

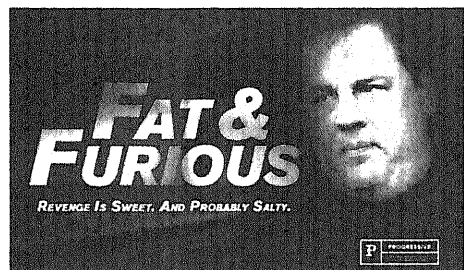
The Banner

Official Newspaper of the College of Staten Island

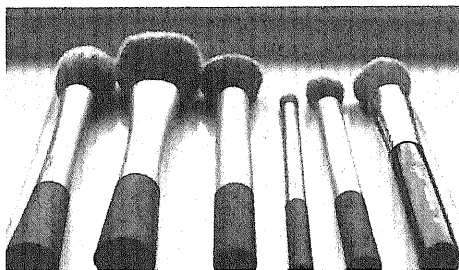
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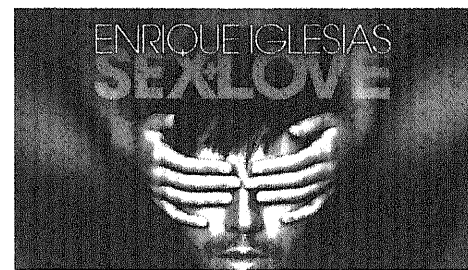
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The Legacy Left by Former Chancellor Goldstein

Costly Controversy and Communication Issues

BY BRADLEY POPKIN

On January 15, CUNY selected University of Nebraska President James Milliken as their next Chancellor. Milliken will not take his new position until June 1. Former Chancellor Matthew Goldstein, 1999-2013, helped improve the college, bringing respectability back to a once criticized institution.

When Goldstein stepped down in summer 2013, he had held the position for fourteen years and tasked with the responsibility to make the University a more prosperous learning environment for both students and professors. With that goal in mind Goldstein added over 2,000 full-time faculty positions.

The CUNY landscape has expanded to 24 colleges and professional schools including the Graduate School of Journalism, School of Professional Studies and the William E. Macaulay Honors College. Following a successful but controversial career, Goldstein decided to call it quits.

"I had an agenda that was in my mind when I first accepted the invitation to do the job, and we have succeeded beyond that agenda, things I never envisaged we would be able to do," Goldstein said.

Back in 1999, a Mayoral Task Force labeled CUNY "an institution adrift." At the time, CUNY was a bundle of universities with no direction and few standards. An underwhelming public school system and the state's system of financial aid were factors that resulted in many students choosing CUNY.

"The word chaotic doesn't even begin to describe it [CUNY]; it's moribund," said Benno C. Schmidt Jr., the task force chairman and current Chairman of the Board of CUNY. "That suggests a huge opportunity, but first CUNY needs to invent itself."

Later into his tenure, Goldstein would see considerable pressure from students and faculty calling for his resignation. With sharply lowered support from the state in recent years, Governor Cuomo and legislature approved a "rational tuition plan" on August 9, 2011.

"The new law enacts a rational tuition plan that allows each SUNY and CUNY campus to raise tuition by \$300 per year for five years, replacing an era of sudden tuition increases with a system that is predictable and empowers students and parents to plan for college expenses," said Cuomo.

On November 21, 2011 students staged their own movement. They attempted to stage a peaceful protest at Baruch College where CUNY trustees were holding their monthly meeting



Source: CUNY.edu

when tuition hikes were addressed. Met with resistance from police, fifteen arrests were made after students on higher floors dropped books on police and lined up peacefully in the lobby.

Exactly a week later, much to the chagrin of students and faculty, Chancellor Goldstein and CUNY trustees approved a series of \$300 tuition increases that will run through 2015.

Protestors and critics of Goldstein denounced his decision to not take more action against the State and accused CUNY of having sufficient money in their budget. Opponents also cited the Chancellor was out of touch with the student body. A petition by angered students, which called for Goldstein to resign, was also started on the internet.

A leader for CUNY as well as a Professor of English at Queens College, Barbara Bowen had been vocal towards the Chancellor's handling of not only the tuition hikes but also his Pathways initiative.

"A failed business strategy," Bowen called it. "A long-term plan for state and city investment would make much more sense."

Contrary to what faculty and students believe, there are ways for students to attend CUNY tuition-free. Director of Communications at CSI, Ken Bach estimates that "eighty percent of all students could attend CUNY schools tuition free if they have applied to all modes of financial aid."

Much credit should be given to the former Chancellor and his fundraising efforts. Goldstein more than quadrupled annual fund-raising from about \$50 million to \$250 million, during his tenure.

"Before he came I'm not sure that there was a strong focus on fundraising," VP of Student Affairs at CSI Ramona Brown said. "The amount of money raised under Chancellor Goldstein's leadership has been pretty phenome-

Basketball Bloodlines

The Remarkable Career of Katelyn Hepworth

BY BRADLEY POPKIN

Katelyn Hepworth, a standout player poised to deliver a CUNYAC Championship season, recently scored her 1,000 career point for CSI's female basketball team.

Her journey to become one of CSI's most prominent basketball players is one of many humbling experiences.

"From her first year on the team she had a pretty remarkable role," said Assistant Athletic Director at CSI Dave Pizzutto. "A former CUNY Rookie of the Year, she's always accepted it with humility, has always been a hard worker and matured with the program."

The 5'10 Forward grew up surrounded by a family of basketball players and started playing at an early age. Hepworth is a graduate of Notre Dame Academy and recently graduated from CSI. Hepworth, a Science, Letters, and Society major who minored in Elementary Education, is a captain and key component of a dominant Dolphin's team (the lady Dolphins have posted an 18-4 record so far).

Starting at Blessed Sacrament in the second grade, Hepworth began forging her acclaimed basketball career. She inherited abundance of basketball knowledge early in childhood from her parents. Hepworth's parents Kathleen and Timothy played basketball at Notre Dame and St. Peters respectively. The duo were also coaches at Notre Dame before Hepworth was born. Hepworth also has a pair of brothers, Timmy and Dennis, who started playing the sport at Blessed Sacrament before moving on to Xaverian High School and Baruch College.

For grades 7-8, Hepworth would play basketball for the Renegades, a local AAU team of which her parents coached.

In 2005, as a Freshman, Hepworth would suit up for the Gators of the Notre Dame Academy. During her time on Junior Varsity, the young stalwart garnered much praise from her coach Tony Curatolo and quickly became a starter followed by a captain nod during her Sophomore campaign. After two highly-successful seasons, Hepworth made the jump to Varsity to play for uncle and Head Coach, John Hannafin.

"I adore my uncle but I hardly played. I just totally lost sight of the game," said Hepworth. "I wasn't the captain. When I was on the court I was told I was invisible."

Though it didn't sit well with her at the time,

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HADIATOU WANN

CONTRIBUTORS:
JEREMY PASKER
AMANDA V GRANBERG

FACULTY ADVISOR:
FREDERICK KAUFMAN

Correction: Clifford Michel is the author of the article entitled: "CSI Students Finish Fourth in Business Competition" of Issue #10



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FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION DIAL 718 982-3116.

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FEMINIST BOOT CAMP RECRUITS ON CAMPUS

CUNY-wide Effort to Raise Awareness to Women's Issues

BY CLIFFORD MICHEL

On February 15, the College of Staten Island held a CUNY-wide Feminist Activist Boot Camp in the Green Dolphin Lounge to discuss women's issues and plan out different events to effectively raise awareness about it.

The event allowed the students to carefully map out issues that students are most interested in, identify a target audience and work out a creative plan of action.

"I thought it was really cool because when there are events about women or oppressed groups, I'm ready to go and participate," said Cindy Arias, a freshmen at York College. "They said we'd be able to learn more about an array of women's issues and pick whatever our hearts are calling us to."

The event planners put a heavy emphasis on teaching the students how to effectively spread their word to others.

"The purpose of this boot camp is to help those who want to do something for a cause that is related to women's concerns and women's equality. We have to give them the tools by which to do that. We will be encouraging participants to pair up and plan, organize and run some kind of event where they raise awareness about a problem, where they teach people something about an issue that is important to them," said Dr. Ellen Goldner, who coordinates the Bertha Harris Women's Center at CSI.

To help implement these plans effectively, a representative from the Center of Media Justice came to give participants advice.

Students were able to interact with one another for much of the time and expressed excitement over being able to learn from each other.

"I know that I personally don't know everything that there is to know about women's issues. I want to learn about causes—the things that are plaguing women are due to systems of oppression, so I want to learn more about that," said Arias.

Participants and organizers both hope to expand the average individual's view of what a feminist is and what they stand for. This includes LGBTQ issues, double standards regarding sexual activity, the impoverishment of women globally, domestic violence, and the impossible



Source: soapboxinc.com

Organizations like Soapbox Inc. have created classes and seminars on feminism

expectations of women's body images.

"Feminism has become very aware of other causes that it intersects with and other issues around the world, it is no longer centered on just ourselves," said Dr. Goldner.

Attendees, while hopeful for change, wanted others to know that there is more to feminism than the stereotypes that are often portrayed about them.

"People are often under the misconception that girls and feminists have to be manly and reject their femininity or that they think that women are the ultimate race. That's where phrases like 'feminazi' come from and it's not an accurate

rate portrayal of our goals," said Jafreicy Amparo, a freshmen at CSI.

While certain women's issues such as income inequality are beginning to be addressed on the national level, the women's centers of CUNY are committed to spreading awareness on a local level.

Brooklyn College's Women's Center plans to build on the progress of CSI's Feminist Activist Boot Camp by holding one of their own, which will focus on social media.

The Women's Center at CSI is located in Building 2N, Room 106 and can be reached at (718) 982.2871.

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

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

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Girl Scout Troop #5399 Meets Harriet Tubman

In Honor of Black History Month, a Historical Hero Makes an Appearance



Photo Credit: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse

BY LUCY FARFAN-NARCISSE

The Girl Scouts of Troop #5399 were paid a visit by the African American heroine Harriet Tubman portrayed by actress Christine Dixon on Sunday, February 9, 2014.

Christine Battaglia the leader of the Troop #5399 felt it was important to teach and expose her girls to this poignant and emotional performance.

"When Christine performs Harriet she brings to life a chapter of American

History that is sad to relive but even sadder to forget and it is important that these girls know and care about this time in American History," said Battaglia. "I believe that American heroines like Harriet Tubman should be celebrated all year long not just during the month of February."

Christine Dixon has been performing this one-woman show for many captive audiences since November 2008.



Photo Credit: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse

Photo Credit: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse



Photo Credit: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse

Photo Credit: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse



Photo Credit: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse

Photo Credit: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse



Photo Credit: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse

Photo Credit: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse

This performance was originally adapted and directed by Morna Murphy Martell from the 1868 book by Sarah Bradford, "Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman".

The music that is sung by Dixon in this intimate and interactive performance was originally composed by Ralph Martell.

Dixon kept the troop involved throughout the performance with ani-

mated movements and interactive activities.

"Harriet Tubman was a real woman who was fighting a real cause," said Dixon.

Dixon's performance is not only engaging but interactive and many of the girls were able to participate alongside Dixon as she retold the story of Harriet Tubman and her exodus on the Underground Railroad.



Photo Credit: Lucy Farfan-Narcisse

"Legacy of Chancellor Goldstein" Continued from the Front Page

Brown also applauds Goldstein's effort in creating more scholarship opportunities. She was unable to comment on the issue of Pathways and the implementation but stated that "faculty were on the committee."

The Pathways initiative, instituted in fall 2013, helps students easily transfer general education credits from one CUNY college to another, reducing the amount of gen-ed courses required across all schools. The implementation of the initiative has been met with significant resistance from faculty.

Members of the CSI faculty were particularly vocal in their criticism of Goldstein's Pathway initiative.

"The College of Staten Island Faculty Senate cannot in good conscience endorse the development of a general education curriculum within the Pathways framework as it currently

"Basketball Bloodlines" Continued from the Front Page

Hepworth insists that she has grown to understand why Hannafin made his decision. Hepworth, by her own admission, feels that fitness could have been a factor. To make matters worse, Hannafin, who coached at Notre Dame for 18 years, was fired after refusing to resign following that season.

"I get it now, it's tough to coach your family," said Hepworth. "There was other talent on the team."

Hepworth's new coach her Senior year was Tom Cavanagh, a co-founder of the Rebels, a local travel girls' basketball team.

"He kind of brought life back into the game for me," said Hepworth.

Cavanagh had nothing but the best to say about the future Dolphin.

"Hepworth plays with a lot of heart," Cavanagh told the Staten Island Advance. "She is someone who will go through a wall for you. She gives every ounce of everything she has on the floor. She's a good rebounder and has a good all-around game."

If it weren't for Cavanagh, Hepworth feels she wouldn't have continued playing basketball. Along with recruiting efforts by former coach Marguerite Moran and Tim Shanahan, she credits her high school coach for her eventual arrival at CSI.

"He told me 'you're too good of a player not to go,'" said Hepworth.

Hepworth, as a Freshman, was poised to start on a Dolphin's team that ultimately went 13-12 and finished with a loss against Baruch in the CUNYAC Semifinals. Her efforts led to a CUNYAC Co-Rookie of the Year award after averaging 9.8 points and 9 rebounds a game. She also led the team in shooting and blocks.

"I didn't expect to play as much as I did my Freshman year," said Hepworth. "Megan Sullivan had just graduated and that was their post-player."

As a Sophomore and Junior, wins were hard to come by. The Dolphins finished with a 17-30 record over that span. Despite the shortcomings, Hepworth continued to improve and averaged just over 12 points per game and 9 rebounds. Moran, then her head coach, was let go.

Hepworth called her Junior year a 'rebuilding' one and that 'girls who were supposed to play backed out' leaving the departed coach in a difficult situation. Moran had to recruit women from the volleyball and soccer teams to play.

stands," read a statement from the Faculty Senate of CSI. "We will not implement a Pathways curriculum under the current guidelines."

The Professional Staff Congress is the union that represents more than 25,000 faculty and staff in CUNY. Bowen, the President, and the PSC have been adamant in their response creating a petition and voting no confidence towards the plan.

"Pathways general education curriculum dramatically decreases the amount of science taught to [non-science] majors in the senior colleges, and diminishes the quality of education and value of a CUNY degree," said CUNY's discipline council for natural sciences in a statement.

The PSC filed a suit two years ago against CUNY. The suit charges that Pathways violates a settlement agreement reached in 1997 between CUNY, on one hand, and the PSC and University Faculty Senate leaders on the other. That agreement reaffirms that the CUNY faculty, through

"Marguerite had a lot of quick-hitter plays; back screens and pick and rolls," said Hepworth. "The way Timmy coaches is very fast-paced, spread offense and everything is simple. He lets us create as much as we can off of it."

She was looking forward to a breakthrough season under new head coach Tim Shanahan but that would not be the case. Before she ever took the court for a regular season game, Hepworth tore her ACL and Meniscus in a practice right before the first game.

"I actually missed class to go to practice," said Hepworth. "We were scrimmaging and I went up for a layup on the left side, came down and it [her left leg] totally hyper extended."

"As a Forward, we know that we get bumped all the time. I heard a pop and knew that it was something. It was devastating; I've never been hurt. To see it and go through it is a totally different thing."

Surgery was not something Hepworth was looking forward to as well as the rehab process. Her teammates Jennifer Coughlan and Olivia Tierno were extremely supportive.

"They kind of warned me about what the surgery is going to be like and how to go through the rehab process," said Hepworth. "I couldn't walk for three weeks. I had my mom helping me. You can't take care of yourself and it was really frustrating."

Hepworth spent the next several months rehabbing with staff at Peak Performance in



Hepworth celebrates her 1,000 career point as a Lady Dolphin

the UFS and the college faculty senates and councils, are responsible for the formulation of policy relating to curriculum.

Measures to repeal and find resolutions to Pathways by groups at colleges such as Brooklyn and Baruch accomplished nothing. Lack of communication with staff contributes to the ex-chancellors less than spotless record.

"By failing to respond to the faculty's broad denunciation of Pathways the CUNY Board of Trustees has put the quality of a CUNY education at risk," said Bowen. "We call on the new chancellor to listen to the faculty and respect our knowledge and our experience in the classroom."

One of the hallmarks of Goldstein's tenure was the centralization and stratification of the college. Goldstein sought to concentrate information and decision-making in CUNY's Central Administration. In his exit interview on WNYC, he conceded that "pathways has had a fair amount of faculty pushback."

Bulls Head. She spent the next summer trying to strengthen the leg by running and playing basketball with her brothers in Clove Lakes Park.

"They had a whole plan for me, mostly lifting and leg presses," said Hepworth. "Before my injury I used to run 3-6 miles. I used to be able to run three miles in twenty minutes. I wouldn't let myself touch a basketball until I cut down to twenty."

"As frustrating as it was not being on the court, I was really able to focus on school and I did really well," said Hepworth.

The time off due to injury allowed Hepworth to dedicate more time to her studies while she finished up the remainder of classes for her degree. Two elementary education courses and chemistry are what separates her and a degree. Upon graduating, Hepworth became a student teacher at P.S. 65 in the Fall of 2013. Working with children has always been one of her passions, but as most college students do; Hepworth changed her mind.

"I know I want to work with children but not necessarily as a classroom teacher," said Hepworth. "I'm going to get my sign language interpreter license because I took sign language at the college and fell in love with it."

Hepworth also plans to pursue a Master's Degree in Speech Pathology at either Brooklyn or Touro College.

Now healthy and heading into her final year of eligibility, Hepworth would only be able to play through the month of January. The Dolphins

"My position as a faculty member is that I own the curriculum." VP of Academic Affairs at CSI Fred Naider said. "What goes on in my classroom nobody can tell me what to do. Nobody in forty years has told me what to teach."

In April 2013, it was reported by the New York Post that, per the Board of 2011 Trustees' addition of title chancellor emeritus to CUNY's Executive Compensation Plan, Goldstein would be exiting his position with an extra bonus.

"We'll craft a special package for Matt," Board Chair Benno Schmidt told the Post. "I think he's been underpaid as chancellor."

Goldstein's salary was \$490,000 a year, with an additional \$90,000 housing allowance. He has other income as well: as a member of the Board of Trustees of the J.P. Morgan Funds, he was paid \$325,000 in 2011.

Schmidt acknowledged that students and faculty might be displeased with the bonus but noted that private funds may subsidize the salary.

got off to an incredible start going 6-1 in their first seven games. Then a 3-2 record in December was followed by a 9-game winning streaking. One of her favorite moments of the season thus far was when the team took a trip down to the nation's capital to play deaf university Gallaudet.

"It was one of the coolest experiences of my life," said Hepworth. "I was talking to one of the girls' moms in the stands. They were really good. It was a quiet game [laughs]."

On January 15, versus John Jay, Hepworth was poised to cross the 1,000-point threshold in her career at CSI. After missing multiple lay-ups, foul shots and jump shots, Hepworth finally eclipsed the mark.

"Right before the foul shot Timmy grabbed my head and said 'just do this please,'" recalled Hepworth.

Her entire family was in attendance: mom's parents; aunts and uncles; brothers and sister; cousins; dad's mom. As the calendar inched closer to the end of January, Hepworth's time as a Dolphin was almost over.

However, based on an NCAA rule stating that an athlete can play 60 days following graduation as long as they're in season, Hepworth can keep contributing. Hepworth is thrilled to be able to finish the season with fellow Seniors Melanie Johnson and Jaelyn Tocco.

"I'm gonna miss her in a lot of ways," said Head Coach, Tim Shanahan. "Not only on the court but off the court. Great kid, great family."

With a trio of Seniors moving on, the team will be forced to find contributions from other areas. Hepworth's work ethic has been on display for Freshman like Brianna Salomon waiting in the wings.

"She made me realize that there's no time during a game to stop and think about the last play," said the young Forward. "She's a vocal captain, who never gives up, and plays with a lot of heart."

As the rest of the season unfolds, Hepworth and the Dolphins only have one thing on their mind and that's to bring home a CUNY title.

If breaking down the 1,000-point barrier wasn't enough, she also insists on finishing her career with 1,000 rebounds. With a Bachelor's Degree in tow and potential career in speech pathology, the part-time waitress at Chili's doesn't plan on closing the book on her basketball career yet.

"I'd love to coach at Notre Dame someday," said Hepworth.

BANNER POLITICS

The Bad Boys of New York and New Jersey Politics A Look at Grimm's Fiery Fairytale and Christie's Bridge Blunder

BY JOHN L. FALCONE III

We've all had a good laugh recently over New York's Congressman Michael Grimm and New Jersey's Governor Chris Christie, and right-

fully so; lately they have been the butt of some pretty funny jokes. Although we have joined the rest of the nation in laughter, we—the people those guys represent—may not enjoy being

laughed at as we deal with the blow-back from their recent regrettable episodes.

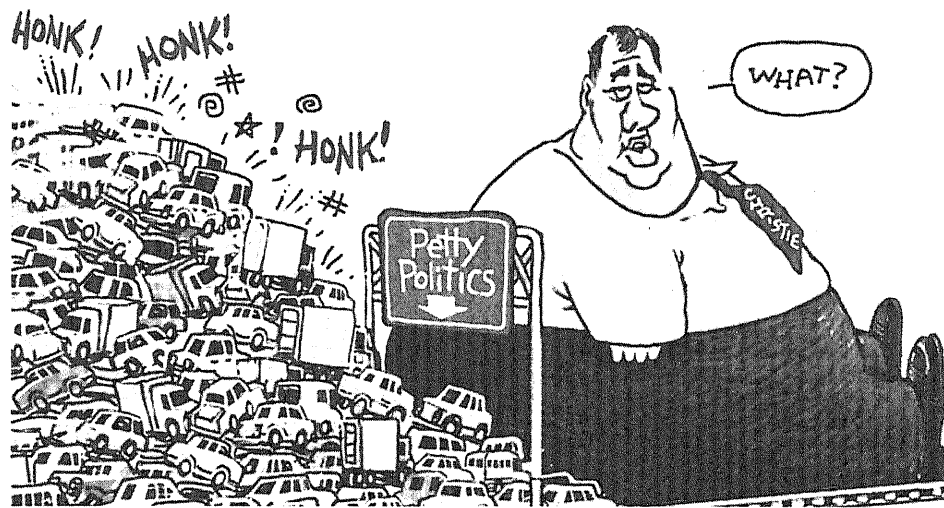
Before we look at the consequences of their headline grabbing

incidents, let's recap the issues in question and look at why Grimm and Christie have been portrayed as the bad boys of New York and New Jersey politics.

Chris Christie and the "Bridgegate" Incident:

Mark Sokolich, the mayor of Fort Lee, NJ, was allegedly targeted by Christie's deputy chief of staff Bridget Ann Kelly in an act of outright political retaliation for not backing Christie's recent bid for re-election. Kelly sent an email to David Wildstein, a top official in the Port Authority, claiming that it was "time for some traffic problems in Fort Lee," to which Wildstein replied "got it." Wildstein then ordered a phony traffic study, closing 2 of 3 access lanes to the George Washington Bridge for four days during the first week of the school year, causing crippling traffic delays throughout Fort Lee. Kelly, Wildstein, and other members of Christie's staff and the Port Authority are currently under both state and federal investigation regarding the incident. The biggest issue yet to be officially laid to rest is whether or not Christie had any knowledge of, or involvement in the scandal. He has adamantly denied involvement; however he did apologize for it saying "ultimately I am responsible."

STAR TREK: JEFFREY L. BROWN/GETTY IMAGES; SAK



Michael Grimm's Fit of Rage:

Since he was elected the first time to the House of Representatives back in 2010, Congressman Michael Grimm has been dogged by allegations of campaign financing fraud. To some extent these allegations have been proven to be true. The details of the situation are complicated, but the short of it is that Diana Durand, a friend of Grimm's was recently arrested by FBI on charges of donating more than the legal maximum to Grimm's campaign. She did this by cajoling others to donate in their names under the agreement that she would subsequently reimburse them. Grimm, however, has not yet been officially accused of wrongdoing. Unfortunately for him though, immediately after President Obama gave his State of the

Union Address last month, Grimm agreed to talk to NY1's Michael Scotto about the speech, but when Scotto pushed Grimm on the fund raising allegations instead, Grimm voiced his displeasure by threatening the reporter in a rather spectacular fit of rage on live television.

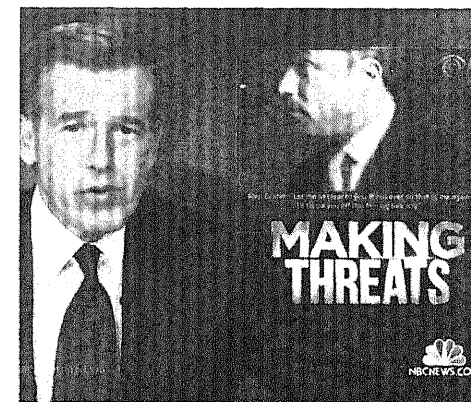
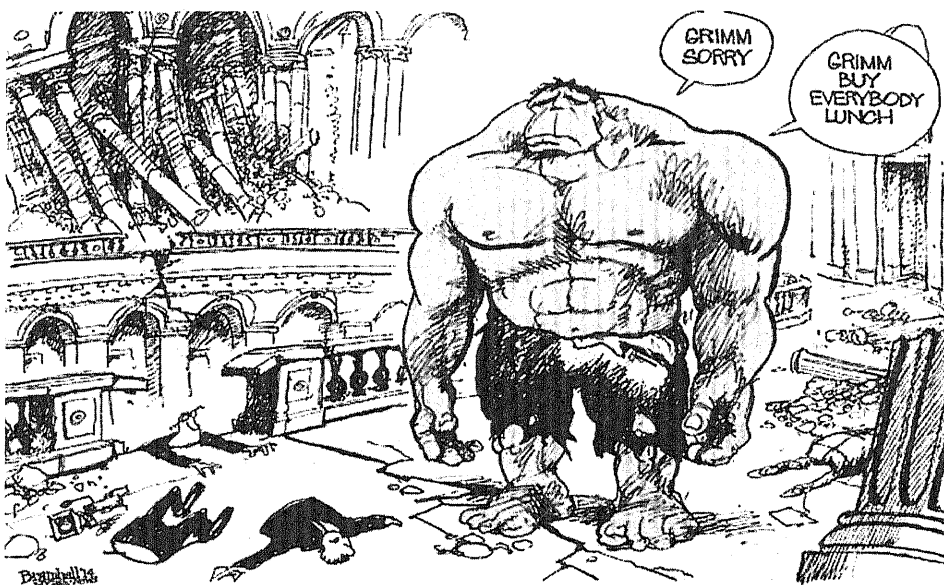
The exchange went something like this:

Grimm: "Let me be clear to you, you ever do that to me again, I'll throw you off this f***ing balcony."

Scotto: replied inaudibly.

Grimm: "No, no, you're not man enough, you're not man enough, I'll break you in half. Like a boy."

Grimm has since apologized and Scotto has decided not to press charges over the incident.



Brooklynites, you're soiled too.

If you're from Brooklyn and you think you're exempt, fuhgeddaboutit. Just in case you are not aware of it, Michael Grimm represents New York's 11th congressional district, which includes not only all of Staten Island but parts of southern Brooklyn such as Bay Ridge, Bensonhurst, Dyker Heights, and Gravesend.

So those of you who come to CSI and hail from those neighborhoods, join your fellow Staten Island Grimm constituents in a show of solidarity by threatening to throw someone you know off of a "f***ing balcony" this week.

Now that we have a grip on the situation, let's consider the consequences for us who are represented by Grimm and Christie at CSI

Staten Islander's reputations are soiled, yet again.

All Islanders know the stereotypes that have come to be associated with the boroughs residents over the past few years. Fostered by some of reality television's finest shows such as The Jersey Shore and Mob Wives, the nation at large now assumes we are all self-identifying, mafia affiliated Guidos who spend most of our days in a tanning salon prepping for our weekly jaunts to the Jersey Shore, where we spend our night fist pumping. Now, Staten Island's only representative to the federal government adds to our plight by delivering a mob-style threat to a local reporter on live television.

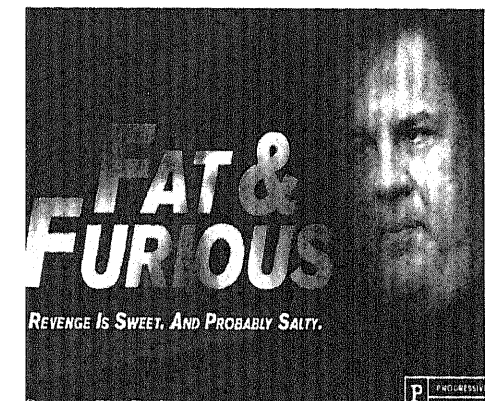
Will it ever end? Probably not; and as John Stewart from Comedy Central's The Daily Show will now explain to you, Grimm's fit of rage is apparently pretty typical Staten Island behavior: "To be fair, 'I will throw you off this f***ing balcony' is a relatively standard and traditional Staten Island goodbye. I've been there quite frequently. It is considered their 'ciao.'"

New Jerseyans, learn to enjoy your time in the national spotlight.

Yes, people from New Jersey are part of the CSI community. Next time you're walking through the campus parking lots scan for Jersey plates and you'll find some. Whether they belong to faculty, students, or staff, the Garden State is represented here at the College despite the fact that many outsiders view our campus as being just an extension of the Island's high schools. Like New Jersey, students at CSI often get overshadowed by New Yorkers. New Jersey itself often gets overshadowed by New York.

New Jerseyans can now thank Chris Christie for putting an end to that.

Christie's name has come to the national spotlight as an early Republican favorite for a run at the White House in 2016. And despite this whole George Washington Bridge closure fiasco, until Christie is actually pegged with wrongdoing he will likely remain in the discussion. Thus, New Jersey will be in the national media's crosshairs for the next few years. So, ask your fellow Staten Islanders and Brooklynites for tips on how to deal with being the butt of everyone's jokes (and don't forget to stop at a tanning salon on your way home each day). If you're feeling angry about the situation, feel free to throw someone off a bridge, the balcony-toss is exclusive to those living in Grimm's district.



Students from abroad, try not to be embarrassed.

The newest members of the CSI community can also suffer amidst the fallout from the actions of our local politicians.

After all, they do have to tell people they attend the College of Staten Island, you know, where politicians throw people from balconies and where their fellow students mostly hang out along the Jersey shore. They can assure their family and friends that yes, most of their Staten Island and Brooklyn classmates hang out in New Jersey, where the fat governor is from—the one who is always in the news for having a rogue staff that purposely causes traffic jams to levy political retribution to those who stand in his way.

BANNER STYLES

The Job Market Sucks, But Your Resume Shouldn't

Building the Perfect Resume and Cover Letter

BY VICTORIA CAROCCIA

College is supposed to be the most exciting and important period of a young person's life, but can also be the most stressful. Once we've chosen a major, passed our exams, and earned a degree, we're faced with a fleeting job market, poor economy, and our entire future ahead of us.

Good grades and ambition aren't the only guarantors of landing a job. Having a strong resume and cover letter are vital to your employment. Unfortunately, most college students don't know where to start.

When it comes to writing a resume, the most important thing to remember is to keep it short and simple. Your resume should not exceed the length of one page, regardless of how much job experience you have. Even the most seasoned professionals have resumes that are a maximum of two pages.

Staying within the one page limit might be tricky for those of us who have a number of jobs and internships under our belts. Listing only relevant work experience can help you save room. For instance, if you're applying for a position at an accounting firm, the employer won't be interested in hearing about your summers as a camp counselor.

Instead, talk about your first job as a cashier, or even a retail associate. If you don't have a job that related to your dream career, list the relevant courses you studied. You didn't shell out all of that

tuition money to not brag about your knowledge, right?

Aside from experience, good references are an important part of the hiring process. Because most employers will ask you for your references upon application or during your interview, it isn't absolutely necessary to place them on your resume. Nor is it necessary to place a disclaimer that references are available "upon request." If the interviewer asks for references, you better fork them over without asking any questions.

It is extremely important, however, to contact your references prior to putting them on your resume to make sure that a) they know who you are and b) they're okay with being contacted by potential employers. Family members and friends do not count as references. Professors, previous bosses, and internship coordinators usually make

the best and most accessible references.

Once you decide what to put on your resume, the next obstacle is figuring out how exactly to format it. Typically, people list their school first, their work experience, and then their skills set. For recent grads, however, placing your education towards the end of your resume not only switches things up, but also draws more attention to your work experience.

You want your resume to stand out from the others in the pile, in a good way. This means letting your work and school experience speak for itself without typing it in crazy colors or fonts. Make sure that your spacing isn't off, your facts are accurate, and there are absolutely NO spelling errors. Basically, read over your completed resume. Have a friend read it over. Wouldn't you rather have them find an error than a prospective

employer see it as he tosses it into a trash bin? Exactly.

If you know how to make a list, then you know how to write a resume. Cover letters, however, are a little trickier. Like any other new-hire document, you want your cover letter to pop. The letter should be personal, but not informal. It should illustrate your work history, but shouldn't mimic your resume. Most importantly, it shouldn't be too long.

So how exactly do you conquer this finicky beast? By using a specific formula. The beginning of the letter should be direct and to the point. Tell the reader who you are, what you want to do, and where you want to do it. The second paragraph should be used to summarize your work experience, while the third should discuss whatever accolades you've received that will prove to the employer that you're the only one for the job.

Although it may seem tedious, each job you apply for should have a separate cover letter that is tailored to each specific company. Employers will be able to pick out letters that have been copied and pasted and will be sure to ignore them. Just like your resume, look out for any spelling errors and have multiple pairs of eyes to read over them.

For any other resume and cover letter inquiries, you can go to CSI's Career and Scholarship Center website for writing samples and other helpful tips to land your dream job.

My resume is basically a list of things I hate to do.



BANNER STYLES

A Makeup Lovers Guide to Buying a Brush Kit

Getting a Little Too Old to Apply Eyeshadow with Your Fingers?

BY AMANDA V GRANBERG

Some might say a painter is as only as talented as his brush. Well the same can be said about a twenty something girl trying to get that perfect "I naturally have just glowing skin" look.

I've come a long way since my high school days of applying eyeshadow with my pointer fingers and what I know is that the perfect brush set is the best investment a makeup girl can own.

Let's start off with the holy grail of makeup brushes, Mac cosmetics. This company isn't known for its brushes but rather it's makeup, however, Mac brushes are essential to any brush set. The larger the brush, the higher the price and fluffy foundation and powder brushes can retail from \$25-\$60 but will last for years with proper care.

Since Mac doesn't sell kits or sets it's worth it to just buy the brushes you will use everyday and opt for less expensive eye or lip brushes. Mac brushes can be found in retail stores like Macy's or Nordstrom at specified Mac counters or on their website Maccosmetics.com.

If Mac sounds great but you really just want a one in all complete brush kit, Sigma is the best option. Unlike Mac, they sell makeup but instead are known for their brushes. A full kit of brushes can range from \$50-\$500

depending on the collection. A lot of collections go on sale as soon as another comes out so it's easy to get the same quality brushes just with a different color handle.

What makes these brushes superior to all others is the endurance. They can be used everyday and will keep their shape and have little to no fallout. The easiest way to purchase Sigma's brushes are on their website SigmaBeauty.com since they are not available

in most retailers.

Next up is a personal favorite and possibly the most affordable and popular brushes on the market today. Real Techniques is a company started in 2011 by Nicole and Samantha Chapman, sisters and makeup artists out of London England.

This company's goal was to make quality brushes but at an affordable price, as well as teaching their customers how to use their

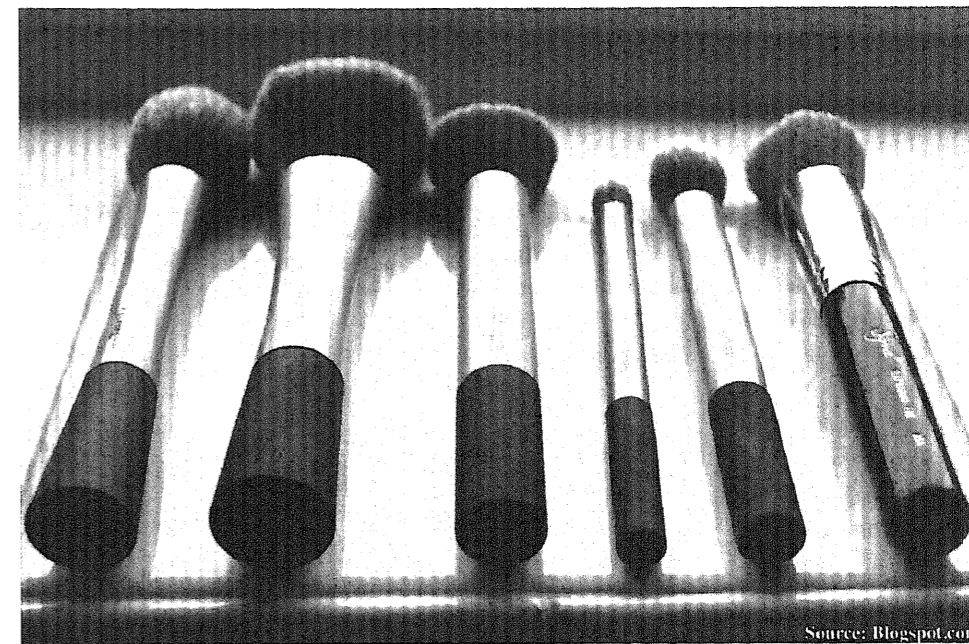
brush line and show all there is to know about them via youtube which is linked to on their website RealTechniques.com. These brushes can cost anywhere from \$6-\$20.

After I purchased the core collection for \$18 which included four foundation and powder brushes, I was sold. I also like to put it this way, if you were to shop online and add every brush available (17 brushes) on their website to your virtual shopping cart it would total less than \$200, and qualify for free shipping.

Now even though that might sound a little pricey, it will definitely be the best deal for brushes that will last. Another reason these brushes are my favorite is because they 100% cruelty free. They are made with synthetic taklon bristles and make application very easy.

Last but not least is Coastal Scents. Brush kits can range from travel sets at \$9.95 to full sets at \$69.95. These brushes are not only pretty to look at, their application is flawless and are by far the easiest brushes in my collection to clean.

Another great thing about them is they are constantly going on sale, any minor holiday they market for with matching eye shadow palettes and are usually cheaper for the holiday bundle than if you were to buy the kit itself. Coastal Scents brushes can easily be ordered with free shipping with purchases over \$50 on their website CoastalScents.com.

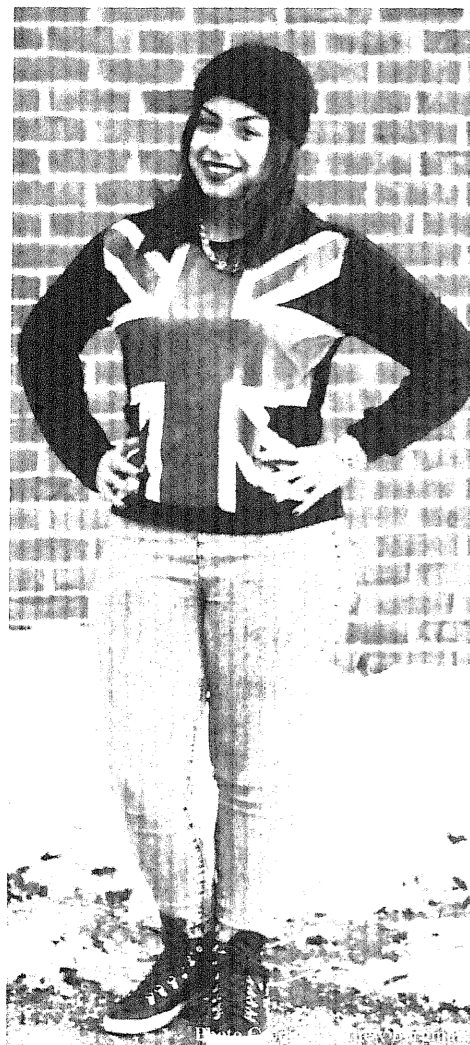


Real Techniques brushes are labeled by color depending on their job: face brushes are tan, blush brushes are pink, and eye brushes are blue

Campus Styles



Samantha Vidal (19) Sophomore
Favorite Television Show?
"Scandal"



Damaris Figueroa (19) Sophomore
Smallest Coin You'd Pick Up?
"A Quarter"



Cynthia Bourdon (19) Freshman
Best Age For Marriage?
"30"



Ibrahim Mubarcic (22) Senior
Overseas Home?
"Dubai"

Protect Your Hair From the Wrath of Winter Winds

Quick and Cheap Tips to Beat the Cold and Secure Those Strands

BY LUCIA ROSSI

Hair in the winter can be dull and dry, but it doesn't have to be a problem that lasts all season long. Its times like these when everyone must prepare themselves for the wintery conditions that lead to dryness, dullness, breakage, flakiness, and static-filled locks.

Since there is a lack of humidity in the air, your scalp can become very dry. If you're seeing dandruff, those pretty snowflakes that fall from your head, then maybe its time to buy a treatment shampoo that contains zinc or sulphur to clear up the follicles and buildup.

Some good choices are Head & Shoulders Dandruff Shampoo and Conditioner (\$5.79 at Walgreens) or Selsun Blue Medicated Shampoo (\$6.98 at Walmart). If you're not interested in spending money, an easy at home remedy is baby oil or olive oil.

Put the oil on your scalp and leave it on as a mask for at least twenty minutes, then shampoo and condition as usual. If you want the full effects of the treatment, try sleeping with it on overnight and wash it out in the morning. Don't forget to put a towel over your pillow or wear a shower cap! This method is also safe for color-treated hair.

During these cold months, your hair can pick up electrical charge from the dry air and causes annoying static. The answer to this is hydration. Serums and sprays are always great fighters against frizz. Some good suggestions

would be Tresemmé's Cashmere Touch Hydration Serum (\$4.98 at Walmart) or John Frieda's Frizz-Ease Secret Weapon Finishing Crème (\$5.39 at Target). If you're not fond of thick products, try a leave in spray like Soy Tri-Wheat Leave in Conditioner by Healthy Sexy Hair (\$14.69 Soap.com).

If you're pressed for time and need a quick fix, then look no further than your laundry room. Dryer sheets are great for getting rid of static, plus they smell like clean linen. Rub the dryer sheet along your hair and the frizz will be put down in its place.

Cold, dry air can be rough on the hair cuti-

cles, which can take away the shine in your mane. Damage control is crucial with the weather conditions, use of hot styling tools, and dye jobs. Here are some helpful tips to keep in mind while you go through your daily routine.

Try not to shampoo or wash your hair every day. It could lead to even more dryness if you are constantly removing buildup. If possible, try shampooing two to three times a week instead. This allows time for your hair to make its own natural oils. Use the opportunity to try out dry shampoo products like Batiste Dry Shampoo (\$7.75 at Soap.com) that can

make your hair look clean and gives you volume when your winter hat is weighing your hair down.

Secondly, before using hot styling tools always give your hair a good defense and use heat protectant spray. Effective products include Tresemmé's Heat Tamer Leave-in Spray (\$3.98 at Walmart) and Organix's Brazilian Keratin Therapy Flat Iron Spray (\$5.99 at Ulta.com).

If possible, try to avoid hot styling tools all together as much as you can. This I know can be very difficult.

Hair care is internal as well, it is always helpful to take a vitamin supplement everyday to promote the health of your hair. Biotin supplements are essential and are perfect for your hair, skin and nails (\$4.79 at VitaminShoppe.com).

If these suggestions don't work for you, try getting a humidifier in your house to balance out the dryness in the heated air as well, or try doing a weekly hair mask.

A simple at-home hair mask recipe is simply mix and mash the insides of two avocados and add olive oil, then apply to your hair for thirty minutes, then shampoo and condition as usual.

Winter weather can be harsh on all hair types. Taking all this time on fixing your hair may be tedious, but beauty is work and feeling beautiful is always worth it in the end.



Source: SassyDove.com

Broadway Just Got a Whole Lot Gay

My Big Gay Italian Wedding Is a Big Gaudy Crowd Pleaser

BY VICTORIA CAROCCIA

In recent years the bright lights of Broadway have dulled down. With revivals, movies turned musicals, and numerous shut downs, the theater district ain't what it used to be. However, if you venture a few blocks away from the hustle and bustle of Times Square you'll stumble upon a quaint little venue that houses one of Broadway's hidden gems. My Big Gay Italian Wedding.

The show tells the story of Anthony and Andrew, a newly engaged gay couple living in New York City. Anthony comes from a crazy Italian-American family and Andrew is Polish and barely has any family of his own. Upon hearing the news of their engagement, Anthony's family is elated, but has some strict guidelines they want fulfilled. The boys must have a traditional Catholic ceremony followed by a lavish wedding reception at the family's favorite catering hall.

Anthony and Andrew run into some issues when planning their picture-perfect family style wedding: the priest won't perform the ceremony, Andrew's estranged mother refuses to give her son away, and Andrew's ex-boyfriend is trying to sabotage their marriage.

Luckily, Anthony and Andrew devise a plan to stage the wedding that Anthony's mother always dreamed up for her son. Through some elaborate story-telling, negotiations, and dressing in drag, the couple manages to pull off the wedding of the century with a few bumps in the road.

My Big Gay Italian Wedding, which just

recently celebrated its ten year anniversary, stars a cast of colorful actors of all ages, including the play's writer, Anthony Wilkinson. Hosted in the basement theater of St. Luke's Church, the show's minimal scenery allows for its crazy characters, splashy dance scenes, and a killer storyline to really shine.

While the show is especially relatable for gay and Italian New Yorkers, you don't have to fit that mold to enjoy it. Each scene is full of campy humor and pop culture references, including the couple's David Tutera-wannabe wedding planner, Maurizio, and Anthony's Snooki-look-alike sister, Maria. There's even a cat fight between two lesbian ex-girlfriends that lasts the duration of the play.

Aside from being a good time, My Big Gay Italian Wedding also alludes to the common problems that gay couples continue to face, despite being granted the right to marry in several states.

Since the play opened its doors in 2003, it has donated money to the Trevor Project, an organization that prevents suicides among gay and questioning teens.

The show does an excellent job of straddling the line between hilarious and ridiculous. But in all honesty, it's called My Big Gay Italian Wedding. If you're looking for taste or subtlety, this is definitely not the place to find it. Whether you're going for a good laugh or to support a good cause, My Big Gay Italian Wedding is the perfect choice for people of all walks of life.



Ticket prices range from \$40-\$80, and is shown seven days a week in NYC



Tomb Raider: Definitive Edition is Definitely Infinite

A Survivor is Never Board in Lara Croft's Latest Adventure

BY STEPHEN KLEIN

After years of underwhelming installments, Tomb Raider makes its way to PS4 and Xbox One with one of the most cinematic and exhilarating games I've ever played.

In fact, I was never really a fan of the series in general. When the 2013 Tomb Raider was released on PS3 and Xbox 360 last year, I

was hesitant despite glowing acclaim. I would later purchase it while it was 50% off at one point. Upon playing it, I would come to realize that this is a game worth spending the whole \$60 for.

Now, it's worth noting that the Definitive Edition for the new consoles is indeed priced at \$60. Since it includes all of the original

downloadable content and updated graphics, it might be worth it to newcomers. For those who played it last year, like me, it might be a harder sell unless you're curious to see the difference.

One thing that is instantly noticeable is that the graphics are heavily improved and look phenomenal. Fire in particular looks generally great. Playing it on a PS4, the game now makes use of the PlayStation 4 Camera and DualShock 4's light bar, speaker, and touch pad in some gimmicky, though kind of cool and interesting ways. They don't, however, revolutionize the gameplay in any real way.

Not that the gameplay needed to be revolutionized in any way since it's still a very exciting ride similar to Uncharted. In fact, I would argue that it feels like a real next-generation experience despite being originally a last-generation product thanks to its cinematic movie-like quality. Some little things, however, such as Lara falling between rocks and walls like a ghost sort of broke not only the cinematic quality for me, but the next-generation quality.

One of my other points of concern is that it might be cutscene-heavy and quick time event-heavy for some players. Despite some

unlikeable protagonists, it's an interesting story and all, but it might turn some players off to watch so many cutscenes. Also worth noting is the tacked-on and unnecessary multiplayer. It's simply not worth playing so pretend that it's not even there.

In terms of minor criticisms, as previously mentioned, the PS4 Camera is compatible with Tomb Raider: Definitive Edition for Kinect-like voice commands. While kind of cool and interesting, the novelty factor can wear off as the commands don't always work properly, and it's easier and more practical to just play without it.

Also, is it possible for a game to have too much variety? At times, it may feel like Tomb Raider lacks some structure or direction, and while this sounds like a major criticism, it's not at the level of variety that ensured I was never bored.

Each copy of the Definitive Edition includes a digital comic book and a digital art book in the game's menu. Some copies even include a physical art book. Let's just be clear that while Tomb Raider is no Uncharted, it does come pretty close. Tomb Raider: Definitive Edition is awarded with a score of 9 out of 10.



This new edition shows Lara Croft as clear as every with stunning graphics

Marvel Comics Expands With New Superhero

Here Comes Ms. Marvel!

BY JONATHAN CABAN

Four explorers bombarded by cosmic rays becoming the Fantastic Four, a scientist who turns into a big green monster known as the Hulk, and a high school genius bitten by a radioactive spider becoming your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man. These are just some of the unique characters that have been introduced to the world by Marvel Comics. The comic book giant has introduced characters like these since its formation in 1939 under the name Timely Comics. Well, Marvel has done it again with their newest character Kamala Khan also known as Ms. Marvel.

Khan marks the first time that a Muslim character headlines their own comic book. The series is written by G. Willow Wilson and drawn by Adrian Alphona. The series deals with Kamala's new status as a superhero and also her struggle with her faith.

Wilson talks about the series saying, "This is not evangelism. It was really important for me to portray Kamala as someone who is struggling with her faith. Her brother is extremely conservative, her mom is paranoid that she's going to touch a boy and get pregnant, and her father wants her to concentrate on her studies and become a doctor."

Marvel editor Sana Amanat also comments, "As much as Islam is a part of Kamala's identity, this book isn't preaching about religion or the Islamic faith in particular. It's about what happens when you struggle with the labels imposed

on you, and how that forms your sense of self. It's a struggle we've all faced in one form or another, and isn't just particular to Kamala because she's Muslim. Her religion is just one aspect of the many ways she defines herself."

Kamala Khan is a Pakistani teenager living in Jersey City with her conservative parents and older brother. She excels in school and in her spare time she writes Avengers fan fiction. Kamala is essentially a fangirl of the Avengers and follows their adventures especially her idol, Captain Marvel.

Captain Marvel aka Carol Danvers was the original Ms. Marvel introduced in 1977. When we first meet Kamala, she's in her neighborhood deli along with her friend hovering over a BLT calling the bacon "delicious, delicious infidel meat" with the cashier threatening to charge her for smells. From that point on, Kamala comes off

as a very funny and likeable character. The scenes with Kamala and her family are well written and while amusing also show the struggle she has with her family's conservative values. When she asks her father if she can go to a high school party, her father forbids her to go because there are boys there. Obviously, she sneaks off to the party anyway. On her way back home, Kamala is enveloped by a strange mist which ends up granting her superpowers.

This scene was one of the best things about this comic. Kamala has a hallucination that her idol Captain Marvel along with Captain America and Iron Man come to speak to her. I won't go into detail about the conversation but Kamala admits that she wants to be a superhero and "wear the classic politically incorrect costume and kick butt in giant wedge heels."

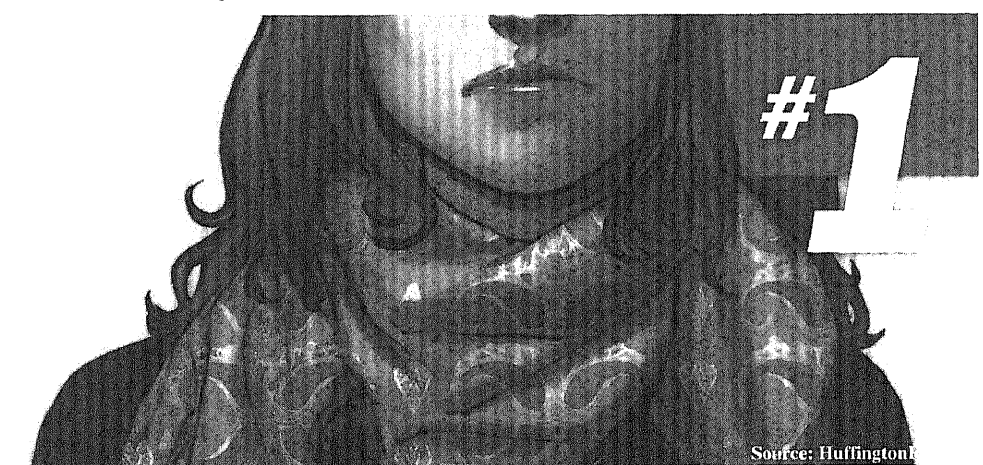
I loved that line because it poked fun at the

fact that female superheroes do tend to wear ridiculously inappropriate costumes. I won't reveal what her superpower is but let's just say it's a really good one.

Ms. Marvel #1 has received rave reviews making Kamala Khan an international sensation. After hearing all this praise, I picked up the comic with high hopes and I'm glad to write I wasn't disappointed. To be honest, I was starting to lose faith in Marvel recently. Several series that I read they cancelled while others I dropped due to ridiculous long-winded storylines that began to bore me. So when Marvel announced they were releasing this series, I was intrigued.

As part of its All-New Marvel Now line, Ms. Marvel is just one of the many series with female leads to be released this year. Others include Black Widow (Government super-spy), She-Hulk (Hulk's equally strong cousin), Elektra (deadly assassin), and the previously mentioned Captain Marvel. Marvel has always had strong female characters over the years but now they've decided to showcase just how powerful they are by putting them front and center. I think it's a great idea. Marvel has many female readers and little girls should know they can be just as strong as the boys. I think Kamala Khan's Ms. Marvel is going to be a great role model.

After reading this book, I can honestly say that I can't find any fault with it. I'm looking forward to seeing Kamala in costume beating up her first villain and having team ups with the other Marvel A-listers. Can't wait for issue #2!



A teaser for this comic shows a partial face of the newest superhero Kamala Khan

Enrique Iglesias Drops New Album Next Month

Are You Ready for Some Sex + Love

BY JONATHAN CABAN

After the launch of his previous album Euphoria, Enrique Iglesias returned to the studio and started working on some more new material for his next project. Well fans, the wait is over because on March 18 he will be debuting his tenth studio album titled Sex + Love. This also marks his second bilingual album since it will include both English and Spanish tracks. While the entire record is unavailable for preview, Iglesias has released some new songs that have already given his fans a taste of what's to come.

The first official single is called "Turn the Night Up" which was released over the summer. The song is another hit for Iglesias that will make you want to stop what you're doing and head to the club. The title of the song comes from a phrase he always says to his long-time girlfriend Anna Kournikova. Iglesias talked about the song in an interview with Ryan Seacrest saying it was, "One of those powerful, fun energetic songs and when we wrote it, I was just focusing at making sure I could pull off the vocals in the studio, I was like, this is it, this could be one of those fun songs."

The next single is the album's first Spanish song "Loco" or Crazy. The track features singer Romeo Santos. It was released in August and debuted at number eight on the Billboard Hot

Latin Tracks with over 3,000 downloads in just three days. The song features a classic Bachata sound that's a refreshing change from the electropop hits we're used to hearing from Iglesias recently.

The third single is titled "Heart Attack". This song returns to the usual electropop sound with some dub-step thrown in. The song is about a person who is left by their lover and is hit by a "heart attack" after realizing this. "I don't know why we do that. I think both girls and guys, we do that to ourselves. But it's happened to all of us and it's a story we can all relate to ... and you think you've learned your lesson and it can happen over and over and over again. The way I look at music and write songs, it's like when you go to the movies, and some

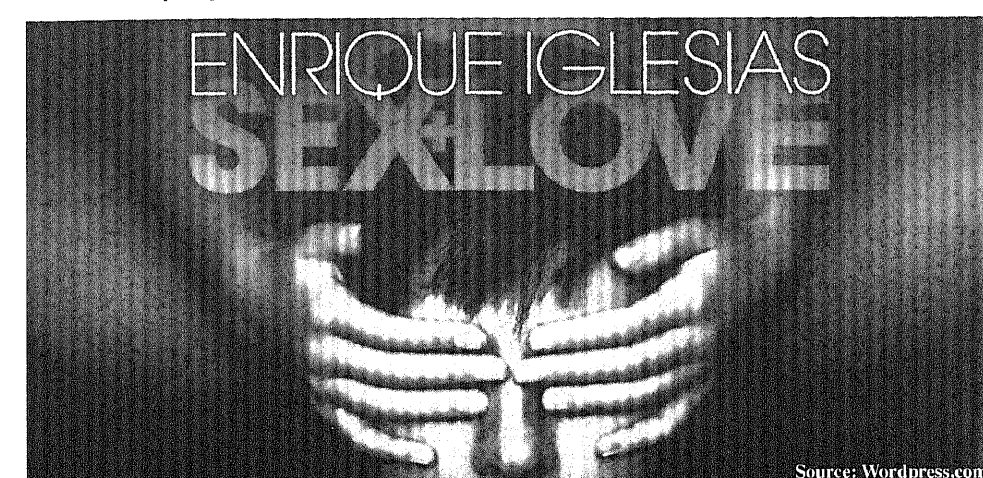
songs are more real and some songs are more fantasy," said Iglesias in an interview with Ryan Seacrest. The song received favorable reviews from critics who felt that it was better than "Turn the Night Up". I disagree with these critics. I felt the song was repetitive in terms of the lyrics and that it was like listening to the chorus over and over again. I'm not a big fan of this song and feel Iglesias could've done better.

The fourth single and second Spanish song is "El Perdedor" or The Loser. This song teams Iglesias with Mexican singer Marco Antonio Solis. Iglesias cites Solis as one of his biggest idols and he waited years to ask Solis to lend vocals to one of his songs. The song was also chosen as the theme song for the Mexican telenovela Lo Que La Vida Me Robo or What

Life Took From Me. The song has a ballad feel to it and gives Iglesias the opportunity to showcase his voice which is sometimes dulled down during his other recent dance songs.

Finally the fifth single is "I'm a Freak" which is his latest collaboration with rapper Pitbull. The song has also received favorable reviews. When I think of Enrique and Pitbull, I think of their first collaboration "I Like It" and this song might come close to the greatness of that track but it doesn't surpass it.

Listening to these tracks gives the sense that Sex + Love will be another album that'll get you to dance and party all night. Most of Iglesias' ballads are restricted to the Spanish tracks while the English ones are pure club scene. However, it's almost like he transformed from the romantic latin lover to the latin bad boy and now he's the sleazy overconfident drunk guy trying to pick you up. Personally, I blame Pitbull for Iglesias' transformation. You can tell that "Mr. Worldwide" has had a huge influence on Iglesias' musical direction. It also makes you realize that the days of "Hero" and "Bailamos" are long gone. I loved Euphoria and I might think that Sex + Love is the greatest thing ever when the album drops next month but so far I'm not so sure. I loved the Spanish tracks and "Turn the Night Up" but wasn't too crazy about the rest.



BANNER OPINIONS

Last Semester's Silent TAP Confusion

Delays in TAP Result in a Distressed Student

BY JEAN CLAUDE QUINTYNE

The New York State Tuition Assistance Program is a grant that helps thousands of students pay for college every year. Because TAP is a grant, it does not have to be paid back.

TAP not only helps students pay for their tuition, but it helps them purchase textbooks and other materials for classes, pay for transportation to get to school, and other scholastic necessities.

At CSI, the grant is usually distributed in the second or third month of the semester to students who applied, either by mail or direct deposit.

In the fall semester of 2013, it was scheduled to be distributed on October 11. It did not arrive until the Friday before Christmas.

When the week of October 11 ended, I, worried that something might have been wrong with my application or that my address had been changed, called the Bursar's office and was told by the staff member who answered that the individual in charge of distributing TAP was "four weeks behind." With that information, I gathered that the grant would be distrib-

uted by the second week of December, roughly the beginning of finals week.

Not only was this news discomfoting, it was also debilitating.

Of the five textbooks I needed to purchase last semester, I was only able to gather enough money to get two of them; this money came out of pocket, and caused me to miss a couple of classes, due to lack of funds for transportation.

The rest of the money I had went towards the hundred dollar deposit I needed for CSI's film department—in order to have access to equipment I needed for class.

It's a priority for students to stay on top of their schoolwork, a hair-pulling stress in and of itself. But imagine how that stress was intensified last semester for students who were waiting on the TAP to purchase their textbooks. And imagine how difficult it was to study for a midterm on just the notes from class without these textbooks for reference, homework.

During the month of November, students throughout campus complained about the difficulties they faced and questioned where the TAP was, curious as to when they would receive it.

Virtually every day during that month, I logged into the HSEC website to check my TAP status to see if the grant was certified—"certified" means that the institution distributing the grant is ready to send it out—and every time, saw that it was still "estimated."

The end of November arrived and TAP had still not been distributed. I held a rather minute hope that it would be distributed before the estimated time.

I called the Bursar's office again in an attempt to get an update and was told again that the person in charge was still behind.

A couple of days later I called the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation to find out what was causing the delay and if there was anything that could be done about it.

After being on hold for ten minutes, I was told by an irritated woman that the institution has ninety days after the semester is over to distribute TAP. Discouraged again, I continued the semester on the warped notion that I would get it at some point.

The grant finally arrived. However, it did so one week after finals had wrapped up, and I

received it in the mail, which was an issue because I submitted a direct deposit application in September that was processed and immediately active.

Whatever the reason was for the individual in charge of TAP to be four weeks behind, I am not here to criticize. Rather, I am curious as to why the rest of the Financial Aid department pretty much sat and watched as students patiently awaited their grant.

I don't even recall a message being sent to TAP recipients, either in the form of a letter or electronic message, to notify them to the fact that there was a delay. Why did I need to call the department a handful of times to figure out what was going on?

College students pay to attend classes, whether it is their parent's money or their own. And if there is an issue with a certain aspect of processing that money, which can cause a student to be behind in a class or be deregistered from a class, then there should be a swift and organized process to solve said issue.

I hope that the powers that be don't make the same mistakes from last semester. This has gone on for too long.

SEX AND THE ISLAND

Some Might Like It Hot But I'd Prefer Mild

Employee's Aren't the Only Ones Who Should Wash Their Hands

BY VICTORIA CAROCCIA

Everyone needs a little spice in their life. Whether it's your food, your relationships, or even your lifestyle, there's nothing wrong with spicing things up. However, there are certain places where spices should never end up.

About a year ago I was out with some old friends for dinner at Buffalo Wild Wings, Staten Island's most popular eatery for 15 minutes. At the time, the restaurant had about a two hour wait no matter what time you went, but my group insisted on staying by the bar and patiently waiting for their processed boneless wings. I decided not to be a Debbie Downer, especially since I wasn't the designated driver and there was something other than wings and beer to keep me occupied.

My friends surprised me with a cute yet familiar face who we'll call Blaze. He was a friend of a friend who I'd talk to from time to time but never acted upon because I was always involved with someone else. He was fun to look at, but it was a while since we last spoke and I wanted to make sure I knew what I was getting myself into.

Unfortunately, Buffalo Wild Wings doesn't have the best acoustics for small talk: the music is blasting, there are a hundred giant screen televisions blaring throughout the room, and the bar area is filled with beer rowdy sports fans.

We did our best to scream over the commo-

tion and get to know each other, but all I could remotely hear was that he was 23 years old and single. Lucky for him, that's all I needed to hear.

Once we were finally seated, it was much easier to hear what he was saying and I was pleased to discover that he could carry a conversation. We read through the menu and he expressed interest in ordering a plate of wings with the hottest sauce on the menu: Blazin'.

I applauded him for his bravery but chose not to partake in the mouth watering endeavor. I stuck with my sweet and spicy chipotle and ordered another round of giant beers for the table. A few drinks in, everyone gradually began to get a bit rowdy. Because he had to drive, Blaze watched the rest of us drink ourselves silly and laughed as I pathetically threw myself at him.

The food finally came, and Blaze was elbow deep in his basket of Blazin' hot wings. At that point, our buzzes were winding down and everyone quickly finished up their meals. After fighting with the waitress to separate our bills and not mess up our credit cards, we all began to file out to our respective vehicles.

Blaze offered to give me a ride home and I happily accepted, not caring where he lived or about the giggles coming from my judgemental friends. Since it was early, I agreed to go back to his house and hang out for a little while.

The drive home was very laid back and we continued to discuss school, work, and life. When we finally got back to his place, he threw on some music and we did what we've been meaning to do all night: violently make out.

Things were moving at a moderate pace, but I made a promise to myself that I would not

knowing how else to diagnose our shared burning sensation.

"No! It's the hot sauce! From the wings!" He sat up and we both looked at each other and burst into fits of laughter.

He ran to the bathroom to wash his hands, not realizing that the sauce would last well after

...something didn't feel right. I began to feel this horrible burning sensation in my nether regions.

Naturally, I started panicking. Does he have an STD? Do I have an STD?? Was God finally punishing me for having sex out of wedlock??

sleep with him just yet. He, on the other hand, had better plans.

His hands began moving down into the place that I swore I wouldn't let him go to, and before I knew it, we were well into foreplay. However, something didn't feel right. I began to feel this horrible burning sensation in my nether regions. Naturally, I started panicking. Does he have an STD? Do I have an STD?? Was God finally punishing me for having sex out of wedlock??

After a few thrusts, I could tell Blaze was feeling the heat as well.

"Oh my god..." he said as his face fell.

"Did you give me herpes?!" I shrieked, not

the first wash. Once he came back he offered me his shower and I happily accepted. As I rinsed myself off, I thanked the high heavens that I wasn't infected and swore that I would never have a one night stand ever again. I don't think my nerves could take it. Needless to say, the magic was lost and he drove me back to my house as soon as I was fully dressed.

We both played it cool and laughed off the unfortunate encounter. As I left the car I thanked him for the ride and told him to only order hot wings when he wasn't planning on getting laid. I never saw Blaze again, but I sometimes think of him when faced with a basket of Blazin' Hot Wings.

State of the Union Analysis and Commentary

A Polite Take on President Obama's Rhetoric

BY MICHAEL ROACH

After sitting through President Obama's 2014 State of the Union address and the subsequent Republican Response to the State of the Union, whose rebuttal to the President's address sounded like it was written by Dr. Seuss, something was noticeably prevalent in the speech and the Senate chamber.

There seemed to be an air of American "can-do" optimism, complete with applause for all the sons and daughters of downtrodden, hard-working lower-to-middle class parents who happened to be in the room, as well as the horn-tooting and "hurrahs" for the minorities, women, the underprivileged, and for America in general.

One thing was painfully apparent in the Republican response and to a somewhat lesser extent in the President's State of the Union address: the lack of pragmatism. Looking at the speech from an ideological standpoint, there was a moment for everyone, and you can trust the President to make sure that every minority of a minority had their moment to shine: from the mother who needs unemployment insurance, to the teenager who needs the minimum wage raise, to the Latino man who needs immigration reform in order to bring his family to America. This is a political capital bombshell that puts the President on the popular sides of many arguments that the Republicans will most probably end up losing. Obama does a good job connecting with each individual.

When it came to addressing the country as a whole, I found him using rhetoric similar to that of a hardcore Tea Partier to describe America's position on the global stage, with phrases such as "No other country in the world does what we do. On every issue, the world turns to us." America doesn't need more flattery than it deserves.

How are we the leaders of the free world? Our economy is not the strongest, nor is our educational system ranked the highest, and our military strength, although theoretically the greatest military in the world, has delivered such wonderful results over the past fifty years such as Grenada, Vietnam, the War in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Involvement in Libya, the funding and supply of the Mujahedeen - soon to be reformed into our favorite terrorist organization, Al-Qaeda, Cambodia, the Iran-Contra Affair, the support of dictators such as Hosni Mubarak, Shah of Iran Pahlavi, and Cuban dictator Batista, etc. Not to mention the enormous drain an enlarged, Cold War sized military has had on the economy over the years.

Sorry to burst bubbles but America isn't the only place with the following characteristics: 'freedom,' 'liberty,' entrepreneurship and any other democracy related trait. While these were unique things to America up to the first half of the 20th century, many places in the world are simply out running the 'big-boned' United States, who still thinks it's running a global marathon against a bloated Soviet Union.

Although I consider myself a relatively optimistic person, the American people need a bucket of cold, pragmatism-enriched water thrown on them, not a comforting blanket of assurances and half commitments.

For example, Obama's dedication to education reform consisted of Universal Pre-K and a 'pledge' to decrease inequality when it comes to college costs and that sounded something

like, "...the White House just organized a College Opportunity Summit, where already 150 universities, businesses, nonprofits have made concrete commitments to reduce inequality in access to higher education and to help every hardworking kid go to college and succeed when they get to campus."

This sounds more like a drop in the bucket, a polite dodge of the issue, rather than an earnest effort to put America ahead of other nations. According to the Program for International Student Assessment and Daniel Arkin, writing for NBC News, America - in a survey "representing 80 percent of the global economy" - ranked 26th in Math, 21st in Science and 17th in Reading.

Isn't the rest of President Obama's or really any other President's agenda meaningless if our future generations are not up to the task of carrying on the administration and maintenance of this country? I may just be an idealist, but politics in my opinion has stopped Obama from raising fundamental challenges to the problems facing this country.

Like the education debate, Obama mounted a stirring offensive on women's inequality in the workplace and the marketplace, shouting "Women deserve equal pay for equal work." In reality, this is an issue which will not see Presidential help to expedite the arduous and slow process of reaching full pay equality. As we saw from the time of President Obama's last State of the Union till now, Obama has had a lot on his plate, most of which are Republican distractions to already settled arguments, i.e. healthcare or irrelevant distractions i.e. the government shutdown.

Regardless, Obama has his own agenda.

One other thing which was curious was the President's overall contempt of Congress. It seems that after the shutdown or "slimdown" as Fox News put it so eloquently, the President had decided to circumvent Congress altogether in whichever policies he is likely to pursue.

In other words, the President has promised to bypass, cut, and avoid legislation and the legislative system altogether. While this worries some who are afraid of the encroachment of executive power on the other branches, and excites others who yearn to see something come out of government, I find Obama's sentiments to be not likely to occur at all. Considering Obama's previous track record with bypassing Congress, which is almost non-existent as President Obama has issued the least executive orders since the Grover Cleveland administration; with exception of President George H.W. Bush, I seriously doubt his divergence from Congressional back alleys will bear fruit.

In short, I found President Obama's speech was a stirring call to arms for equality and American superiority. But in tally, Obama did not touch a fundamental cord on any topic. He didn't get into fundamental thoughts on education reform, he regurgitated the same scripted generic environmental phrase uttered by every president since Nixon, "American Energy", although Nixon actually did something about the environment, and he tackled or rather lightly tapped, the fundamental issue of our time: the rising amount of economic inequality, by throwing an easily marketable minimum wage law to the people yelling, "Give America a Raise!" President Obama says, "Believe it!"

Well, Mr. President, I'm trying.

Eight Enter and One Runs Out

The Misadventure Continues

BY JONATHAN CABAN

Way back in issue #5, I wrote a story called Two's Company but Three's a Crowd. I talked about how I was contacted by a gorgeous guy named Dan on a dating app who said he and his boyfriend were looking for a third for a threesome.

After a bit of hesitation, I said yes. However, it didn't happen due to some slight deception on Dan's part. Want to know the whole story? Search around on campus for that issue or perhaps tweet at James Franco and hope he'll send you a copy (he's a huge fan of The Banner).

It was a message from a guy named Adam on Grindr. "You're cute!" was what it said. I had come to the decision to boycott Grindr earlier that morning and was going to delete it but because I'm a professional procrastinator it still remained on my phone.

This is the story about attempt number two at a threesome.

It was about a week after the Dan/Robbie disaster and I was still bummed about it. I was so close to knocking off "Have a Threesome" from my bucket list and things just had to get screwed up. I was on my laptop browsing Amazon indulging my online shopping addiction when my phone buzzed.

It was a message from a guy named Adam on Grindr. "You're cute!" was what it said. I had come to the decision to boycott Grindr earlier that morning and was going to delete it but because I'm a professional procrastinator it still remained on my phone.

"Thanks you too" I responded.

I didn't really look at Adam's picture carefully because I was still honoring my decision to delete this app but I didn't want to be rude. "Thanks :)" he answered.

Before I could explain to Adam to not bother, he sent me a picture of another guy.

"This is my boyfriend Ray. We were won-

and attempting to set up a convenient time for us to get together.

It was always one reason or another that was preventing us from meeting. Finally, a date was set and Adam texted me their address.

"See you then can't wait!" He said.

Once again I was patiently waiting with anticipation for the glorious day when item #12 on my bucket list would get crossed off. Now, I know there are stories of people who meet grisly ends after they meet people on these apps.

I printed both Adam and Ray's pictures out, identifying them and writing down the address and what time I was meeting them just in case I ended up on the 11 o'clock news. See? I know what I'm doing.

On the drive there, I was nervous and excited at the same time to the point where I was actually shaking. "Am I really doing this?" I thought.

I got to the house within twenty minutes but sat in my car for another ten. Finally, I made my way to the front door and knocked. The door opened and a man I never met opened it.

"I'm sorry I must have the wrong address." I said embarrassed.

"You here for Adam and Ray's party?" the man asked.

"Uh yeah," I answered like a moron.

The man stepped inside without saying another word and I entered. I saw Adam and Ray along with four other guys standing around. They were all in various states of undress, many of them wearing leather. I noticed that there was a swing hanging by the back of the room. Both came up to greet me.

"You're just in time!" Ray said, "You're the last now we can get down to business."

I couldn't speak. I was still taking in my surroundings. It was like entering the Brady Bunch house and ending up in the red room from Fifty Shades of Grey.

My romantic private party for three had transformed into something out of True Blood. All the confidence that I was building up in myself on the drive over quickly drained out of me. Only I could accidentally walk into an orgy. The guys all started "getting down to business" while I stood extremely still hoping if I stayed that way they'd forget I was there just like I learned when I watched Jurassic Park.

I slowly made my way to the door while they were all preoccupied and after closing it behind me I ran at top speed back to my car and drove off. I may seem like a coward but panic had set in.

I was mentally prepared for two other people, not seven. I deleted Grindr as soon I got home. Item #12 is still a fantasy but some fantasies just aren't worth it.

SPORTS

Men's Swimming Wins CUNY Champs *Dolphins Cruise Through the Tournament With Gold*

BY MICHAEL PAPANDREA

After nearly ten years since their last CUNY championship, the Men's swim team is back on top with their dominating performance in the CUNYAC tournament. The team took first in nineteen of twenty events to collect the fifth CUNY Championship in the programs history.

Third year coach, Mike Ackalitis, collected his first title in a year that saw the team get banned by the NCAA from certain playoff tournaments due to illegal actions taken by the former head coach.

"Winning for the first time felt great," said Ackalitis. "After the ruling and the long season, this team showed great camaraderie and perseverance. We got re-focused on a goal and that goal was to win CUNY's, they truly worked hard day in and day out and winning the championship was just proof of that."

With the CUNYAC Tournament being a three day event, the Dolphins knew they had to continue to keep up the high level of play from the regular season early on to put pressure on the opposing schools. After the first day, the team was on top by 52 points over defending champions Lehman College, as the Dolphins won gold in all six events.

On day two, CSI continued to pile up the points with seven of eight first place finishes, including the 800 yard freestyle relay. The team of Timur Rakhimov, Tim Sweeney, Derek Villa, and Danila Novikov finished 19 seconds faster than the competition.

Not surprisingly, the Dolphins would go on to take first in every event on day three, as Rakhimov earned three gold medals. Overall, CSI finished the tournament with a final score of 971, followed by Lehman (891.5), Baruch (711), Brooklyn (549), and York (293.5).

With the amount of success the team displayed in the regular season and the playoffs, the CUNYAC awarded them with nine postseason awards. Coach Ackalitis won the Coach of the Year award



Source: cunyathletics.com



Source: cunyathletics.com



Source: cunyathletics.com

Inside the Dolphin Tank

Meet Danny Ursomanno
of Men's Tennis

BY JESSICA PIFALO



Source: cunyathletics.com

Danny Ursomanno of the Men's Tennis team has one thing in mind. To bring home a CUNY Championship in 2014. Ursomanno has been proving himself as a leader on the court. With things rolling into 2014 pre-season, Ursomanno has high expectations for squad.

The Banner: How's the team looking for 2014, any new standouts?

Danny Ursomanno: We had a little bit of a cleanse this year from last, we lost about sixty percent of our starting lineup. We have had two new freshman come in who will be good additions at the bottom of the lineup. They have hit the ground running, It'll be a lot of work this coming season but we are motivated as ever and the loss of players opens up loads of opportunities for some younger players to step in and truly make a name for themselves.

TB: After a heartbreaking loss last year in finals, what's been pushing you guys in the preseason and do you think the team has been living up to this expectations?

DU: I have set the tone this year from day one, I made everyone relive the experience we had last year. We have built a winning culture over the past years and this year instilled a belief no matter what the numbers say or what people say about our chances we are going to let all of that motivate us. We know what it takes to compete and have made the improvements necessary. I instituted 6AM captain practices and harder conditioning then ever before.

TB: What are some personal goals for yourself this season?

DU: The main goal since day one has been and will always be to bring home a CUNY championship. The team is my number one priority. However I am going to be challenged in ways this season like never before both on and off the court as an individual. Playing 1st/2nd singles will bring players with skills unlike any I have faced before. As the leader of this team I am going in confident and expecting to win and have that feeling and belief that anyone is beatable trickle down through the line.

and Sweeney earned Rookie of the Year honors.

"It's a great honor to win Rookie of the Year from the CUNYAC," Sweeney told CSIDolphins.com. "It really shows how hard I have worked throughout the season, I couldn't have done it without my teammates giving me the support I need day in and day out, helping me push to train harder."

The awards don't stop there, as senior Yuri Zimarev won the CUNYAC Championship Meet MVP. Zimarev placed first in six events during the tournament. Teammates, Novikov and Rakhimov earned all-star honors for a combined 15 events. Freshmen Stephen O'Driscoll and Derek Villa also earned all-stars for a total of four events. John Pignatelli was also an all-star with his performance on the diving board.

This type of success is not something CSI has been known for in recent years. The team has an overall 5-10 combined record for the past two years. Prior to that the team did have some regular season success, but would ultimately fall short to Baruch in the CUNYAC tournament. The results from this season can partially be attributed to the recruitment of talented freshmen and the addition of two assistant coaches to help take some of the pressure off Ackalitis.

Despite the CUNY tournament ending, the season isn't over. The team will head to Rutgers University on February 14-16 to take place in the Metropolitan Swimming Championships, where they have had little success in the past. This team is trying to change that as they go on to face higher ranked schools in the Metro area. No matter the outcome, Coach Ackalitis and company will still go down as the CUNYAC champions of 2014. With the amount of talented freshmen on the team, the success may reach far beyond that in years to come.

"The greatest part about winning is that it shows what this team is capable of and this could just be the start of something special."