

THE BANNER



Photo by Eric Westpheling

Candidate for City Council, John Tabacco, on the set from where he broadcasts his daily webcast.

PING PONG POLITICS

City Council Candidate, John Tabacco has bounced in and out of the race multiple times.

BY WILLIAM KLINE
EDITOR IN CHIEF

City Council candidate John Tabacco says he'll continue with his campaign for the vacant North Shore seat for this Tuesday's special election.

Despite surviving protests over his signatures, as well as his party symbol, his name has been dropped from and restored to the ballot multiple times. Whether or not his name appears on the ballot this Tuesday, Tabacco banks on running as a write-in candidate, for which he is eligible.

"I think whether I get on the ballot or not," Tabacco said. "I'll still get votes. I'm sure of that. If I have to resort to being a write-in candidate, I will."

Until days before the election, Tabacco's spot remained in limbo as he awaited the opportunity to present his case before the state Supreme Court. He challenged the decision by a 10-person panel of the Staten Island Board of Elections that the signatures he needed in order to receive ballot placement. In order to get on the ballot, a candidate needed 1,367 signatures.

The haggling stemmed from protests by opponent Ken Mitchell, who challenged the validity of many of Tabacco's signatures. Mitchell served as chief of staff for the position's most recent holder, Michael McMahon, whose departure vacated the seat. McMahon resigned after winning the congressional seat in the 13th district in November.

At a candidates' forum, Tabacco confronted his opponent, as seen on the YouTube video entitled "John Lambastes Mitchell." "The people see will understand what you're doing," he told the former chief of staff. In an explanation, Tabacco elaborated:

"The people recognize the bona-fide attempt on behalf of my opponent and his machine," he said. "He wants to limit the number of people on the ballot."

Continued on page 4

The Reluctant Leader

Nicholas Gianfortune the President of the Gay Straight Alliance.

BY CHUN CHAN
CONTRIBUTOR

First impressions are said to be lasting. That is not so with Nicholas Gianfortune. At first looks, the twenty year old business major appears to be a quiet and somewhat awkward youth who from time to time disrupts a class with redundant questions. Up-close you see a very different person: funny, outgoing, clean-cut, well-spoken and well-dressed. Nicholas Gianfortune has been the president of the local Gay Straight Alliance on the CSI campus for a year.

"The position however was accepted with a certain reluctance," Gianfortune dispensed, as it is a thankless job chock-full of responsibilities, decisions to be made and undoubtedly stress filled. Gianfortune shrugs the pressure off by staying positive and keeping focused. Open with his sexuality and refusing to be a victim of prejudice and bigotry on Staten Island by being light-hearted. "You know what we call bisexuals?" he asked jokingly "Gay on layaway."



Nicholas Gianfortune.

Gianfortune frowned: "It was really hard for me to make friends as a kid," and smilingly said "I'm trying to make up for lost time." Gianfortune surrounds himself with close friends as often as he can and explained that's why he joined the GSA. "I just wanted a place where I can belong." He hopes that's what the GSA will do for its members.

Everybody was warmly greeted at the GSA meeting held every Wednesday from 2:30pm to 3:30pm in building

Continued on page 5

NSSE is Coming!

Survey will Gauge Students' Opinions of their College.

Beginning on February 23rd, freshmen and seniors at the College of Staten Island will receive email invitations on their CIX accounts to participate in the 2009 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). The survey, which is implemented by the Center for Post-Secondary Research at the University of Indiana-Bloomington, explores many facets of the student college experience including time spent on and off-campus, contact with faculty, assignment demands, academic advisement, and co-curricular activities. Other senior colleges in the CUNY Federation are participating in the 2009 survey, along with hundreds of institutions across the country. Results from the NSSE will provide the CSI community with the opportunity to learn about our own campus environment, compare aggregate experiences across CUNY campuses, and benchmark with respect to national results. Please check your CIX email beginning on February 23rd for a message from NSSE. Your opinions about your college experience are very important to the College of Staten Island and will be used to improve the institution.

--Susan Holak, Assistant Provost

Inside The Banner...

A.D.P=T.B.T.F

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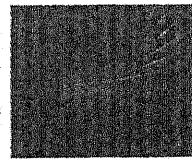
Comic-Con

Photo Spread



Trans-Leet

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Un-FARE Hikes

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The New York Times American Democracy Project

The Start Of A Partisan Presidency

Obama Don't Play That.

BY MAX TSIRING
ADP EDITOR

The first few weeks of this presidency haven't been easy for Obama as he tried to push this stimulus bill through while living up to the image he's sold to his country. Obama often spoke of his intentions of clearing the way for a new era of bipartisan politics but fumbled his first opportunity at doing so by allowing the democratic leadership to write the bill, a positively partisan move in light of his bipartisan promises. I'm curious to know why he didn't produce the stimulus from his own team. What were his economic advisers doing in the months before Obama was sworn in?

Other notable Obama missteps mostly have to do with the cabinet debacle, which revealed the true shortage of competent people who want to work for the government. He promised to keep lobbyists out of his administration, but let slide William Lynn the Deputy to the Defense Secretary, a lobbyist for one of the nation's biggest defense contractors

and "health czar" Tom Daschle who has worked for a law firm with a strong lobbyist arm since losing his senate seat.

While tax cheats may be kicked and lobbyists "excused" the real problem Obama can't admit to or shake after all his staffing mistakes is Geithner who overcame fierce opposition within the administration to carry out his plan, seemingly flushing trillions down the toilet to keep our dead banks afloat, making nationalization seem like an obviously better alternative. With nearly every economic pundit across every form of media saying that the situation is going to get worse before it gets better, the GOP had nothing to lose by opposing the stimulus, and at least something to gain. It's easy to oppose the bill when they can take comfort in the fact that in a few months the situation will probably get worse and they'll have the chance to say "I told you so". If the stimulus is a success, it is one that will be credited to the democrats, regardless of whether the GOP opposed it or not. Only by

opposing the package can the GOP wrestle any leverage out of the situation. So next time a stimulus bill needs to be drawn up (which I'm guessing isn't too far in the future), the GOP can use it's bargaining power and say "that's why we opposed the last one, let us handle this one". It would also explain why they've been working to peel away some of the bill's important measures such as social services and education. If we are to believe Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA), one of three Republicans who voted for the stimulus, that "more of his colleagues would have joined were they not afraid of the political consequences", then we can rest assured that if anyone was invigorated by the possibilities of Obama's election, it wasn't the Republicans. Their priority is still to cover their asses, and hold ranks against the the opposing party. Here's hoping Obama ditches romantic notions of bipartisanship and starts pushing through progressive legislation. It's important to keep promises and appear-



Photo by sneakerboxxx.com

ances, so I'm not opposed to the obligatory outreach, but that's where it should end. Obama let bipartisanship get in the way of salesmanship. He got into office by pitching, and he should have stayed on his grind when selling the stimulus instead of wasting time "keeping things civil" in Washington.

Can The Stimulus Bill Boost The Economy?

BY DHANISH BABU JOHN
STAFF WRITER

The cry for change began a few months back. The situation has worsened since then. Now, under the leadership of President Barack Obama, America is fighting hard to improve the current state of economic affairs. Almost all senators and economic power heads have been working over the stimulus bill. And what is it all about? Let us have a look.

In a major victory for President Obama, Democrats forwarded a \$787 billion stimulus bill to the brink of final passage in hopes of combating the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s. The vote in the House was 246-183 for the package of tax cuts and federal spending that Obama made the centerpiece of his plan for economic recovery. Obama promptly signed the bill.

Though there are many who criticize the plan, as a whole, it gives a ray of hope. The legislation, among the costliest ever considered in Congress, provides billions of dollars to aid victims of the recession through unemployment benefits, food stamps, medical care, job retraining and more. Tens of billions are



Photo by glzmodo.com

ticketed for the states to offset cuts they might otherwise have to make in aid to schools and local governments, and there is more than \$48 billion for transportation projects like road and bridge construction, mass transit and high-speed rail. Democrats said the bill's tax cuts would help 95 percent of all Americans, much of the relief coming in the form of a break of \$400 for individu-

als and \$800 for couples.

Funds were also included for two of Obama's plans, the expansion of computerized information technology in the health care industry and billions to create so-called "green jobs" the administration says will begin reducing the country's dependence on foreign oil.

Since taking office on Jan. 20, the president has signed legislation extend-

ing government-financed health care to millions of lower-income children who lack it, a bill that President George W. Bush twice vetoed. He also placed his signature on a measure making it easier for workers to sue their employers for alleged job discrimination, effectively overturning a ruling by the Supreme Court's conservative majority.

Meanwhile, Obama said this stimulus bill is only the beginning of his team's efforts to rescue the United States from the deep economic crisis. Passing this plan is a critical step, but as important as it is, it is only the beginning of what I think is going to be a long and difficult process of turning our economy around. Obama said. "To truly address this crisis, we will also need to address the crisis in our financial sector to get credit flowing again to families and businesses. "We need to confront the crisis in the housing sector, that has been one of the sources of our economic challenges, I will discuss that extensively soon."

All being said and done, the bill does look promising. One has to look out how the corporate offices deal with the passing of the bill and how well they utilize it. Wishing the President and his team good luck in their sincere efforts

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Everyday is Halloween

Dear Editor,

I browsed "The Banner" and came across the picture of Obama with Jack's face with it. I have no issue concerning the article. In fact, I agree with it. The picture, on the other hand, was terrible edited. The cutting and photoshop skills rival those of a five year old. I hope that in the future you can either hire a new photo editor or teach Nicholas Rizzi to utilize photoshop correctly.

Huntin Rex Wu Jr.

Dear Editor,

This article was so interesting to read. Even though it is pointing out faults of President Obama, it is refreshing to finally see this in print.

Since the beginning of the 2008 campaign, it seemed the majority of the people surrounding me have only praised Obama. I really love the comparison of him to Jack Skellington; it was very unexpected but perfectly fit.

Whether or not one is a die-hard Obama supporter, who could disagree with the excellent words in this article? It was comical and informative.

Alyssa LaRocca
Sophomore

Dear Editor,

Obama has been telling America how bad things are not to keep us in fear but to inform us. The economy will not keep getting worse if something isn't done and even though the stimulus package is not the best plan it is the only one we have. The point of the plan is to save or create jobs and I agree that freedom is about choices but we won't have choices without a strong economy, which means as many people having jobs as possible.

Lisa Curcio
Sophomore

GSA Elects New Officer at First Meeting of '09

Dear Editor,

I don't believe the reporting of homophobic remarks by faculty and students will help anybody's cause. Also, I want to know what these "appropriate actions" are. There seems to be a mixed message in this article, starting with the appropriate action and not outing anybody. This could cause an unwanted backlash in the CSI community.

Chun Pang Chan

Wonder Mom is Best Student in Her Class

Dear Editor,

Reading this article inspired me to work my hardest. It goes to show that if you put your mind to something, you can succeed. I live at home with my parents and only work a few hours a week and still find it hard to manage my load of school work. The story of Lizbeth Saccente made me realize how difficult some peoples' live are and yet they still manage to never give up. Thanks for publishing this article and giving credit to those who deserve it.

Lauren Trapasso
Senior

Dear Editor,

Words cannot express just how much I appreciated reading this article about Lizbeth Saccente. Saccente is a working single mother of five children who has gone back to college. She has my utmost respect.

I just came back to school at 28 years old. I have no children but work two jobs. I found this story both relatable and inspiring.

I know when I think of Lizbeth, it will inspire me to work hard.

Ashley Duncan
Junior

Full Foreclosed House

Dear Editor,

I was disappointed to read Julianne Fishman's article concerning the recession. Although I am a firm believer that optimism is key, I think her argument that "it's like Black Friday everyday" is appropriate. The staff writer should have focused on both aspects and should have actually informed their readers on what is going on. Not just about the sales.

Christina Dennedy
Senior

Sex and the Island

Dear Editor,

I can't stand reading about this stupid gibberish I receive whenever I try to take a tour in the minds of women in the "Sex and the Island" column. All it reads to me is stories about a group of stuck up Sarah Jessica Parker, Prada wearing wanna-be's.

Jason Dyzenhaus
Sophomore

Fashion for a Cause

Dear Editor,

I absolutely adore Ms. Ade-Brown's column. It's very much equivalent to a piece found in teen magazines and fashion editorials. She is very absorbed in beauty fashion.

Her stories always attract my attention. She always couples current events and newsworthy informations with fashion. Ms. Ade-Brown is a strong writer. She motivates my outlook on "The Banner" and persuades me to become an author.

Rober Blanke
Junior

Dear Editor,

I agree with Lathleen. Buying things that are for a cause makes me feel better. Whenever I am out shopping and I see a pink item, I usually buy it. Even if I don't need the item. Like one time, I bought a pink can opener. For what? I don't know, but it was for breast cancer and it made me feel better.

Nicole Rizzi
Senior

Milk Makes Movie Magic

Dear Editor,

In the photo, Sean Penn looks like Tony Romo. Interesting story. The last name Milk is cool. I also never heard of this film until now. I probably won't watch it though. Nice alliteration in the headline.

Richard Fok
Senior

Vin Forte is [not] Funny

Dear Editor,

I cannot understand how "The Banner" still has Vin Forte writing their humor section. For the 25th time, just like the title says, Vin Forte is NOT FUNNY. This week it seems that Mr. Forte is ranting about late-night infomercials. Well guess what? There are things you can do about it, like buy DVR or watch Comedy Central stand up comedy. The best thing you can do is just change the channel. Plus, may I remind you that some people have nothing better.

Ian Feldman
Sophomore

Dear Editor, (Magic Oxi-Orange Flavor Wow!)

Amazing piece. That is pretty much all I can say. I am a victim of Billy Mays and his Oxy Clean weapon of destruction.

STAFF

EDITOR IN CHIEF: WILLIAM KLINE
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The Legend of Panarella

BY JASON WISE
CONTRIBUTOR

Robert Panarella destroyed countless foes. Without any intimidation, he dismantled armies of skate-wielding fiends, rescued hundreds of princesses, and murdered numerous dragons and their kin.

Panarella's unstoppable force finally met an immovable object — on-line gaming. "People on-line tear me to pieces," he said, "but I still love to play, of course." Panarella engaged many opponents in his 600-game collection including his younger brother, Andrew. However, his innate capability to convert fantasy to truth sent a lesson through the universe of how life can be ruled with a simulated fist.

Panarella's passion for gaming constantly crossed over into real life.

His love of rock music and Guitar Hero inspired him to be a self-taught musician. His ability to be fast and furious on the virtual track led him to purchase a Ford Mustang GT on his own; he held and conquered the challenge of working hard and saving up. "She's the love of my life," he said. "She's only a V6, but I dress her up nice." Panarella ice-skated since the age of 10. He concluded that it's more natural to skate than walk. He lived



Photo by Jason Wise

"People on-line tear me to pieces," said Robert Panarella, the collector of over 600 video games, "but I still love to play, of course."

the struggle on the ice — fighting for the puck. Opponents dared to face him. He transformed from playing 'NHL Hitz' and became a decorated hockey defenseman. He received several trophies and awards. He continued to put fear in the hearts of men, every Sunday, in a Men's Hockey League.

A recent battle involved whether or not to endure a demanding journalism class. Panarella didn't find a virtual

parallel to engage that challenge. He decided that he's much more suited for animation, the struggle of images in his mind, a war with many encounters that he believed he could win.

Experienced from many contests, Panarella rose to new heights, thickening his virtual and actual skin beyond his imagination. He recalled a stick to the face from an errant hockey opponent. "It cracked my tooth," he said, "so I got some battle scars, too."

Advertisement



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The Banner is looking for writers, editors, photographers, designers and cartoonists for this, and future semesters.

Newspaper and writing experience are not necessary.

If you are interested in writing about sports, hard news, the arts, movies, politics, music, sex, comedy, or just about anything else, join the Banner team!

Submit your articles to 1C- 228, or email them to: The.BANNER.CSI@gmail.com.

If you're interested in learning more about our publication, or just want some free pizza (mushroom and onion), feel free to attend one of our meetings on Thursdays during club hours in 1C-228.

web site, Tabacco has lived on Staten Island for 41 years. Tabacco graduated from St. John's University. In his prioritizing his commitment to education, he placed it second only to public safety. He lamented the closing of firehouses as a result of the city's looming deficit. Once public safety initiatives are in place, he said, educating citizens it the next most important thing.

"I would be one of the chief advocates of the Peter Vallone scholarship," he said.

While the city has "periodically diminished the funding" of the scholarship, according to Tabacco, he calls the increased demand "a testament to the education system."

Tabacco says that his disappointment with the current state of politics served as a catalyst for his decision to run this campaign. He believes that voters have been disenfranchised as a result of the many protests against him.

"Any effort to limit voter choice tells you a lot about the candidate," said Tabacco. "Maybe the cynicism goes so deep that people have called in favors from all levels of government to make sure that a new idea and a new face doesn't penetrate the ranks too far. Because they don't want regular, independent type people representing them."

DTV 101

How to keep your signal and keep your money at the same time.

BY ANDREW DILORENZO
GEEK ON THE STREET

By now, you must have been hearing a lot of conversations about this whole "Analog to Digital Conversion" which was supposed to happen on the 17th of February, but is now moved to June 12th. The big reason why: No one is ready for it. There are a lot of contradicting stories going on about how to get the coupon, where to get it and such. Since there were no other volunteers to tell you about it (actually, Bill Kline held me at water gunpoint and told me if I don't do it, I'm being relegated to CSI WTF?!), I figure I'll answer your questions.

Q: What is the digital television transition?

A: On February 17, some full-power broadcast television stations in the United States may stop broadcasting on analog airwaves and begin broadcasting only in digital. The remaining stations may stop broadcasting analog sometime between March 14 and June 12. June 12 is the final deadline for terminating analog broadcasts under legislation passed by Congress and signed by President Obama. Digital broadcasting provides a clearer picture and more channels and will free up airwaves for use by emergency responders.

Q: Will my TV work after the transition (more importantly, could I still watch "Scrubs" after the transition?)

A: Analog television sets receiving free TV using an antenna will not work after the stations in the local area transition to digital broadcasting, which will occur no later than June 12. Television viewers with these sets that are not connected to a pay TV service need to take action now. Most consumers who purchase a converter box today can connect it to their existing television and begin enjoying the benefits of digital television immediately. And, fortunately,

you can still watch "Scrubs," but it will be canceled afterwards cause Zach Braff is directing a sequel to *Garden State*, entitled *Cheese State*.

Q: How can I still operate an analog television without having to spend a lot of money on cable or even have to go out and buy one from my local RadioShack?

A: Yes, Virginia, there is a solution. It's called a TV Converter Box. A TV converter box plugs into your analog TV and, along with your antenna, will keep your analog set working after your local stations transition to digital broadcasting. A TV converter box is a one-time purchase and usually costs between \$40 and \$70. A TV connected to cable, satellite or other pay TV service does not require a TV converter box.

Q: How do I go about getting these so called "Converter boxes" and if so, is the government providing me any funds so I can spend on hookers and booze?

A: Glad you asked, me. You can go to your local RadioShack, Best Buy, and even Kmart. They should have a lot of them stocked. And yes, the government is providing 40-dollar coupons that will either lower the price of a box to 20 dollars or even zero dollars. And no, you cannot use the coupons to pay for booze and hookers in the United States. However, in Tijuana, you sure can.

Q: Last, but not least, how do I get these coupons?

A: Simple. You can log onto <http://www.dtv2009.gov> or call their toll free number at 1-888-DTV-2009.

Andrew DiLorenzo is a tech expert for RadioShack and a DJ for WSIA, 88.9, Staten Island.

Got a question for the Geek on the Street? Email him now at The.BANNER.CSI@gmail.com. Your question could become the Geek's next topic.

COMING UP AT THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Celtic Crossroads: Music at the Crossroads Tour

Friday, February 27, 2009 - 8:00pm
The Williamson Theatre
\$30, 35, 40

One of the most exhilarating and authentic shows of music and dance to come from Ireland in decades, Celtic Crossroads is a high-energy fusion of Irish step dancing and traditional Irish, bluegrass, gypsy, and jazz music.

"Elevating Irish music to an exciting and electrifying dimension"
The Galway Independent

"Lesley Gore is back. And this time it really is her party. The former teen idol's voice is better than ever, and especially poignant..." - Philadelphia Inquirer

The Center for the Arts usually offers CSI student with ID advance sale tickets at half price. Check with the box office, 718 982-2670. When available, "student rush" tickets are available 30 minutes before the scheduled start of a program for \$5.00 -with ID.

Reluctant Leader (from front)



Photo by Chun Chan

2N/108. The atmosphere was one of a closely knit group of friends rather than a school club.

Katie Cumiskey, advisor of the GSA opened the floor up for discussion about the upcoming Pride Parade this June held on Staten Island around the Bay Street area. There was talk about having a float and asking for student volunteers to participate at Pride at which point Gianfortune announced "I'll be personally participating," trying to booster the members of the class's participation level at the upcoming event.

That night's activities included a dance held on Hunter College. Gianfortune and Jeremiah Jurkiewicz, the V.P. of the GSA, dressed to impress, handled traveling arrangements via campus shuttle bus to the ferry. The duo formed separate groups for the shuttle arrangements

for students who had later classes so nobody had to travel alone.

Before the club meeting was called due to time restrictions (students were already piled up outside waiting for their next class), Gianfortune disclosed information about a rally being held the next day for gay marriages and encouraged members to attend.

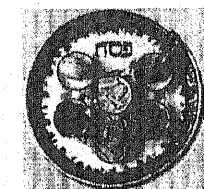
"I'm an activist at heart," he said. "Even if I don't physically attend a rally, I encourage others to," said Gianfortune who has attended rallies for a year now.

"I should have been born in the 60's cause there was a lot of activism and change going on back then." From anti-war protests to rallies for Gay Marriage, Gianfortune encourages the members of the GSA to attend them all "Make a stand, even when nobody else will."

Building Bridges Coalition of Staten Island
Invites You to Attend Our
6th Annual Interfaith Passover Seder

The Parish of St. Teresa
Olivet Presbyterian Church
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Christ Episcopal Church
Trinity Lutheran Church
Temple Emanu-El

Congregation B'nai Beshurun
Albanian Islamic Cultural Cent
Noor-Al-Islam Society
Staten Island Hindu Temple
Staten Island Buddhist Vihara
Saint Philips Baptist Church
The Unitarian Church of Staten Island



Thursday March 26th 2009 at 7:00 pm
St. Teresa's Cowan Hall
Victory Boulevard - Corner of Slosson Avenue

Please join us and share in the fellowship and tradition
Please contact one of the above Houses of Worship to make reservations
For Information call St. Teresa's Parish at 718/442-5412,

Reservations and payment required by March 10th 2009 as seating is limited
Cuisine by Kaplan's Kosher Catering-Make checks payable to
Building Bridges Coalition of Staten Island Corp.
\$28.00 Adults/\$15.00 Children (12 and under)

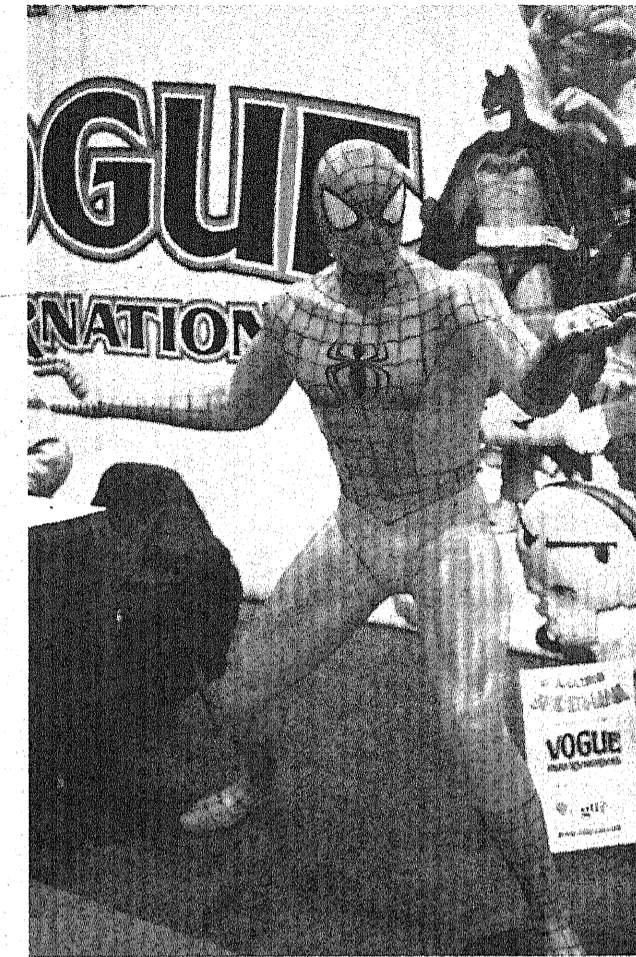
New York Comic Con 2009

BY BRIAN GONZALEZ
MANAGING EDITOR

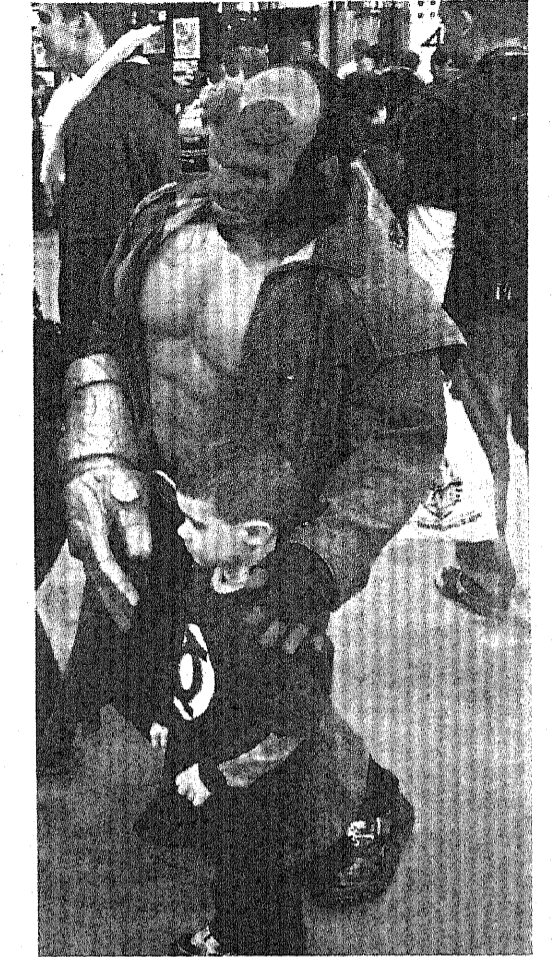
Another year at NY comic con has passed and this year was a little different from previous years. In a rapidly slowing economy many companies were on hand to show people what they should spending their stimulus packages on. This would explain a the strong showing from the gaming industry. Everything from computer games, to trading card games, and video games were receiving alot of attention from con goers. This of course didn't take away the fact that this is a comic convention.



He-Man at the entrance



New York's own webslinging hero Spider-man.



Hellboy spending time with the kids

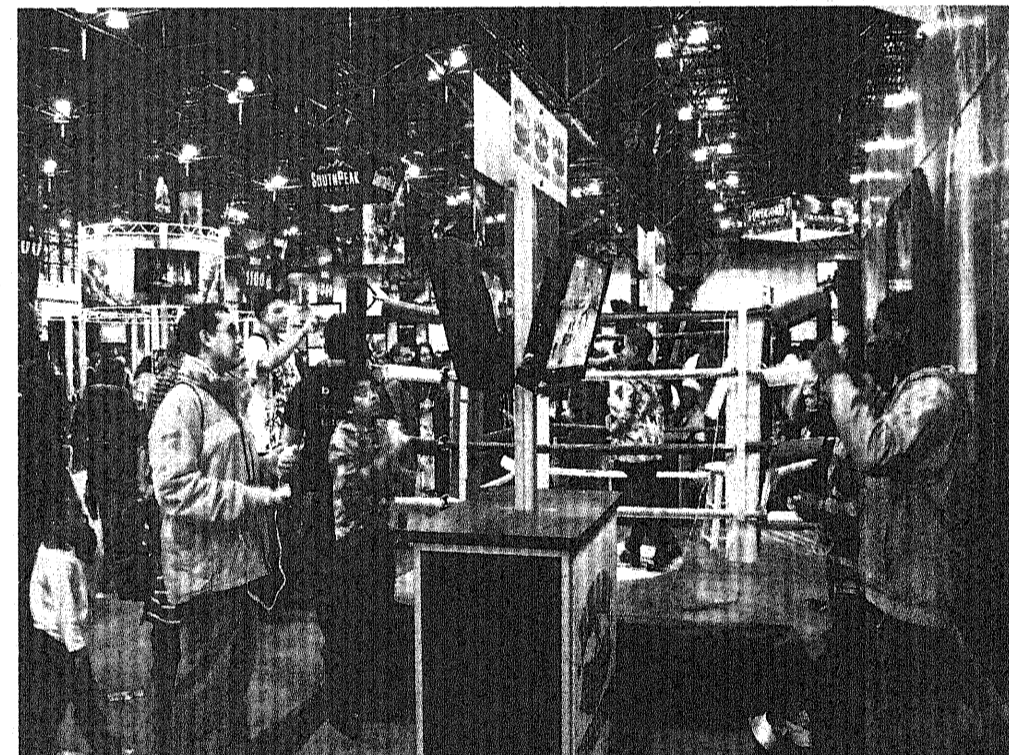


Mario greets visitors at the main entrance

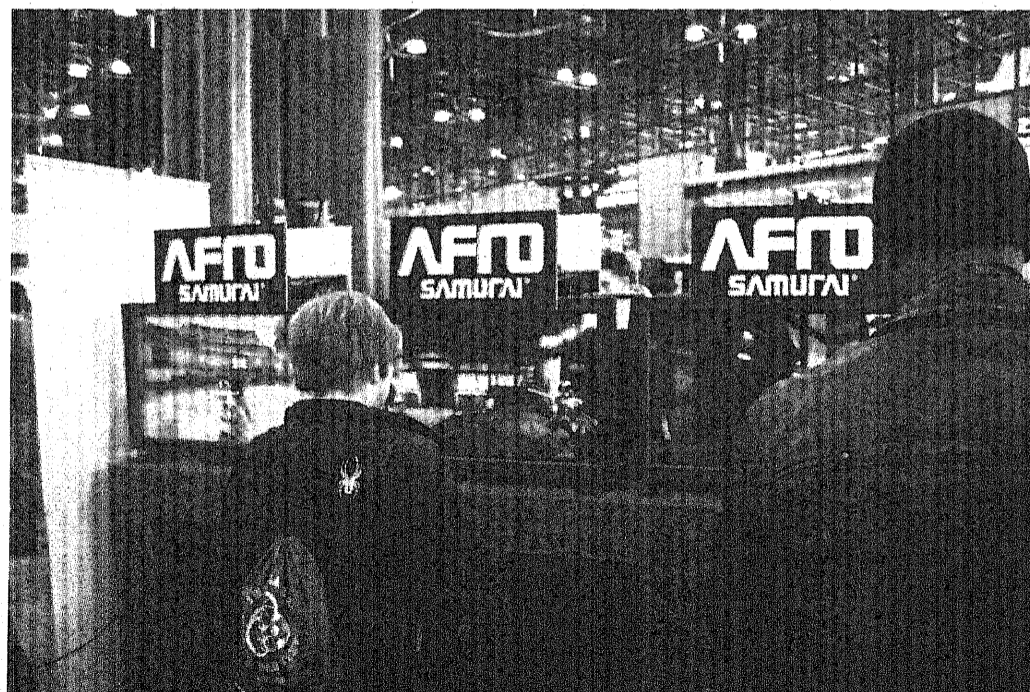
Trying out the new Yu-gi-oh! 5D's "Duel Terminal", which is based on the popular animation series and trading card game



Playing Blue Dragon and Yu-Gi-Oh! TCG at the Konami booth



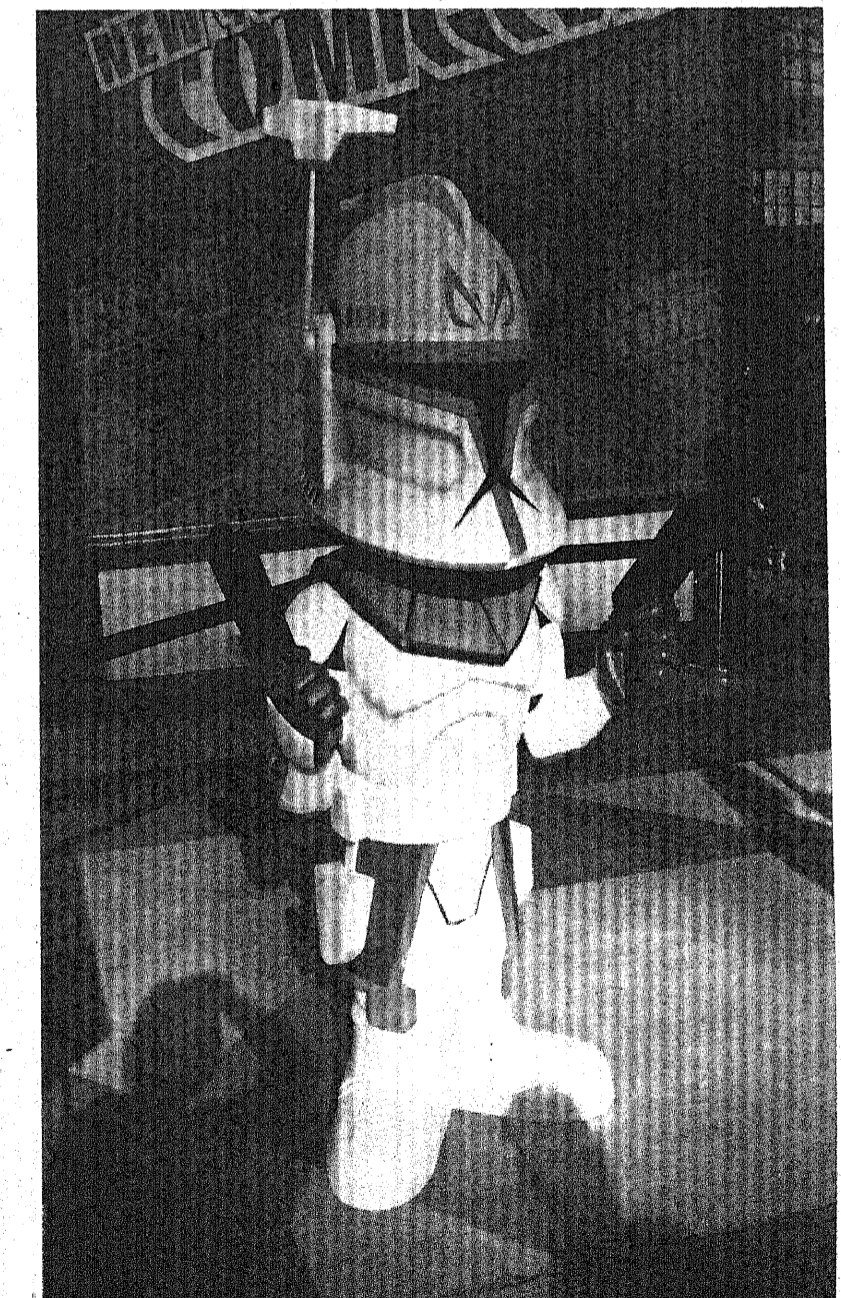
Trying out Ready 2 Rumble Revolution for the Nintendo Wii!



The newly released game Afro Samurai, which is based on the animated series allowed players to follow the story of the Afro the games protagonist.



Harry Potter figures were on display reminding fans of the upcoming movie



Captain Rex from Star Wars.

BANNER LIFESTYLES



Romanticized Love?

She said she didn't believe in love...

BY EMMA HERNANDEZ
SEX COLUMNIST

Sunday was a warm day, warmer than it ever should be in December. Katie wore a red plaid skirt with black v-neck t-shirt, sheer black tights and tan vintage pirate slouch boots that she won off E-bay two months before. She listened to her iPod and read the copy of Choke that Lauren bought her for Christmas on the way into Manhattan, trying to shake the bad feeling she had. She was meeting Andrew in the city, but somehow, she knew something would go wrong.

Katie got off the train and was walking down West 57th when she heard her voicemail alert. She crossed the street and stopped at the corner, standing near a building that tourists were trying to take pictures of. Katie didn't care if she was in the way of their camera lenses.

She dialed her password, heard Andrew's voice and cringed. He was saying something about being sick and puking all morning, and that he was sorry. Katie bit her lip and hung up. She lit a cigarette in frustration, inhaled, then exhaled quickly. She decided to call Andrew back.

"Okay, so are you really sick or are you just hungover?" she asked him when he picked up. If he was seriously sick, then she would've understood. But

if he was hungover, then that was just poor judgement on his part. He knew they had plans, and she wasn't going to let him cancel.

He explained that his brother was visiting from Texas, they went out the night before, and he ended up drinking fifteen pints of beer.

"So, do you mind if I come over?" Katie said, more like demanded. "Because I really wanted to hang out with you today."

Andrew didn't mind and he gave Katie directions to the Path train. An hour later, she was in Jersey City.

Katie walked down Grove Street. She cut across the Pathmark parking lot, stood in front of Andrew's steps and called him. He buzzed her in.

He was waiting at the top of the stairs, holding the door open, shirtless. He looked really good. Katie tried to stay upset.

Apologizing again, he led her into the living room where he was watching TV. She took off her coat, put her things down on the couch and lit a cigarette.

"I'm actually glad you're not mad and wanted to come over," he said. "Cause if you went home, I would've felt so bad."

Katie started to give him a guilt trip (she's good at that), but she let it go. When he leaned in, she kissed him back.

They hooked up on the couch, with cartoons on the TV and Andrew's brother passed out and hungover in the next room. They took a shower together and Andrew got ready for work. He asked if Katie wanted to take the train into Hoboken with him and hang out at his job. It was early and Katie didn't want to go home yet, so she said yes.

Andrew works as a supervisor in a homeless shelter, he's in charge of all the volunteers. An older couple was already making pasta and meat sauce when they got there, so Andrew and Katie helped make a fruit salad and set bread and dessert (assorted pastries donated by the nearest Dunkin Donuts) on a tray. When everything was done, Katie put gloves on over her manicured hands and served the homeless people at the shelter.

After Andrew's shift, everyone was sitting in chairs, waiting for a job seminar to begin. Katie followed Andrew to the door, holding onto his arm, and they said goodnight to everyone on the way out.

A regular at the shelter smiled at them, then said loudly, so everyone could hear: "Now I know why you're smiling, Andrew!"

That statement was followed by a collective "awww". Andrew's face turned red and Katie covered hers with her

hand, because she was smiling too.

They took the Light Rail back to Jersey City. Katie asked for the window seat and rested her head against Andrew's shoulder. Then she asked him the question she had been asking herself since last weekend.

"Where is this going?"
"What, the train?"
"No, this. Us."

Katie sat up and looked at him. She could tell he was choosing his words carefully. She immediately regretted saying anything.

"I don't really date anymore. I think it's better to just be friends with people, because relationships always end up bad," he told her, and looked away.

Katie didn't know what she expected him to say, but she knew that this wasn't what she wanted to hear. But she recovered quickly.

"Yeah, that's fine. I mean, I don't really believe in love anyway," she said, looking out of the window.

"Yeah, neither do I. Well, not the idea of romanticized love," Andrew said.

Katie nodded her head in agreement, but she knew she was lying to herself.

Send all questions and comments about love, sex and relationships to Emma at: The.BANNER.CSI@gmail.com

VIN FORTE IS NOT FUNNY

(HUMOR SECTION)

LEET: It's What's Wrong With Kids Today

Kids LOL in face of English language.

BY VIN FORTE
ZERO KEWL

Wake up, America! You've got a major problem on your hands. A problem so big that the average person doesn't even realize that ze's become susceptible until it is too late: Leet.

Leet is a form of writing that includes computer language and general abbreviations. A large number of children and teenagers today use Leet while text-messaging and e-mailing each other. The problem lies in their using Leet in book reports, formal essays, and the like.

I can remember when I was a senior

in high school and took a writing class. There were always a few students who would slip some Leet onto their essays. Ridiculous examples included: "George Washington went 2 Vermont," "The child LOL'd at the clown," and "The man asked his wife to ploX pa22 da potatoes."

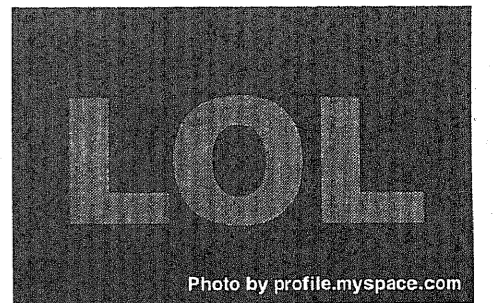
I've studied Leet a great deal and can safely say that it is the root of all affliction for grammar-philies, like me, who treat the English language as a deity of sorts: always correct in its rules and always proper in it's belief in their way of doing things.

Leet, on the other hand, is comparable to a heroin addict: mildly functional

while having the jagged appearance of something that just seems 30 degrees off-center from reality.

It is my opinion that any student caught using Leet should be penalized by having to pass fourth grade English over again, second offenders would be required to pass second grade English, and third offenders would be required to order Muzzy cassettes and read Hooked on Phonics.

How is it that an 18 year-old semi-adult can not properly write a report without inserting some inane colloquialism that makes reference to social jargon that has been thought up by the comput-



er generation for the sole purpose of making the speed at which we receive texts about mildly interactive events increase by a mere few ticks on your watch?

To prove how uncouth and slovenly Leet makes things seem; I now give you this article written in Leet.

Translate the Leet



BY VIN FORTE
ACID BURN

If you can decode this internet language, you could be entered in a drawing to win a free Banner t-shirt.

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DISCLAIMER:

The views expressed here are those of "The Banner" Humor Editor, Vincent Forte. All content on this page, unless clearly marked, represents (or attempts to represent) fiction and/or parody. Nothing on this page attempts to portray real news, but, instead, mocks it. We have repeatedly attempted to quell Mr. Forte's insane ramblings, but unfortunately Student Life bylaws prevent us from terminating staff members. Besides, there is a severe lack of students looking to make a career in print journalism these days, because it's a dying industry. All angry mobs should bring their pitchforks and torches to the place where he sleeps, in the bowels of Great Kills behind the Atrium inside a box of used condoms and ticket stubs. Should Mr. Forte become irate, students are advised to hide inside the nearby CVS until the 'All Clear' whistle sounds. It is only afterwards that it will be deemed safe enough to roam the streets once more. -Editors

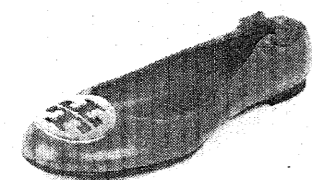
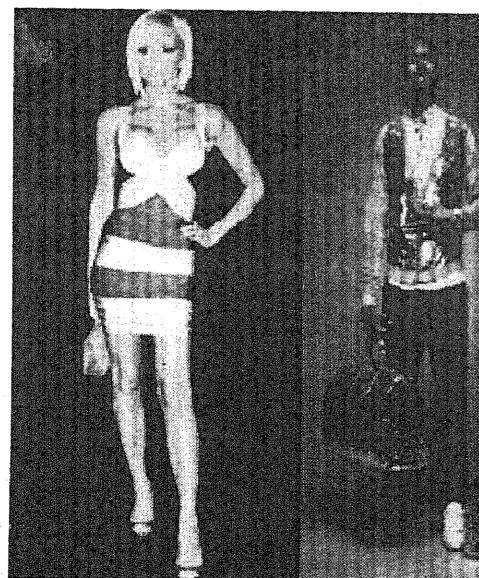
Send your results to
The Banner
IC-228
the.BANNER.csi@gmail.com.

Who is your Favorite Designer?

Giving Never Looked so Good!

BY LATHLEEN ADE-BROWN
FASHION COLUMNIST

As I walk around campus, once again, I notice the diversity in style among the members of our student body. With weeks of researching and interviewing I learned the ladies like the vintage look which is inspired anywhere from the 1960s to the 1980s. The vintage look is my personal favorite because I love shopping at Boutiques and local thrift shops. A lot of males on campus are still intrigued by the famous Michael Jordan. Sometimes I wonder when this Michael Jordan phase will die out. Your browser may not support display of this image. Kenneth Martin, a junior, when asked "Who is your favorite designer?" reminded me that Michael Jordan will never get played out. "I'm really not that into



Photos Submitted by Lathleen Ade-Brown

designers, all I know is that I love my Jordan's. That's all I wear." He said.

Stepping away from the masculine side of fashion, I approached soon to be Senior Raquel Robinson and asked her the question of the hour "Who is your favorite designer?" She had a lot in mind but narrowed it down, "my favorite designers are Herve Ledger and Marc Jacobs," she said. Herve Ledger is famous for designing his infamous bandage dress which is worn by countless stars like Beyonce, Lindsay Lohan, Keyshia Cole and more. Price ranges on a Herve Ledger piece runs anywhere from \$900.00 upward. I also learned that the student body loves expensive clothes. Edith Edwards was excited to scream out her favorite designers name, "Louis Vuitton!" She said holding up her bag which was designed by Louis Vuitton.

E-mail me at:
The.BANNER.CSI@gmail.com

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE DESIGNER?

- Lathleen Ade-Brown, English Major: Rugby Ralph Lauren
- Agnes Ojeh, Bio Major: Oscar de la Renta
- Kelly Thompson, Nursing Major: Tory Burch
- Tony Salako, Accounting major: Ralph Lauren
- Steven Hill, Economics Major: Ralph Lauren
- Michelle Gonzalez, History Major: Juicy Couture
- Lauren Coleman, English Major: Betsey Johnson
- Eniola Badero, Economics Major: Ralph Lauren
- Jeffery Derose, Accounting Major: Ralph Lauren
- Pavel Valera, Sociology Major: Armani Exchange
- Anthony Thompson, Marketing Major: Zara's
- Nickia Williams, Journalism Major: Gucci
- Cassie Ademola, Psychology Major: Marc Jacobs
- Ashley Duncan, Communications Major: Giuseppe Zanotti

Worst Baby Names

BY VIN FORTE
FATHER-OF-THE-YEAR

Here, in no particular order, are the worst baby names ever:

- Igor
- Melvin-Diazoles
- Dracula
- Mecrob
- Stinky
- RZA
- Apple
- Sluts-McKenzie
- Syphilis
- Huey-Lewis
- DeLorean-Jones
- Genitals
- Big-Earl
- Lou-Pearlman
- Accident

- Slaps
- Mr. Wendal
- Velocer-Raptor
- Fatty-McGee
- Vincent
- Racist
- Edward-Grimly
- Opium
- Battery
- Dolt
- O! Dirty-Bastard
- Grimace-McDonald

- Shaolin-Shadowboxer
- Bubbles
- [Racial Epitaph]
- Bea-Arthur
- Dicky
- Pepsi
- Bang-Bus
- Imus
- Sexy-Bitch
- Rush
- Binary-Code
- Sir-Rape-a-Lot



Baby O! Dirty Bastard disagrees with my list.

BANNER ARTS

Directed by Harald Zwart
Screenplay by
Scott Neustadter &
Michael H. Weber
and Steve Martin

The Pink Panther 2

REVIEWED BY JOHN ADRIAN
ARTS & COPY EDITOR

The plot is simple. It's classic Clouseau: Inspector Clouseau (Steve Martin), who single-handedly saved the priceless Pink Panther Diamond, is working outside the museum where the diamond is on display, writing parking tickets because Chief Inspector Dreyfus (John Cleese) gave him this assignment to get him out of his hair.

Treasures from around the world are being stolen by the Tornado, and an international team of detectives is being assembled to capture him. Dreyfus is ordered to assign Clouseau to the team. As soon as Clouseau joins the team, the Pink Panther Diamond is stolen by the Tornado. Clouseau must not only capture the Tornado, but save the diamond again.

The execution is where the trouble starts: The original Pink Panther films (there are eight written and directed by Blake Edwards) have a light delicate feel to them (including "The Trail of the Pink Panther" made after Peter Sellers' death using archival footage.) the comedy arising out of the situations and the characters placed in those situations. If the situations and the characters are a bit (or even a lot) ridiculous, so what? They're

funny because in context they're believable. Not so with "The Pink Panther 2" (and, by the way, its predecessor "The Pink Panther" (2006)). It suffers from bad jokes apparently designed to force laughs not from humor, but from audience embarrassment. Then there are the stunts, which are largely the result of very obvious editing which is often clumsy at best, especially to today's sophisticated movie audience. Peter Sellers did most of his own stunts until his death of a heart attack at 55. Steve Martin, 63 when he made this film, wants the audience to believe that his Inspector Clouseau survives events (stunts) that would severely injure if not kill a man half his age. If a stunt man were used, as I am sure at least one was, the editor, Julia Wong, and Director, Zwart, need to work more closely with the director of photography to get shots that can be better edited into believability within the context of the film.

However, the biggest problem with "The Pink Panther 2" is its star, Steve Martin. Martin's Clouseau is a clumsy, insensitive buffoon. Sellers' Clouseau was clumsy and inept and, maybe, not too bright, but he was sincere. Martin's Clouseau lacks that redeeming quality. When Sellers' Clouseau refers to his Asian housekeeper/sparing partner, Cato, as "my little yellow friend" it is obviously a term of affection and endear-

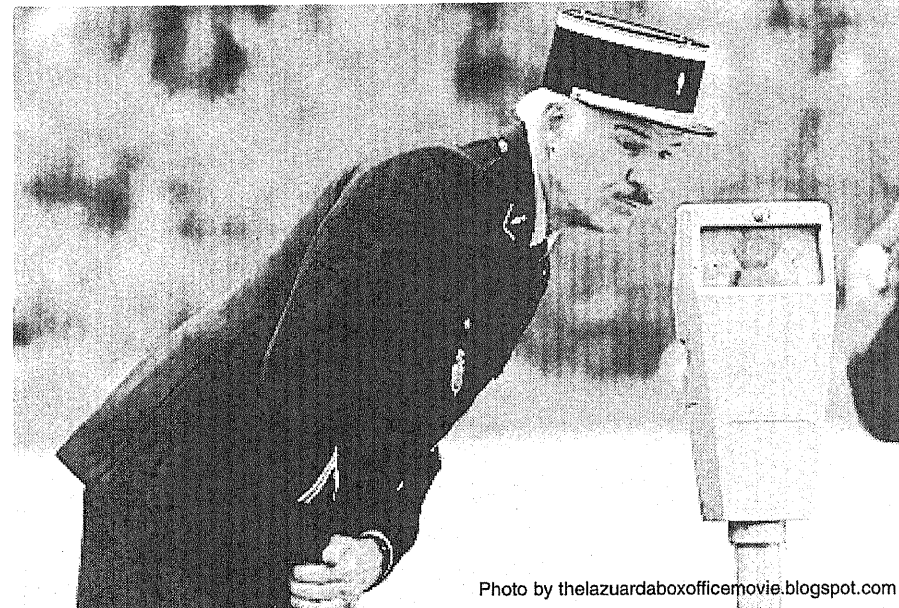


Photo by thelazuardaboxoffice.blogspot.com

ment, no matter how politically incorrect. When Martin's Clouseau uses the same words, delivered with much the same reading, it comes across simply as embarrassingly racist.

Director Zwart has assembled a supporting cast that is second to none in many respects including Jean Reno who returns as Ponton whose job, according to Dreyfus, is to ride herd on Clouseau. Also included are heavyweights Andy Garcia, Jeremy Irons, Alfred Molina, and Lily Tomlin.

There's a caveat in show business: "Never work with children, dogs, or food. You'll be upstaged every time." To this list I must add Ms. Tomlin. She has been a force of nature for over forty years and,

approaching seventy, like a hurricane over water, just gets stronger. She doesn't chew scenery. She doesn't clear her throat when other actors speak. She doesn't play with props. (All of which Cleese does.) She doesn't do anything that I can put my finger on, she just is. But in being she steals every scene she's in simply by being there.

If you really want to see "The Pink Panther 2" I won't say you nay. But don't go expecting a good romp with Inspector Clouseau. You'll be disappointed and embarrassed. Go to see the supporting actors valiantly attempt, and occasionally succeed, in rising above an, at best, mediocre script and an embarrassing performance by Martin.

BANNER OPINION

Dear Kelly: Advice Column

BY KELLY KENNY
OPINIONS EDITOR

Deadbeat Boyfriends...Professors with Contempt...Parking Attendant Pain.
All in a week's work (or school) for Kelly...

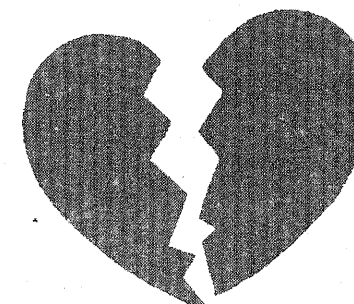


Photo bychristian-dating-service-plus.com

Dear Kelly,

My boyfriend didn't get me a card on Valentine's Day and I felt like he wasn't trying. I freaked out and ripped up his computer printed out card. Did I over react?

Well, Valentine's Day is, in my experience, always the day women are most emotional. We expect our men to jump through hoops on this day for what? I do think you overreacted by ripping up the card, but I do see where you're coming from. A computer card is an insult, I get it. I think you should have told him that his computer card was sweet, but it didn't show enough effort. Try to remember that guys don't think the same way girls do, and let the small things slide. You'll be much happier this way.

Dear Kelly,

My best friend does not stop talking about how much she spends on clothes. She is always gloating about how her shoes were \$200, her top is from Guess, her boyfriend got her a million dollar coach bag etc. How do I tell her that I don't care? How do I get her to stop?

Say Nothing! I have a friend like that too. I confronted her for doing the same things, and I can tell you; it's not worth it. Your friend is not doing it on purpose; she probably doesn't even know she's doing it. I think your being way too sensitive. Try to evaluate why you get so angry when she talks about expensive things, and figure out if it's her who is trying to compensate for something, or you being insecure.



Photo byaleonardi.blogspot.com

Dear Kelly,

I am pretty sure my professor hates me. I don't think I have done anything to offend him but he won't stop picking on me. He reads my work out loud to the class as an example of what not to do, whenever he walks in to the classroom he singles me out for having my phone out, and he is always giving me the evil eye. I really don't know what I did to this man. How do I get him to like me so I can get a good grade?

I'm sorry but at this point in the semester I don't think there is much you can do to get him back on your side. What I would tell you to do is be an extra great student. I would show up early to class, never have my phone out ever, raise my hand, and always laugh at my professors jokes (no matter how unfunny they are) There is no shame in sucking up when it comes to your grade. Also, ask the professor for help with some assignment that is due. Professors love when you ask them for help. Do all these things, if he continues to torture you; give him a horrible review.



Photo by imageport.files.wordpress.com

Dear Kelly,

I cannot hide from the parking authority at CSI. I have gotten 3 tickets already. I have the money to pay for the tickets, but I won't have enough to buy a parking pass. I must be one or the other, do you have any suggestions?

You better get on that, the last thing you want is a boot on your car when you're leaving your night class that ends at 9:50pm (I still have nightmares about it). There is something you can do. Go to parking services in 1A and buy a parking pass; they will sell it to you if you sign a promissory note stating you have every intention of paying for the tickets. Just make sure you do!

Slumdog Millionaire's Music

AND THE MAN BEHIND IT
BY DHANISH JOHN BABU
STAFF WRITER

We all know the phenomenon called *Slumdog Millionaire* by British film ace Danny Boyle. Making a film on India, in India, from a western perspective has always been an uphill task, but Boyle has passed with flying colors. One of the biggest highlights is its soundtrack, and the man behind it, India's genius Allah Rakha Rahman, or simply A.R.Rahman.

Film music is the biggest music industry in India. Almost all movies can be termed musical because of the number of songs in them. Rahman started his career with a South Indian language film in 1992. The soundtrack *Roja*, was then a rage and is now a classic. *TIME* magazine placed *Roja* among its 10 best soundtracks in film history in 2008. Sticking to basic Indian classical music while infusing Western music into it, Rahman proved that music has no barriers. In his 17 year career, he has composed more than 150 soundtracks, experimenting with different musical forms. Rahman's first international break came from Andrew Lloyd Webber who

invited him to score *Bombay Dreams*.

Bombay Dreams had most of Rahman's hits in a remix versions and a couple of new songs. He also ventured into Chinese film music through the film *Warriors of Heaven and Earth*. But it was *Elizabeth - The Golden Age* that made Hollywood notice Rahman. Later Indian hits were used in Nicolas Cage's *Lord of War* and Spike Lee's *Inside Man*. By this time, Rahman was India's leading musician. In fact Indian music has been divided into pre-Rahman and a post-Rahman eras, because he changed the sound of film music in India.

When Danny Boyle decided to do a film on the slums of Mumbai (Bombay), he couldn't find a better choice than Rahman.

Serenading the rustic feel of street-side hullabaloo with effervescently racy and pulsating instrumental flows in the introductory track is "O...Saaya". It joins M.I.A with Rahman for the first time where bombastic drumming and thriving percussions take the aerial route in uplifting spirits. This outrageously loud number is an edgy, pulsating background score that underscores the hus-

tle-bustle of Mumbai city with a sentimental choir in fluid vocals. M.I.A, slender and vociferous, has bouncy inputs that give it an international outlook. "O...Saaya" is one among those soundtracks that speaks volumes about Rahman's gifts as musician and composer. Play it loud and feel its racy gush.

"Riots", a thumping, daunting instrumental number, brings out different beats and sounds that merge emotions and intimidating, thriving gory happenings. It has North African style drumming and electronic tunes that set an everlasting impression of events.

In "East Meets West!" the subtlety of Eastern music meets the solemnity of Western with rigorously plucked "Sitar" joining animatedly with rhythm loops, aggressive percussions and guitar riffs in a fusion track "Mausam and Escape". It's brings out the classical feel of sitar in the brightest possible ways. The track begins with serene notes in the prelude and then races to aggressive sitar riffs accompanied with thunderous western percussions and rigorous guitar work. "Mausam and Escape" is fusion at its best and can serve as a textbook for

enthused musicians craving something creatively classical in their work.

Next is M.I.A's track "Paper Planes" in its original form and its remix version.

"Ringa Ringa" is used to depict the lead characters' childhood days. A classic with chirpy wordings it emotes a raunchy Bollywood appeal for international audiences.

The soul of classical Indian vocals is melodically interpreted with racy, orchestral flows in "Liquid Dance". Its passionate vocals, fiercely interwoven with wildly punched percussive elements, creates a ferocious feel for compelling situations and moments.

"Latika Theme", a rhythmic, divine vocal in sultry tones flows as a breath of fresh air. It is simply amazing. Humming and other sounds work together to express solemn emotions.

The sportive and spontaneous "Millionaire" is an aggressive commercial instrumental piece, propagated out of the much talked quiz show with all its electronic flamboyance.

Rahman is slated to present flagship track "Jai Ho" at the Academy Awards.

Slumdog Millionaire has been a winner for Rahman. He has three Oscar nominations because of it, and hopes to win at least one. He is an artist to watch.

WATCH THE GAP

Everyone Who Benefits from the MTA Must Pay to Support It.

BY BEN DEANGELIS
CONTRIBUTOR

The MTA has a \$1.3 billion budget deficit that is leading to a jump in fare and slashing of services. The proposed cuts to MTA service will leave many students stranded on late nights and weekends.

In addition to service cuts, the "Doomsday Budget" proposal includes an increased fare, up to as much as \$2.50 per ride and \$103 for a monthly Metrocard. In Staten Island, these cuts will mean that all weekend service to Seaview Hospital and Rehabilitation Center (S54 and S57) will be cut off. Workers, patients and visitors will have no option but to walk almost a mile from the closest bus stop. The weekend elimination of the S42 and S60 leaves all of New Brighton and Grymes Hill, respectively, out in the cold. It is bad enough that these two buses already stop in inclement weather; to abolish them entirely would be an unfair blow to these neighborhoods.

The proposal also includes an inapplicable hike for Access-a-Ride users.

These users of paratransit currently pay the same base \$2.00 fare as subway and bus riders. Later this year, they could be paying as much as \$5.00 per ride. This is an affront to riders with special needs, especially those making minimum wage who will have to work two hours of a shift before paying off the costs of getting to and from work. Currently many riders have complaints about the Access-a-Ride system - and yet the proposals include no improvements, only higher charges.

Many ideas have been generated to fill the enormous budget gap the MTA has reported. Tolling the East River bridges is a way to bring in money from all the commuters who choose to drive

to Manhattan. It has also been suggested that all employers pay a payroll tax to the MTA. Comptroller Bill Thompson has proposed a plan to generate money by charging cars a registration fee based on weight. Drivers of big vehicles will pay a higher fee because their vehicles pollute more. With the implementation of one or more of these ideas, the MTA can begin to close its huge gap without relying solely on the riders.

In New York City, everyone benefits from our mass transportation system. Riders are able to get all over the city without having a personal vehicle. Drivers benefit from reduced traffic on the roads, as the subways and buses transport a majority of commuters. Businesses benefit because the transit system allows their employees and customers to access their goods and services. Since we all benefit from the system, we must all support it. This includes businesses, drivers, and of course riders. If Albany passes legislation for East and Harlem River Bridge tolls, a new

payroll tax or higher weight-based car registration charges, the fare would only need to increase 8% in yield to cover the gap. This will be much more affordable than the 25% proposed hike. Urge Governor Paterson to protect the riders, and pass these other measures to generate funding for the MTA by visiting www.KeepNewYorkMoving.org or stopping by our campus NYPIRG office located at 1C-218. For more information, call 718.982.3109, or email csi@nypirg.org.

Proposed Changes to MTA Service in Staten Island
Weekend Service Eliminated: S42, S54, S57, S60, S76
Reduced Morning Hours: S57, S66
Reduced Evening Hours: S54, S60
+ Begin Collecting Fare at Tompkinsville SIR Station
+ Elimination of Service to Richmond County Bank ballpark at St. George
+ Verrazano Bridge Toll increased to \$13

BANNER SPORTS

Faculty/Staff Honored by Athletes

Ceremony interrupted by evacuation

BY EDNITA LORENZO
SPORTS EDITOR

Being a student-athlete is double the work. Staying on top of classes and assignments as well as being on time for practices and games can get stressful. But with the help of the faculty and staff here at CSI, it makes it a lot easier and enjoyable.

That's why the CSI athletic department honored several staff and faculty members that care for the athletes and help out and support the teams and members. Athletes were asked to nominate anyone they felt has helped, supported or inspired them in the CSI community. From there, ten were chosen for the prestigious day.

The ceremony took place February 4th in the middle of a basketball double header against York College.

As recognition began, student athletes lined up to give speeches on selected faculty/staff members and present them with a plaques.

With only two awards given out, everyone in the gym was told to evacuate the building. Firefighters quickly filled the building and checked the premises.

The fans and gym members franti-



Photos by Ednita Lorenzo

cally waited outside in the freezing cold for the OK to come back in. It was found to be a false alarm.

Back in the gym, the ceremony picked up and finished with the honors. The honored faculty and staff were more than happy to know that the athletes are grateful for everything they help out with. Even if it's just to cheer on their favorite Dolphin team.

"It's a big honor," said trainer John Nostro, one of the recipients. "Unfortunately I was in the middle of the games and I had to be in the training room with the athletes. I couldn't hear Patrick Taaffe's speech." Nostro wasn't able to personally accept the plaque but is very grateful to the student-athletes.

Everyone at CSI Athletics thanks: Dr. Tomas Morales (CSI Pres.), Prof. Anderson Ohan, Prof. Albert Curulli

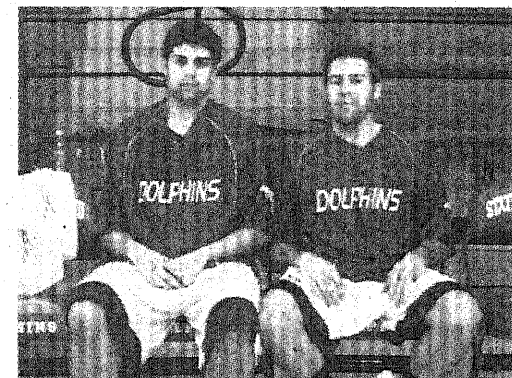


(Engineering, Science and Physics), Prof. George Stern (Business), Dr. Fred Naider (Chemistry), Michael Daniels (Interim V.P. of Student Affairs), Michael Baybusky (Bursar), John Nostro, Katie Arcuri (Athletics), and Mario D'Alessandro (Academic Advisement).

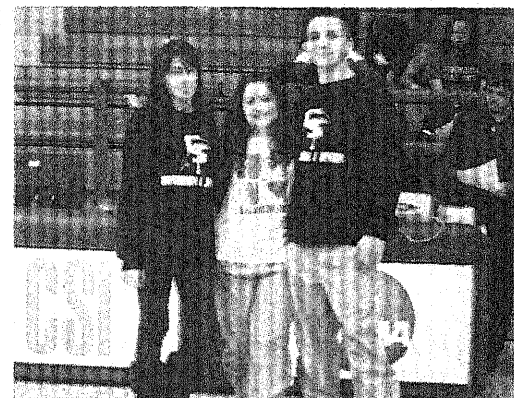
Senior Day for Winter Athletes



Women's Basketball 2008-2009



Men's Basketball 2008-2009



Women and Men's Swimming and Diving 2008-2009
Photos by Ednita Lorenzo

Dolphins Close Regular Season, Prepare for Playoffs

Women fall to Baruch, while men just make the mark

BY EDNITA LORENZO
SPORTS EDITOR

In the last home game of the regular season, the women's and men's basketball teams shared the stage to showcase whose house it is.

Along with the games, Senior Day was taking place, recognizing several seniors and their contributions as well as the WBCA Pink Zone Initiative (Breast Cancer Awareness).

Both teams are done with their regular season competition and are now preparing for playoff.

Women: 19-5 overall; 12-1 CUNY

In what was one of the biggest games of the season, the Dolphins traveled to face the Baruch Bearcats for the #1 spot in CUNYAC on February 6th. Both teams were 10-0 before the game, but only one came out undefeated and unfortunately, it was a tough ride home for the Dolphins. They suffered a 79-88 loss.

CSI dropped their first CUNY match to the Bearcats but that didn't stop them from finishing off with a bang.

In the last two CUNY games that followed, they faced the Brooklyn College

Bridges, where the Dolphins fought for the 69-55 win and slammed on City Tech, 75-22.

In the last home game, the Dolphins got things started with the five seniors opening up the match. At first, it looked like it might have been a struggle against the Bridges. Turnovers, loose balls, and several missed shots contributed to the Dolphins' below average playing.

However, with the help of Melanie D'Ambrosi, Nicole Estrada, Kristen Panariello, Megan Sullivan and Allie Shanahan, the Dolphins took back control.

As the first half was winding down, CSI seemed to have found a spark with a ten-point lead and 4:15 left on the clock. After bouncing back, the ladies came to win at home and finished the bridges off.

The Dolphins are now underway in play-off action and hope to bring home the big one. "We want to win," said player Amanda Sanguinedo. "Every game is just a game if we don't come to win."

Men: 6-19 overall; 3-10 CUNY

The men finished off with close games and fell with close numbers. Losing to Brooklyn College 77-80, City Tech 65-67 and Mount St. Vincent 84-88, these Dolphins just couldn't make the cut.

However, the last few games really showed that the Dolphins were CUNY's best kept secret as they demonstrated that there's no time like the present to come out of your shell.

In an intense game against big rival Brooklyn College on February 11th, CSI fell just 3 points shy of a victory, 77-80.

As the game began, the intensity of the cheering sections were heard a mile away, the Dolphins' adrenaline began pumping.

Swoosh after swoosh, both teams took turns getting it in the basket. At times CSI seemed to be slipping away, but the Dolphins' defense was sure to halt the Bridges' attempts.

Frustration was setting in on both parts and finally after two halves of fouling, shouting action, it was Christian

Monervino's 3-pointer that tied up the game at 67 to end regulation.

On to overtime, where both were hungry for the ball, but only one came out alive. 25.6 seconds left in OT and Dolphins were down by 1. Bridges took the ball, the shot and made it to halt the Dolphins at 77-80. With whatever might CSI had, another 3-pointer attempt was made but couldn't reach the net.

Even with the losses, the Dolphins still have a shot the title. They just missed the mark. Ending third to last right above Medgar Evers College and City College of NY, the Dolphins will have another go and see what they can do the second time around.

February 27th is CUNY Championships for both teams. We'll just have to wait and see which basketball team reaches that mark first. And who will bring home the trophy.