA Regional berth. The Senior Gale isn't alone as returning with him will be five other seniors and another five upperclassmen. "It's incredibly important", said Gale of the team's experience, "we all know the in's and out's of each other and that's real important".

Last season, Gale provided the school with another first, as the Pitcher and 1st Baseman not only won Player of the Year honors in the CUNY Conference, but became the first player in school history to win All-American honors. The Left-Hander Gale went 8-2 with a 2.09 ERA on the mound and hit .418 with 47 RBI's at the plate. Even more will be expected this season as he will lead the Pitching staff with fellow Seniors Nick Tingos and fellow lefty James Mardikos.

The added pressure doesn't seem to burden Gale one bit, "it doesn't really, I've worked harder than I ever have" said Gale, "I can only control how I work and hope it turns out well".

The lineup and defense has a new look to it this year, but will still be led by Gale, as well as Senior power hitting outfielder Joe Cassano, Junior 2nd Basemen Henry Roman, Junior 1st Basemen/DH Sal Todaro, and Senior Third Basemen Mark Glennerster.

New ripples include Sophomore Bryan Moreno who returns from injury to take over behind the plate at Catcher for the departed Tom DiPietro who led the CUNYAC in Home Runs last season. Another Sophomore

Dan Lynch will take over in Centerfield. The Tim Lincecum look alike will most likely be the leadoff hitter and finally get to show off his cannon arm and speed. Right field will have a new face for the first time in four years with Tom Dewaters departing. Likely to get the first crack will be 24 year old Freshman and former United States Marine, Joey Falcone who has been putting on shows in batting practice with his enormous power.

The most heralded newcomer will be at Shortstop as former Tottenville High School standout Matt Morales will take over. Morales, has overcome Tommy John Surgery, and shoulder problems to finally be able to play this season and Morales couldn't be more excited, "are you kidding me?" said Morales, "it's been three years, I love it, I miss it, and I want to prove to people that I can still play".

The hope is that Morales can quickly revert to the form that saw him hit over .500 as a sophomore on Tottenville's Varsity team in 2006. The pickup even has Belson excited for the arrival of Morales, "a guy like Matt is a huge addition because he has a professional skill set" said Belson, "watching him prepare for this year gives us a ton of confidence that he will be an integral part of our team's success".

Make no mistake about it; the pitching staff is what has this team thinking big. Pitching Coach and former Arizona Diamondback draftee Greg Belson has groomed a stable of arms, led by the Big Three of Gale, Tingos, and Mardikos, as well as Junior Casey Mulligan and Sophomore Richard Anderson to round out the starters.

Another Senior Jeff Pontebbi will lead the bullpen arms along with Sophomore Anthony Colucci and Lefty Michael Van Pelt. "When teams have success, ultimately it falls squarely on the arms of the pitching staff, the guys love taking on that burden" said Belson, "their work ethic, drive and competitiveness individually and collectively is unparalleled, that's exactly how we want it".

The coaching staff is led by third year Head Coach Mike Mauro. The former John Jay College standout and Tottenville assistant has changed the culture of CSI Baseball from mediocre to thinking big. Hitting Coach Ben Laskin works tirelessly with all his players and it showed as the entire lineup hit over .300 last year. As for Belson he orchestrated a top 10 pitching staff in the entire country statistically a year ago. "Mauro leads this team by giving us the right mindset and making us want to work hard," said 1st Basemen Sal Todaro, "Benny, and Belson make the team even better not just as players but as people, they help us understand the right mindset to do good on and off the field."

After the five game trip to Myrtle Beach, the Dolphins will return for their home opener on Friday, March 4th against National runner up Cortland. Other notable home games for fans to check out will be March 6th against FDU-Florham who won last year's ECAC Tourney, April 5th against National Power Kean University, April 19th at night against Old Westbury and lastly on April 26th against Drew University which is the yearly "Grace Hillery Breast Cancer Awareness Night".