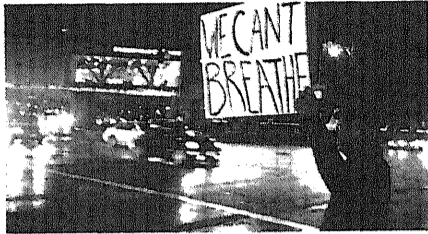


THE BANNER

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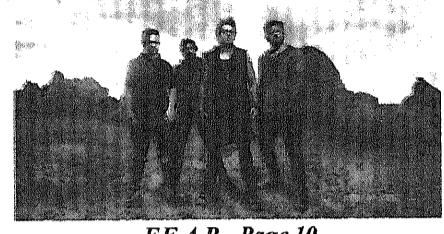
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Gov's Executive Budget Causes Commotion in CFA

Presentation of Budget Highlights Becomes Town Hall Meeting



Protesters from Research Foundation in support of adjunct professors in 2013

BY CLIFFORD MICHEL

Ten minutes after a representative from Governor Andrew Cuomo's office was scheduled to present highlights from his Executive Budget on February 3, murmur and confusion spread across CSI's packed Williamson Theatre.

"When is this supposed to start?" one student grumbled.

Dr. Fred Naider, the College of Staten Island's Provost then addressed the crowd.

"One of the biggest parts of education is to discuss discourse," said Naider, who also holds the title of Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. "Today you're going to talk to people who, on the state level, have a tremendous amount of power and influence and at the state level they particularly requested that students be present."

There was a visible change in the audience following the statement as well as when Cuomo's representative arrived five minutes later.

"The funding has increased due to incentives."

The active crowd at the Center for the Arts spoke out against various policies during an hour long town-hall style presentation.

Helen Foster, Commissioner of the New York State Division of Human Rights, summarized and provided a brief analysis for each of the proposals. Titled the "2015 Opportunity Agenda," Foster went over the Governor's 66 proposals for the upcoming budget, which will be negotiated upon by the state legislature.

PSC-CUNY placed a sign in the front row from PSC-CUNY, a union for the university's professors and staff, which set the tone for the first question asked.

Students prodded about the funding of

CUNY 2020, a challenge grant initiative started by the state in 2020 to incentivize CUNY colleges to help expand economic growth.

CSI received \$15 million in funding for a Big Data Center from CUNY 2020 in its first year.

While allocations for this year's funding is not yet known, Foster left plenty of reasons for enthusiasm amongst audience members.

"As far as I know the funding for CUNY 2020 has not changed or altered," said Foster. "And actually for this proposal the funding has increased due to incentives."

CUNY professors haven't had a contract since October 2010 and have been protesting for raises ever since.

The union has been protesting for a contract and has constantly repeated that they haven't received a fair deal.

CUNY Chancellor James Milliken also testified to the state legislature in early Feb-

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Study Abroad Serves as Gateway to Explore

THE JOURNEY FROM LEARNING ITALIAN TO COOKING ITALIAN

BY VICTORIA MANZO

Travel is often touted as one of the greatest experiences in life. It's uttered so often that some may think no more of it than any other standard cliché. Frank Costagliola, a junior at CSI, journeyed to Italy this past winter and vouches that the wonders of travel are anything but.

Costagliola brought back an array of newfound cooking skills, languages, and far from typical drunken memories.

In high school he realized he wanted to learn Italian and declared it as his major, but changed it a year later.

"I always wanted to learn to speak another language" said Costagliola. "But I was concerned I wouldn't get a job."

Although his fear of finding work after college led him to switch majors, his desire to learn Italian and never faltered. He immediately began saving to study abroad in Italy, and with the help of his family and a \$500 scholarship, went for three weeks in January.

Costagliola visited all the standard tourist spots: Venice, Rome, Naples, and Pompeii; but somehow he found his favorite to be in Cinque Terre, meaning "the five lands." There he hiked over the mountains and had a beautiful view of the Mediterranean Ocean.

Another perk of the smaller towns was the opportunity for Costagliola to practice his Italian.

"Initially the language was intimidating" said Costagliola. "Florence and Rome were very touristy and a lot of people spoke English there, but in small towns and mom and pop shops, if you didn't speak Italian, you couldn't communicate. After getting over my fear, it was pretty fun talking to the people."

Costagliola also took cooking classes during the week from nine in the morning to noon with Annamaria Cacioli, a well-known Italian chef. There he learned how to fillet fish, prepare risotto, tiramisu, croissants, and pizza. Cacioli also emphasized the use of herbs, whole foods, and healthy fats.

During the trip, he spent time with his

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CONTRIBUTORS:
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JEREMY L. PASKER

FACULTY ADVISOR:
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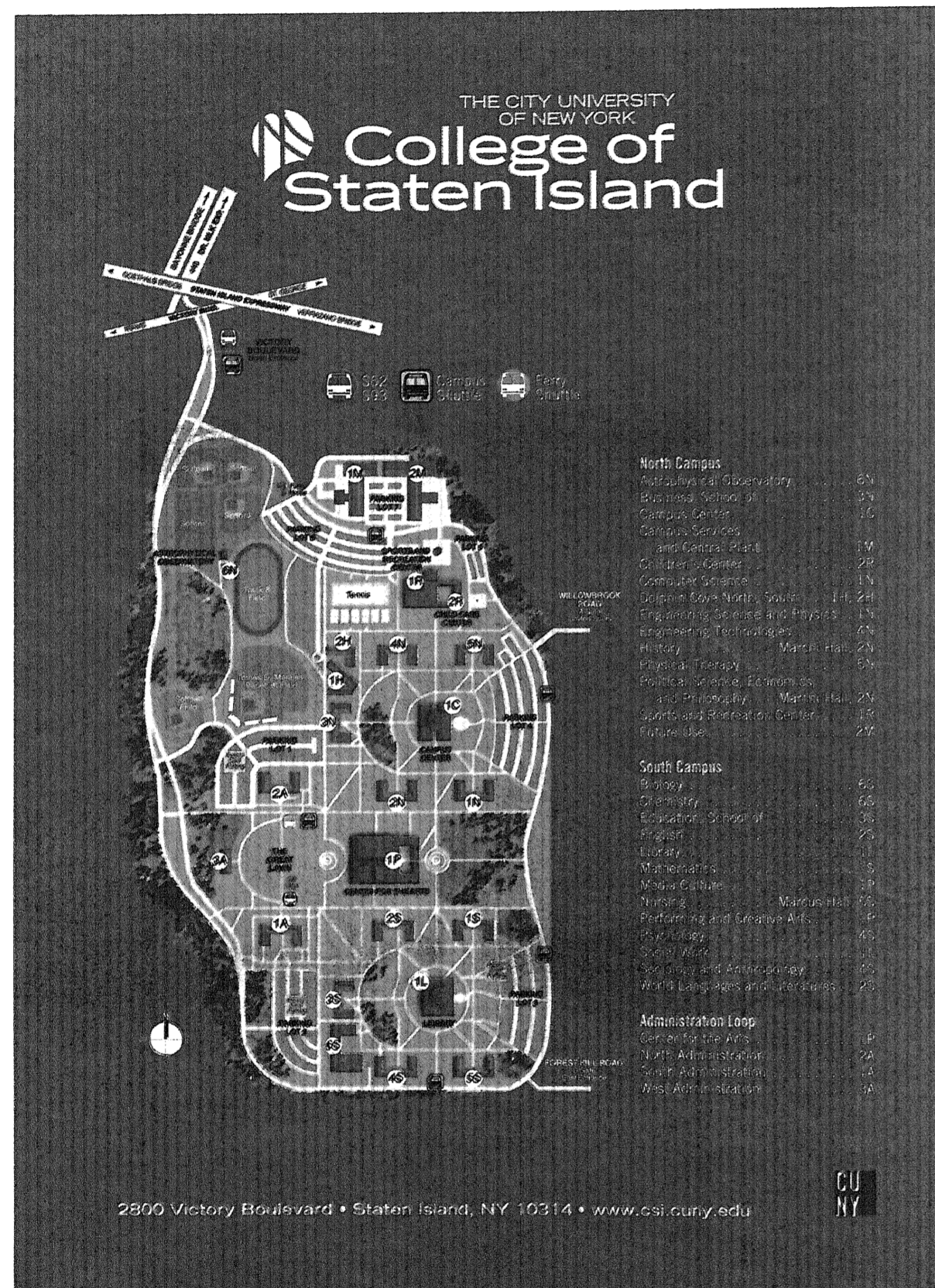


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BANNER POLITICS

Connecting the Dots Social Media Supplied for Us

Where in the Online Community Do We Draw the Line?

BY ANTHONY FERRARA

Why does Eric Garner matter so much? Sure, I understand the whole "cop brutality" thing. I get that he was a black man who was essentially killed by a white police officer for nothing more than hardly resisting arrest.

I understand why this would make the news and stay a lead story for a couple of weeks.

But why has it had such an impact on society that LeBron James recently wore a t-shirt that says "I Can't Breathe" during his pregame workouts?

In fact, why is the slogan "I Can't Breathe" even relevant to our society in the first place?

Social media started out in the early 2000's as a way to connect and reconnect with family and friends online.

Sites like Myspace and Facebook were a free platform for people of all ages to be able to express to the online world—and their community of peers—what was going on in their lives.

It all began as an innocent and personal pathway to communication with the people around you.

As social media began to expand we saw Myspace hit the bricks and Facebook emerge as the top social media site out there.

It extended itself beyond the campus of Harvard and brought an experience like no other to the keyboards of millions of people.

You could easily post updates and add people that you know, all as a way to stay linked up with the people that you did not want to lose touch with.

Of course, it also doubled as something to do in your free time, like a dating website.

Little by little, a new website called Twitter began to take shape during the

early 2010s. Originally, its intent was to challenge Facebook as a top website in regards to social media.

It was more of a celebrity based feel and that is what drew many people to the site. You could follow your favorite musicians or athletes and read up on what they were doing as if they were one of your friends.

As these sites expanded, more and more emphasis was to be put on the personal side of the user.

The only way to further manifest the

"We instantaneously became a society that was generating its own news. The giants in social media and marketing picked up on all of this, and did so in a not so obvious manner."

At first, it was simple. Photos and videos were now able to be uploaded easily onto the profile page. The world

killing experience into a full-fledged news organization.

What this means is that people started realizing that they could really generate ideas by simply making a status update, or tweeting something.

We instantaneously became a society that was basically generating its own news content. The giants in social media and marketing picked up on all of this, and did so in a not so obvious manner.

We are now seeing our social media timelines become tailored to our preferences—based off of information that marketing agencies develop by monitoring our status on these websites.

News has never been so easy to access but has also definitely never been so easy to filter—and most of the time we don't even know that it's being filtered.

So what is now news is completely up to us. Unfortunately, instead of using all of this content for good, we are continuing to be lazy with it.

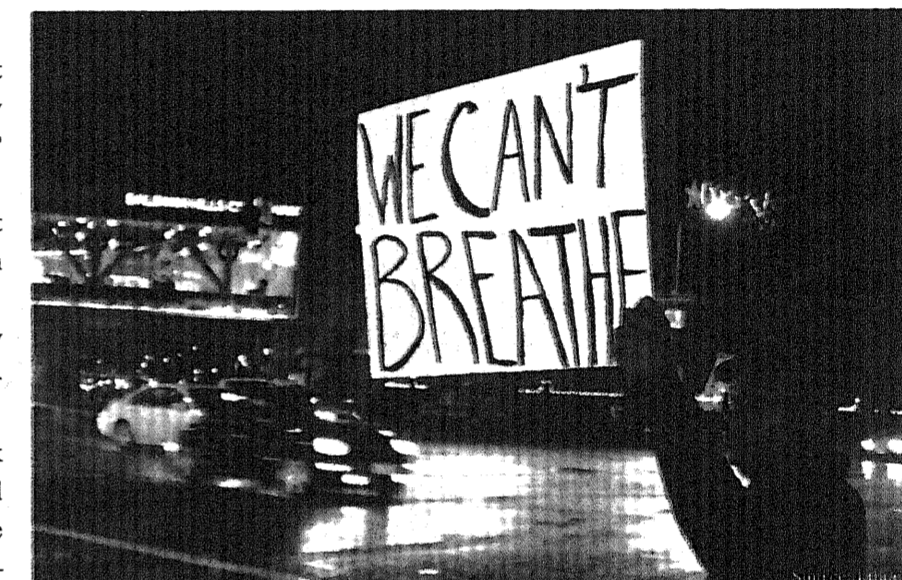
Instead of diversifying our feeds, we continue to click on the same stories and people that we always do, because it's very simple to just mindlessly wander throughout our newsfeeds with no actual realization that what we are seeing has a real impact on society.

Eric Garner matters so much because everybody is choosing a side in relation to video that was broadcast online for the world to see.

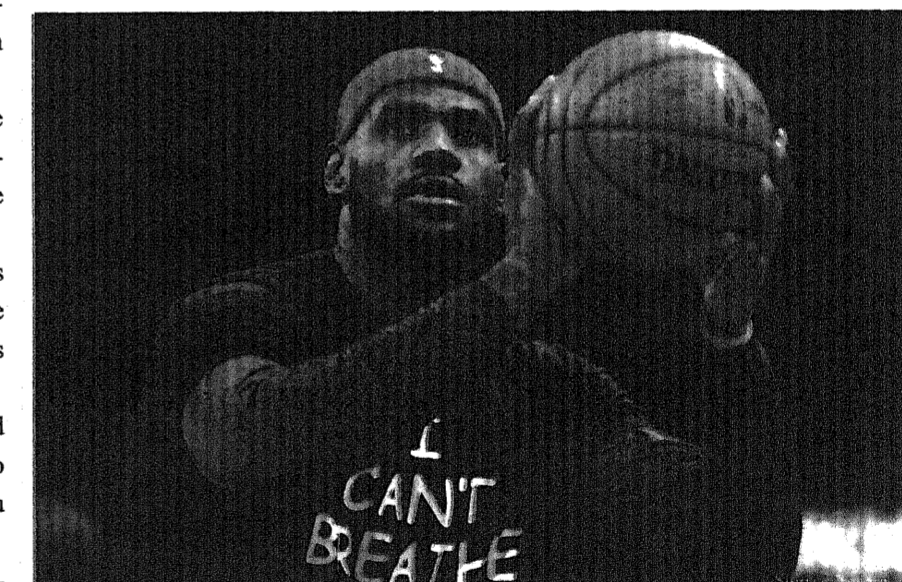
There are his supporters and there are his critics. There are people screaming to "Support the NYPD" and there are people proclaiming the phrase "I Can't Breathe" everywhere.

Diversify yourself, your newsfeed, or do whatever it is that you need to do to open your mind because the choosing of a certain side—and broadcasting your decision through your status update—will do nothing but further complicate all of this madness.

Once again, social media was created to connect, not disintegrate.



The "I Can't Breathe" campaign owes much of its success to social media



product was to offer more options on the information that users were willingly presenting online.

was now becoming as firsthand as it had ever been.

You could live 3000 miles away from somebody and know exactly when and what they ate for breakfast that morning.

While it's easy to see how such an unsuspecting idea could take a turn for the worst, I'm not sure that even Mark Zuckerberg himself could see just how much these sites would eventually have an impact on a global scale.

Within the last five years or so, social media has turned from a personal time

"You could live 3000 miles away from somebody and know exactly when and what they ate for breakfast that morning."

"Gateway to Exploring an Interest"
Continued from front page

roommates, who he soon become close friends with. One roommate, Karl, had journeyed to Italy once before with his family for New Year's. Karl told a story of how he relieved himself in the sink of a café he visited.

Naturally, Karl and Costagliola decided to visit this café.

After befriendng and sharing a few drinks with the owner, Freddy, Karl talked about a misdemeanor from his past. To Costagliola's surprise, the night continued on without a hitch. In fact, Freddy even invited them to Space, one of Florence's most popular nightclub in Florence; upon entering they were guided into the VIP area.

"I have no idea what happened during or after the club. I woke up hungover and went to class hung over the next morning," said Costagliola.

He found the behavior of Italian men in clubs interesting. He described them as being on the prowl for American girls as they approached them one after another opening with *Ciao bella*. Many of the girls from Costagliola's building residence hooked up with the Italian men.

Costagliola's girlfriend also accompanied him on the trip to Italy. Happy and comforted to have a traveling partner, he shared many experiences with her including the cooking class and a romantic gondola ride in Venice.

The gypsies were the strangest and scariest part of his trip. They were scattered throughout Florence and the larger cities and he constantly watched out for them because they are notorious for pick pocketing. They



often approached him, pulling at his arm begging for money.

His plane ride home became stressful when his departure location changed from Florence to Pisa. Costagliola took a shuttle bus to Pisa where he boarded the plane and later transferred to Switzerland where he had to run in order to catch his flight home.

His friends often teased him saying that he always had a new favorite thing after trying or doing something new. He admits that reflecting on it all, the greatest experience was the cooking class.

"I definitely want to go back to Italy. It was the best and quickest three weeks of my life," said Costagliola. "It went by like a gust of wind."



Popular attractions in Florence include intricate market places and the Space nightclub

"Budget Commotion at CFA"
Continued from front page

bruary to ask for funding for retroactive pay for the professors.

"CUNY is very concerned about the fact that the city does not seem to be paying attention to at least some of the needs that the university has to sign the contract," said Naider. "It is very difficult to maintain a competitive faculty with the pay structure that we have."

Another hot button issue was Governor Cuomo's plan to put more emphasis on teacher evaluations and to further professionalize the teaching profession.

Cuomo's plan includes paying full SUNY or CUNY tuition for top graduate candidates who commit to teaching in New York, a residency program, and a \$20 million fund for teachers, which will allow teachers to earn up to a \$20,000 raise if they're deemed highly effective.

The controversy lies within the heaviness of the evaluations. Half of the evaluations will be based on state test scores and the other half will be based on evaluations (35 percent based on an outside observer and the remaining 15 percent based on a direct supervisor).

Teachers unions and educators have harshly criticized the Governor's renewed emphasis on teacher evaluations.

"Why is the Governor basing evaluation of teachers on test scores again? There is an invalid measure, they don't tell us anything,"

said Ruth Silverberg, a Professor at CSI's School of Education. "They harm English language learners, and they harm kids coming from homes where they that don't have the same kind of literacy backgrounds.

"Those are the kids that are getting hurt, those are the kids who need teachers who are going to advocate for them. Yet there's nothing in the Governor's education agenda that honors that role of the teacher. It's strictly focused on the standardized test scores and I don't understand that," Silverberg continued.

Foster will report noteworthy comments made during the presentation to the Governor's Office.

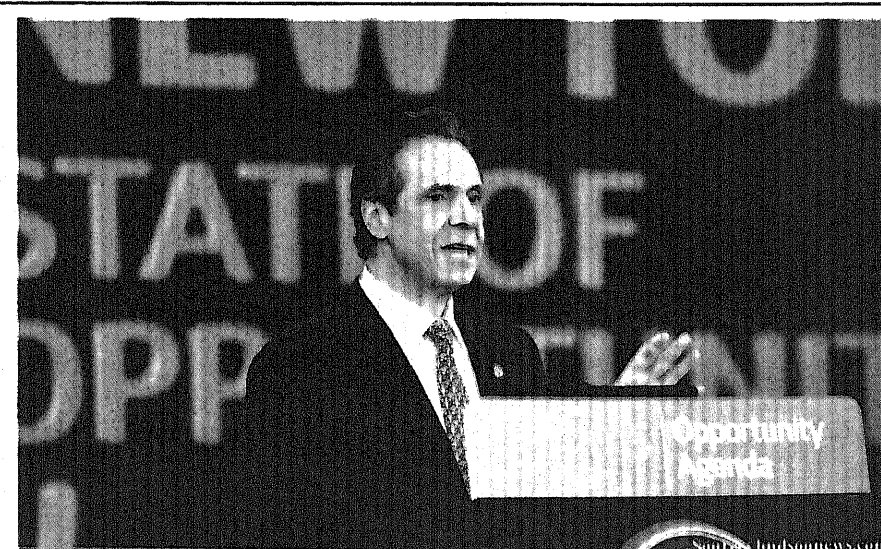
Governor Cuomo, who has been rumored to run for President in 2016, toed the line that democrats have been echoing for the past year in his proposals: income inequality.

To combat this, Cuomo is urging the legislature to raise the minimum wage and provide student loan relief amongst five other agenda items.

In the wake of the deaths of Eric Garner and Michael Brown, the Governor has prioritized multiple criminal justice reforms that surprisingly had more teeth than those offered by Mayor Bill de Blasio.

The Governor has proposed seven solutions to improve police community relations, which people in town hall meetings and editorials across the country have been advocating for.

The agenda calls for a state-wide effort to recruit more minority officers and appoint



a reconciliation commission specifically for improving relations.

It also includes the creation of an independent monitor--the Governor's office used a retired judge as an example--to review cases where an unarmed civilian dies. The monitor would have access to grand jury files and could recommend to the Governor if a special prosecutor should be put in place.

He has also recommended to raise the age for prosecuting a minor as an adult to 18 and remove New York from the short list of two states that doesn't have the legal authority to do so.

Other proponents of the budget proposes tax cuts for small business and property tax relief for homeowners and renters.

Starting a wide range of upgrades to state infrastructure, such as MTA properties, air-

ports, seaports, rail hubs, roads, and bridges.

Continue funding to Regional Economic Development Councils, which is structure to create jobs throughout the state, and have them work with community colleges.

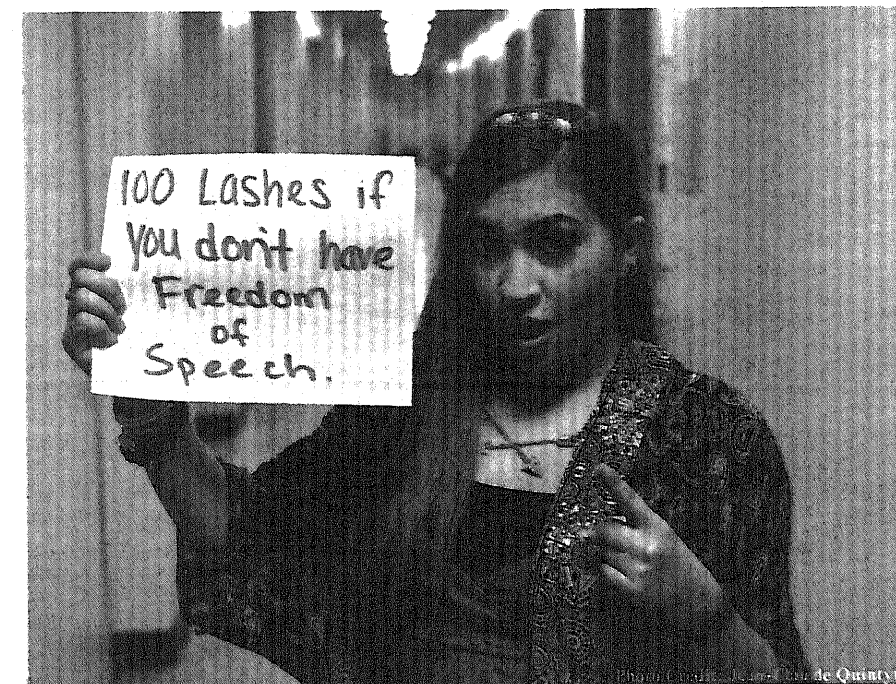
Cuomo also wants to double the state's venture capital fund to \$100 million to help kick start job creation and a \$1.5 billion competition to aid in upstate New York's recovery.

Moderate increases to environmental agencies were also proposed to expand protections of key agricultural properties, the reach of the environmental protection fund, and the launch of a clean energy business.

The legislature is expected to adopt a budget in March and the fiscal year will begin April.

The Banner's Salute to Charlie Hebdo

Staff Members Voice Thoughts on the Attack of the French Magazine



BY JÉAN-CLAUDE QUINTYNE

As writers, journalists, students, and citizens of the world, one of the things we exercise often is freedom of speech.

It is something we hold dear. It's something that we don't have to worry about leaving behind or that will be missing when we wake up in the morning.

We can, however we desire, express ourselves or comment or speak out against something that doesn't sit right with us.

It's not something that can be purchased at a convenience store. It is not something that we have to learn. It's not a tangible object that can be broken.

And it certainly is not something we ever think we'd get judged or attacked for.

This freedom is something we never have to ask for. Simply put, it's just there--and we use it to change the world.

As civilized human beings, this freedom ensures that everyone's voice, despite its pitch or volume, will be heard.

This freedom opens the door to one

of the many safe places in life that we can turn to, run to, fly to and express ourselves as passively or explicitly as we damn well please without any repercussions.

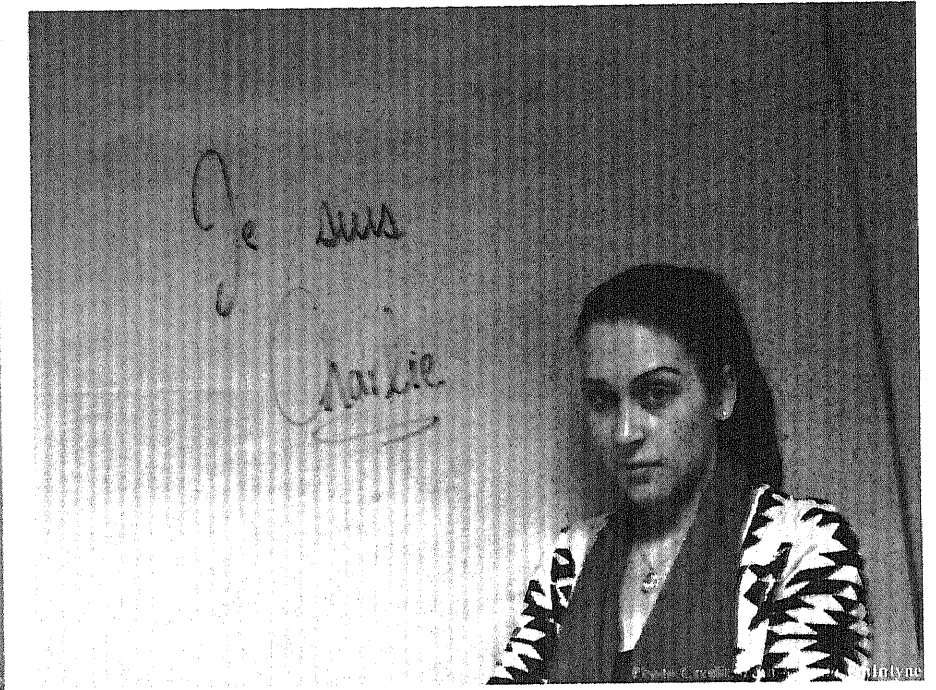
And that's why the attack on the French satire magazine Charlie Hebdo last month has struck a chord with us here at The Banner.

"Even though I know almost nothing about the staff of Charlie Hebdo, it never occurs to me at any point throughout this awful day that they'll cease publication after these killings"

Although we are separated from Charlie Hebdo by the vast Atlantic Ocean, we are affected because our freedom of speech was attacked also.

We felt the freedom of speech of everyone who cherishes it attacked. It intensified the atmosphere that reminds us that we are a publication too and what it means to be one.

We shouldn't have to watch our backs now because a group of people re-



acted horribly to something that offended them, but now we do. We shouldn't have to worry about the safety of our friends and family because of something we write in The Banner or post to our news feeds, but now we do.

In spite of this now anxiety-ridden, unnecessarily over self-conscious mindset that, after this attack will be on our

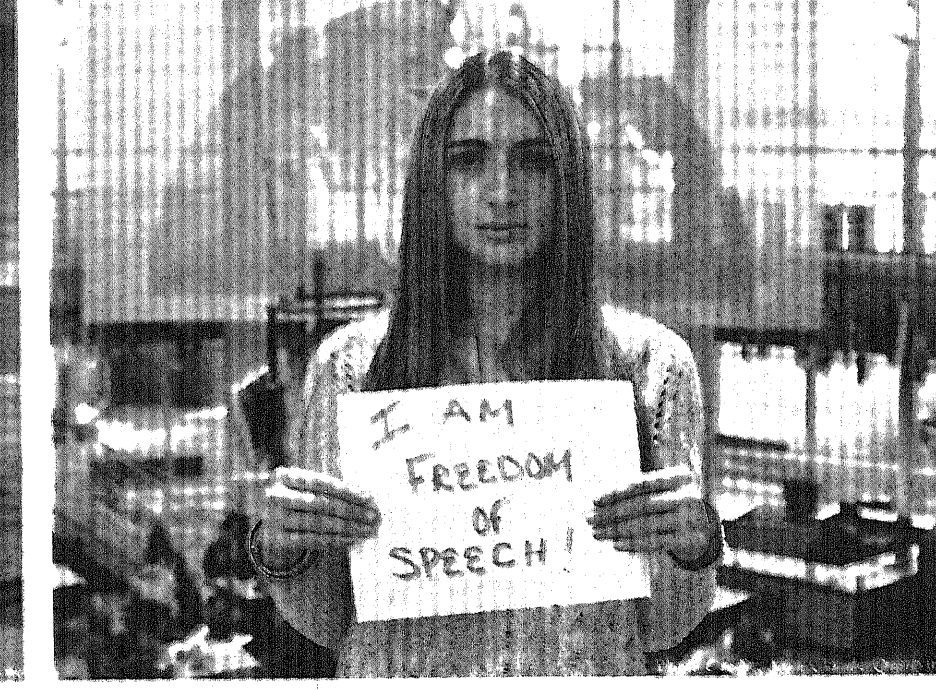
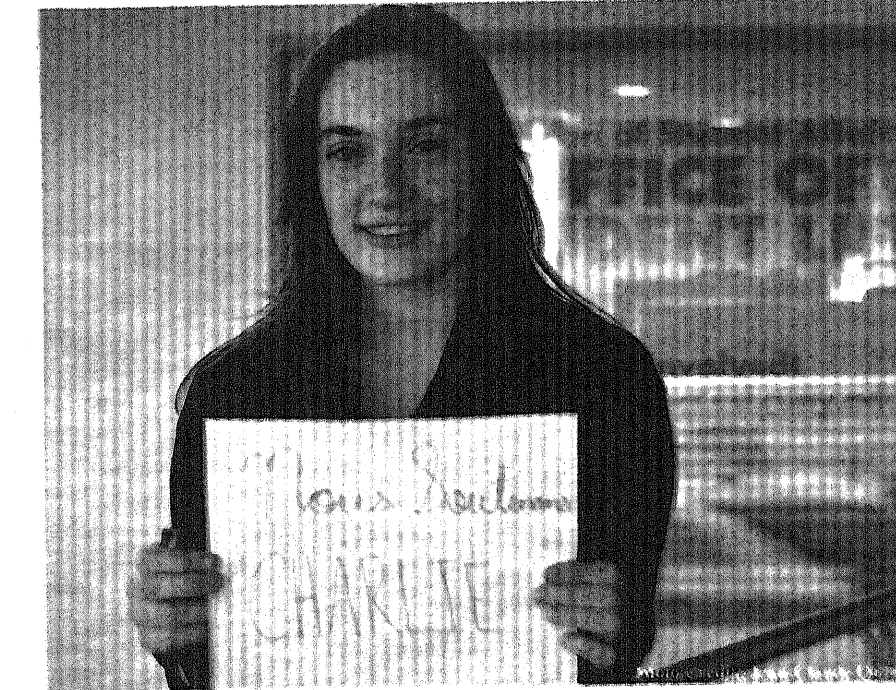
Hanson's words were true. The magazine published an issue one week after the attacks, with an illustration of the Prophet Muhammad--the image that provoked the attacks--crying, holding up a sign that reads "Je Suis Charlie."

Most moving about the cover is, immediately underneath the magazine's name and above the Prophet's head are the words "Tout est Pardonné" which means, "All is Forgiven."

The amount of strength it takes to pen something of that caliber and release it to the world is more than incredible, and motivates us here at The Banner to get together to salute protesters and fellow staff of Charlie Hebdo magazine.

In defense of freedom of speech and freedom of the press, we want to say that we are with you and, like you, are the exact opposite of terrorized.

Clockwise from top: Arts and Entertainment Editor Lucia Rossi; Lifestyles Editors Diana Porcelli and Victoria Priola; Staff Writer Loren Trapanese



BANNER LIFESTYLES

Staten Island's Style Brought into the Lime Light

Changing the Fashion Industry One DVF Store at a Time

BY VICTORIA PRIOLA

It's a long walk from the streets of Huguonot in Staten Island to the Mercedes Benz Fashion Week runway- especially in Diane Von Furstenberg (DVF) heels.

Lenore Genovese, one of the final four contestants on the E! Network show "House of DVF", is living proof that with a wrap dress and a New York accent anything is possible.

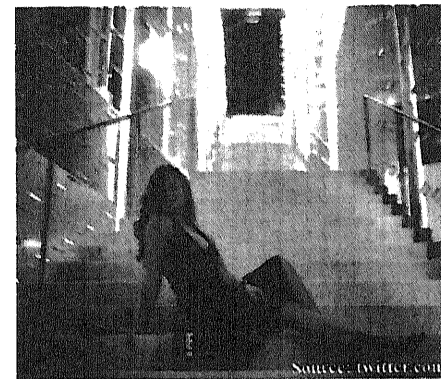
"Make sure you're doing what you love," said Genovese. "And go for it at full force."

In a NY1 interview, Genovese claims that her once "normal" life quickly took a turn for the better when she was picked up to be a Global Brand Ambassador hopeful for a world famous designer. Also, her whole experience was displayed on national TV every weekend. No pressure, right?

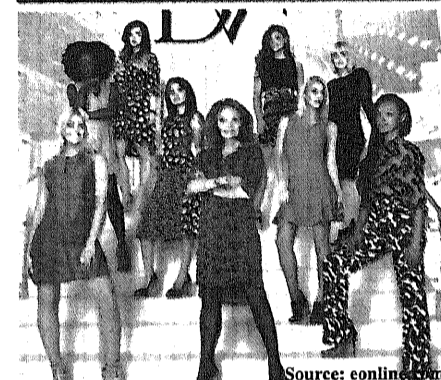
Before Genovese made her way to the TV screens of millions, she went to St. John's University and graduated with a degree in Hospitality and Business. She has been studying fashion merchandising at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT).

She claims that her island residency allowed her to be more personable in competition and to viewers at home. Other than getting recognized on the island, E! Online blog regards her as one of the "most memorable candidates on House of DVF" due to her charm and over the top reactions.

"Being from Staten Island, I felt like



Source: twitter.com

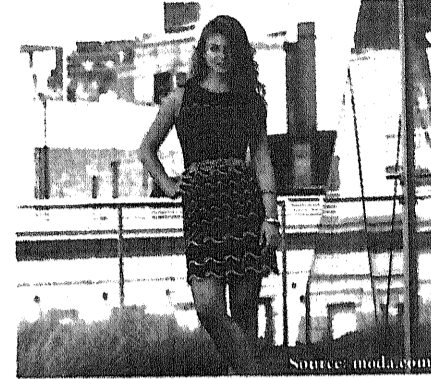


Source: conline.com

Genovese is living proof that with a wrap dress and a New York accent anything is possible

my accent was definitely stereotyped," said Genovese. "It was hard to overcome but I used it to my advantage because it allowed me to be outspoken and personable."

What she lacked in experience, she made up in personality. That was suddenly pushed to the side when her personal insecurity surfaced at a professional photo shoot during the filming of "House of DVF" causing her to act uncomfortably in front of the camera.



Source: mod.com



Source: xamirapaul.com

This catered to Diane and her team's decision to dub her unqualified for the job. Although Lenore was a crowd favorite, the title was taken by Brittany Hampton.

With the support of over two thousand followers on Twitter and eleven thousand on Instagram, Genovese quickly got back to connecting with her fans on social media and building a foundation of positivity for them.

"The best advice Diane gave me during

the show was to be you and love yourself," said Genovese. "This is me and I'm embracing it."

The week of her elimination, Diane Von Furstenberg gave Genovese the best blessing a working-girl in a busy city could receive—a tweet from her personal account reading "[Lenore] will have a job! Love, Diane." As of January 5, Genovese is the Wholesale Sales Specialist at DVF's Manhattan store.

Since her time on the show, Genovese has spent her days traveling to all DVF store locations in New York, training sales associates and monitoring the merchandise. Her job is to get stores like Bloomingdales excited for the brand.

She has managed to keep herself grounded despite all her new responsibilities by listening to One Direction and dining at New York's famous Little Italy with her family on her off days. She makes it known through social media that although her dreams are big, her ego isn't. Like Diane, she believes that the way to be successful is to be friendly.

So, what's next for this Staten Island fashionista? Genovese has denied plans of opening her own clothing line but it may be something she'll think about in the future. She claimed over phone interview that she doesn't like to plan too much because she never planned to be where she is today.

"If you see your end dream, you need to work hard towards it," said Genovese. "Put in your all and most importantly—be nice."

Joining a Gym on a College Budget

Finding the Right Gym will Help You in the Long-run

BY ROBERT LAROSA

Congratulations, you've come a long way with your fitness journey and you're starting to achieve the body and frame you've been craving. Like most people who lift, you either started off in your high school or college weight room which is fine but sometimes a change of scenery is something you need.

If you enjoy the current gym you're using then more power to you, but if you feel like you need a different environment to weight train in, there's a few options out there for you.

As a college student you're going to learn that budgeting is one of the most important keys to success. I can't speak for all but for kids like myself who work part time jobs, attend school full time and are trying to find the right gym, money and budgeting is the single most important factor in deciding where your next gym is. Here's a list of some of the gyms you can check out on the island.

CSI's weight room is the first gym that comes to mind for obvious reasons because we all attend school here and it's free of charge. From personal experience, CSI's weight room is terribly underrated because despite a very small lifting section, the equip-

ment covers all basic muscles. From regular, decline, incline bench to a hip adduction machine to a squat rack to a smith machine, this gym is very convenient and the most affordable gym to any students on campus.

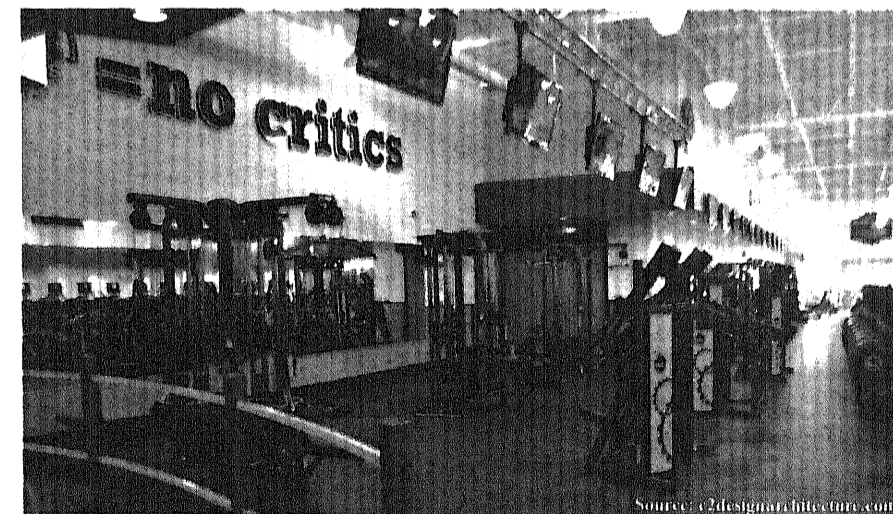
Synergy Fitness is the gym I'm currently signed into and from personal experience it's everything I could ask for in a weight room.

The only down side to Synergy is that it is thirty dollars a month which could be quite expensive to some people. However, Synergy provides a wide range of different machines to work out on.

YMCA is a family gym that offers student discounts of twenty-five dollars while LA Fitness is forty dollars. Both feature pools and Jacuzzis. LA offers more machines with even newer equipment while the Y uses equipment that isn't as new.

Now my least favorite gym is Planet Fitness because I'm not a huge fan of some of the equipment they use and personally don't understand how they don't have bench presses.

Planet Fitness however is the second cheapest gym on this list and provides some pretty reasonable deals for their subscribers.



Source: 247signs.com

One way to continue building a better you is to set an atmosphere of comfort

It also has multiple locations all throughout Staten Island and NYC which definitely makes life convenient to the people signed up.

With all these gyms to choose from your choices are many, from prices, to equipment, or even convenience on locations. Picking the right gym to attend should be something to put thought into.

Go to the gym and talk to the managers and see the deals they offer you, look around to see if you like the equipment and most of

all make sure you like the atmosphere. Nothing could be worse than signing up for a gym and a few weeks into the membership, realizing you hate the environment.

All gyms have their pros and cons but at the end of the day you just need to pick the one that feels right. If you don't walk into the gym and immediately fall in love with it then maybe this gym isn't right for you. Find your comfort zone and start building the better you that you deserve, so keep grinding.

BANNER LIFESTYLES

Life During Adderall and the Second Chance

CSI Student Discusses How the Pill Affected Home and Scholastic Life

BY ANTHONY FERRARA

Mallory Scerbo is a student at CSI who is on her way to finishing her bachelor's degree in English.

She was born and raised on Staten Island but now lives in New Jersey with her family and commutes to school during the week.

Mallory is also a former prescription drug addict who was hooked on the commonly known study drug, Adderall.

The Banner: What is the biggest difference that you see in yourself and your life right now?

Mallory: Now that I'm older and I'm sober I realize that all of the problems that I had while I was on drugs are the same ones I have when I'm sober.

The Banner: Your problems with the prescription pills, were they more school related or was it a recreational problem?

Mallory: Well, both really. But that was later on. It all started for me back when during my first year of college. I went away to my dream school, Boston University.

I ended up in a physically abusive relationship with a guy I met there during my first month of classes and he would take Adderall (or some version of the drug) pretty often.

So, that's where I first experienced the drug. But I only took it once or twice.

The Banner: How old were you

"I was partying too much. I actually ended up back at CSI for a semester, and then attended Pace University in my fourth."

when you started taking the pills regularly?

Mallory: I was about 18 years old when I started really taking the pills on a daily basis. This was the year after I left Boston.

My parents had taken me out of the school because of the guy I was with—and probably also because my grades were low.

I was partying too much. I actually ended up back at CSI for a semester but I would end up attending Pace University in my fourth college semester.

So now I was in the city, once again without any parent restraint around me, and feeling an immense amount of pressure to do well and make up for what I had messed up

"All we have is our body and time and what we do with the two of them. Thankfully, I'm done wasting those things."

in Boston.

The Banner: So you think that it was just the daily pressure that you faced that really made you dive head first into that lifestyle? Because it is a lifestyle, no?

Mallory: It's funny. Back in high school, I had no idea what Adderall even was. People get addicted in different ways.

For me, it came from not feeling that I could do it on my own. I like to feel up and ready to do things.

So when I got to Pace and real-

"Back in high school, I had no idea what Adderall even was. People get addicted in different ways."

ized that these were pills that I could obtain illegally and also legally, it was just too easy to do, so I did it.

The Banner: Tell me more about the legal side of obtaining these pills. It's common knowledge (or at least it should be) that illegal sales go down on almost every college campus in the country.

How did you get them without breaking the law and how was it so easy?

Mallory: I felt as if I truly could not function or get all my work done without it.

There was also the added element of wanting to have a social life and not feel burnt out.

I wasn't into any hard drugs. Adderall was too easy to get without any problems with the law.

It wasn't worth it, though. I had to go to rehab three times, had to re-learn how to have a consistent, positive mindset without it in my life.

The Banner: Do you feel like you have a second chance?

Mallory: Oh, I know I do. It's still super hard because there are a lot of people—especially family members—that really resent me for what I've done.

They don't understand it, and I don't expect them to, but they view me as a drug addict.

A lot of people can't get past that. I realize now how important it is to take care of my body.

It's okay to be tired. It's okay to feel overwhelmed. It makes you human.

All we have is our body and time and what we do with the two of them. Thankfully, I'm done wasting those things.

I'm not knocking the people that use these pills because they actually have been diagnosed with a real version of ADD/ADHD.

But I have never had either of those disorders. Everyone uses a substance for a reason and that's the hardest part—understanding why.

The Banner: What was it like for you?

BANNER ARTS

A Netflix Original Thrills Fans and not Critics

Marco . . . Wait for it . . . Polo!

BY LUCIA ROSSI

If Game of Thrones and Mulan had a love child, it would be Marco Polo.

Marco Polo premiered on Netflix on December 12, 2014 and has since caused a stir among critics and fans.

The ten-episode season is about Italian merchant Marco Polo serving under Kublai Khan, the Khagan of the Mongolian Empire and the founder of the Yuan Dynasty in 1271. Marco Polo, played by Lorenzo Richelmy, is forced to be the eyes and ears of Kublai Khan, played by Benedict Wong, in his court when the Mongols clash with the Chinese of the Song Dynasty.

If you like ancient dynasty cultures, Kung Fu ninjas, concubine assassins, wars among rulers, lots of nudity and royal politics, then this show is for you.

Marco Polo cost \$90 million to make, \$9 million per episode. It was filmed in Italy, Kazakhstan, and Malaysia since they were not allowed to film in China.

All the actors did their own fight scenes and learned Kung Fu for the show. Needless to say, the making of the show was difficult but the end product was worth the effort.

Although the show exhibits historical realism, there were many scenes and actions in the show did not actually happen in history. So don't depend on this show for accurate factual details. Although many things were exaggerated, it was all for the enjoyment of the show.

The most memorable things about the show are the scenery and the action. The show delves into the cultures of both the Mongols and Chinese during the thirteenth century with their magnificent palaces and



Marvel Comics to Produce Another Interdimensional War

Series Kicks off in May With Reboots Featuring Secret Wars Storyline

BY NICHOLAS TRONOLONE

In May, Marvel announced at New York Comic Con 2014 in their panel that the next event will be the Secret Wars. Not many details were given at the time but it grabbed the attention of many fans simply because of the title.

Marvel Comics has been in the comic industry for nearly 80 years. Within that time period, some of the most iconic characters in comics have emerged and stayed with us throughout the industry's long history, such as Captain America, Iron Man, Spider-Man, Ms. Marvel, Jean Gray, and Storm.

All of those characters and more were featured in the 1980s Marvel event called the Secret Wars. It took place on a distant galaxy where heroes and villains fought on Battleworld. It started when a cosmic being known as the Beyonder took them there because of an interest in heroes and what they can do.

Thus the Secret Wars started and one of Marvel's most remembered and loved event comics. Many fans thought, at first if it was going to be a Secret Wars 3 because a sequel was made a few years after the first event.

This is not the case as they are taking the first Marvel Universe and the Ultimate Universe and having them clash and fight and it will be the end. Or will it?

Some fans are confused because it is a reboot but are they taking some characters and carrying them over to the new Universe after the war is over or are they just starting over?



Are they going to be doing this with any of their other universes? Some fans think that this is a way out.

"It sounds like Marvel is running out of ideas. It is crazy and all over the place" says Dimitri Duncan who attend New York City College of Technology and is a comic reader.

While others say it is needed and long overdue because after 80 years of publishing comics things may have gotten a little lost, so a fresh start is a good reason that some are on the fence.

"It's good and bad. A fresh start is needed." Dominick Abbriano, a CUNY student and EMT trainee stated. "From the late 1930s to now there is a big gap in time. I love the idea of a reboot, it's just the way they are doing it is a bad idea.

For the last eight years or so, most of the

costumes.

The blind monk called Hundred Eyes was the most badass character of show. He was Marco's Kung Fu teacher assigned by Kublai Khan. He filled all the action scenes with energy and awe; the show wouldn't be the same without him.

There are also quite a few inspiring female characters who are easy to admire because of their wisdom, leadership, beauty and strength. There is Kublai Khan's favorite wife, Empress Chabi, the concubine assassin

of the Song Dynasty emperor, Mei Lin, and female warrior who beats every soldier at wrestling, Kutulun.

The story does not just focus on Marco Polo, it is about Kublai Khan and those around him, his loyal family members, his servants, and his enemies. Marco is dragged into the fray and must prove his worth and build trust under Kublai all while constantly being criticized as a foreigner. Each character has a story that is interesting to hear and you build sympathy with those who oppose Kublai.

It is strange how critics gave Marco Polo only one and a half stars on Rotten Tomatoes, a 30 percent rating, but fans gave it 93 out of 100.

It is true that the characters could have been developed more and there could have been more focus on Marco Polo himself, but none of that took away from the bloodiness, the sexiness, the excitement, and the fantastical feel of it.

Although it is no Game of Thrones, this show made me want to believe in Kublai Khan as a ruler as much as Marco Polo did.

It is no surprise that as of January 7, Marco Polo was renewed for a second season.

being printed? The publisher needs to find ways to rope them back in and sometimes that is not the easiest thing to do.

Considering the fact that Marvel has been losing fans in small but ever growing numbers, this really needs to work. One of the biggest let downs was the Spider-Man: One More Day story which led to the Spider-Man: Brand New Day story arc.

Fans were so very displeased when Peter Parker and his wife Mary Jane sold their marriage to the devil so Peter's aunt could live, a total memory wipe of the world that no one knows who Spider-Man is or that Peter's marriage even took place. Some fans find the way they are going about the reboot is insulting.

"I feel like this needs to be done, The Editor in Chief of Marvel keeps talking about 'Change in the Marvel universe'. I am tired of hearing it" Michael Abbriano, a CUNY student stated.

"When one universe is doing well the other suffer for it" he continued. "The fact that they are calling it Secret Wars is insulting. The first Secret Wars is a masterpiece of comics. It showed what an event comic should be and what it should do. Grab the reader."

Keep what worked like some classic story lines like Peter being bitten by the spider and create new stories without so many damn writers on one character.

writing has been forced and not organic. That is where the comic starts, on paper. What they should do is retire some characters and start with new characters like some of the heroes' children.

Something like that and for starters they should ask the fans what they want to see and what they think was good and bad so they know what to avoid.

On online forums and fan sites there are fans who, in general, love the idea while others are worried if their favorite character will be remade into the reboot. And this is not unreasonable to worry because that is also a problem on a business end as well.

If a character is killed off and never returns, on the off chance she does not return in the comics, why would said fan continue to buy when their favorite character is no longer

BANNER ARTS

The Quite Unpopular Year for K-Pop

How Events of 2014 Affected the Korean Genre

BY DENNISE DEJESUS

2014 created a buzz within the Korean music industry. Some aspects were positive as new K-Pop groups dominated the top of music charts once owned by veteran groups. But other aspects were revolved around negative events and scandals that plagued the year among K-Pop fans as "the worst year of K-Pop".

K-Pop is one of the most popular music genres in the world. Known for its bright visual music videos, catchy songs and synchronized choreography, it is no wonder why it captivates an international audience. In the beginning of the year, the direction of K-Pop differed from the past previous years. During 2007-2011, the years of the Hallyu wave, many groups debuted with a cutesy concept portraying innocence.

But as K-Pop grew over the years, groups started to focus on sexier concepts which boosted sales and video views. By February, girl groups promoted with a sexy concept. Though broadcast networks place restrictions with choreographies, groups such as Girls' Day and AOA rose with popularity. But all of this is due to the trending concepts in the industry.

In the industry, an average K-Pop idol trains an average minimum of two years with a company before debuting in a group. Though in most cases, idols from successful groups have trained from five to seven years.

Along with the training schedule, the new idols are expected to not date until the ban from their contract is lifted and they are indebted to the company with a fee called the Breaking Even Point (BEP). The BEP includes the fees



Girls' Day and other pop groups rose in popularity despite industry turmoil

for training for vocals and dancing, dorms, transportation and anything invested into them.

As the group debuts, they are expected to pay the company the BEP with the sales of their singles and albums. But this fee can also lead to the poor treatment of idols. Along with the fees, the idols go through jam packed schedules that keep them busy throughout the promotion period.

These include live performances on television, interviews on shows and travelling to concerts to promote their music. During these busy schedules, idols only have time to sleep during break periods, drives to events and time given to sleep before the next day's schedule.

Many idols throughout the years have either performed during sickness or collapsed on stage during performances. Some idols also

have not been paid for their hard work. As a result of mistreatment, a number of K-Pop idols have filed lawsuits on their companies in 2014.

Wu Yi Fan (Kris) and Luhan, Chinese members of the boyband EXO, both filed lawsuits against their company S.M. Entertainment due to the company giving more preferential treatment to the Korean members of EXO. B.A.P, another popular group, filed a lawsuit with their company T.S. Entertainment.

The entire group's claim was with unfair treatment with the "slave contract". The conditions with the claim include a violation of civil rights, contracts being used for only the company's benefit instead of all six members and the profits of sales being undistributed fairly.

Sadly, a tragedy shook up the K-Pop world by storm. Rise Kwon and Eunbi Go,

members of the rookie girl group Ladies Code were involved in a car accident. On September 2, the van which carried the girls lost control, hitting a guardrail.

The band and other staff members were travelling back to Seoul after a concert in Daegu, which is about a five-hour drive from Seoul. Go died at the scene of the accident while Kwon eventually died of severe head injuries.

The driver of the van was driving at dawn in rainy conditions. Around 1:30 A.M. was the confirmed time of the crash. Currently, the driver of the van was arrested for the accident.

Along with the mistreatments, Korean media has created havoc for idols. Bom Park of 2NE1 was accused of smuggling amphetamine drugs into Korea. Park was sent amphetamines in 2010 from her parents in the US due to medicines in Korea were not combating her depression.

Though the case and investigation of were closed in 2011, the news resurfaced in 2014. Korean citizens and the media accused Park as a drug user and criticized Park's agency YG Entertainment for not putting an official statement for the company. Park had to leave a show she appeared in and has not appeared with 2NE1's performances in Korea since then.

In the end, 2014 was a rocky year plagued by lawsuits, mistreatment, scandals, rumors and a bunch of concepts that created new top groups. Though 2015 started, a clean slate is given to start over with new songs and better events throughout the year.

Papa Roach Releases a Sub-Par Record

F.E.A.R Not Good but Frighteningly Disappointing

BY NICHOLAS TRONOLONE

Papa Roach formed in 1993 and during that time had released seven albums. With the amazing voice of Jacoby Shaddix, the smooth bass playing of Tobin Esperance, the hard guitar playing of Jerry Horton, and Tony Palermo heavily banging the drums, it is hard to not like the music that they make.

They have been nominated for their work and even toured with some of the biggest names in rock and roll like Motley Crue.

Some of their most famous songs are Last Resort, Scars, and To Be Loved. Their music has been a popular favorite among rock n' roll fans with songs from each of their albums being played on the radio several times for a few months.

Their newest album titled F.E.A.R. celebrates 15 years of the release of their first album Infest.

Their music has changed from rock-rap to punk to metal and so on and this album changes up their style as well. The problem is that some of it sounds more like pop rock and it does not sound like something they would do.

But, they always change the style up a little bit from one record to the next and they have stayed true to the idea of changing the sound but pop rock is not a genre of music that is easily done when one is known for

harder music sound.

Some of it does sound like some of their older works. Regardless of that the music in and of itself is good and flows nicely throughout the album. The music is enjoyable and as always the songs have something to say.

For example, some of the lyrics to the song "Face Everything" and "Rise" capture their classic style: The streets crawl with a deadly omen/outside I see a world that's broken/I can't breathe, my heart is choking/I need a cure for this life I've chosen/The pain, the rain is a blessing in disguise/I feel it cutting and its cutting like a knife/The pain in my brain is a blessing in disguise/I feel it cutting and its cutting like a knife.

And the song "War Over Me" echoes the Papa Roach of the early days: I'm standing front lines, I'm fighting for my soul/I've walked the self-destructive lonely road/I read the warning signs but I was blind to see/I have to feel the pain till I believed.

For some of the album they team up with other artists, featuring rapper Royce Da 5'9" for the song "Warriors" and Maria Brink from the metal band In This Moment for the song "Gravity".

Everything about the album fits their profile and the change in pace suits the meaning behind the words. It is not their best work but it not the worst.



F.E.A.R isn't Roach's most impressive record, but their spirit is still felt

BANNER OPINIONS

Podcasting is Here to Stay and You Should be a Part of It

A Look into the Business and Social Potential of the Medium

BY CLIFFORD MICHEL

As I got on the 5 train on my way back to Staten Island, I popped in my earbuds and began to play one of the most entertaining pieces of audio ever produced. But before I pressed play, a piercing gasp from the lady standing next to me drew my attention—as well as from everybody else on the train. She sheepishly looked around and her iPhone's screen revealed it all. She was listening to "Serial," the same podcast I was about to play.

"Serial" is a true-crime drama that took the country by storm this past October. What was more surprising about "Serial" was the medium it was offered on: podcasts.

Podcasts have long been viewed as a fledgling medium that attracted dedicated, but still undeniably small, fan bases. For the longest period of time the medium has been ignored because of its inability to be profitable. Even the most popular podcasts, such as "Radiolab" and "This American Life," depended on donations from listeners and the arm of public radio, which produces many popular podcasts.

"Serial" has changed all that and more. For the first time in its short history, podcasting is being looked at as a serious medium and is expected to have serious market potential.

The New York Times reported in late November the podcast is listened to over 1.5 million times per episode and close to 40 million people listen to some form of podcasting, something that has advertisers and

creators heavily interested.

Every medium has its specific advantages that tickles the interests of advertisers and for podcasts, the advantages make up the perfect melting pot. Many podcasts are narrow casted, meaning that through the theme and focus of the podcast attract a specific target demographic. This means that advertisers have a higher chance of reaching an audience that is seriously interested in their products.

And as a diehard fan and podcast enthusiast, I can tell you that it's absolutely true. So many times in life you might feel like you

"Everyone is different and that's why so many people turn to podcasts to get extended, intimate, and in-depth looks into the topics they hold dear."

just don't have enough of the culture you crave to immerse yourself in. Honestly, how often can a journalism major dissect low and highbrow culture without getting the typical eye roll (thank you, Slate's Culture Gabfest).

The truth of the matter is, not everyone is like you. Not everyone wants to talk about soccer for hours on end, not everyone understands the ins and outs of the movie industry like you do, or why punk rock is still the greatest thing since sliced bread.

Everyone is different and that's why so many people turn to podcasts to get extended, intimate, and in-depth looks into the topics they hold dear.

I know personally that I would probably

go crazy if I couldn't hear three soccer fanatics dissect state-side soccer or listen to three analysts question my stance on the power of the courts.

Podcasts also provide a focused audience. Unlike TV and even some new media sites, podcasts function much like audiobooks in that if your attention waivers, than the listener will begin to lose track of the narrative. And since podcasts are often listened to on commutes and during non-thought provoking activities—such as washing dishes or working out—listeners are locked in when a

20 second ad spot pops up.

Podcasts also provide an avenue for new media sites to expand into different verticals, which, even for new media stalwarts, has been a difficult issue. As digital media websites expand, there is an underlying fear that advertising dollars aren't. The Wall Street Journal reported in November 2013.

To offset this, new media companies are trying to expand into different verticals to garner larger audiences and increase engagement through cross-promotion.

Public radio stations across the country were the first to take advantage of this. WNYC, New York's public radio station, produces two podcasts that are ranked as

most popular by ituneschart.net: "Radiolab" and "Freakonomics Radio." Both podcasts sometimes cross-promote, advertise, and draw money directly from audience members through donations.

WBUZ, Chicago's public radio station, and NPR, a national radio syndicator, also employ the same tactics.

Slate, a popular online magazine, has invested huge resources in podcasts. It now produces a little more than 14 different podcasts that each focus on specific topics. Slate podcasts range from sports, politics, or literature to pop culture, parenting, or finance.

The resources are paying off already as Slate has tripled its audience in only a year to six million downloads a month. That's six million times that a listener is exposed to advertisements and valuable cross promotion for the magazine.

Another undeniable benefit of podcasting is happy talk. Happy talk is a communications theory that states that the more normal engagement personalities engage in, the more attached the listener becomes to the media programming and personalities themselves; it's the reason that your mother is smitten with the local weatherman's goofy antics.

As podcast hosts divulge into their own personal lives, develop chemistry, and develop little insiders, it's almost impossible to not get a bit attached.

So do me a favor. Grab your Android, Windows Phone, or iPhone and become part of the podcast renaissance.

Emphasis on Structured Tests is so Y2K

A Plea Make Higher Education More Challenging and Worthwhile

BY ANTHONY FERRARA

I don't know about you, but I've been asking myself why structured tests have been ruling the educational world since I was nine years old. It was right after I got a perfect score on a standardized reading test in the fourth grade when I realized that I didn't feel any smarter than I had before I took the test.

I guess that I could just write that notion off to a developing jaded soul that was beginning to form a subconscious that reeked of conspiracy theories and the like.

But the more I think about it, the more I seem to let myself off the hook. The world is a supremely practical place, no?

What we, as humans, perform on a daily basis in society is hands-on and always changing—especially in such an effervescent society such as the one we live in today's world. So what place is there really in a college classroom for multiple-choice questions and true and false? Are things really that black and white?

I used the term "college classroom" because I do believe that it would be very naive to think that we could get away with taking away structured tests from our children. Often times, the writing ability of the youth doesn't peak until after high school anyway.

Besides that point, though, I think that it is important to have our youth show a basic understanding of being able to study definition and memorize concepts and forms of subject material.

It's also quite obvious that there can't be anything given that is too outside the box—no matter what grade level—when it comes to different subjects, such as math and science. Some things are just about numbers and

"Nobody wants to wait to get out into the real world to understand how what they are studying relates to what they are going to see in their actual field of work."

equations.

Thus enters another reason why the educational system that we already have in place, which counts on these types of standardized tests, can be very useful in our society.

I just can't help the idea that when we arrive on college campuses, the focus should be taken off the memorization side, the black and white side, so to speak, and we should be putting forth a real effort to rid ourselves of

"textbook tests" and instead intergrate much more real world knowledge into our courses.

Students want to be engaged in what they are learning. Nobody wants to wait to get out into the real world to understand how what they are studying relates to what they are going to see in their actual field of work.

In fact, often times, students graduate thinking that they are going to love what they do, only to find that the real versions of what

they had been studying are totally different than what they thought it was going to be.

Helen Lars, a guidance counselor at a local middle school, says "I was convinced that I wanted to be a journalist. I knew all the terms that a journalist should know—stuff straight out of the textbook.

I knew nothing about the field itself though—what it really took, and it ate me alive when I got into it for real after college.

So I ended up going back [to school] and getting my masters in psychology."

In an upper learning system that is supposed to be defined by allowing students the opportunity to branch out and really learn and understand what it is they want to do with their lives, there really seems to be a lot of time being wasted.

Granted, sometimes it takes more than a few tries and countless hours of searching to find what it is you really want to be in life. But the general population of college students seem to be more confused than they are sure about what they are doing.

About half of college graduates are not finding jobs in their respective fields of study after they get out of school. While there are the obvious societal problems that come into play, there are just as many young people out there that seem to be discouraged about their career path direction in the moral sense just as much as they are discouraged in the business sense.

We need more specific knowledge on college campuses. It is the professors' and students' job alike to allow more practicality and relatability into the classroom, therefore making the curriculum more challenging, but also more worthwhile.

SEX AND THE ISLAND

Taking the Fast and Furious Track to Sexual Confidence

BY FRANCESCA MICELI

Fantasies and confidence are the best part about being sexual. It gives you the ability to touch upon your imagination and expand your mind to explore your inner desires whether they are done by yourself or with a partner.

After you imagine a crazy place to have sex or you wish to experiment with some kind of exciting erotic pleasure that you want to try, it is best to actually do it.

Keeping pent up fantasies is just as bad as being sexually frustrated. It will make those tedious and foolish questions linger in the back of your mind—"Can I really do it?" "Am I sexy enough to do this with my partner?"

Trust me when I say this, you don't want that weight on your mind! Live your life and feel sexy.

When you feel sexy to yourself, that allure will radiate off of you and people will feel your energy and see your confidence.

Fantasizing is the one time that no one can judge you and you can feel free to picture yourself doing the craziest and wildest things.

If you can feel comfortable indulging in your own thoughts and letting your insecurities go, then all that self-conscious tension will that you have harbored in the past will slowly deteriorate.

We all have something about ourselves that we want to change or we feel down about every now and then, but fantasizing surprisingly will help to you to alleviate the pressure you put on yourself

"When I go out now, even dressed down in a hoodie and sweatpants, I feel sexier than when I get dressed up."

and diminish those complexes you may have.

When I was younger, I never saw myself as sexy until I sat back one day and realized that I was the only one who put that pressure on myself and put those childish complexes in my own head. When I go out now, even dressed down in a hoodie and sweatpants, I feel sexier than when I get dressed up. It's all in your personality and in your mind. It's all your own perception of you!

Men and women don't all desire the same looks and body types. If that was the case, then every one of us would look exactly the same, and, let's be real, that would be completely played out and boring.

You need to channel that energy you

"He pulled his chair far enough back so I can fit and he was looking over my shoulder and continued to drive."

spend focusing on all the bad things about yourself and put it to rest. Start focusing on the sex appeal and confidence that you developed or had from birth and put it to good use.

There was a crazy fantasy that I once had. I was in love with the movie "Fast and Furious."

The idea of beautiful looking cars and sex just goes together. I always wanted to feel like those sexy girls in the film that were sitting on the hood of the cars while the guys flocked around them.

"I made a midnight call to him and asked him to pick me up."

For a long time before I grew up and started to look at myself in a better way, I never thought I could do sexy things.

I kind of felt silly thinking about myself in that way. But, ladies there is nothing wrong with looking at yourself in a desirous.

In one of my relationships a couple of years ago, I went to Atlantic City with a bunch of my friends and my boyfriend wanted to stay home.

So he did, and I went. I knew I al-

up to our room. But I still wanted to see my boyfriend. So I made a midnight call to him and asked him to pick me up. He agreed and drove two hours from Staten Island just to do that.

When he finally got there, he came in the hotel to escort me out and into the car. On our way out I saw a lot of guys staring at me and so did he.

I knew I was looking really good and I felt it which turned him on. "I love having a hot girlfriend" he said smiling, passing by all the guys checking me out when we were walking to the car.

When we got into the car I was feeling in the mood then and there. I didn't want to wait until we got back to the Island, so I started kissing him while he was driving and he was getting in the mood too.

I started to take off my pants and my clothes as he was driving and then I pulled a very dangerous move—and I am not recommending this—but I moved on top of him in the driver's seat and we started to have sex.

He pulled his chair far enough back so I can fit and he was looking over my shoulder and continued to drive.

This lasted for about 10-15 minutes and it was probably the most exhilarating moment of my life.

I feel so sexy and adventurous, especially when it comes to sex, that I'm confident I can please any boyfriend I may have.

If you are confident in that area then you have a good recipe for a very comfortable and successful relationship.

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SPORTS

CSI Takes Down York in CUNYAC Finals Rematch *A Late Surge in Dolphins' Defense Smothers Cardinals*

BY SHANE DIMAIO

The College of Staten Island men's basketball team broke open a tight game in the second half, using opportunistic defense to defeat York College by a score of 72-59 at the Sports & Recreation Center in a rematch of last year's CUNYAC Final.

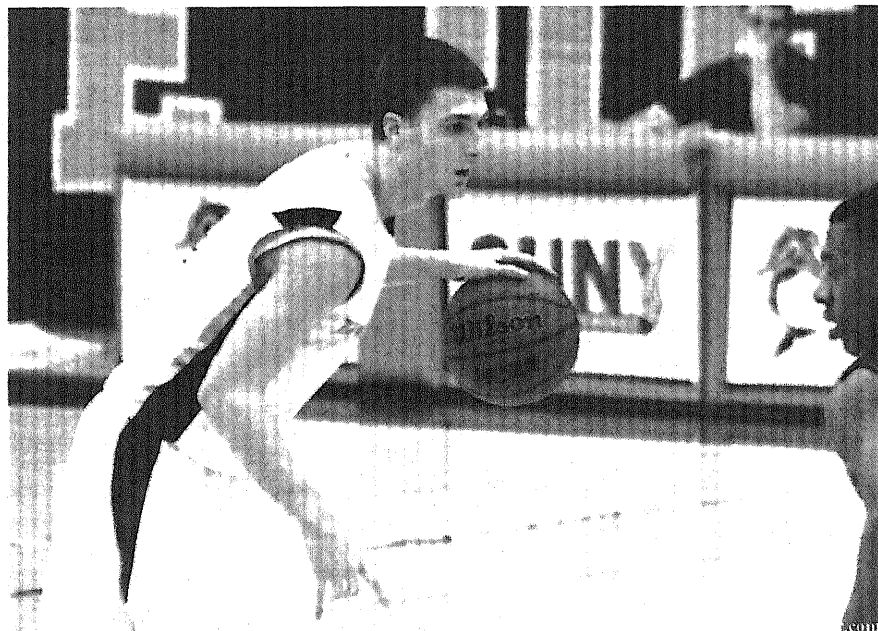
Despite the Dolphins two top-scorers, Will Fonseca, 25.5 ppg, Frankie Schettino, 18.2 ppg., who struggled to consistently make shots from the field, reserve forward Michael Tate stepped up for a team-high 16 points to help the Dolphins rally for a home victory.

The win lifted the Dolphins to 9-5 overall and 5-2 within the CUNYAC, while the Cardinals fell to 9-6, 4-3, respectively.

In the first half, the lead changed 12 times, in what was an intensely fought battle for position in the paint between CSI's Fonseca and York's Jaron Williams. A layup by James Wolf gave York an early, 6-2, advantage, but it would be his only points of the half.

Edin Bracic's only points of the half for CSI came by way of a mid-range jumper, giving the Dolphins their first lead since the opening bucket, 13-12 at 12:51, setting the stage for a back and forth first period.

The Dolphins made a critical run in



CSI point-guard Frankie Schettino ran the offense late for the Dolphins

the middle of the first frame. Down 19-15, CSI popped off a 9-0 run to take the game's biggest lead for either team, 24-19 at 7:40, spearheaded by a pair of buckets each from Tate and Mohamed Marie.

CSI led a majority of the way from there, until a Franklin Green lay-in gave York a modest 32-31 edge at 1:56. CSI would end the half on a 5-0 run, however, powered by two Will Fonseca drives with inside of a minute to go to give CSI a 36-32 lead heading

into the lockers.

The game continued to bounce back and forth in the second frame. Held in check in the first half, York's Wolf sprang out to 10 points in the first 7-plus minutes of the second half, giving York a 48-44 lead with 12:54.

From there, however, CSI made its move. A Tate lay-up got CSI started on a pivotal 18-5 run spanning over six minutes, and by the end, CSI had had a 62-53 lead with 6:41 to go. Seven points by Tate powered

the run, as he would finish with a career-night while coming off the bench for the College of Staten Island.

Baskets by Wolf and Green tried to get the Cardinals back into it, but the Dolphins used smothering defense and shot hand from the floor to pull away in the late stages, extending to a 14-point lead on a Vincent Dacunto three before settling for a 13-point, 72-59, victory.

The Dolphins shot an effective 51.9 percent from the floor, adding a 6-12 clip from the three-point line. Tate led the way with his 16 points--Fonseca matched that total and added a career-high 19 rebounds.

Thomas Delahanty powered for 13 points and six rebounds, while Schettino settled with 11 points and seven assists. York was paced by Jaron Williams and Wolf, who both scored 18 in defeat, with Williams adding 12 boards. CSI out-rebounded York, 39-32, but committed 15 turnovers, leading to 20 York points.

The Dolphins will return to action on Saturday, when they host Medgar Evers College. It will be a feature of Alumni Day at the College of Staten Island as the men's program will play their Alumni Game at 11am, prior to the varsity contest.

What to Make of the 2015 New York Yankees

They Aren't Necessarily Rebuilding and They Won't be Contenders

BY MICHAEL PAPANDREA

Derek Jeter is gone, Alex Rodriguez might be back, and the Dodgers have replaced the Yankees as the highest paying team for the first time in 16 years. The 2015 baseball season is geared up to be an interesting soap opera for the Evil Empire, with the biggest storylines centered around A-Rod himself.

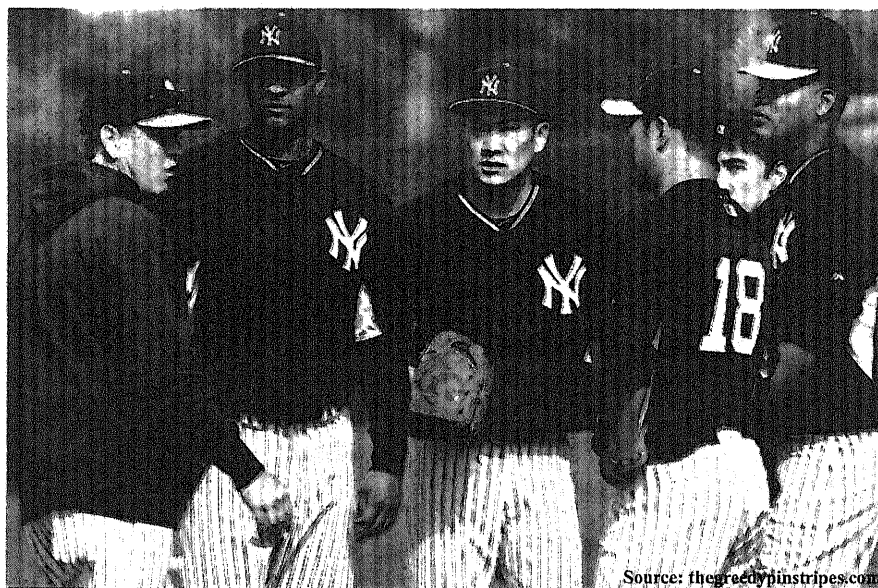
And why shouldn't they be?

Rodriguez, who turns 40 this summer, is coming off two hip surgeries and hasn't played in the Majors for two seasons due to PED suspensions. He may be one of the greatest of all-time, steroids or not, but it remains to be seen if he can help his team win ball games. Heck, we might not even get the opportunity to find out if he still can.

The Yankees have done all they can to reduce A-Rod to a bench player for the first time in his career. They inked Chase Headley to a four year contract, so A-Rod won't have his third base job back.

They also brought in Garrett Jones to take over the DH role. The Yankees clearly want nothing to do with A-Rod, yet they still haven't released him.

In fact, a new story has come out saying that the Yankees are trying to contest A-Rod's bonuses that could give him \$6 million each time he ties someone on the all-time home run list--and he is only six away from reach-



The Yanks look to create a new dynasty by finding gems in the farm system

ing Willie Mays's total of 660.

If the Yankees think A-Rod will hit six home runs, then that implies that he will actually have a chance to play, despite the roadblocks his own team has placed in front of him. It's possible that the front office will just release him if the ruling is not in their favor, but even the Yankees know that \$61 million is an awful lot to pay a guy who is not playing.

Aside from Rodriguez, the team has been trying to get younger and cheaper. According to Ken Rosenthal of Fox Sports, the Yankees have the prospects to acquire starting pitcher

Cole Hamels.

The team desperately needs a starter, especially with question marks surrounding C.C. Sabathia and Masahiro Tanaka coming off an injury.

The old money throwing Yankees would have made this move in a heartbeat, but GM Brian Cashman is not looking to give up on a minor league system he has worked hard to build up.

The goal is to get under the luxury tax line, which is set at \$189 million. That means that we aren't going to see the Yankees sign expensive free agents or make trades for

players who are owed millions.

For this upcoming season, the team's payroll is over \$230 million, with A-Rod, Sabathia, and Mark Teixeira taking up \$75 million of that.

What this means is that, come trade deadline, the Yankees could actually be sellers rather than buyers. If it's clear they are out of contention in July, they may trade away a guy like Brett Gardner or Tanaka, because they will not only shed payroll, but also take in high quality prospects.

And you can bet that if Sabathia, Teixeira, or Carlos Beltran can work their value up to the point of being tradable, the Yanks won't think twice about cutting ties.

So what do we make of the 2015 New York Yankees? If they are competing for a playoff spot, they will be considered underdogs for the first time in a long time. But this is not what should be expected. 2015 will likely be a year in which they continue to get younger and cheaper.

Let's not forget, the core four of Jorge Posada, Andy Pettite, Mariano Rivera, and Jeter all came through the Yankees minor league system.

With all of them retired now, the Evil Empire would probably like to create a dynasty the same way they created the championship teams of the late 1990s and early 2000s--through the farm system.