

THE BANNER

Scrabbling For Survival

BY THE ECONOMIST
FROM THE ECONOMIST PRINT EDITION

As international aid reaches a devastated people, their leaders wonder how to rebuild a country in ruins

In the days after a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck Haiti on January 12th, the country's shock and grief were tempered by the urgent need to save lives. Now that search-and-rescue operations are officially over—with just 132 people plucked from the rubble alive, and estimates of the dead ranging as high as 300,000—Haitians are confronting the devastation wrought on their perennially troubled land.

The past week has seen remarkable progress. Because Haiti's roads and ports were badly damaged by the quake, little aid arrived in the disaster's immediate aftermath. Moreover, since the government was almost wiped out—the presidential palace and most main ministries collapsed—there was no one to co-ordinate those relief workers that did arrive.

Now, such systems are returning, and outside help is beginning to make a difference. Port-au-Prince's single-runway airport is receiving three times as



Photo from: Flickr.com

Haitians set up impromptu tent cities through the capital after an earthquake measuring 7 plus on the Richter scale rocked Port au Prince Haiti

many flights as it did before the quake, and aid supplies are also pouring into the part-repaired main port. The United Nations has begun hiring up to 220,000 Haitians to work on clearing-up and reconstruction. Electricity, fuel and telecommunications services are back. Locals are queuing for hours at reopened money-transfer kiosks to receive much-needed remittances from abroad.

The streets seem calm, and are now largely free of corpses and their stench. Teams of doctors from elite foreign medical schools are tending to the injured,

ensuring their wounds do not get infected. A 1,000-bed American hospital ship is floating in the harbour. The care that the poorest Haitians are now receiving is of a higher standard than anything normally available before the disaster. Small pouches of clean drinking water are being widely distributed.

The saddest sight is of the many badly wounded, particularly the thousands of amputees, who limp and hop along the capital's streets. People paralysed from their injuries are still being brought to hospitals. Providing long-term

Continued on page 3

The Awkward Question

BY RICHARD ACEVEDO
CONTRIBUTOR

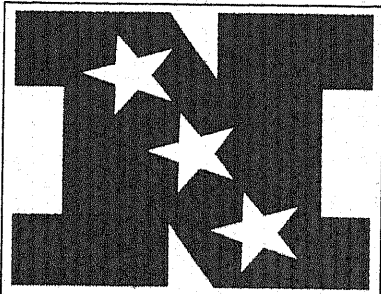
It normally starts with a form of recognition and most likely occurs in some public place where people spot you in your uniform. You can see it in their faces as they summon up their courage and reticently approach you. It is always followed by a hearty handshake and the congratulatory praises of a "job well done" or "thank you for your service" and just when you think these social formalities have come to a humble conclusion—it is always invariably followed up with a sly nod and the question: "What's it really like over there?" The "over there" is coded speak for "combat" in Iraq or Afghanistan, and for the longest time I used to dread being asked what I would forever call: "The Awkward Question."

When I first came back home from Iraq, I often tried to oblige people with an answer about how things were over there. I did this with a sincere desire to impart a nugget of truth to share with people my combat experiences in an attempt to bridge the divide between soldier and civilian. I would soon discover this was an impossible task and I would often come to a pause in my story telling when I noticed the look of revulsion or horror in the eyes of the listener. I could feel a quiet tension stirring the air as the listener became visibly uncomfortable by what they were hearing, often followed by an awkward silence. In my exuberance to tell the story I sometimes failed to see the look of regret in their eyes. They would often apologize for fear of having placed me in an awkward position. As if my repeating of some unpleasant fact or detail will somehow lend itself to my emotional damage. More often than not, I've come to learn the apology isn't for me...the apology is for them. The "sorry" is for having asked the question in the first place and the truth has somehow made them uncomfortable. I learned a long time ago that when people ask you "what's it like over there", it isn't because they really want to know. Maybe some do, but more often than not, most people don't really want to know. I've come to learn that asking the question in the first place is a form of shallow patriotism. As if asking the question proves that people care and are somehow patriotic. I used to find something sad and horribly wrong with all of that and for a short period of time, I became angry with these "stay home"

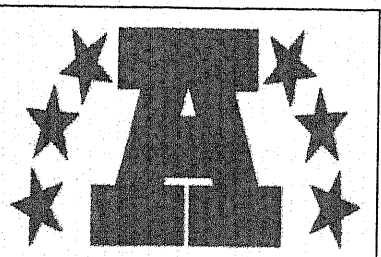
Continued on page 5

INSIDE I

- Page 2 - ADP/Politics
- Page 3 - Letter From the Editor
- Page 4 - Banner Briefs
- Page 6 - Science & Technology
- Page 7 - Business
- Page 8 - Lifestyles & Fashion
- Page 9 - Arts & Entertainment
- Page 11 - Opinion
- Page 12 - Sports



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Are you ready for some football?

Does Racism in CSI still exist?

BY SAL BASILE
CONTRIBUTOR

"Can't We all Get Along" was an event held by Robert Kee, the Coordinator of Leadership Development. At the event, discussions were held about diversity and discrimination around CSI. It showed how discrimination still exists despite the vast diversity throughout the United States. Mr. Kee, who spoke at the event, said, "As diverse as we are, racism still goes on." CSI students attended the event and many were from different backgrounds. At the event, all the students were very friendly towards each other. However they mentioned that they didn't find the same friendliness around the campus. When the students talked about the time they experienced discrimination, most of them said they were not surprised.

The event was an hour long and mostly covered how to avoid discrimination toward others. An Arab girl, Yasmin Ahmed, and Edward Hernando, her African American friend, told the story of how they became friends. Edward said

that he was surprised when Yasmin started talking to him about homework. "I always thought she wouldn't talk to me because it is against her religion or culture," Edward said. "I came to that conclusion because she had her head covered with a hijab." Yasmin said, "I was not in a shock when Edward asked me if I was allowed to talk to him." She mentioned how she faces discrimination so much that, now, she doesn't get offended by it.

The event's main issue was to teach students not to judge someone by their looks. Yasmin and Edward became friends even after the judgment Edward made on her appearance. Other students mentioned that this is not always the case. Tanya Smith, a junior in CSI laughingly said "Ha! I get discriminated every week; it's nothing but a joke now." Tanya pointed out that some people discriminate without knowing it and they don't mean to offend others, but they do. She said, "Society has put discrimination in our minds. For example, people

Continued on page 5

American Democracy Project

HOW'S THAT HOPE AND CHANGE WORKING FOR YOU?

BY THOMAS MORRISSEY
ALUMNI CONTRIBUTOR

10% + Unemployment, Trillion \$
Deficits, But Hey, At Least He Speaks
Well (Cough)

In the words of Bootsy Collins, Parliament/Funkadelic bass player extraordinaire and sartorial genius, "I want you to know that I'm back!" When I graduated last May, I delivered a final column that asked whether people wanted to know what they were talking about when discussing politics or be zombies who moan a party line as they stalk lifelessly across the landscape. I'm encouraged that more and more people are rejecting the Kool-Aid of 'Hope and Change'. As our esteemed Messiah, uh, king, uh, president Barack Hussein Obama (mmm-mmm-mmmml) might say, though, let me be clear: America is still in a world of trouble. Now, however, it seems people are waking up and fighting back, as we have seen in recent elections and the Tea Party movement. The truth is finally getting out there. Thank God. Since I've been away for a bit, let's take a State-of the Union-esque look back at the rest of Obama's year since I

booed Chuck Schumer at our commencement in May.
June 2009: Obama addresses Muslim audience in Cairo, apologizes for American, uh, everything. Iranian mullahs respond by stealing elections. Iranian students take to streets to protest Pres. Ahmedinejad's theft. Obama ignores pleas of students to get involved, talks to ruling ayatollahs instead.
So: hope and change for the Muslim world? Not so much.
July 2009: After Obama goes to Russia to announce 'reset' of US-Russian relations, 22 prominent world figures, including Lech Walesa (father of free union movement in Poland) and Vaclav Havel (former president of Czech Republic) warn of US establishing closer ties with Russia.
Maybe what Eastern Europe, Russia and the US need is a 'beer summit'.
August 2009: Announcement that US budget deficit for 2009 will exceed \$1.6 trillion, the highest it's ever been.
Note: Bush has been out of office for eight months, but is still blamed for Obama's wild spending spree. Obama is the one who rammed through spending bills, people. These deficits are all from HIS policies, not some 'inherited' non-

sense.
September 2009: While giving yet another speech on his health care takeover (this time to a joint session of Congress), Obama is interrupted by the cry of Rep. Joe Wilson (R-S.C.): "You lie!" Wilson is responding to Obama's claim that his health care proposal would not include illegal immigrants.
Two previous Democrat proposals refused to deny benefits to illegals. Another version, H.R. 3200, did deny illegals from receiving 'government subsidized 'affordability credits', but not from receiving health care.
October 2009: Obama flies Air Force One to Copenhagen to plead for 2016 Olympics to be held in his hometown, Chicago. Silver-tongued oration about his personal life does not impress Olympic committee, who eliminate US in first vote.
Wasn't the world supposed to love us if we elected him?
November 2009: Obama goes to China, asks Chinese leaders to allow more American products to be sold in China. Chinese officials decline to help.
Still no love from everyone who was going to love us after the hated Bush left town?
December 2009: In spite of released emails that show 'man-made climate change' is a hoax perpetrated by scientists who suppressed and twisted data, Obama flies to Copenhagen 'Climate Change Summit' to make promises about US policy and how he will use it to change US carbon emissions. Nothing changes.
Also at the summit: Hugo Chavez claiming 'the ghost of capitalism haunts these halls' and mass-murdering African dictator Robert Mugabe saying 'Western gods of industry are killing the citizens of the underdeveloped world.' It would be funny if it weren't so insulting.
January 2010: Scott Brown (R-M.A.), conservative, wins Senate seat occupied by liberal demi-god Ted Kennedy for 47 years. Obama had campaigned for Democrat Martha Coakley, who lost big. Brown's key issues: opposing Obamacare and opposing the Obama Administration's policy of treating terrorists (like the Christmas Underwear Bomber) as civilians with US citizen rights.
That light at the end of the tunnel may not be an oncoming train after all.
Next up: why listening to Al Gore will make you poorer, and him richer. Until then...
P.S.—the 'Barack Hussein Obama, mmm-mmm-mmmml' is a reference to a song written to the Great and Glorious Leader by a New Jersey teacher. Those were the refrain lyrics. She forced her kids to sing it—talk about child abuse. Check it out on YouTube.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

In for the long haul

BY BRIAN GONZALEZ
EDITOR IN CHIEF

As I began writing this I tried to figure out what exactly to say. Where should I go with my first official, *Letter From The Editor?* In the attempts of avoiding to sound like a cliché "this is my first letter and this is what I plan to do letter..." I figured I should just go with briefly talking about where the Banner is and the direction that it's heading.
As our readers may or may not know William Kline stepped down as Editor-in-Chief last semester. While the future of the Banner is always in a constant state of uncertainty this is something that I feel reflects the growing burden effecting all print media including newspapers. We however face slightly different challenges. While traditional print media especially newspapers face challenges such as decreasing readership, loss of revenue, competition with online news in terms of currency and cost, our challenge is that of maintaining staff and interest amongst our readers. I feel that there are many reasons for this.
One of the main reasons is that active recruitment is something that seems to be neglected. A job of a publication is to always actively seek members and staff. This allows for people who are interested in contributing to the Banner to not feel left out. We are not a secretive or selective group of people or a clique, but a collective of students who feel that they have something to contribute to, in this case to the CSI community. Perhaps its someone who has a particular interest in a particular section of the Banner, maybe a student who wants to work while earning credit in a class, and in some rare cases just because. Regardless of the reason its our job to give these people a shot and learn

what we can from each other to grow.
Another reason is that in producing news you become so detached from the story that it becomes more of a chore or task and less of a pursuit of knowledge, being informative, and most of all working toward the public interest. This is something that the news has seem to have the most difficult time in doing. The news in this case should not be closed to just the CSI community, because life exists beyond the gates on Victory Blvd. and Forrest Hill Road. What I feel is news are the things that effect us on a local level (CSI, Staten Island, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, the Bronx, and New Jersey.), things that effect us on a personal level (education, the economy, health, politics, science, etc.), and things that effect us on a social level (entertainment, lifestyles, opinions, sports, etc.). Now while this seems like I'm listing sections in the Banner it's not too far from the truth. If you're a regular reader then you notice the constant evolution of the Banner. This is because we try to bring to you the news that we feel is important. Now the question is who are we to determine what exactly is news and what isn't? The truth is that we don't know. By that I mean we don't know what's important to you because there is no form of communication between us and our readers. While we make efforts to bridge the gap the job of doing this is left to a handful of students. So this is the point where we arrive at an impasse.
We can't do this alone and we can not do this without you, the students. If there is a problem then it is up to you to do something about it other than voicing out your objections to the establishments. How can you help? There are many ways perhaps too many to list in this article. So if I've piqued your curiosity, interest, or disgust then I encourage you to write to us and let us know the good, the bad, the outright ridiculous, or what grinds your gears.

"Scrabbling For Survival"
Continued from the front page
care for these victims will further drain Haiti's scarce medical resources. Its human-development indicators were among the world's worst even before the earthquake struck (see chart).
The most common problem is homelessness. The International Organisation for Migration estimates that 1m people have been displaced, and that 200,000 tents will be needed to house them. Just 10,000 are in the aid pipeline. Even those who get tents will find them inadequate when the hurricane season starts in June. In the tent cities now occupying most of Port-au-Prince's parks and squares—mostly consisting of tarps hung from washing-lines—thongs wander in search of shelter. More than 200,000 people have simply abandoned the city. Many of those whose homes survived have nevertheless lost their livelihoods. Ageni Pierre-Louis, who used to sell clothes, says her entire \$1,000 stock was buried, and she is now making a living by peddling potatoes.
The inadequate distribution of food aid is also causing tension. Walls across the city feature English-language messages like "We need food and water." President René Prével complained that a few aid NGOs were putting more effort into creating photo-opportunities than co-ordinating their efforts with the government. The UN World Food Programme has so far been able to reach only 450,000 of the 2m people it hopes to feed. Some distributions have been cancelled due to rowdy crowds—Brazilian peacekeepers resorted to using tear-gas to control one mob this week. Relief workers fret about earthquake profiteering, with good reason: in one large tent city, sacks of grains marked "US rice" were on sale. Some

locals feel insulted by those trying to help them. Marie Sam Bastien, a mother of five, complains that relief workers throw food at Haitians as if they were dogs.
Efforts to clean up the destruction from the quake have barely begun. Mr Prével says 25,000 commercial buildings are destroyed and 60m cubic metres of rubble needs to be cleared. Only a few wrecked buildings are being excavated—some of them belonging to shop-owners seeking to recover their stock. At the remains of the five-storey Caribbean Market, mechanical diggers tear through shattered concrete and tangled wire, while workers load everything from tins of beans to printers into shopping trolleys, under protection from Filipino soldiers. In the rest of the city, such work proceeds with simple hand tools. At the collapsed La Union Protestant church ten parishioners with crowbars pulled out five bodies on January 25th.
Haiti was already a failed state before the disaster. Now its government has to start from scratch. It has taken refuge in a police station. Responding to widespread criticism of his near invisibility since the disaster struck, Mr Prével says: "170,000 bodies were removed from the streets in 8 days. That means somebody is in charge. Working in an office is less glamorous than going to hospitals, but I prefer to work at alleviating the suffering of my people."
The state has lost millions of records kept only on paper, like tax receipts and court filings, which now litter streets in the city centre. At the building that housed the foreign-ministry archives, workers are trying to salvage decades of folders and filing cabinets from the wreckage. Atop the pile on January 26th

Christmas Bomber Reveals Systemic Failures

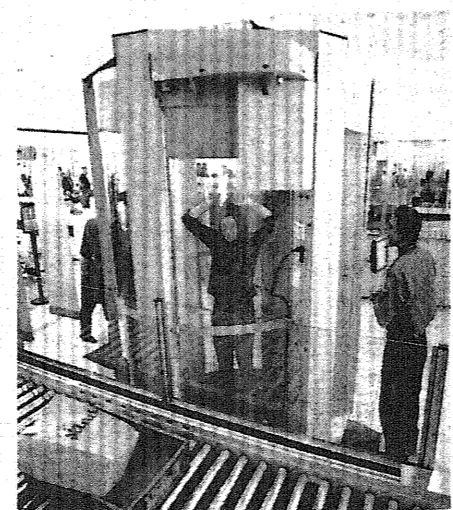
Obama calls to investigate poor security, intelligence holes after the attempted terror plot.

BY KANIKA KHANNA
ADP EDITOR

Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab boarded a flight in Amsterdam en route to Detroit on Christmas Day, with the intent to set a bomb off midflight. The Nigerian man concealed an explosive made of PETN, a plastic material unnoticed by metal detectors, in his underwear, thus dubbing him "the underwear bomber". As he attempted to ignite the device on the plane, passengers and crewmembers noted his suspicious behavior, and sought to avert the terror plot. Abdulmutallab suffered third degree burns from the foiled plot. Upon closer analysis of the incident, authorities discovered that the bomber belongs on the no-fly list; according to The Washington Post, Amsterdam security cleared Abdulmutallab for travel. Furthermore,

Abdulmutallab may have gone undetected due to an error by the intelligence operative software – his name was misspelled.
President Obama acknowledged the efforts of the members of the targeted flight, as well as those in the "intelligence, counterterrorism and law enforcement and homeland security communities". Regardless, he also stated "there was a mix of human and systemic failures that contributed to this potential catastrophic breach of security. We need to learn from this episode and act quickly to fix the flaws in our system, because our security is at stake and lives are at stake".
Nevertheless, some Republicans are speaking out against recent security breaches like the Christmas bombing and Fort Hood shootings. Senator Susan Collins said, "Unfortunately, the terrorist attack on Fort Hood and the failed Christmas Day plot are stark reminders of what can happen when those authorities are not used effectively". Thomas Hamilton, former Chair of the National

Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States also asserted, "I do not think [Obama] has a firm grasp of the intelligence community." Statements by the State Department noting intent to question Abdulmatallab if his visa was renewed "defied logic and common sense", Collins explained. Due to such recent developments involving the Yemeni government in the issue, Obama has prevented sending a Guantanamo Bay detainee to Yemen.
Security concerns have left many questioning the security of airports. Reports circulating on full body scans at security checkpoints have caused much controversy and fear. "We don't need to look at naked 8-year-olds and grandmothers to secure airplanes," Rep. Jason Chaffet stated, as reported by The Los Angeles Times. "I think it's a false argument to say we have to give up all of our personal privacy in order to have security." Others agree, and wish to discourage the Transportation Security Administration from purchasing at least 300 body scanners to install in busy city airports. The European Union remains skeptical on the issue as well. Stefan Paris, a German Interior Ministry spokesman announced, "Germany's



Full Body Scanners being used in certain airports are raising questions of privacy

position is that the scanners cannot be deployed until it has been shown that they will improve security, that they are not a health hazard and that they will not be so invasive that they harm individuals' rights", as reported by The New York Times.
Overall, such acts of terrorism hold good reason for concern; however, how much needs to be done to achieve a proper level security? What sacrifices must be made? Further developments, perhaps, will lead to such answers.

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BANNER BRIEFS

A Roundup of CSI News

Hillel's Alternative Break in LA: Working with City Year to Make the World Better for Children in Poverty

This past winter break, student members of Hillel at the College of Staten Island and other service-minded students from six universities around the country were part of the solution for underprivileged children in the greater Los Angeles area. Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life teamed up with City Year to provide services for the Boys and Girls Club in Santa Monica, sprucing up the facility, painting beautiful and cheerful wall murals, building plant benches, and volunteering in the after-school program. These CSI Hillel students joined 50 other students from campuses around the country for a week of meaningful community service and in-depth exploration of poverty and need across the U.S.

CSITODAY.NET

CSI Becomes a Clean Air Champion

The College of Staten Island recently announced that it has signed on to be the latest Champion of the New York State Department of Transportation's Clean Air NY initiative. Clean Air NY is a dynamic collaboration of organizations and individuals in the New York metro area who are taking action to improve air quality and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, which the EPA recently deemed a threat to public health and welfare. CSI advocates alternative transportation use through a carpool matching service and free shuttle bus. The College also provides pre-tax transit benefits to employees and even gave away free metro cards at an alternative transportation fair [last] November.

CSITODAY.NET

CSI Hillel Returns to Gulf Coast

The College of Staten Island Hillel joined, for the second year, the growing community of over 3,100 Hillel students who have helped rebuild Mississippi and Louisiana since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the area in 2005. This one-week trip, from January 3 to 10, focused on hands-on service, community interaction, and the exploration of social justice and Judaism.

CSI Student Brian Lemberg commented that going to New Orleans with Hillel and Jewish Funds for Justice was a real "eye opener." It was a very humbling experience to see first-hand how people are still struggling down there," he said.

CSITODAY.NET

Students Mobilize to Help the Homeless

BY CSITODAY.NET

Braving the cold January weather, 41 CSI students joined a total of 91 volunteers from around the Borough early last Tuesday morning to bring aid to homeless and unsheltered individuals on the Island, while also taking a census to give the New York City Department of Homeless Services an idea of the extent of homelessness in the borough. The Staten Island volunteers teamed with Project Hospitality on the Island, although the initiative, Project Hope, was a City-wide effort.

CSI student Rose Ellicott, who took part in the event, commented that the "Project Hope Homeless Outreach was a experience that I will never forget. Being homeless a couple times myself in the past, I really appreciate [the effort] and want to help the homeless community to get back on their feet."

John Ryan, another student participant and a CSI Emerging Leader said, "I feel as though this was a valuable task in volunteering for the community in which I live and all five boroughs. My particular group unfortunately did not find any homeless people in need of help. However, this may be a good thing

because it may mean the number of homeless individuals is dwindling, which is the overall goal of the survey. If we get an accurate count of the homeless in the city, we will be able to better assist them. It made me feel great to know I was helping the cause."

"The volunteers were acting as facilitators to see if there's a way that we can meet the needs [of the homeless] and offer them shelter for the evening or longer term if they needed it," said Robert King Kee, Coordinator for Student Leadership Development in the CSI Office of Student Life. "Then, ideally, [volunteers worked] to count the number of homeless folks on Staten Island, and subsequently, City-wide..."

Kee noted that the volunteers reported for orientation at 10:30pm on Monday and took to the streets in teams of four or five between the hours of midnight and 4:00am. Each team was instructed to interview everyone they encountered on the street, no matter who they were or what they were doing. Once the team met a person, they would identify themselves as canvassers from the Department of Homeless Services, and with the person's approval, they would ask about five confidential questions,

such as whether they had a place to reside that they considered home. After the assessment, if the team concluded that the person was not homeless, they would thank them for their time. If they believed that the person was homeless, they would ask them if they needed assistance and/or shelter for the evening. The volunteers would then contact a representative from Homeless Services, who would dispatch a van to provide assistance to the person. Kee added that volunteers had food and water on hand to provide immediate aid, and in the case of an emergency situation, they would call 911 before calling Homeless Services.

Beyond the immediate and long-term aid that the volunteers provided, Kee explained that the census data will be used by Homeless Services to provide information to the federal government on the extent homelessness in NYC. "If the homeless and unsheltered population goes up, the City gets additional funds from the Feds for shelters, programs, city services, etc. Ideally, you want to see [the number] go down because then it shows that we do have initiatives that are working."

Regarding the volunteer recruitment effort on campus, Kee said that the Office of Student Life used a number of methods to get the word out, from ads in the CLUE News newsletter and student-run radio station WSAI to sending fliers to all campus clubs and organizations, as well as the Student Government and the Emerging Leaders Program.

CUNY Helps Students Cope with High Cost of Textbooks

BY CUNY.EDU

A year's worth of textbooks typically costs \$700 to \$1,000 – about 22 percent of tuition at senior colleges at The City University of New York and about 32 percent of tuition at CUNY's community colleges, according to University Librarian Curtis L. Kendrick. He notes that the price of books is particularly burdensome to CUNY students, 38 percent of whom come from families with household incomes of less than \$20,000.

Goal: To offset the rise in tuition As part of CUNY's \$10 million Student Financial Aid Initiative prepared by Chancellor Matthew Goldstein and approved by the CUNY Board of Trustees, the University targeted \$2 million for campuses to buy textbooks. Much of the coordination was initiated by the late Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance Ernesto Malave.

The goal was to help offset the modest rise in tuition voted by the Legislature. By the end of November 2009, the almost 5,300 books that were purchased under this initiative had cir-

culated 87,741 times. The funds came with guidelines, encouraging college libraries to:

Put titles on reserves or make them available as "reference materials."

Purchase multiple copies as warranted.

Consider "rental" options.

Consider "e-textbooks."

Select books appropriate for undergraduates at the campus.

Choose books that support current students and the current curriculum.

Work collaboratively to investigate systemwide licensing opportunities.

Campuses use funds to order books to place on reserve

Campuses generally used the funds to order books to place on reserve, Kendrick said. These represent high-use items that are most in demand and that most directly support the curricula. Campuses also bought reference materials to support students writing papers and conducting research. He said the books span the full range of disciplines and tend to be multiple copies of high-demand textbooks, copies of all readings required for general education classes and

readings required for selected upper-division courses.

The future Looking to the future, Kendrick said that in addition to purchasing print textbooks, CUNY is exploring electronic book options. That could make tens of thousands of electronic books available to students and faculty on campus, as well as from their homes and office. He added that CUNY had established a committee to evaluate e-book proposals and had invited in a group of vendors for detailed discussions.

He noted that the New York State Textbook Access Act, which took effect on July 1, 2009, requires colleges to adopt policies that encourage faculty members to place their book orders early enough to enable bookstores to obtain the requested materials in used or digital formats, if available. At the federal level, a provision of the Higher Education Opportunity Act taking effect on July 1, 2010, requires that colleges disclose online ISBN and retail price information; CUNY is moving toward compliance.

"The Awkward Question"
Continued from the front page

Americans. I would often find myself toying with these people when the "awkward question" came about by blurting out something quaint or patriotic. I would say, "Thanks, we can't do our job without the support of good Americans like you!" I would watch their faces light up like a thousand watt bulb. As if someone pushed a magic button inside them and I would watch as they walked away feeling smug and content. As if they to were somehow a part of my fraternity or bled alongside me in the back alleys of Baghdad. How shallow I thought these people were and I soon realized that I wasn't angry with them because they stayed home while I went fight. I was angry because they didn't have to sacrifice anything for the privilege of me performing that service.

In WWII, America as a society sacrificed and took part in the general war effort. From the rationing of food and gasoline- to the symbolic act of buying war bonds- every stratum of American society was affected by the war. Today we have the longest war going on in the history of the United States and the average American is oblivious to this fact. Unless you had a family member or a friend serving in the current war, you would never know there was a war going on in this country at all! I find that public disconnect very disturbing and my anger comes from a sense that society is not sharing in the burden with its soldiers.

I also find that my anger is two-part, and the second half of that equation comes from being disappointed with my family and friends. After coming home from Iraq I felt my family and friends people didn't quite appreciate the fragility of life. They all seemed engrossed in life's petty distractions. Who's getting married, who's getting divorced? Did you know that what's her

name's son just graduated from Harvard law school- are you sure you want to go to that CSI school? Of course I can't forget my favorite...Lady GaGa is so talented and intelligent! It's at that point I have a fantasy that involves a suicide bomber jumping out of my mother's closet- yelling "Allah Akbar" and putting myself and my family out of our collective misery. Now of course I don't mean that, but my frustration at times is that colorful!

How many times have we heard the expression: "Here today...gone tomorrow?" It becomes a cliché and people forget the relevance of such a statement. There is a reason why soldiers are so different after they come back home from a war. In combat the distractions of life are ruthlessly stripped away to a Zen like place. Soldiers don't think about tomorrow, next week or next month. We learn to just simply live in the moment and with a little luck - hopefully make it to the end of the day. It's during this stripping down process that soldiers cultivate a true love for life and most important of all, a love for their fellow soldier. In war, the social constructs of race, religion and politics all seem to melt away.

Since my return from Iraq, I have put a lot of thought into this and if that last statement above sounds a bit "corny" to you- then it means you don't get it, and in order to get it, you have to live it. I think that is the major reason why soldiers are coming home from this war so psychologically screwed up. The Post Traumatic Stress Disorders, the depressions, the suicides, the alcoholism and the drug use- all stem from not being able to transition back to a life they once knew. It's a transition that society expects or almost demands of its soldiers- "thank you for your sacrifice", but we need you to seamlessly become productive members of society again. The key is they often can't and it isn't because the

world changed on them-it's because they changed drastically within themselves. Many of the problems that soldiers suffer from (male or female) comes from an inability to articulate what cannot be articulated to their civilian counterparts. The Vietnam generation said it best when their tours of duty were up. They called going back home as "getting back to the world" and that's exactly what it feels like when you go back home... it's like stepping from one world into another. Except nobody tells you that the world you left behind won't be the same when you return.

Now when people ask me the awkward question nowadays- I am not so quick to let them off the hook anymore. I warn them that some aspects in the telling will be graphic and at times a bit gruesome. If they are still standing in front of me after that disclaimer- then I know they are sincere and it's at that point that I happily share my experiences with them. Five years after my return from Iraq I've discovered I am not so angry anymore. I've come to learn that anger is a normal phase that all soldiers have to endure in varying degrees as a part of the healing process. Keep that in mind the next time you see a soldier and ask him (or her) what it's really like over there? Be prepared to hear the truth, or a version of the truth that you may find really uncomfortable. Most important of all- don't be apologetic when you hear something graphic. If that soldier is comfortable enough to tell you- than there is nothing to be sorry about.

Lastly, listen to what that soldier has to say if they are willing to share it, because there may be something in the telling that is valuable to the both of you. That something may help us to connect to what is important in life and in the process it may have the power to make us all a little more human again.

Lack of Security

BY JENNA FEVOLA
CONTRIBUTOR

Can anyone find a Public Safety Officer when you need one? It may sound like a joke but it is not. Public Safety is a main concern as the well being of Students is important. A recent email was sent out for a public safety advisory which stated, "The College of Staten Island Public Safety Department has increased patrol inspections on the campus. The Officers have been alerted to be extra vigilant and observant". From sexual assault to theft and vandalism, in the mist of any of these issues where is a Public Safety Officer to be found?

I had my own personal experience in November of 2008. I was being harassed by a fellow student off of the campus and I had already filled out the proper Police reports and had exhausted all my options. As I was walking alone from my night class I found my car was vandalized. I was parked in front of building 2A, where ironically, the Office of Public Safety can be found. Annoyed and aggravated I began my search for a Public Safety Officer. I walked into 2A and I could not find anyone in or around the vicinity of the office. About 10 minutes later I flagged down an officer outside who was completing a "patrol inspection".

After explaining my prior events with this particular student and another incident where my car was vandalized in the same way, it was safe to say we knew exactly who had done it. The routine procedure was to fill out a report of what happened but the officer could not do anything further than that. He informed me that there were cameras outside of the building and that if I spoke to the head of Security they would be able to watch the tape.

The next day after the incident I thought I would have enough evidence for the justice I needed in putting an end to the harassment. I was informed that the cameras were not working and they had no recorded tape for that day. How convenient not only was the crime committed under their noses but there was no proof it had ever happened. The report I filled out like the countless other ones at the Percent were all useless. Without that tape the detective dealing with my case said there was no way to prove that I didn't vandalize my own car in order to frame the other student.

What good is it having cameras that don't work or officers patrolling who miss obvious acts of vandalism? We may not pay Ivy League tuition but we could at least have grade "A" security. Now I know everything that goes on can not be monitored, this is not a perfect world but it would be more reassuring if help came speedily. Maybe more officers should be hired so that during night classes we could have one sit in each parking lot to watch over the students and their vehicles.

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

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"Does Racism In CSI Still Exist?"
Continued from the Front Page

assume that Muslim girls, especially those who wear Hijab, can't talk to guys when they really can."

The vast amount of cultures help all different races assimilate to the college and the club leaders are usually from the culture the club focuses on. This guarantees first hand information directly from real experiences for people who join the club but aren't from that specific background. These clubs help people open their minds to new cultures and ideas. This further helps with CSI students growing to understand one another.

Many students that were interviewed agreed that discrimination doesn't happen too much in CSI and, when it does, it's unintentional. Pedro Velez, 20 years old, a Hispanic student from CSI, stated that sometimes he feels left out or different from the other students in his school because of his

ethnic background. "I don't think its discrimination when they look at me funny," he said. "But I do know that sometimes those looks make me uncomfortable." In a time like 2009, should discrimination still be an issue? The answer is no. In the United States, where people of all different cultures and backgrounds come together and interact, discrimination is a foolish practice to hold on to. Cultures shouldn't determine what race you are, because everyone is part of the human race. With power in numbers, people would get much more accomplished focusing on real problems together rather than deciding which different race they despise more.

DNA tests reveal origins of Charles Darwin

Two hundred years after the birth of Charles Darwin, the "Father of Evolution," DNA technology has helped determine who his ancient ancestors were.

BY DAVID BRAUN
nationalgeographic.com

Darwin's great-great-grandson, Chris Darwin, 48, who lives in the Blue Mountains near Sydney, Australia, took a Genographic Project public participation cheek swab test analysing his "Y" chromosome.

According to Spencer Wells, project director of the Genographic Project, a research partnership between National Geographic and IBM with field support from the Waitt Family Foundation, Darwin's deep ancestry shows his ancestors left Africa around 45,000 years ago.

"I couldn't wait to find out my family's deep ancestry. I suspect that most people would be fascinated to know their family history over the past 60,000 years. After all, how can you understand who you really are, if you don't know where you have come from," Chris Darwin said in a news statement released by the Genographic Project today.

Haplogroup R1b

The test revealed that Chris Darwin, and therefore his paternal great-great-grandfather, Charles Darwin, are from Haplogroup R1b, one of the most common European male lineages, the release explained. "Approximately 70 percent of men in southern England belong to Haplogroup R1b, and in parts of Ireland and Spain that number exceeds 90 percent", Wells said.

The Genographic Project's test results show that Darwin's paternal ancestors would have migrated out of northeast Africa to the Middle East or North Africa around 45,000 years ago, Genographic said. "Diverging from this Middle Eastern clan, a new lineage emerged in a man around 40,000 years ago in Iran or southern Central Asia. Before heading west towards Europe, the next mutation, which defined a new lineage, appeared in a man around 35,000 years ago.

Men belonging to Haplogroup R1b are direct descendants of the Cro-Magnon people who, beginning 30,000 years ago, dominated the human expansion into Europe and heralded the demise of the

Neanderthal species."

Chris Darwin, son of George (known as Erasmus), grandson of William (Billy) and great-grandson of the astronomer George, who was one of Charles Darwin's 10 children with Emma Wedgwood, migrated to Australia from England in 1986.

A Blue Mountains guide and adventurer, (Chris often takes tourists on the Charles Darwin walk through the mountains to Wentworth Falls), Chris said that he was excited to find out his family's history.

Chris Darwin's mother's ancestry

The Genographic team also tested Darwin's mitochondrial DNA to provide an insight into his mother's genetic heritage. The result shows Darwin is part of Haplogroup K -- and likely directly descended from the women who crossed the rugged Caucasus mountains in southern Russia to reach the steppes of the Black Sea.

"What National Geographic and IBM are doing with the Genographic Project is incredibly important. The project is one way to show us the true story of humanity, of how we migrated across the world and that we are all related, tracing back to a small group of men and women who lived in Africa", Darwin said. "There are over 100 direct descendants of Charles Darwin who attended a family reunion in London last March," he continued. "I can't wait to share this with them."

The Genographic Project seeks to chart new knowledge about the migratory history of the human species and

answer age-old questions surrounding the genetic diversity of humanity. At the core of the project is a global consortium of 11 regional scientific teams following an ethical and scientific framework and who are responsible for sample collection and analysis in their respective regions.

Members of the public can participate in the project by purchasing a public participation kit (US \$100) from the Genographic Web site, where they can also choose to donate their genetic results to the expanding database.

Sales of the kits help fund research and support a Legacy Fund for indigenous and traditional peoples' community-led language revitalization and cultural projects.

There are currently 265,000 public participants who have actively consented to be included in the scientific database, according to the Genographic Project. "With the quantity of data and new methods of analysis that the Genographic Project team at IBM are pioneering, we are able to deliver insights into our past that were simply not possible before," said Ajay Royyuru, the leader of IBM's computational biology team.

The Genographic Project's consortium including the principal investigators from around the world are in Sydney this week for their annual scientific conference. Among the population geneticists are Australian principal investigator, John Mitchell from La Trobe University in Melbourne, and Alan Cooper, who heads up the Ancient DNA Centre at Adelaide University, as well as Sydney-based ethicist, Simon Longstaff, who chairs the global advisory board for the project.

Twitter resets passwords after phishing attack

BY ELINOR MILLS
CNET.COM

Twitter reset passwords for an unknown number of users... whose accounts appeared to have been compromised via phishing.

"As part of Twitter's ongoing security efforts, we reset passwords for a small number of accounts that we believe may have been compromised offline," the company said in a statement.

Some Twitter users apparently "used their Twitter username and password to sign up for an untrusted third-party application which then posted Tweets to their account," a spokes-

Photo by twitter.com

woman said.

"While we're still investigating and ensuring that the appropriate parties are notified, we do believe that the steps we've taken should ensure user safety," the statement said. "We'll continue to provide updates as warranted at @safety and @spam."

Users who want information on what to do if their accounts have been compromised can visit this page and learn how to use Twitter safely here.

Love, Life, and Your Health.

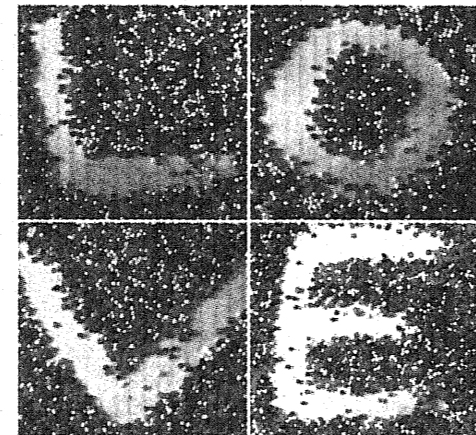


Photo by osuserves.wordpress.com

Valentine's Day is not about couples and relationships. It's about love!

BY NERVANA GABALLA
SCIENCE WRITER

Pink hearts, red roses, and milk chocolate candy box are considered to be main gifts for partners on Valentine's Day. A half pint of rocky road ice cream and a horror film are the "as-good-as-its-gonna-get" items for Cupid's day singles, however.

Women especially seem to find the latter situation depressing and sometimes embarrassing. "Another Valentine's Day single? Why is this happening to me? Why do I always get the short end of life's stick?"

For these women, it's time to redefine Valentine's Day. By redefining this day dedicated to love, not only will you be in a much more comfortable state emotionally and spiritually but this will also leave you in a better state physically and health-wise (this is where the scientific aspect of this article comes to play).

Valentine's Day is about love, of course, but I have yet to find a legal document with Cupid's signature that states the extent of this love and to whom it pertains to. Love is a very broad term and by believing love can only be for your partner is specifying the term to only one kind of group, which is not the intention whatsoever. Believing that Valentine's Day is a day for couples is respectively wrong as well.

This day is not a day to wallow or feel bad for. It is a day in which you declare your love for anything or anyone to the world. So, why don't you declare it to the world the love you have for yourself? We often reward ourselves with certain accomplishments, but how often have we appreciated ourselves? Valentine's Day can be the day to do so. Treat yourself; Love yourself. Consider the previous sentence a mantra for your soul. On this day, make the best out of your so thought short stick. And remember, chocolate in moderation. Happy Valentine's Day.

New York City - The Financial Capital of the World

BY THOMAS BRIGANDI
BUSINESS EDITOR

Frank Sinatra once sang "if you can make it here, you will make it anywhere," in that song he was referring to New York City. This statement is as true today as it was in the day Sinatra was singing "New York, New York." As you all know, New York City is one of the greatest cosmopolitan metropolises on the planet. Our astounding city is home to world class museums, corporations, and numerous other venues. New York City has served as a beacon of light for the tens of millions who have immigrated here, and it will most certainly continue to serve as a symbol of opportunity for the generations of immigrants to come. These immigrants came, and will continue to arrive, for myriad reasons; however the most prominent reason is perhaps purely economic. Waves and waves of people were driven here by the prospect of making it big through the numerous financial opportunities that New York City affords its residents. Now, I would like to share my opinions about why New York City is the financial hub that it is today and why I believe it will continue to be, going forward.

Primarily, New York City is the Financial Capital of the World due to the plentiful number of influential corporations that call New York City home. From financial services juggernauts like Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan to household products powerhouses such as Colgate-Palmolive, many companies have their global headquarters in New York City. It is partly due to this bastion of lucrative, multinational firms located in New York City that people come here in search of financial opportunity. Thus, the monetary opportunity that New York City offers people due to the relatively high number of good paying jobs available because of the countless number of successful firms prevalent in our city is a testament to New York City's achievement as a financial center.

Additionally, the actual securities exchanges themselves play a large role in New York City having the distinction of being the Financial Capital of the World. For instance, one of the most powerful symbols of American commerce is located in lower Manhattan down on 11 Wall Street; The New York Stock Exchange. According to the New York Stock Exchange's website, "The New York Stock Exchange traces its origins to 1792, when 24 New York City stockbrokers and

merchants signed the Buttonwood Agreement. This agreement set in motion the NYSE's unwavering commitment to investors and issuers." This statement shows how entangled the history of New York City and the exchange that bears its name really is, and depicts how closely related finance and New York City have become over the centuries since New York's founding.

In addition to the NYSE, other exchanges help to contribute to New York City's vibrant financial setting. The NASDAQ, while not downtown, is another significant securities exchange. Indeed, the NASDAQ is located at the "crossroads of the world" or Times Square. The NASDAQ's location plays into the notion of a global marketplace in which people from around the world trade through; centered in the Financial Capital of the World, New York City.

Lastly, the New York Mercantile Exchange is another noteworthy case. This commodities exchange is actually under the umbrella of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, but still operates in Battery Park City, Downtown Manhattan. The NYMEX, as people in the business world refer to it, is the where prices for commodities are decided. If you ever wondered where the price of oil per barrel or gold per ounce gets decided, look no further than the NYMEX. Essentially, traders on the floor take orders from around the world in an effort to decide the price of commodities on a global scale based on the market mechanism of supply and demand.

Thus, New York City is a major finan-

E.U. Official Backs Greece's Deficit-Cutting Plan

BY REUTERS

Greece's deficit-cutting plan is ambitious but achievable, a top European Union official said Monday, while warning that Athens might have to take additional measures to shore up its finances.

The European Commission is due to publish recommendations Wednesday on Greece's austerity plan to reduce a double-digit budget deficit, which is a main reason Greek financial assets have suffered in the markets for weeks.

Greece's financial problems have also provoked talk about a possible bailout by the European Union and fears of a spill-over effect on other weak, heavily indebted countries in the euro zone.

"What we are saying to the Greek authorities is, your stability program has established ambitious targets and objectives and we fully endorse these ambitious objectives," said Joaquin

Almunia, the E.U. commissioner for economic and monetary affairs. "The achievement of these objectives in the coming three years, before the end of 2012, is absolutely necessary. These objectives are achievable, but they are surrounded by risks." Greece, which faces its biggest fiscal crisis in decades, pledged last month to reduce its budget shortfall to below 3 percent of gross domestic product in 2012 from 12.7 percent in 2009.

The gap in its public finances has prompted a series of downgrades by rating agencies and unnerved financial markets worried that Athens may not be able to pay its debt obligations. Its debt is expected to reach 120 percent of G.D.P. this year.

The Socialists, who came to power in October, have presented measures including higher taxes; a freeze on public-sector monthly wages of over 72,000, or about \$2,800; and slower hiring. But

the government is wary of cutting deeper, fearing public unrest. Unions have already called strikes for this month.

A purchasing managers' index of the manufacturing sector, released Monday, fell to an eight-month low in January, signaling no quick end to Greece's first recession in 16 years.

Greek G.D.P. is forecast to shrink 0.3 percent this year after a 1.2 percent contraction, government forecasts say. "The economic cycle in Greece lags that of the euro zone by at least six months," said Nikos Magginas, an economist at the National Bank of Greece. "At the same time, the poor fiscal situation and the general sense of uncertainty created by market pressures on the servicing of Greece's debt are weighing on business confidence and delaying investment decisions."

cial center due to the large multinational organizations and securities exchanges that call our city home. I often make the assertion that working in or studying finance in New York City can be correlated to studying Renaissance Art in Florence, Italy during the Italian Renaissance, in other words, the terms finance and New York City are fundamentally interconnected. Ultimately, New York City's future in the spotlight of finance and deal making will be decided based on its ability to adapt to the changing needs of the complex global economy which we live in. As New York City has done in the past, it must be able to continue to reinvent itself to suit changing times.

Going forward, New York City will face challenges for its Financial Capital of the World "crown" from emerging competitors such as London, Shanghai, Tokyo, Sao Paulo, Frankfurt, Zurich, Moscow, Toronto, Sydney, Mumbai, Dubai, and Singapore to name a few. Thus, New York City must be innovative, adaptable, and pioneering in order to keep its title as the Financial Capital of the World, or risk losing this title to an emerging financial center overseas. Luckily for us, New York City has always risen to meet the challenges it has faced in the past and will most probably continue to do so moving forward, shining as a beacon of opportunity for generations to come.

Thomas Brigandi is a Macaulay Honors student and is majoring in Finance and Accounting. He also is a Registered Securities Representative. He currently holds the Series 7 and Series 63 Securities Licenses.

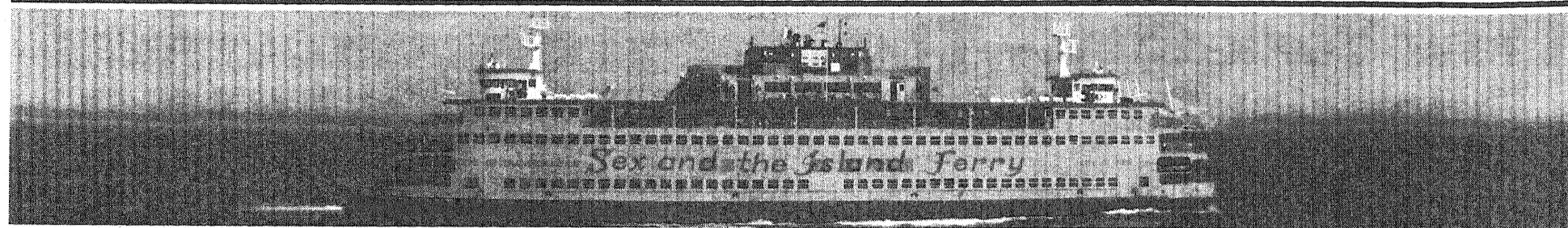
"Scrabbling For Survival"
Continued from the page 3

was a 1934 document restoring control of the Bank of Haiti to the government from the American bank that held it during a military occupation. More worrying still, more than 5,000 prisoners fled the country's jails in the earthquake, and most remain at large.

Until now, international aid agencies have filled the void while the government has focused on disposing of the dead. Over \$2 billion of relief funding has already been pledged. But officials estimate recovery could take a decade. And when the foreigners' attention inevitably drifts to the next crisis, Haiti may be left trying to reconstruct unaided what it could never build properly in the first place.

Nevertheless, Marie Laurence Jocelyn Lassègue, the culture minister, is optimistic about Haiti's chances of dragging itself back to its feet. "This time is different," she says. "The national palace, the cathedrals and the ministries have been destroyed, and everyone has lost someone. In their name, we are obliged to rebuild. Otherwise, we're not a real people."

LIFESTYLES



Untitled

Originally Printed on Mar 12, 2008

BY EMMA HERNANDEZ
SEX COLUMNIST

In an age where Americans spend the majority of their time on the internet and nearly every household owns a computer, we're finding more ways to communicate with each other. E-mail and Instant Messaging make it easier to keep in touch and in some cases, maintain long distance relationships. But chatrooms and dating sites are fueling a trend that I personally don't get and probably never will. Which leads

me to the topic of this week's column: What's so great about cybersex? Okay, let's be honest here, we've all done it at least once (and those of you who say you've never done it are lying). We've all fallen victim to the lulls in late night AIM conversations where you don't really know what else to say or you're just so bored that there's nothing really to talk about. But there are people out

there who actually get off on describing their fantasies over the internet.

So I know this kid who will remain nameless, even though it would be really fun to blow up his spot. He's been trying to get me to hook up

with him for a while now, ever since he found me on Myspace and sent me a message eloquently stating "Yo, I think ur hot". But I have a

firm stance on not meeting people I've met online or through Myspace.

I don't care if you're from Staten Island or that we both go to CSI. Quite frankly, I just find it pathetic. Anyway, I made the mistake of putting my AIM screen name in the information on my profile, and I'm advising that you should never, ever do that. Believe me, I learned this the hard way...no, really.

After repeatedly ignoring his IM's and flat out rejecting his sexual invites, he eventually gave up, until last semester. I was spacing out in my geology science lab (sorry, professor Benimoff) so I flipped open my Sidekick and signed on

to AIM. A few minutes later, he IM's me and complained about how bored he was. "Sucks for you", I replied. Then, he asked me if I wanted to play a game. When I asked him what kind of game, he told me it was his own version of show and tell.

Basically, he'd send me nudes and my job was to "tell" him what I'd like to do. In other words, cyber. It was perverted, creepy and a little (okay, a lot) degrading but I figured if I gave in to this, at the very least, he'd stop annoying me.

He started out with "Wut r u wearing" and I really wasn't interested, I actually never even agreed to it in the first place. But I answered him back vaguely, laughing to myself about how seriously he was taking this when I wasn't paying attention to him at all. While I was busy jotting down notes on the characteristics of igneous rocks, he was caught up in something that wasn't even really happening. Needless to say, about five minutes later (five?!), I guess he found it difficult to continue typing one-handedly, so he "brb'd, most likely to finish himself off. He returned, told me how "amazing" I was and asked me if I "came", too. "Suuuuuuuure," I said, even though I

was completely unaffected by what just happened. In fact, I was making fun of him with my friends.

I really don't understand why cybersex is so fun. I mean, sure, sex is mainly a mental thing but who actually enjoys typing out descriptions of what they're doing or what they would like to do? Personally, I'd much rather prefer having sex than just talking about having sex. Guys, take it from me. Most of the girls I know think it's really weird and we're just not that into it. And yes, we do e-mail the conversation to our friends so we can make fun of you behind your

backs. So the next time you're sitting at home, all alone and you're

all set and ready to go, just stop being lazy. Get up from in front of your computer and do something about it. As for that kid I mentioned before, I eventually had to block his screen name. Yeah, it's kind of a mean thing to do, but it's not like he's crying over me. He's probably settled in front his computer right now, on my Myspace page with a bottle of lotion in his hand... Okay, now that's just really creepy

him next. So, I wanted his last image of me to be even better than the last.

After a quick glance around the room, we closed the door behind us and I checked out of the hotel. Armed with a map and a lit Camel No. 9, my friends and I set off in search of the nearest Starbucks. We ordered our soy lattes and walked back towards the hotel, stopping at a pop art gallery and a Sailor Jerry's boutique (Sailor Jerry is who Ed Hardy wishes he could be). I couldn't even enjoy the clothes adorned with anchors, sparrows and flash art because I couldn't stop wondering where Big was. It was already 1:30 pm. I chain-smoked outside of the boutique, called his phone and left a message. Granted, he was at his best friend's 21st birthday party last night and he was probably hung over, but that's beside the point. We made plans two weeks ago to meet in but he stood me up, leaving me stranded outside of the Sailor Jerry's boutique somewhere on 13th Street in Philadelphia, lighting cigarettes and holding back tears.

I don't know how I would've made it through that day without breaking down, and without my friends. We sat in the back of the bus on the way back to Manhattan and they were giving me advice, telling me I shouldn't talk to him

anymore and how he's not worth it. I left another message on his phone: "I got on an earlier bus and I'm on my way home. You fuc'ed up." I still haven't spoken to him since that day. But, right now, I'm debating on whether I should give him a chance to explain or not. Either way, I'm sure I'll start talking to him eventually...because I'm dumb like that.

On a lighter note, Big didn't ruin my weekend in Philly. I met the boys in *Four Year Strong* and Karen and I got matching tattoos in our lips by a German lady at a tattoo convention. Boys will always find a way to let you down, but your friends will always be there for you, no matter what.

Do you have a question for the sex columnist? Do you need relationship advice answered? Send your questions and comments to the.BANNER.csi@gmail.com

and Karen, Andrew and I stumbled around the room and rummaged through our duffel bags, trying to find our shampoo, conditioner and shower gel bottles. I washed the sweat from my hair, blow-dried it, and straightened it. I assembled and accessorized an outfit. I had even bought a new dress for the occasion. It's been so long since I last saw Big and I didn't know when I'd see

BANNER ARTS

"The Same Situation, A Jersey Shore Review"

BY JUSTIN SARACHIK
STAFF WRITER

Finally perhaps the most genius show of all time has been made. Take a prevalent epidemic in today's culture and force it to coexist together. Better yet, why not televise the magic frame by frame. This magic could only be MTV's the Jersey Shore. This can only mean one thing, Guido's and Guidette's. You know, those people who gel their hair ten times a day despite a receding hairline. You have all seen them, the guys that walk outside shirtless with a chiseled six-pack and perfect eyebrows. Even the girls get in on the action with beautiful orange umpala looking skin while climbing out of their Escalades. These are the type of people that are proud to say that their job is to party. It is best defined as what Mike "the Situation" says, "A Guido is a good looking Italian guy or girl who knows how to have a good time".

The premise of the show is to take eight young "Guidos", put them in a Jersey Shore house, and have them "do work" at a beach shop. The show begins by introducing the cast of lovable misfits to the audience. First is DJ Pauly D. He boasts about the tanning bed in his apartment, and his perfect hair. Up next is Nicole "Snooki". Her goal in life is to marry a Guido, move to the shore, and live her life. Next up is Mike "the Situation". His abs are so ripped that he named them "the Situation". Although Mike seems quite clever, he's the typical player at heart and only has one thing on his mind. Sammi Sweetheart is the next girl in line. She immediately makes it clear that she won't take crap from any-

one, and she's only looking for some hot Guido action. Then we get to Vinny who seems to break the stereotype by condemning tanning, and being a meat-head. That hope soon fades away as he explains that he loves to fist pump and party it up. Now we have Jenni "JWOWW". That is the sound men make when this very slutty girl walks into the room. Next is the brutally honest and enormous Ronnie, who just wants to get laid. Up last is the self proclaimed Kim Kardashian of Staten Island, Angelina. She's cocky and loves to show off her goods. Like she says, "I'm a bartender, I do great things".

This first episode basically gives the run down of how they will be living and adjusting to each other and life over the next couple weeks. They are introduced to their new job, and get to see how alike or unlike they are to one another. The episode rounds out with them celebrating their first night with dinner and some drinks. Sadly enough the episodes don't really end any other way. Every night they all go out to a club and get plastered. Everyone seems to get some type of club love, even the ones with boyfriends. The typical rave, and alcohol infested scene carries on well into the night. Everybody is out and looking for the same thing. Girls are throwing themselves at the guys, and vice versa. The atmosphere is definitely one of poor decisions and lack of order.

The Situation and Pauly D bring home an influx of women every night in hopes of getting lucky in the hot tub or where ever else these very easy girls want to give themselves away. This sometimes leads to problems like in one



The Cast of Jersey Shore. From Left: Mike "The Situation", Jenny "J-WOWW", DJ Pauly D, Sammi "Sweetheart", Ronnie, Nicole "Snooki", Angelina, Vinny

Photo by mtv.com

episode where Snooki gets punched in the face by a rampaging girl who was thrown out of the apartment for being "ugly and trashy". Looks are understandable, but who are these people to decide what trashy is? By the way, that was the second time Snooki got punched in the face. The first time was by a way too drunk man in the bar, who was immediately arrested.

Other notable moments occurring on the show are Ronnie's two fights. The first was a fight instigated by his girlfriend Sammi, who he stole from Mike. He essentially pummeled this antagonizing guy on the boardwalk with no consequence except for a black eye. The second fight came when after leaving a club; the crew was being harassed by an on coming group of apparent "haters". After leaving the scene Ronnie ran back and clocked the kid out cold proclaiming, "That's one shot kid! One shot!" While impressive, Ronnie was then arrested and should probably look into a career of boxing rather than partying. Quite honestly way too much drama happened on this show to even document in a short article. And speaking of "honestly" your going to hear everyone on the show be honest because it's one of the three

words used along with "bro" and "like". Anyway, here's the overall review. What is to be expected from this show? A season two, that's what. The actors and actresses are already signed. The same cast will be back to give us arguably the best reality show on television. This is apparently what they do. Sadly enough it doesn't seem scripted at all. This is how a lot of people live. Expect to see more fistfights, and drunken love triangles. The show will undoubtedly spawn arguments, broken hearts, and a call or two to the cops. The lifestyle glamorized by these kids will probably now be looked down upon after enough people see consequence to their actions. Ironically so far the very people that condemn the show are ones who do these things. Maybe it is because they are embarrassed because this actually goes on. However with that being said, if you are looking for an hour of mind numbing entertainment, this is the show for you. It is really hard to stop watching. God only knows where this fist pumping frenzy will take us next.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

This is my forth year as a student on this campus. I wrote a Letter to the Editor a couple of semesters ago about how crowded the bookstore was. In that letter I also mentioned how unorganized the bookstore was, and I am happy to say that it has changed significantly. The books are now much more organized and the lines are not as long. It is much easier to move around in the bookstore and getting help has improved as well.

Recently a new issue has occurred that I think everyone is aware of, and that is the development of the multi-gender bathrooms. I herd from a

source that the reason these bathrooms were put into affect was because certain people that are on campus don't know where to go to the bathroom. I think making bathrooms multi-gender is a bad idea. It can cause more issues then it solves.

First of all this causes an invasion on both male and females privacy. What men do in the bathroom should be our business and what women do in the bathroom should be there business, and the two should never cross.

Not only do you have male students going to the bathroom with female students but you also got male teachers going in the bathroom with female teachers, male students, and female students. All a nineteen year old student has to say is that older male teacher, or male student for that matter

harassed her in the bathroom. This is one of those situations were when it happens you will see that the multi-gender bathrooms are causing more bad then good.

I'm not meaning to offend anybody but the majority of the campus isn't confused on whether we should use a male or female bathroom. For anyone who is confused on which bathroom to use, pick one and use a stall so that this way you can go to the bathroom and have your privacy. We don't need to be having all women an all men share the same bathrooms. We want our own privacy to and the majority shouldn't be affected.

Sincerely,
Benjamin Beach

Do you have something to write about? Has any of the stories written in the Banner helped to inform you? Or has it not informed you? Let us know what you think. You can send your comments and concerns to us by sending an e-mail to: the.BANNER.csi@gmail.com

Or you can drop off a copy in our mailbox on campus in 1C-207.

Why not plan for the future? Use the Career Center!

BY JOHN GIOE
CONTRIBUTOR

It is really funny. A majority of people that take classes here at the College of Staten Island do not even know of the other institutions that exist to help them. Is this because the college doesn't inform them of such opportunities? To a degree yes. With the exception of the Macaulay Program, the only way people know of the various happenings is either through the illustrious email system (which hardly is even checked by most students) or through word of mouth.

"Most students leave college with out any direction. This is unfortunate since these same people spent all this time in school."

Up until a couple of months ago, I wasn't even aware what the Career and Scholarship office actually offered and how it can help. Is this because of lack of knowledge of my campus? Maybe. However I feel that many students are not aware of what their college even offers them. Regardless, I feel that the Career and Scholarship center should not be overlooked, especially in these troubled times.

"A majority of people take classes here at the College of Staten Island do not even know of the other institutions that exist to help them."

There are some students like myself that see their futures as a foggy forest. They are trying to find the light at the end. The Career and Scholarship Center is like a sign in said forest that points you in the right direction. It doesn't give you a definite path, but it will tell you which way is your light. It has helped me and gave

The Gift of Education

BY GABRIELLE CANCI
CONTRIBUTOR

I'm not your average student. I am a thirty-three year old woman. I am the single mother of a sixteen year old boy. I recall being in high school and having all these tremendous dreams. I could not wait to further my education. Perhaps go away to college. My path was changed when I became pregnant at sixteen. Suddenly, the opportunity for me to go away to college was taken away from me in an instant.

I truly believe that education is a gift. It is an opportunity to grow and to learn. I swear it has been my plan to someday go back to school and study English. I

10 have always felt there was something

"There are some students like myself that see their futures as a foggy forest. They are trying to find the light at the end."

me more confidence in deciding a future for myself.

There are different services that can help each individual student. The first time you enter the center, you are asked a number of questions on why you went to CSI?, what is your GPA like?, and what are your interests? All the counselors are willing to listen and will assist you with any questions and concerns that any student might have. All the services offered are also FREE of charge.

Two of the greatest services are the personality profiles and help in building your resume. In order to build your personality profile, you have to complete a number of tests. After they are complete it is surprising to find the results. Not only do they give you your perfect career, but it also shows you your individual personality traits which are surprisingly accurate. I was shocked at my results and how a few tests read me so well. The second service they offer is the resume builder. At first you have a number of tools available to you (for free) that build your custom resume. For me this is a big help since it lays out the plans for you. Once you are done then you can go see a specialist to form a flawless resume that you can submit for internships to companies and also for jobs as well.

Most students leave college without any direction. This is unfortunate since these same people spent all this time in school. Students should then use this center. It will make them more confident when they finally leave school and enter the working world.

missing from my life, and there was. I was missing my education that I had so well deserved. I will confess, it has not been an easy decision to go back. My family showed little or no interest and minimal support. It did not matter, for the importance to learn was greater than anyone's opinion in regards to my plan. Returning to school to earn a degree has changed my life in many ways. I have grown intellectually but I have also gained the gift of self worth. I will continue on this journey, because there is no end to learning. I am hopeful that my son will come to this realization, for I will always preach the importance of education to him.

College of Staten Island Lacking in Color

BY WILLIAM PONCIANO
CONTRIBUTOR

The College of Staten Island has been open since 1976, yet they seem to be a bit behind the times when it comes to their cultural diversity. CSI is widely known for their huge population of Italian-American students and very little blacks or Hispanics.

According to multiple sources (such as uscollegesearch.com and eam my degree.com), as of 2007, the student body at CSI was 62-70% white while the second highest being blacks or Hispanics at 10-13%. This is something that many students don't tend realize, at least the white students don't. A white freshman in her second semester, who would like to remain anonymous, told me that she felt that the whites to blacks ratio was quite even in class room, while in reality it is usually 20 to 5. That kind of number is what I'm accustomed to seeing on campus.

Another student, a sophomore who would also like to remain anonymous, was not surprised when I told him that the student body at CSI was 60-70% white. "Yeah. I can picture that," he told me. When I asked him if he was ok with that kind of statistic he told me, "Well there's not really anything we could do about it." It's these kinds of

things that allow this to happen at CSI. Not to say that it is or is not CSI's fault. Obviously, you cannot admit students who don't apply. But at the same token, there isn't much a warm environment with coloreds at the College of Staten. That may have something to do with it being on Staten Island.

As a sophomore in my fourth semester as The College of Staten Island, and a Hispanic, I very rarely found myself in a classroom where I could find more than 5 Hispanics. While I don't feel there is any prejudice or discrimination being taken place on campus, but I do feel that the number or minority students is dreadful. As a CUNY school, there should more diversity. There is no other CUNY school with a more than a 20% separation between the top two ethnic groups.

I can't say for sure why exactly it is that the school is so unbalanced, ethnically. I am hoping that by the time I graduate in 2012, the numbers won't be so drastic and the campus will have a little more to offer to those of us who don't reside on the Island. Until then, minorities like me and the other 30-40% of the student body will have to make due in this uneven environment. Unfortunately, I was not able to find a black or Latino available for an interview.

Ridiculous Requirements

BY NADINE AMIR
CONTRIBUTOR

As a CSI student, I feel the requirement to take PED fitness for life to graduate is unnecessary. Of course like most other students, I put it off to the last minute before graduation. I have never bothered to take it because I feel it is honestly a waste of my time and money. The simple fact that it is a one credit class has turned me as I'm sure other students totally against taking this class. This one credit class that meets once a week for two hours is a pathetic excuse for promoting fitness and physical health. Don't get me wrong, I know being physically fit is a very important factor for one's health. I just do not think this class really challenges anyone in a way that learning about physical health should.

No other CUNY make this a requirement and I don't really think that is fair. If this class offered at least two credits, I would not be that appalled. I also think that if we were given set goals in this class such as being tested on our

development in each subject. Given one physical task such as getting into a pool for two hours, really is not going to help anyone get better at swimming. If CSI feels strongly about the health of its students, they should at least take it seriously themselves. I asked a friend of mine, Andrea Garcia, what her thoughts were about this class. She responded "it was a complete waste of time. There was way too much written work for a fitness class and I did not learn anything I didn't already know from high school health class."

Although I have not yet taken this class, I know many people that have taken it. They seem to agree with me when I say it is a waste of time. They do not seem to understand why they were forced to take some form of physical education for their entire school career, if they were going to be forced to take it in college. At least in high school, it was a class that we had to attend everyday and actually be graded on our participation and enthusiasm. However in college most people feel they just have to show up.

BANNER OPINION

No, Pardon Nothing.

A RESPONSE TO
"Pardon The Interruption"
Originally Printed on Nov. 24, 2009

BY ANDREW OPPENHEIMER
CONTRIBUTOR

I have many problems with Ms. Torres' response to "What the Hell is Wrong With CSI?" printed in the Banner on November 24th, 2009. It might seem like old news now, but the stain she left in the minds of the student body remains. Among these issues are snide personal attacks towards Michael Miley, the terrible grammar, run-on sentences, terrible explanations, and overly ambiguous language.

To call someone crude when they are meeting their obligation as a student to criticize a governing body is immature. To point out that someone has tried to join Student Government only points out that they knew that the government needed change ahead of time, facilitating it in the only way that one really can. I too ran for student government, and I was elected, but was unable to serve. Would she then say that it is crude for me to criticize the government because I had wanted to prompt an active change as well?

She provides numbers, but fails to

provide the logic behind them and the math that went into them in a clear, accurate way. It states that the scholarship fund is \$20,000. The statement after said that \$12,500 was given by the Academic and Curricular Affairs Commission, and then "that \$10,500 of this allocation was given to a different major every month for seven months." This is either bad math, or money is disappearing as the words were typed. The ACAC is a commission of the Student Government. This means that of \$20,000, \$12,500 was taken out and placed into this commission. This leaves \$7,500 for the rest of Student Government to allocate. Of the money that ACAC was allocated, \$2,000 was unaccounted for. This is \$10,000 that was not attributed in the attempt to show all. There are several other numbers thrown out later in the piece, but I don't want to waste the students' time trying to explain the mistakes of our government while they try to explain their mistakes.

I find it simultaneously amusing and insulting that so much loose, undefined language is used. The issue isn't if Student Government "may or may not collect stipends," the issue is that Student Government does collect stipends. The use of such loose lan-

We Need More Opened Classes

BY JESSICA CAPPILLO
CONTRIBUTOR

In my three years at the College of Staten Island the one issue I always had was finding the right classes to fit into my schedule. Advisement told me that as I get more credits I will get an earlier registration date so I can get the classes I need. I was uninformed; I have 80 credits now and I still have a hard time getting the classes that I need for my major.

All of the classes that are required for English majors have only one or two classes (if your lucky) that are being offered for us, so instead of taking classes we need, we have to pick different classes that doesn't fit into our major and waste our time at CSI. The English department is very big and there are a lot of people in that major and it is wrong to have such a limited amount of classes for the required classes for English.

Then, many professors feel bad that some students weren't able to get into the classes and they give them an

guage can only show either ignorance in the speaker or guilt in the knowledge that they are doing wrong by their constituents. Perhaps it is only insulting, with all amusement absent.

I do not feel that it is tasteful to bash someone while trying to have an intellectual debate with them, and the snide remarks under very poorly laid sarcasm directed as personal attacks against Michael were uncalled for and immature. I do not feel that this is a desirable trait in an elected official. This is compounded by the condescending tone thick through the rest of the piece. I am appalled that the Student Government elected this individual—all positive and negative traits inclusive—as the Student Government Vice President. Of all the individuals on the current government, the one most vocal against the students was the one promoted. This is shameful.

Most revolting was the final attempt to win students over with flattery, claiming that the Student Government would be "nothing without the diverse and unique students that [Student Government serves] every day." I beg to differ. The Student Government is nothing, despite the diverse and unique students that should be served. The disservice delivered is inexcusable, and unforgivable without immediate change.

Ever semester I write to them and tell them what classes weren't available for me and still there are limited classes. Moreover, the advisement in the English Department isn't up to par either. I have almost went to every professor in the Department for help with classes and the either tell me that they have no idea and I would be better off doing it myself or just look through the catalog, which I could have done by myself also. Many students at CSI need help building their careers and need help doing it and there is very little help in my experiences in the English Department. Since I haven't had experience in any other Department I don't know how any other student feels about this issue that's why I hope to pursue it and learn if every student has the same problems I do.

SEND YOUR OPINIONS OR
LETTERS TO:
the.BANNER.csi@gmail.com

Anorexia Nervosa in College Students

BY SUNDAS NAZIR
CONTRIBUTOR

Learn from Starbucks --make money-- open a food business at the college. You will always have customers because, how long can students who stay on campus for 12 hours prolong hunger? The food in the cafeteria is unbearable for many people, including myself. I will credit the assortments in breakfast, but lunch is not worthy of credit at all.

Some of the "chefs" will use gloves not to put a clean slice of pizza on your plate, but to merely protect their hands from flour, cheese and other edible ingredients. Little do they realize that they have been seen scratching their heads or using the payphone near the bookstore with those same gloves. On the bright side however they at least don't have germs on their food.

Another thing is that there is little variety and even less kosher food. Out of the many times I ate a Quesadilla with no meat, I've been questioned upon paying for it, "why does your Quesadilla look delicious and stuffy but you say it has no meat?" Apparently, I do not sound convincing enough when I reiterate that there is no meat, only red onions, tomatoes, green pepper, lettuce and cheese. It is understandable because there are students who will steal the costly meat, of course. Are you supposed to open your food, and reveal the filling to justify yourself every time?

Every morning whether the ground is enveloped with blinding snow or the smell of freshly trimmed green grass on campus, I want to have coffee, half and half, with no sugar. Not to my surprise, the half and half in our cafeteria is concentrated with water; therefore it is close to regular milk. And regular milk seem to taste more like skim milk. I find this a bit creepy. For this reason, I bring coffee from home and when I spill some in my school bag or on my clothes from brisk walking to class, I don't regret it as much. So, if you are a student like me, you can be anorexic and drop your weight to 87 pounds easily. Don't forget to thank the CSI cafeteria that you look slender and can easily slip into size 0 pants. It can't get better than this.

BANNER SPORTS

AFC and NFC Championship Game Wrap-Up

BY DAVID GINSBERG
STAFF WRITER

*AFC Championship
New York Jets Vs. Indianapolis Colts*

Things started out great for the Jets on both sides of the ball. The Jets' defense held the Colts to three total yards on their first two possessions. Linebacker David Harris sacked Peyton Manning twice on the Colts' first couple of drives and the Jets' defense and blitz schemes seemed to be confusing the Colts. On the offensive end, the Jets moved the ball up the field on their first possession. Mark Sanchez looked good, connecting with Jericho Cotchery for a successful third down conversion and Braylon Edwards (yes, he actually caught the ball) for twenty yards to set Jay Feely up for a forty-four yard field goal attempt. Even though the kick was no good, the Jets showed that they could drive down the field on the Colts, and more importantly, it gave confidence to the Jets and their answers that Mark Sanchez could actually lead a potential scoring drive

instead of worrying about being a one dimensional offense.

On the Colts' third possession, Peyton Manning and the Colts offense chose not to challenge Darrelle Revis, but still moved the ball down field quickly. Manning and second year wide receiver Pierre Garcon were in sync, successfully connecting on two long pass plays to set up the first score of the game, a Colts field goal. The Jets fired back quickly as they shocked the Colts on the first play of the drive by having Sanchez hit Braylon Edwards on a deep route that was good for an eighty yard touchdown. Vegas odds of this happening: 1 in 14,500,758 (that was the rumor at least). The Colts drove right back down the field, getting all the way down to the Jets' 1 yard line, but once again the defense bent but didn't break, forcing the Colts to settle for another field goal.

The Jets went back to their bread and butter, with rookie standout Shonn Greene doing his thing on the ground. After a few running plays, the Jets set up in the wildcat formation, the same formation that tore the Bengals' defense apart in week 17 of the sea-

son. Instead of running the ball, Brad Smith hit Cotchery deep down the field for a big gain. Sanchez found Dustin Keller for the touchdown on third down. After picking up a first down gaining possession, Calvin Pace forced a Joseph Addai fumble, leading to a Jets field goal and a widespread epidemic of hearing loss throughout the tri-state area as Jets fans cheered in unison after jumping out to a two possession lead with just a little over two minutes to go until the end of the half.

And then it happened. In less than a minute, Peyton Manning and rookie wide receiver Austin Collie single-handedly led the Colts on a four play, eighty yard touchdown drive to bring the Colts back to within 4 points at the half. If Jets fans were told before the game that they would have a 17-13 lead going into halftime thanks to a pair of Mark Sanchez touchdown passes, they would have been thrilled.

However, that drive at the end of the half took the wind out of everybody's sails. The Colts had threatened before, but they hadn't scored a touchdown. Now, in just a few plays, Peyton Manning sliced through the Jets defense like it was nothing. Eighty yards in less than a minute. Judging by people's reactions, you would have thought the Jets were going into the half down by two scores. The aura of invincibility surrounding the Jets' defense was gone.

The Jets received the ball first in the third quarter. Just as it seemed the Jets were starting to establish the running game again, Shonn Greene got injured and didn't return. This was the beginning of the end for the Jets. Despite Greene's injury, Sanchez still drove the Jets down the field, reaching the Colts' thirty-four yard line. Despite the fact that he missed a forty-four yard field goal attempt earlier, the Jets called on Jay Feely to attempt a fifty-two yarder. In hindsight, it's glaringly obvious that the Jets should have either gone for it on 4th and 7 or punted the ball and played the field position game. If they knew they were going to go for a field goal, why not just run the ball on 3rd down and pick up a few yards instead of going with the passing play... Bueller? ... Bueller?

Feely missed the field goal and left the Colts with only half the field between them and another score. The Colts had no trouble scoring behind a string of double digit yard gains and eventually a four yard TD pass from Manning to Garcon. The Colts were up by three. The lead might as well have been fifty. The Jets' offense never threatened again and Manning added another TD throw, this time to Dallas Clark and another field goal for good measure to give the Colts a 30-17 victory over a game, but ultimately over-matched Jets team.

*NFC Championship
Minnesota Vikings Vs. New Orleans
Saints*

If you weren't too busy crying or contemplating suicide after the Jets' loss, then you were treated to a classic, offensive, back and forth battle between the Vikings and the Saints. The big guns were out early for both teams with Brett Favre and Adrian Peterson starting things off by leading the Vikes downfield in five minutes for the first touchdown of the game. Drew Brees came firing back, showing off all of his offensive weapons by completing passes to four different players, including a thirty-eight yard touchdown to running back Pierre Thomas. Halfway through the first quarter we already have two scores.

People who bet on the 'over' are thrilled right now. A series of stupid penalties on the Saints kept the Vikings next drive alive. The Saints had back-to-back penalties which resulted in a Vikings first down and a fifteen yard unnecessary roughness penalty called on them. Brett Favre took advantage of the Saints' miscues, eventually hooking up with Sidney Rice for a touch-

down to put the Vikings up 14-7.

The Saints answered back with an impressive drive that included a twenty-eight yard completion to Reggie Bush and ended with a nine yard touchdown pass to Devery Henderson. After a couple of scoreless possessions for each team (yes, there was SOME defense in this game), the fumbleitis started. With about a minute left in the half, the Vikings recovered a Reggie Bush fumble on the ten yard line. After 1 play, the Vikings were a mere 4 yards away from taking a 1 touchdown lead going into the half. However, a bad exchange on a handoff to Adrian Peterson led to yet another fumble, this time recovered by New Orleans. The Vikings had blown a huge opportunity to not only take the lead, but to also take full control of the momentum going into the second half.

The second half began much like how the first half did - quick scores. The Saints got a great kickoff return and only needed two minutes to go 37 yards for a touchdown. Despite another fumble (Adrian Peterson), the Vikings recovered and responded with a touchdown drive of their own to once again tie the game. The 4th quarter

began with both teams tied at 21 but that would soon change. Percy Harvin fumbled on just the 2nd play of the quarter and the Saints recovered at the Vikings' 7-yard line. Of course, the Saints scored and took a 7 point lead. The Vikings came right back behind a twenty-seven yard Adrian Peterson run and a thirty yard hookup from Favre to Bernard Berrian. Minnesota got down to the New Orleans eighteen yard line. Favre completed a pass to Bernard Berrian only to have him cough up the ball for another Saints recovered fumble.

Unbelievable. Luckily for the Vikings offense, the defense held strong and forced a punt, giving the Vikings good field position. The Vikings invariably charged down the field and tied the game up at 28 apiece. The Vikings got the ball back with 2:30 left in the game after a solid defensive stand. After a couple of Favre completions and a nice run from backup/3rd down back Chester Taylor, the Vikings found themselves in field goal range at the New Orleans 38 yard line. With nineteen seconds left in the game, all the Vikings had to do was gain a few yards to get an easier field goal attempt or just plain hold onto the

ball. Favre rolled out to his right and decided to throw the ball across his body back towards the middle of the field. Finally the old Brett came back to haunt Minnesota as the ball was intercepted and the game went into overtime. A lot of people will say "well, that's how Brett Favre is, you take the good with the bad." Regardless, that pass was nothing short of ridiculous. Favre may have been hobbled and hurt from getting brutally hit all game by the Saints defense, but he had a good amount of open field in front of him and could have mustered up at least five-yards had he just used his head and pulled the ball down and ran out of bounds to stop the clock. The Saints won the coin toss in overtime and capitalized on a solid return by Pierre Thomas and kicked the game winning field goal.

That was the end of the Vikings' season and possibly Brett Favre's career. Just remember: for every bone-headed play like that interception (and there's a lot), there is five improbable plays that 99% of quarterbacks could never make.